



It's Your City | It's Your Life

February 16, 2007: Columbus, Ohio

search:

Articles

547 Things to do This Week



- Calendar Highlights
- Film Listings
- Music Events
- Art Events
- Community Events
- Restaurant Guide
- The Alive City Map
- Submit Event

- Bad & the Beautiful
- The Riot Act
- Pop Rocks
- Sensory Overload
- Gamer's Precept
- Talk Columbus

- The Pulse Webcast
- AliveTV
- Newsroom Confidential
- Backbeat Podcast
- Deep Focus Podcast
- GameOn! Podcast

- Upfront
- Living
- Arts & Entertainment
- Music
- Film & TV
- Food & Nightlife
- Video Games

- February, 2007
- January, 2007
- December, 2007
- November, 2007

- City Card
- Events
- Newsletter Sign Up
- Contests
- Prizes / Give-aways

- About Us
- Contact
- Staff
- Advertising
- Archives
- Jobs with Alive
- Fun Stuff
- Resource Links

Marketplace



- ColumbusJobs.com
- ColumbusCars.com
- ColumbusRealEstate.com
- DispatchClassifieds.com



Warning: main(/upfront_subnav.php): failed to open stream: No such file or directory in /home/http/html/columbusalive/content/2006/1228/u-stage.html on line 8

Warning: main(): Failed opening 'upfront_subnav.php' for inclusion (include_path='.:opt/lampp/lib/php') in /home/http/html/columbusalive/content/2006/1228/u-stage.html on line 8

Pulse

Stage greats

By Jay Weitz

Deaths, births, and rebirths marked 2006 in central Ohio theater and dance.

Right at the top of the year, we lost local theater giant Roy Bowen, namesake of both the Central Ohio Theatre Critics Circle's Lifetime Achievement Award and the former Stadium II Theatre in Ohio State University's Drake Center. In the spring, the arts community mourned the untimely death of longtime president of the Greater Columbus Arts Council, Ray Hanley.

But 2006 also saw new beginnings. Bryan Knically, a graduate of OSU's respected MA program in arts policy and administration, has just returned to Columbus to take over the helm at GCAC. BalletMet Columbus launched its new Performance Space in September.

We saw the triumphal returns of the Columbus Fringe Festival, the Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival and Contemporary American Theatre Company's Shorts Festival. And we witnessed the beginnings of what we hope will be annual events: the Available Light Festival of Solo Performance and Beyond the Borscht Belt: A Jewish Theatre Celebration.

More than ever before, it's impossible for one person to see all or even most of what's going on in Columbus, but here are one critic's favorites from 2006.

Theater

Best Play: Few things held a candle to OSU's incandescent production of Tony Kushner's A Bright Room Called Day. Of the touring productions, Da Da Kamera's A Beautiful View by Daniel MacIvor reveled in wordplay and subtle insight.

Best Musical: OSU's mounting of Marc Blitzstein's The Cradle Will Rock felt as fresh as tomorrow's headlines. Smaller but equally impressive, Red Herring's The Last Five Years by Jason Robert Brown brimmed with substance and heart. Of touring musicals, Cynthia Hopkins's Accidental Nostalgia told a quirky story with haunting songs about remembering, forgetting, and moving on.

Best New Works: Peter Pauze's "Perpetual Present Tense" highlighted CATCO's Shorts Festival with a risky structure and clever execution. In one of his rare stage appearances, Matt Slaybaugh issued a call to action in his one-person "The Absurdity of Writing Poetry."

Best Female Performances: Tanya Chu McBride smoldered as Zillah Katz at the center of OSU's A Bright Room Called Day. Meredith Lark, playing Ella Hammer in OSU's The Cradle Will Rock, utterly nailed "Joe Worker."

Best Male Performances: Jonathan Tazewell brought Paul Robeson to resonant life in Red Herring's production of Phillip Hayes Dean's play of the same name. Christopher Roche commanded the stage as Mr. Mister in OSU's The Cradle Will Rock.

Dance

Bright spots on this year's dance card were the continuing Summer Dance Series of Columbus Movement Movement (CM2) and that new BalletMet Performance Space. Performing venues have always been at a premium in Columbus, and one hopes that BalletMet will allow this space to become a new focus of the local scene to rival OSU's Sullivant Hall and Columbus Dance Theatre's Fisher Theatre.



In chronological order, here are this observer's favorite dance moments from 2006:

- * Jessica Tupa, "Dichotomy," CM2's Columbus Dances II (February)
- * Gerard Charles, Alice in Wonderland, BalletMet (February)
- * Stan Won't Dance, Sinner, Wexner Center (March)
- * CM2, Spring Showcase (April)
- * OSU Dance, Dance Downtown 2006, especially Victoria Uris's "Matinée Idylls," Bebe Miller's "Resistance Lessened or Increased and Taken" and Mark Morris's "All Fours" (May)
- * CM2, Stage 2 Screen, especially Ashley McGill's "Exposé" and Michelle LeNoir VanHuss's "Small" (July)
- * Adam Hundt, "Taken A/PŠrt," BalletMet's Rhythm on the River series (August)
- * KT Nelson, "They've Lost Their Footing," BalletMet's New Works, New Space, New Steps (September)
- * Akram Khan and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Zero Degrees, Wexner Center (October)
- * David Nixon, Dracula, BalletMet (October)
- * Sarah Hixon, "Of the Transcendent Unknown," OSU Dance's Virtual.Ritual/Altered.Worlds (November)
- * Jenai Cutcher, "Just the Beguine," CDT's Dancing Alone (November)

Deserving special mention is Anatomical Scenario's "Anna and the Annadroids: The Robots' Dream Tour." Choreographer Anna Sullivan took the full-length work to the 2006 New York International Fringe Festival, but also presented it here in May and October (not to mention the various excerpts she's teased us with in recent years).

Sullivan's unique vision is not just emblematic of the vitality of the central Ohio performing arts community, it also prompts us to wonder what's next.

December 28, 2006

Copyright © 2006 Columbus Alive, Inc. All rights reserved.

TO DO IN COLUMBUS

- [Calendar Highlights](#)
- [LookAlive](#)
- [Film Listings](#)
- [Music Events](#)
- [Art Events](#)
- [Community Events](#)
- [Restaurant Guide](#)
- [The Alive City Map](#)
- [Submit Event](#)

BLOGS

- [Bad & the Beautiful](#)
- [The Riot Act](#)
- [Pop Rocks](#)
- [Sensory Overload](#)
- [Gamer's Precept](#)
- [Talk Columbus](#)

MULTIMEDIA

- [The Pulse Webcast](#)
- [AliveTV](#)
- [Newsroom Confidential](#)
- [Backbeat Podcast](#)
- [Deep Focus Podcast](#)
- [GameOn! Podcast](#)

ARTICLES

- [UpFront](#)
- [Living](#)
- [Arts & Entertainment](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Film & TV](#)
- [Food & Nightlife](#)
- [Video Games](#)

PHOTO GALLERIES

- [February, 2007](#)
- [January, 2007](#)
- [December, 2006](#)
- [November, 2006](#)

LOOKALIVE

- [City Card](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Newsletter Sign Up](#)
- [Contests](#)
- [Prizes / Give-aways](#)

SERVICES

- [About Us](#)
- [Staff](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Jobs With Alive](#)
- [Fun Stuff](#)
- [Resource Links](#)



The Columbus Dispatch. Reproduction prohibited

[The Columbus Dispatch](#) | [WBNS \(10TV\)](#) | [Ohio News Network](#) | [Columbus Alive](#) | [1460 The Fan](#) | [Mix 97.1](#) | [BuckeyeXtra](#)

[ThisWeek Community Newspapers](#) | [TheBAG](#) | [Columbus Parent](#)