

Dayna DeFilippis, instructor of dance, exercise and human movement.

The proposal was accepted, and the department has recently been assured of having this dedicated space, which can seat about 50. Additionally, the task force identified the student services center as a potential venue, and on Nov. 22 and 23 the department will present its first production of the fall in that space. *That's Entertainment*, directed by DeFilippis and Ted Owens, will be a musical theater cabaret featuring an original program of song and dance from popular Broadway musicals in a cabaret-style setting. The student center also will host a TMCC band concert in early December.

Barn Raising

Smaller shows were one part of the solution, but it was clear the department would need other options for students to have the performance opportunities they needed.

"My initial response was, 'Wow. We're going to be on campus.' It was a no-brainer, to go from Keystone to this beautiful new East View Building they've got planned. But it's the time in between that we are being very creative," said Interim Performing Arts Coordinator Carolyn Wray. "We're like those Mickey Rooney's and Judy Garlands: 'Let's put on a show in the barn.' And we're finding barns all over town."

Longtime local theater pro Stacey Spain, a TMCC theater instructor, was one of the task force participants. "One of the first things we did was ask, 'What performance spaces are available in this city?'" she said. "We went through all the community theaters, all the spaces. And we thought that anyone who's running a space has the overhead associated with that space, and they need to cover those costs. We worked diligently, looking for solutions—where we could go, what kinds of partnerships we could have. We looked at a lot of different models. Renting a community theater was really cost prohibitive."

The performing arts faculty realized that although they might not have money to rent spaces, what they did have was a lot of people who could trade their elbow grease for space. If they would be willing to roll up their sleeves and help theaters in the community by loaning their talent and hard work, they might just get "barns" where they could perform in exchange.

As director of Reno Little Theater's production of *Harvey*, Spain had an opportunity to include four of her TMCC students

in the cast, allowing them to get performance credit. And in collaboration with Brūka's Theatre for Children, TMCC students will participate in a touring children's production visiting schools around Reno and Carson City.

Next, they looked at partnerships with local high schools. They turned to the TMCC Jump Start program, in which high schoolers earn dual credit for college. Two of its sites, Reno and Damonte Ranch high schools, had beautiful theaters in which Jump Start students could perform and college students could earn experience as both cast and crew. The first such production is *The Light Burns Blue*, running now through Nov. 16 at Damonte Ranch High School and featuring Jump Start and TMCC theater students.

At Reno High, Spain and Wray made a deal: TMCC students and production crew would work on making renovations to the theater space, and in exchange the college would have access to the space for next year's shows. On Nov. 15, Jump Start students will present Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Reno High.

And on Dec. 6-7, the final performance of 2019, 4 *X'mas*, a collection of four one-act plays by George Cameron Grant, and *Yule Believe*, an original one-act by Spain, will take over the newly updated Red Mountain 240.

The faculty are still eyeing other spaces around the community. Marston said he's reached out—as yet unsuccessfully—to UNR in hopes of forming a partnership, and DeFilippis said she's interested in perhaps find-

ing space at the Nevada Museum of Art or in outdoor venues. They all welcome offers from the community for spaces, vehicles and donations that might aid in their portable production efforts. With ticket sales obviously being less than in years past, funding is even tighter than ever.

Ultimately, the message from all faculty is that though the next few years may involve some creative solutions (to say the least), students should not be concerned that the curriculum will be watered down or that they will not have opportunities to perform. In fact, they may get more real-world experience now than ever before. After all, anyone looking for a career in the performing arts should get used to creative problem solving, innovative venue use and bootstrap efforts to get on stage.

"In terms of looking at how we can become part of the broader theater community, this is a great time to do that," Spain said. □

"I don't want to gloss over the fact that there have been pretty big challenges associated with us moving out."

Ron Marston

chair of Visual and Performing Arts, TMCC

For more information, visit www.tmcc.edu.

DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE & DANCE

FALL DANCE FESTIVAL

Choreography by faculty
Eve Allen Garza
Nate Hodges

Student choreographers
Richard Jelani Best
Ashley Bumgardner
Emily Dunn
Ariel Graves
Fabian Kaiwi
Mackenzie Kennedy
Hanna Walkinshaw

NOVEMBER 2019

21, 22, 23 AT 8 P.M.
23 AT 2 P.M.

REDFIELD PROSCENIUM THEATRE
CHURCH FINE ARTS

TICKETS

\$15 Adults | \$12 Seniors | \$10 Students & University Faculty/Staff
\$5 University Students with ID (limited quantity)
Advance tickets available at Lawlor Box Office (775) 784-4444,
mynevadatickets.com, or one hour prior to show at the theatre

If you require a reasonable accommodation in order to attend this event, please contact
Chanel K. Alva Williams one week prior to the performance at (775) 682-7054.

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