



### **What the Inge Center is planning for our students this year**

This fall we will produce a wild, madcap political comedy *The Emperor's New Clothes* by Richard Helleesen in the style of the Marx Brothers; a musical adaptation of Dylan Thomas' literary masterpiece, *A Child's Christmas in Wales* adapted and directed by guest playwright Brian Burgess Clark in co-production with the ICC music program; the contemporary drama *Aliens* by Annie Baker, one of America's leading young playwrights, *The Anna Plays*, a student-chosen and generated production of selected short plays under the mentorship of Artistic Director Peter Ellenstein; the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual William Inge Theatre Festival honoring one of America's great playwrights and featuring over 50 events in four days, and a musical theatre production of Rogers and Hammerstein's classic *Carousel*, in collaboration with the ICC music program.

In addition, we'll produce two iterations of the wildly creative 24-Hour Plays, at least four new play development workshops by our resident playwrights, multiple series of guest artist workshops for regional high school students, and two sets of readings of new plays by our own playwriting students.

#### **Our guest artists for the fall so far include:**

- Brian Burgess Clark: Award-winning playwright and Artistic Director of Boston Children's Theatre
  - Playwright-in-Residence and Director of *A Child's Christmas in Wales*
- Stephen Gregg: One of America's most produced playwrights for High School Theatre
  - Playwright-in-Residence
- Stefan Haves: Clown coach and director for *Cirque du Soleil*
  - Clown and Comedy coach for *The Emperor's new Clothes*
- Richard Helleesen: Nationally recognized Award-winning playwright and literary manager.
  - Guest Playwright and author of *The Emperor's New Clothes*
- Cynthia Hyer: Professional Actress/Director
  - Guest Director for *The Emperor's New Clothes*

We expect to host a minimum of 6-8 additional Guest Artists this fall alone. And then about 35 in the Spring Semester!!

The Ensemble Theatre class will feature guest lectures/workshops by most of our Guest Artists.

Attached are the bios of some of our guest artists.

The Honoree for the 2014 William Inge Theatre Festival is Oscar, Tony and Pulitzer winner, John Patrick Shanley!

**William Inge Center for the Arts**  
**at Independence Community College**  
**Guest Teaching Artists Fall 2013**



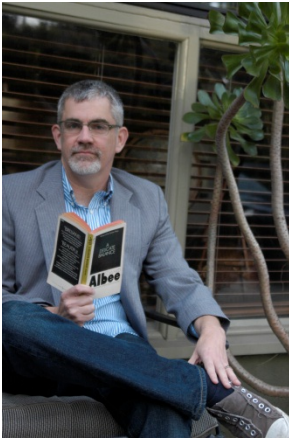
**Stefan Haves** (Clown Coach, Emperor's New Clothes) has worked with Cirque du Soleil since 2006 as a Comic Act Designer (Kooza and Banana Shpeel) and punches up existing clown acts and character tracks (Iris in Hollywood, California; Zaia in Macau, China, La Nouba in Orlando, Florida and all resident shows in Las Vegas, Nevada). Stefan is a Cirque du Soleil casting partner specializing in clowns and characters, is a master teacher with all Cirque Resident Companies, and is a guest lecturer and director at universities nationwide including Tisch School of the Arts – N.Y.U.'s New Studio on Broadway. Prior to his work with Cirque, for six years Stefan was the sole writer/director for the critically acclaimed dinner/cirque Spiegletent show entitled Teatro Zinzanni in San Francisco and Seattle. Haves directed such luminaries as Joan Baez, and national treasure acrobats, aerialists, jugglers magicians, clowns from the global arcane world of cabaret/variety. Stefan writes, produces and directs plays and spectacles - big and

intimate - with globally recognized American comedians, cirque performers as well as emerging theatre artists. Stefan has a B.A. in Theatre Arts, trained at Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre and studied the Lecoq technique / Philip Gaullier in Paris, France. Stefan is heading a summer "Cirque" training program at the Pasadena Playhouse: <http://pasadenaplayhouse.org/blog/2013/04/25/pasadena-playhouse-to-launch-cirque-at-the-playhouse-summer-programs-715-broadwayworld-com/>

**Cynthia Hyer** (Director, Emperor's New Clothes) is an actress, director, writer and choreographer from Kansas City. She has a long history with the William Inge Theatre Festival and ICC, having appeared in tributes, readings and new plays over the last several years. She has worked with playwrights Sheldon Harnick (A DOCTOR IN SPITE OF HIMSELF), Paula Vogel (A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS), and director Karen Carpenter (THE WILLIAM INGE ONE ACTS), all thanks to the Inge Festival. Cynthia has most recently performed as the great opera diva Maria Callas in Spinning Tree's production of MASTER CLASS (written by Inge award recipient Terrence McNally). She has also been seen at the Missouri



Repertory Theatre as Kate Keller in THE MIRACLE WORKER and Titania/Hippolyta in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, and as Becca in RABBIT HOLE and Charlotte in THE REAL THING at the Unicorn Theatre, among many other productions. Cynthia recently spent several weeks at her undergraduate school, Stephens College, teaching a stage combat intensive with her husband, actor/fight choreographer Martin English. Cynthia has choreographed fights for DESDEMONA, OR A PLAY ABOUT A HANDKERCHIEF for Kansas City Actor's Theatre and BEAUTY AND THE BEAST for Theatre in the Park. She has written stage and screen plays on subjects as diverse as the great composer Johannes Brahms, and the beginning of the Plantagenet Dynasty. Cynthia has directed MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING for Stephens College as well as directing some of her own one-acts for the Kansas City Equity Actor's Showcase. After receiving her B.F.A. in theatre from Stephens, Cynthia attended the Professional Actor Training Program at the University of Washington (Seattle) where she received an M.F.A.



**Stephen Gregg's** plays have been produced in all fifty states, a dozen or so countries and been translated into Spanish, Russian, German and Dutch. Theatres that have performed his work include Actor's Theatre of Louisville, the Manhattan Punch Line, the Powerhouse Theatre at Vassar, the Griffin Theatre in Chicago, and the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theatre in Los Angeles. His plays include: "This is a Test", "Small Actors", "One Lane Bridge", "Twitch", "S.P.A.R." and many more. "This is a Test" has been at or near the top of Educational Theatre Association's most-produced one-acts list for twenty-five years. As a screenwriter, Gregg has worked for Dreamworks, Amblin Entertainment, Twentieth Century Fox, Sony Pictures and Henson productions. Gregg has taught playwriting at the International Thespian Festival since 1988, and at over a hundred state high school theatre conferences since then. He's on the

Board of Directors of the Educational Theatre Association. He was the founding dramaturge of Thespian Playworks, a high school play development program. He's been the recipient of a Jerome Fellowship from the Playwright's Center in Minneapolis, Actor's Theatre of Louisville's Heideman award (for *A Private Moment*) and the International Thespian Festival's Founder's Award, for service to youth and theatre, and he's been the recipient of a Chesterfield Film Fellowship. Gregg is a member of the Dramatists Guild, the Writer's Guild, West and the Twenty6Writer's Lab in Los Angeles. Gregg graduated from Stanford University with degrees in English Literature and Microbiology, Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude with Highest Honors. He writes the Playwright Now blog for the Educational Theatre Association: [www.schooltheatre.org](http://www.schooltheatre.org) Find him on Twitter @playwrightnow

**Burgess Clark (playwright-in-residence, author/director of "A Child's Christmas in Wales"**. Burgess Clark's work has been produced both nationally and internationally. Productions of *Purple Hearts* have been produced in San Francisco and toured to the Edinburgh Theatre Festival in Scotland where it placed in the top five "Best of Fest" which also received a special award from the U.S. Army and garnered him several other playwriting awards including "Best Play" from the National Association of Speech and Dramatic Arts and the Mary Roberts Rinehart Award for playwriting. Mr. Clark was honored at the 15th Annual William Inge Theatre Festival as the "New Voices in American Theatre." He is distinguished as the recipient of the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild's Julie Harris Award for his play, *The Ivory Alphabet*. In 2000, he completed work on the Emmy-nominated documentary series *Part of the Family* for PBS, hosted by Gary Burghoff. In 1999, he was awarded the New England Playwright's Award for his drama, *The Touch*. Mr. Clark's other works include *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, *Down Came the Rain*, *Relative Strangers*, *Cola Wars*, *Southern Cross*, and *The Immaculate Conception of Malfie Dibbs* which received staged readings at the Missouri Repertory Theatre and went on to Los Angeles for a showcase run. Another of his plays, an adaptation of Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, has been performed at the National Theatre of the Deaf.



Mr. Clark has taught playwriting for the University of Hawaii, The Mid-Pacific Institute, Honolulu Theatre For Youth, and the Office of Very Special Arts at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., where five of his students have won the Young Playwrights' Award. He served as the Managing Director for the Perry-Mansfield School of the Arts Summer Program in Steamboat Springs, Colorado for several years and is currently the Director of Education at the North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly, MA. Mr. Clark holds a BFA in Acting-Ohio University School of Theatre Honors Tutorial College and an MFA In Playwriting, Theater History & Criticism from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, with Honors. A member of the Dramatists Guild, he makes his home in Vermont.



# Peter Ellenstein

## Theatre Program Designer

Artistic Director of the William Inge Center for the Arts in Independence, Kansas, home of the world renowned William Inge Theatre Festival. Peter is a multiple award-winning director and producer of professional theatre productions from Shaw to Shakespeare to Sondheim to Odets to children's theatre. In the last few years, Peter has directed: Elizabeth Banks, Debby Boone Kerry Butler, David Cross, Jesse Tyler-Ferguson, Seth Green, Gaby Hoffman, Sanaa Lathan, Justin Long, Aasif Mandvi, Nellie McKay, Demi Moore, Diane Neal, Lucy Punch, Pablo Schreiber, Gabourey Sidibe, Jeremy Sisto, Julia Stiles, and Elijah Wood in various projects. Peter's work has been seen across the country from little theatre in Los Angeles and New York to Broadway and Off-Broadway. As an actor Peter appeared in dozens of professional stage productions and had numerous appearances on Film, Television and Radio. Has taught theatre workshops and classes for professionals and students across America for the last 30 years. Former Producing Director of the Los Angeles Repertory Company, he served on the Governing Counsel of Association of Theatre for Higher Education (ATHE), a former Board Member of Theatre LA and the Southern California Arts Coalition. Member: Actors Equity Association, Screen Actor Guild & the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.



Peter Ellenstein with cast and crew of "Bear Witness" with Seth Green, Lucy Punch, Romy Rosemont, Tracie Thoms.



Peter Ellenstein directs Aasif Mandvi, David Cross and Elizabeth Banks.