



PRESENTS

# ENCORE!

THE OFFICIAL E-52 NEWSLETTER



# NOVEMBER '17

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## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello, E-52!

Well folks, that's a wrap! We have finished our Fall 2017 season! It was a season of laughs: accidental deafness, talking bees, and some **very** sexual puppetry. As a member of the Executive Board I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all of the blood, sweat, and tears you all put into these shows. This has been one of our most successful semesters and I am sure there are many more to come.

That being said, I hope you all are excited for our upcoming season: *Suicide Incorporated* (Bacchus), the *Skin of Our Teeth* (Pearson), and more fun events!

Be sure to check out the Winter edition of the *Encore!* to get the latest scoop on these shows and more!

I hope you all enjoy this edition of *Encore!*.

— Grayson Ziegler



Have suggestions for how to make *Encore!* better? Contact Grayson at [grayzieg@udel.edu](mailto:grayzieg@udel.edu)!

# SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS

## Ari August

By Kyle Moore



Ari August is a freshman Biology major from Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Before coming to college, she was worried that she wouldn't have time for theatre. "Then I realized that when you find something you love you'll find a way to make time for it," Ari says. She auditioned for *SAST* and was cast in "The Fraud Couple" as Kelsey. She was thrilled to have theatre remain in her life, as it had been so important to her growing up. She had a great time in *SAST* and made some unforgettable memories along the way. "A great memory was for sure getting hype before each show," Ari says. "E-52's tradition is something I've never seen before. It has a way of reminding everyone that we're primarily there to have fun."

Outside of E-52, Ari is a Freshman Fellow, a member of the Outing Club, and a NET captain on her floor. Despite all of this keeping her busy, she hopes to stay involved with E-52 in the years to come. In particular, Ari says, "I would love to be in a full-length production in the Spring." With plenty of opportunities out there for next semester, we hope that Ari continues to get involved and fulfills her wish.

Jake Steltz is a Freshman Biomedical Engineering major from Wilmington, Delaware, but you may know him as "Ernie" in E-52's *Rumors*, "Gabe" from Kyle Moore's *SAST The Fraud Couple*, or as Jefferson, his full first name! Coming into college with a few years of acting experience under his belt, Jake was interested in joining E-52 because he says he's "more of an acting guy," and enjoyed that there was a performing group on campus that would allow him to do the type of show he most enjoyed, and make friends while doing it.

Additionally, Jake looks to E-52 "as a way to artistically express [himself] and take a break from all of science rigorous classes that come with [his] major." And he isn't kidding about the rigor; Jake is a member of both the Honors Program and BMES (Biomedical Engineering Society), and also hosts Board Game and Video Game nights for his dorm's community lounge. With all of this, Jake looks forward to continuing to work on shows with E-52. What a full plate! And as for Jake's Thanksgiving plate? It will probably include dark meat turkey, his favorite Thanksgiving food.

## Jake Steltz

By Heidi Fliegelman

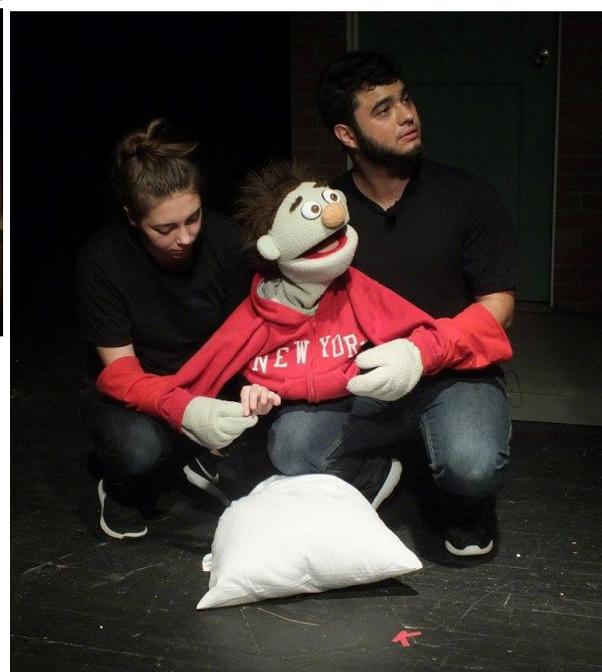


# WE LIVED ON AVENUE Q

This semester Bacchus Theatre was transformed into an “outer-outer borough” of the Big Apple for E-52’s production of *Avenue Q*, the 2004 Tony-winning musical. I describe *Avenue Q* best as *Sesame Street* meets *South Park*, a hilarious clash of sickening-sweet life lessons and vulgar humor.

I had the pleasure of playing Princeton in this production and it was a super-fun experience. The characters in this show are interesting to portray: they’re meant to be very superficial and hilarious, but also are very multi-faceted; they have dreams and goals and passions. Of course, each show has its trials. For me, that trial was having to pretend to have sex with a puppet using *another* puppet five feet in front of my grandmother. Yeah.

Overall the show was a fun experience for our cast (which included **seven** new members!) and we all ended the run proud that we sold out Bacchus not once but **twice!!!**



# PAGE TO STAGE

By Lucy Davies

Several weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending E-52's 14th *Short Attention Span Theatre (SAST)*, this year dubbed *Love and DiSASter*. Each year, *SAST* provides an outlet for students who do not have time to commit to a full-length show, in the form of several one-act plays that, traditionally, are united by a common theme. Another key aspect of *SAST* is that usually some, if not all, of the plays are student written. As I watched this plethora of comedic and diSASterous love tales unfold, I found myself wondering, "Where do these ideas come from? How do they make their way onto the stage?" and, as a curious writer myself, I decided to find the answers by interviewing both Kyle Moore (author and director of *The Fraud Couple*) and Jessica Selle (author of *The Bloomsberg Brothers*). What follows is a breakdown of the creation of these hilarious one-act plays as they transformed from mere ideas into performances that caused audiences to erupt in uncontrollable laughter.

## An Idea is Born:

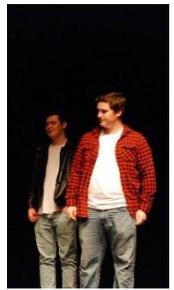
As every writer knows, stories always start with an idea. Although, sometimes we write things without having a clue what we're talking about (usually 2 hours before the deadline of a 10-page paper), but we all know how that ends. Sometimes, an idea will just pop into our heads, and we have no clue where it came from, which is what happened with Jessica Selle's idea for *The Bloomsberg Brothers*. She explained that one of the jokes from her show, known as "the windmill line," came to her in her sleep, sparking the idea of a date that takes place on a mini golf course. She then linked that setting with a concept she had been thinking about since middle school of "a girl with five brothers who were very over protective." Other times, people draw their inspiration from personal experiences when brainstorming. Kyle described how the idea for his show, *The Fraud Couple*, came from "a bit of personal experience with struggling to fit in and accepting yourself," and he wanted to "try comedy to express more serious themes."

## From Script to Stage:

Many people have experience with writing short stories for pleasure, or essays for school, but, after conducting my interviews, it became evident that play writing is very distinct from the type of writing most people are familiar with. A lot of additional factors, such as the number of roles, set changes, stage/lighting directions, costume descriptions, etc., become necessary when writing a script for the stage. Sometimes entire concepts have to change in order for them to be adequately represented in a performance. For example, Jess had to cut down the number of brothers in her original script from five to three to make the script more manageable for a small cast. She explains that playwriting is also very different in the fact that when writing stories, "it's a lot of action based writing," such as "'she did this, she did that'...but, in plays, you have to trust the actors...the only thing you have absolutely 100% control over is the dialogue," which brings us to another excellent point...the actors!

## Bring on the Actors!:

Ok, so we have a script; now what? Now we need the people! A lot of work goes into writing a script, but there is also a lot that the actors do to bring those characters to life in the three-dimensional world. As Kyle very eloquently explains, when he was writing his show he "had the idea that the characters were flat," but, through the magic of character development, the actors "found this depth to these characters that [he] hadn't even realized [he] created." He elaborated, "I gave them the characters, but they really made [them] their own and interpreted them the way they wanted to...we both contributed." Authors, directors, actors, and everyone else involved in a production all play a part (quite literally) in bringing the characters from a script to life. Authors provide the structure, actors provide the emotion and personification, and directors help link the two.



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## The Big Reveal:

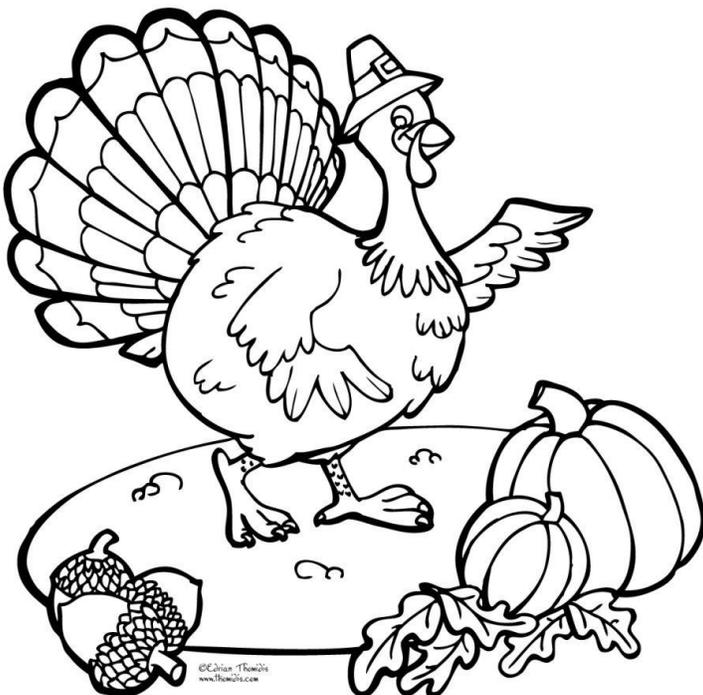
Whenever we invest time in a project, especially something that can be as personal as writing, we are always interested to see what the result will be. In the case of a play, most of the time, authors are interested to see both how their scripts translate to the stage and how an audience interprets their story. In Kyle's case, he was in the fortunate position of directing his own show. He had been involved from the beginning in the way the script would evolve on stage, so the overall reveal was not as much of a surprise for him as it would be for Jess when she saw her show. He was more interested to see the audience's response to what he, and so many others, had spent weeks creating. When the lights came up, and the show began, he explained that he "was nervous at first," but then he saw "the audience reacting and laughing and really getting into the plot, and the actors really feeding off the audience's reactions" and was thrilled! He stated, "I felt so proud to have created something like this and see it come to fruition." Jess had much more of a surprise when she saw her show for the first time as she said she "didn't know anything going in," but she "knew the actors, and they're all very talented people and [she] was very excited to see what they'd put out." Overall, she says she is "very happy with the way it turned out."

So, there you have it! The secret has been revealed! Hopefully we'll be seeing more from Jess and Kyle (Oh, wait, he's a senior, so he'll be off to the adult world next year!) in future SAST productions, and, who knows, maybe you might've found some inspiration yourself and we'll be seeing one of your one-acts next year! Happy writing!

# FUN AND GAMES

It's that time of year...  
FINALS SEASON!

Take some time to color these in and  
forget about all the work you have to do!



# THANKFUL FOR THEATRE

By Heidi Fliegelman

Ah, Thanksgiving. Time to think about all the good we have in our lives: our friends, our family, how there's a Dunkin Donuts in Perkins...and theatre, of course! It is clear that all of us recognize what a magical, special thing theatre can be, but why do we love it so much? Ten E-52 members share here why they're thankful for theatre.

*"All the friends I've made!!!!"*

-Claire Armann, junior

*"It gives me an opportunity to randomly burst into song and dance without looking like a complete lunatic!"*

-Lucy Davies, sophomore

*"It's a form of self-expression."*

-Matt Leicht, freshman

*"I'm thankful for theatre because it allows me to be surrounded by people who have the same interests as me, and has given me the chance to perform and entertain people which I love."*

-Jessica Ehrlich, freshman

*"Because it connects me to great people, and keeps my creativity flowing."*

-Jessica Selle, sophomore

*"I have met all of my closest friends through theatre, and I love seeing everyone's hard work pay off in the form of an amazing show!"*

-Nicole Ferry, senior

*"It gives you a place to express yourself in a community of loving and accepting people."*

-Kyle Moore, senior

*"I have made so many friends who genuinely love me for me!"*

-Lena Herman, sophomore

*"I am thankful to have found a community of people who are so kind and so dedicated to their work. Theatre is an amazing tool for becoming a better, more expressive, open, and kind person. It has made me braver, more present, more focused. I have met kind people, good people, people who elevate each other and who taught me the value of family and friendship. It feels great to share a space with fellow actors, directors, set designers, and other people who represent different facets of the same art form. I love theatre."*

-Nehuen Aon Cortassa, junior

*"I found my best friends."*

-Melissa Glazar, senior

# ***THE ENCORE! TEAM***



**Grayson Ziegler**

Sophomore Linguistics Major

**Claire Armann**

Junior English Major



**Kyle Moore**

Senior Neuroscience  
Psychology Double Major

**Heidi Fliegelman**

Sophomore Linguistics Major



**Lucy Davies**

Sophomore Nursing Major  
Psychology Minor

**Matt Leicht**

Freshman Geological Sciences Major

