## THE MIKADO & VOX WEBSITE DESIGN

An Interactive Qualifying Project Report

submitted to the Faculty

of the

## WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the

Degree of Bachelor of Science

by

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Date: March 8, 2008

Professor John Delorey, Project Advisor

- 1. computers
- 2. education
- 3. musical theater

This report represents the work of one or more WPI undergraduate students submitted to the faculty as evidence of completion of a degree requirement. WPI routinely publishes these reports on its web site without editorial or peer review.

# **ABSTRACT:**

This paper documents multiple websites and their attributes that are well designed and able to be useful for the VOX website. Each attribute specified in the conclusion paragraph has something a unique and special way of portraying the information vital for VOX's development. Along with written descriptions of the websites, there are also links, and snap shots. The key aspects of which are pulled together in the end to show some examples of how the website might look.

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Professor John Delorey Project Advisor

Cassandra Asvestas Project Author

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# THE MIKADO

Working with the cast of the Mikado was an amazing and intimidating experience. They make it look so easy on the stage, the acting, the dancing, the choreography. I stepped into their world of magic and mystery behind stage without any real introduction. I was given the title of assistant director. To me this was an unearned rank, so I set out to try to prove that I could be helpful to the director, the cast and the crew. I started with taking notes for the director Chrissy, then I would fetch her water and snacks some days, other days I would be the person stopping and starting the music, then with most relish came the 'line nazi'. Controlling the music was a challenge because I had never used an ipod before. I learned the new task quickly and became adept at getting to the spot the director needed. As I was working with Chrissy's right hand man, I realized that he was doing a lot of work. Organizing the crew and the stage and trying to schedule everything AND make sure that all of the actors followed their lines. I saw that maybe he could use some help in that last area. I didn't know the musical however I did know how to read lines and tell people when they were wrong.

I carved myself my own little nitch within the group. Was I ever apart of the group? Did I ever really fit in? I may have learned about some makeup tips and some wigs that were fun but I didn't really belong I was an observer doing the best I could to make the most out of the experience.

See Appendix

# **VOX WEBSITES RESEARCH**

# www.piedpipers.co.uk/

What we DONT want the site to look like. Its under construction right no so we can't be too picky. However its already looking like its going to take a turn for the worst with its bland colors and plain links. There doesn't seem to be alot of inventiveness going into the site. The one thing that catches my eye is the pictures that are zoomed in on actors in costume, or of the characters in different situations that just makes you want to be able to click on the pictures to get to the story line behind the scene. GREAT picture choices.

# Pied Pipers Musical Theatre Club











The next Pied Pipers show will be Rodgers and Hammerstein's **Oklahoma!**. This is to be staged from **Tuesday 11th March to Saturday 15th March 2008** at the <u>Mumford Theatre</u> in Cambridge.



Production Team

Production Director - Margaret Thorp Musical Director - Andrew Taylor Choreographer - Helen Thompson-Garner

Synopsis



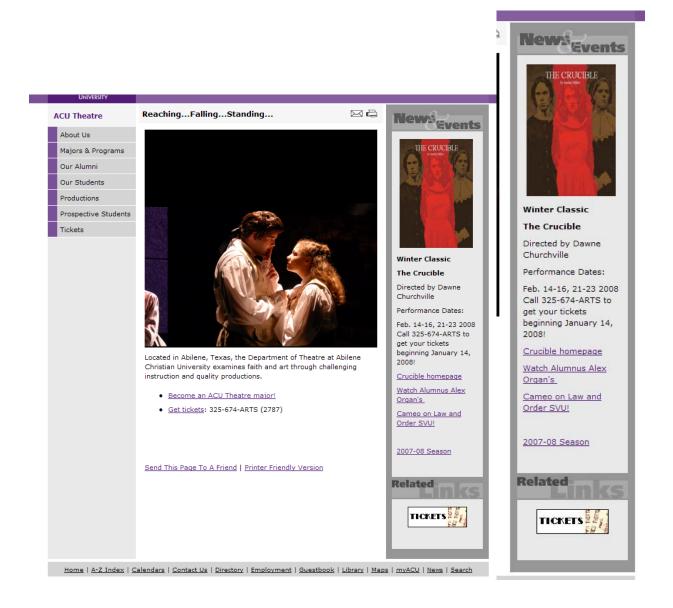






## www.acu.edu/academics/cas/theatre/index.html

Not enough information on the first page, kind of boring links, run of the mill. I did however like the bookmark like note on the side showing the news for the group. Most of the slide show has some blurriness to it, and it takes about a minute of watching to get to pictures that seem really awesome. The book mark information on the side of the screen is really interesting. A great deal of information, right at your finger tips.



# www.chicagoacademyforthearts.org

Great contrast throughout the site however there seems to be a great deal written and less expressed with pictures. The designer did make it so that the color of the top links changes as you go to different ones and I really liked that. Brought some life to the site that isn't in others that stick with just one border the whole time. They also had their background black which really brightened all of the pics that they did have available.





# floarts.org/mustheater.html

I REALLY like the getting started box: Its just a great layout on breaking down what incoming interested parties would need to know and it has a 360 degree Virtual Tour button.

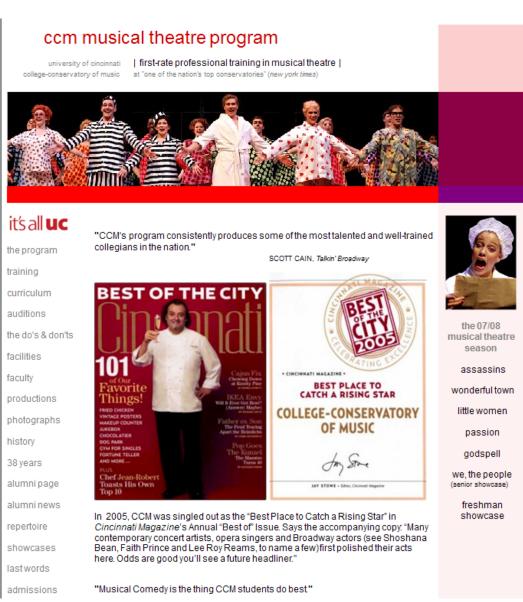


Its a fun site with alot of personality to it, including pics documenting the good links. It seems half finished when you start getting into the specifics, like the how much link and the important dates. You can sometimes find nuggets of gold in the bags of rubble. The gold I found was the getting started box, the 360 virtual tour, and the photo gallery layout, although I'd pick another format for the link.

## www.ccm.uc.edu/musical\_theatre/

expressive, alot of color and excitement on the page. Allowing someone who might not be looking for the site to be interested in spite of themselves. Wanting to look at more and see what the group it all about. Their links touch on many different topics some of which would be needed and some of which wouldn't.





we could probably use these links in some context

<sup>\*\*</sup>the program/club; \*\*training; \*auditions; \*\*the do's & don'ts; \*facilities; \*faculty

<sup>\*\*</sup>productions/photographs/history(slide show); \*\*alumni page/alumni news

# http://www.accd.edu/spc/acad/fa/theatre.aspx

The website is pretty basic, there isn't a great deal of information in the direction we are looking toward, however it does come across clean cut which is kind of refreshing from the "too creative" sites. The shading of the side bar gives it a clean feel. The subtle touch of the tiger in the upper right hand corner is great.







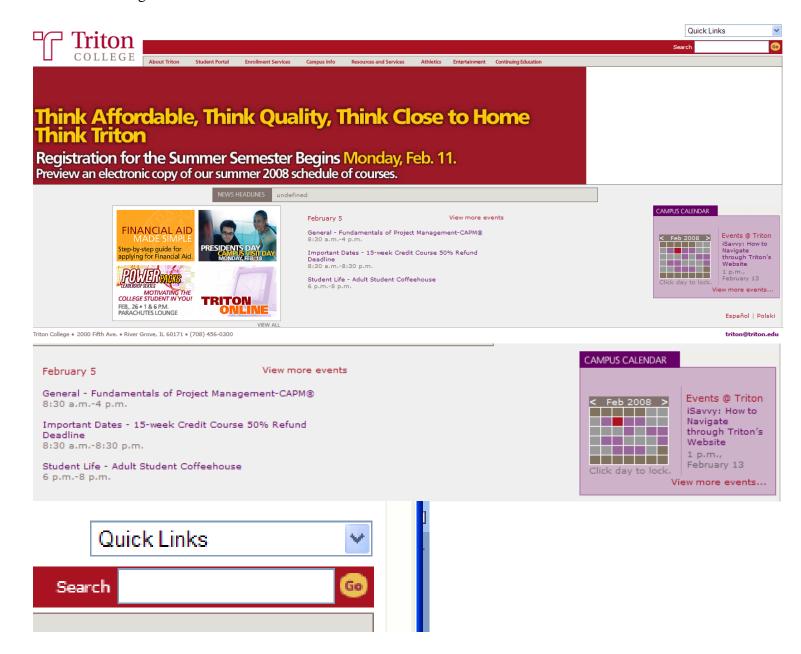
# http://www.vernoncollege.edu/?BannerID=465&AffiliateID=2

The button designs on this home page are cool, bubble buttons of sorts. They have since changed the web page and the cool bubble buttons no longer exist. I might try to email them and see if they can send me a pic, but otherwise nothing I can really do.

# http://www.triton.edu/cgi-bin/r.cgi/index.html

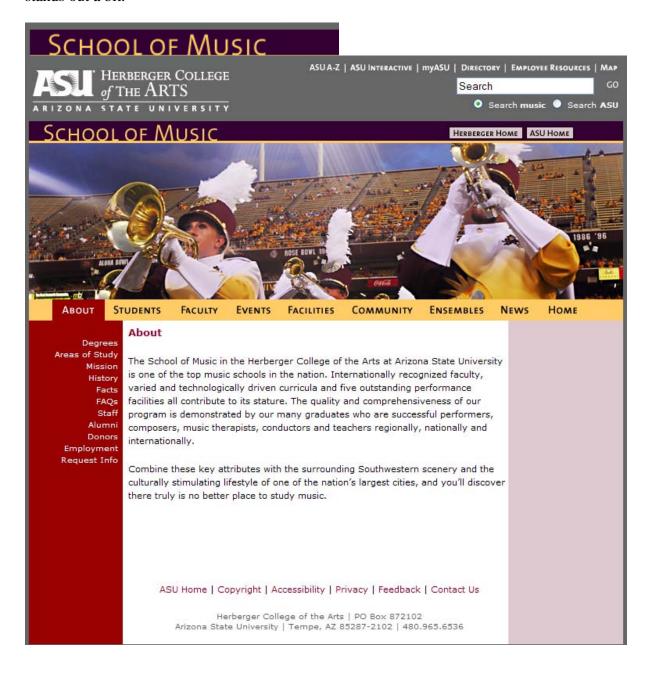
There web page has a really cute calander that would be perfect for advertising purchasing tickets for theater shows. You scroll over the date and the performance comes up so you can make sure that's the right day, then if you click on the calander it will take you to a site where you can choose between whatever shows are that day, and will direct you to purchasing tickets.

Also on the above site when a search is done it doesn't search the body of the web page but only the links, which while limiting is much easier to find what is being looked for. It might be an option we'd like to include on our search engine.



# http://music.asu.edu/index.html

This site has a classiness to it that I really like, especially the heading for School of Music ... its Crisp and stands out a bit.



# http://cfaonline.asu.edu/services/index.php

I like the 4 column layout on this, It wouldn't be used the same way that they did however, if we listed the Casts
and faculty and crew and productions in this manner.

#### Art

#### Spring 2008:

#### **Fully Online:**

ARA 195 Art in My World (30324) Instructor: Erickson

ARA 311 Art Appreciation (20316) Instructor: Delahunt

ARS 101 Art: Prehistory to the Middle Ages (20170)Instructor: Mittma

ARS 101 Art-Prehist through Middle Ages (20172) First 8 Weeks - Instructor: Lewis

ARS 101 Art-Prehist through Middle Ages

ARS 250 Art: History of Photography (20376) Instructor: Fahlma

ARS 300 Introduction to Art (20174) Instructor: Pederse

ARS 394 Art of Egypt

#### (30335) Instructor: Lewis Hybrid:

ARS 435 The Pre-Raphaelites (30300) Instructor: Codel

ARS 494 South Asian Cinema

#### Music

#### Spring 2008:

#### Fully Online:

MHL 201 Mac Literacy for Musicians (20762) Instructor: Schi

MUS 340 Survey of Music (22826) Instructor: Bailey

MUS 347 Jazz in America (20266) Instructor: Sunkett

MUS 354 Popular Music Rock (21718) Instructor: Shellans

MUS 354 Popular Music Beatles

MUS 354 Popular Music Elvis (21724) Instructor: Shellans

MUS 354 Popular Music Hip Hop (21726) Instructor: Lawrence

MUS 355 Survey of American Music

(21728) Instructor: Carsor MUS 356 Survey of Musical Theatre

(21730) Instructor: Gentry

MUS 356 Survey of Musical Theatre (21732) Instructor: Gentry

# Theater & Film

#### Spring 2008:

# **Fully Online:**

THE 100 Introduction To Theatre (19998) Instructor: Danowski

FMP 201 Film: The Creative Process (21784) Instructor: Fortunate

THE 322 Theater History & Culture (20012) Instructor: Melo

#### Dance

#### Spring 2008:

#### Fully Online:

DAH 101 - Introduction to Dance (33743) Instructor: Happe

DAH 201 - Dance in World Cultures (22690) Instructor: Happel

DAH 294 - Dance on Film (33747) Instructor: Happel

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ARS 101 Art-Prehist through Middle Ages (22620) Second 8 Weeks - Instructor: Lewis

ARS 250 Art: History of Photography (20376) Instructor: Fahlm ARS 300 Introduction to Art

(20174) Instructor: Pederser ARS 394 Art of Egypt

(30335) Instructor: Le Hybrid:

ARS 435 The Pre-Raphaelites (30300) Instructor: Codell

ARS 494 South Asian Cinema (20388) Instructor: Codel

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MUS 354 Popular Music Beatles (21720) Instructor: Shella MUS 354 Popular Music Elvis

(21724) Instructor: Shellan MUS 354 Popular Music Hip Hop (21726) Instructor: Lawrence

MUS 355 Survey of American Music

MUS 356 Survey of Musical Theatre (21730) Instructor: Gentry

MUS 356 Survey of Musical Theatre (21732) Instructor: Gentry

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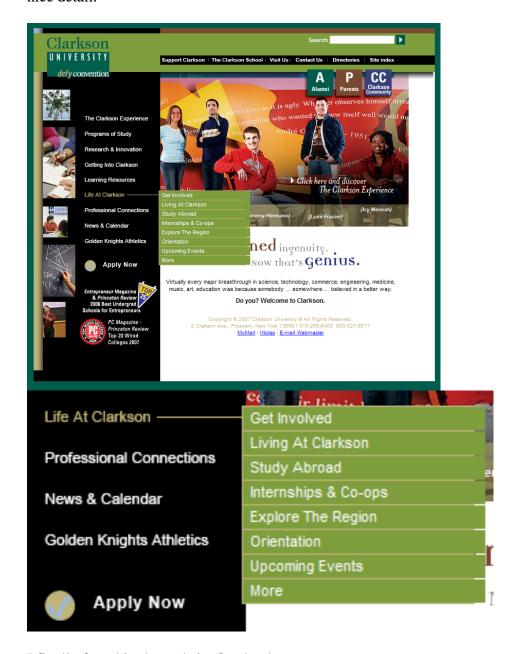
DAH 101 - Introduction to Dance (33743) Instructor: Happel

DAH 201 - Dance in World Cultures (22690) Instructor: Happel

DAH 294 - Dance on Film (33747) Instructor: Happel

# http://www.clarkson.edu/

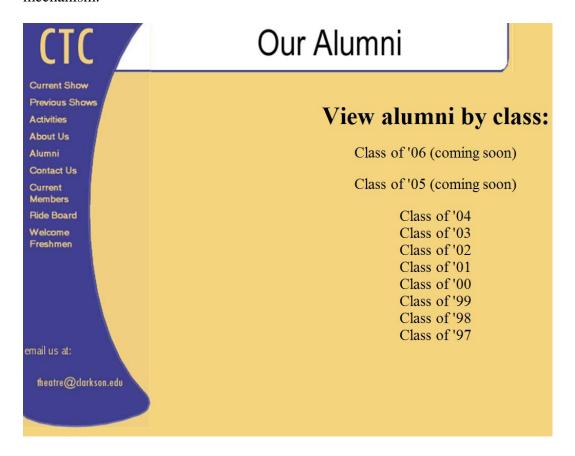
In searching for its theatre website, which i couldn't find, i noticed that on the side when the topics are scrolled over there is a cool effect of a line directing your sight to the list of topics that appears. I think its a small but nice detail.



I finally found it, the website for the theatre company.

# http://people.clarkson.edu/projects/theatre/

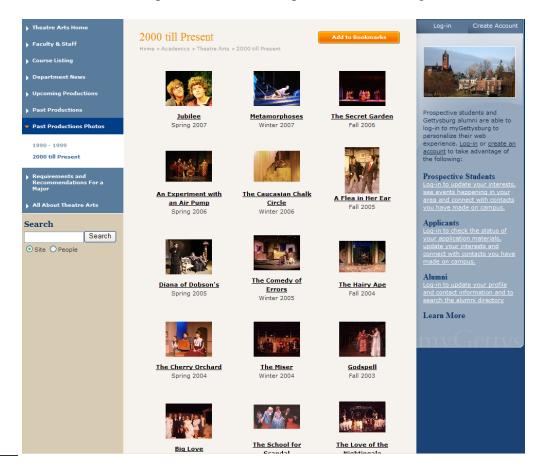
There alumni page has some links to the year with a list of people who were apart of the theater at that time. I think that the Alumni page has much more potential then that but it's a good organizational tactic and search mechanism.



# http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/theatre\_arts/past\_productions\_photos/

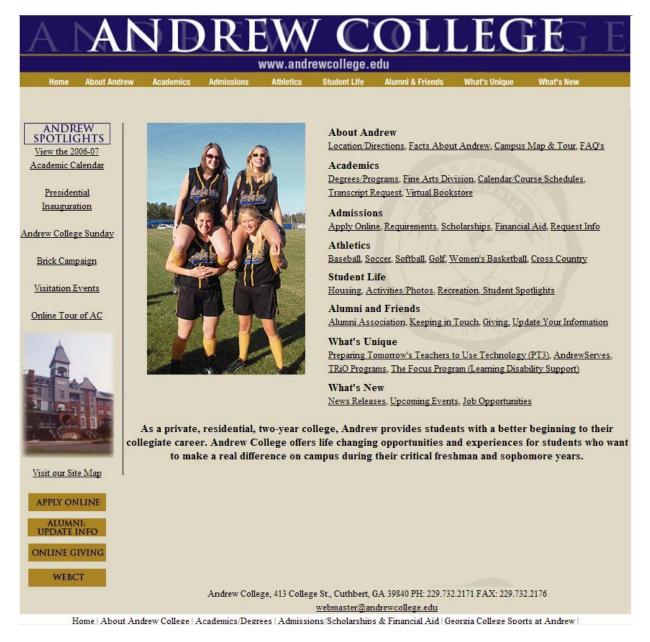
This site has a pretty cool way of showing past performances with the pictures included. The layout of the pictures of a particular performance could be spiced up, but the layout to choose which performance you would like to see looks great. It is also a great way to get people to look at productions they weren't originally looking for.

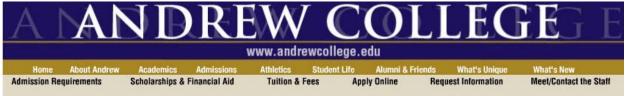
Not to mention that their pictures for Metamorphoses look amazing.





Their Theatre page is just a pdf link to their classes in theater which doesn't help us much but they do have this pretty cool drop down menu on their home page that stands out from most other sites i've looked at.





I like the curved edges of the picture that is their attention grabber. Its a little too big for me, but if we put different pictures in that location on the top of each page I think that might help to keep the creativity going while using the different layout.



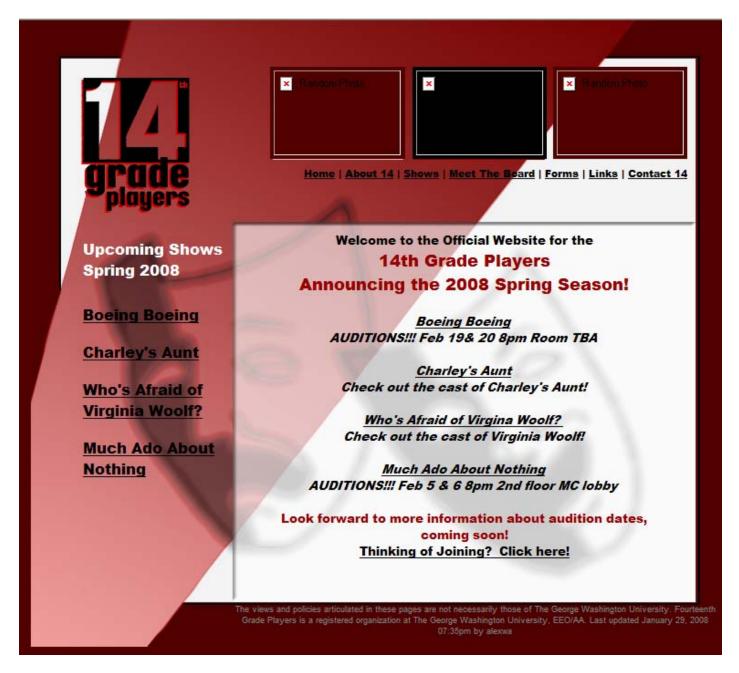
## http://www.kutheatre.com/

I strongly dislike the text used in the links however the placement of the links is great. We would need to put our own link titles together because what we want isn't what they are promoting.



University Theatre production tickets. Other students may r

Bold Colors and generic but intriguing background design



# **CONCLUSSION:**

The layout of this webpage should have some character to it and emphasize the needs and desires of the VOX Productions group. To do this I have incorporated what I consider a relatively well designed layout showing what I have interpreted their needs to be. The best way to show the character and individuality of the group is through pictures of the cast, crew and faculty. The images should be close ups, active, and bright; they should "POP" to catch the eye better. Additionally the photos should probably change at each new linked page to relate to the topic for example: previous productions' casts' photos turned B&W, to give it an old fashioned feel, and then attached to the Alumni page. The vertical links on the left hand side of the web page should when scrolled over reveal extra tidbits of information, either a sentence introduction for the page, or additional links that will direct the reader to related sites. These drop down boxes should have a line straight from the link being scrolled over, and branch off into a box that is colored in contrast to the background to assist with visuals. The horizontal links that link to WPI sites should be the same color as the drop down box off of the vertical links. As the reader moves through the site those two things are always the same color, but what the color is changes for each new page. I leave the color schemes up to the VOX designers however I suggest that the background be a color complimentary to the fading color in the vertical link box and that the color for the drop down box, and the WPI links remain a slightly more bright color to add some attitude.

Additionally I noticed that the pictures can be emphasized with a bar of color directly beneath them. The color should be complimentary to the image however if done right it can brighten the image greatly.

For the Production page if found a layout of 4 columns which with the right programmer could turn into a great piece of art. The first column should be labeled Production/Director and include a list of all of the productions that are most current and the names of the directors and the dates of the production. Then each productions' information should be an group link that when clicked will bring up the production specific information in the other columns as labeled, the cast, crew and faculty involved in each production would be viewable.[see below for an example] This could also allow for those names to be links that can direct a reader to that person's personal page including all productions apart of and in what fashion, a short bibliography (which you could reuse in programs), and current information about each person.

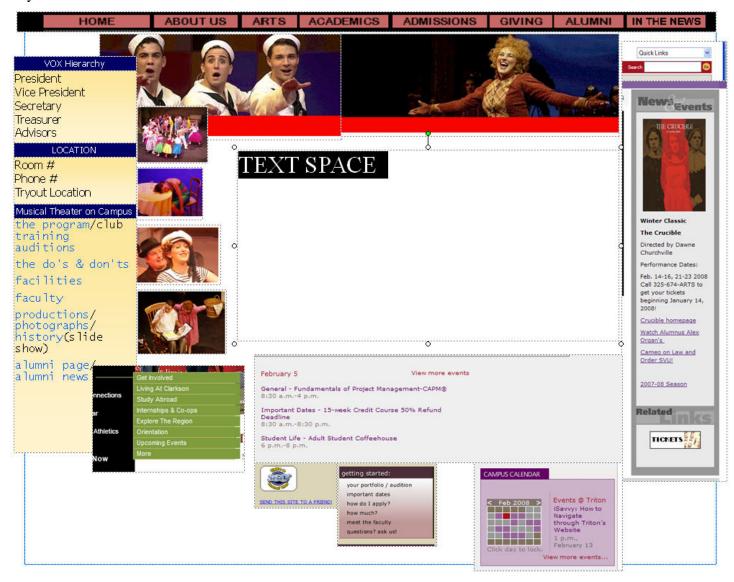
The production/director list might be cooler if it were clickable:

#### The Mikado

**Director Kristin** -----if you click any of that blue section then the cast, crew, and faculty's columns show the names that were affiliated with the production **Dates** 

Additionally there is plenty of space for information about the group itself, including an introduction for the reader of what the groups goals and intentions are in the first page and additional pages as well.

Layout 1: HOMEPAGE





Layout 3: ALUMNI PAGE



# APPENDIX NOTES ON 'THE MIKADO'

08-19-07

Theater Company Website

**Questions** 

Who's the primary audience?

The Growth

What doesn't make sense to someone new to the program?

VOX

Tech Music Company Web site design

Audience, who it should appeal to Auditions/actors, what information they might need Members, schedules and current productions Alumni, information to keep them updated

\_\_\_\_\_

Learning the choreography

SHOW/FOLLOW/WALK THROUGH

# **CAVEMAN PERSPECTIVE:**

The leader shows via example then others follow. The leader shows how, and the actors attempt to mimic, and follow instruction. Smiling they attempt the new moves too elaborate to memorize at once.

Incorporating science & people. I-pods remind us what century we're in when the drama itself is set during a different time.

8-19-07

Touched on the hard parts of the choreography before restarting and attempting the sets in entirety consecutively. Quick paced run through as a first go around. Then slower with more detail.

Peoples in the aisles (2men) and the back by the audience (women) and on both stage engrossing/surrounding the audience

Speaking in a tone that isn't normal conversation their leader uses hand signals to que people into certain responses.

Dance styles dictated by 1-5 or 1-8, don't know why each one applies to each song differently. Each body movement dictated by said number each movement humorously over exaggerated by the participants.

At one point, she had everyone standing in a straight line, and then decided to stagger them so they could have movement.

Started abbreviating, referencing certain moves by their #s as they become further up stage (away from audience).

Person playing the piano says the words to the beat to keep count while director shows examples of what to do. Some people pick up on the steps more quickly then others. Some are beats late to the moves.

NOT A CAVEMAN, EDUCATED:

Mating Ritual

Originally the actors seemed to have low accuracy and high energy. Sometimes the director plays a missing character to emphasis other times she shows while she's off stage.

Large/Long Combos lead to fun collisions and new learning as mistakes are made and learnt from. Details are vital to the emphasis desired from the performance.

A lot of new information in synchronization Hard to keep track

Individual training offered when struggling

Couldn't tell when starting from the beginning and retrying the practice

-----

8/20/07

Individual character work ups/singing one v. one with director

Hard time finding practice locations. A mixture of sailor/samuri.

Making a scene more physical, don't want said character to know 'personal space'

\*From the top\*

Know limitations, and helping with them Strength in volcals rather then acting

2 people showing examples

Quizzing on why the character does certain things to help get in character, understand the character

HW assignments

Knowing the character

Relinquish control/to give into the character's needs/perspective

Off stage there seems like little communication/friendship between actors. Icebreakers? Help with the communication of lines and character interaction. The meaning of the words ... judge is executioner CONTEX is very important.

Bring new person to move on to next scene. Watching I don't know where one scene starts and another ends. Performances go in order of show. Can't tell that without a script, and just jumping in last minute.

-I-pod

I have a hard time understanding what the actors are singing, enunciation.

Choreography – not cohesive (practice)

Last minute reassignments \_\_\_\_ still learning

Auria? (solo?)

Same as previous musical take, more energy brought about by actor

Musician with actor to practice the patter shong

Patter song (really really fast)

Diagrams showing movement, \*play book of sorts

Seems like a really good idea

8-21-07

Learning from mistakes

Sore muscles promote exercise

Choreography -> first try to learn mechnics

Modern Day Tokyo

8-21-07

Speak run through no props – might be a good idea to bring in purses to make sure that the moves will work with the props to be used. Learning the steps as if for the first time, music

video .... Record practices to help remember. Or record steps before first run through to save time

At one point the practice steps read like this Feet/arms/vocal/musical walk through

Segways and Cell Phones

Segways require training, and lots of practice to be used while holding cell phones or waving.

Way to make dialog sound right:

(attempt)

(attempt)

Not acting just looking at eachother

Not acting just looking at eachother

Sitting down looking at eachother

Sitting down looking at eachother

Icea breakers and trust exercises might save time. Help build a charisma between the actors to speed up their character development.

Something along those lines that I saw, was Father Abraham lead by T.C. however that isn't as intensive as I am talking about.

Steps to learning choreography:

Singing/choreography/both together

Separate vocal performances that need work, with the pianist.

8-22-07

Why ask the actors what they'd like to do in a scene?

Technology, golf cart must come in from left side because its too big to fit from the right side. Sometimes the stage will be dictated by the technology being used.

Trying to find rehearsals can in itself be an adventure. There should probably be a suggested location on the schedule. Otherwise you kind of just wander around Alden until you find it.

Rewriting lyrics geared toward WPI, the purpose is unclear, unless you're just trying to make a connection with the audience that way?

When there are singing issues the steps that can be taken are:

Break it down by parts Sopranos & altos need instruction Vowel by vowel pronunciation

Dancing issues:

Break down the song into slower beets. How?

What is blocking?

8-24-2007

Running through this week of blocking so fast, is to just hammer out the main core parts that need lots of practice in the upcoming weeks.

Many different approaches are tried to be taken to solve a singular problem. Very flexible to try and fix the problems.

A lot of the vocal instructions I don't understand. Like singing toward the front rather then the back, I understand the why, just not the how to make it happen. Which I assume the actors themselves should know how to do.

8-25-2007

Stretching implied lots of dancing to come today. Kristy told someone they were upstaging themselves and I didn't know what that meant. Seems like a very visual learning choreography.

# No. 2 Nanki-poo

Needs a committed gaze, he needs to pick one person to look at, one woman to convince his tale to. He is walking too much, kristy asks 'where are you walking, don't travel so much.' There needs to be a clear beat change at the allegretto.

Make the dialogs clearer

# No. 3

Pish-tush wait a little bit longer after decree. Fill the beat with character dramatization. Sean has to come up with it on his own as he becomes comfortable with his character. Swing your arms further back to almost hit Nate, heck almost hit him he can handle it.

The Coco is speaking with The Man with all the dames and the Guard like person. Running lines with the best stage manager ever (Kristy's nickname for Chris). My first attempt at nicknames for the characters \*Shrug\* Failure ©

Koko has a sword while practicing No. 1 with Poohbear. Pooh Bear in the middle with pishtush and koko on either side. Struggling to not poke themselves with their long swords while spinning around and standing on their feet.

Nanki-poo is clearly believed to be crazy as many nobles listen to his mantra. The audience will probably cheerfully agree as he tries to throw himself from the stage. [code for: Nate almost pushed himself off the stage]

Nanki and Pish

Pish tries to chop off Nanki's head with large gestures while Nanki tries to run away. Pish continually recaptures Nanki until resigned Nanki pulls himself for Pish.

The smiley face that is Titipoo, boy band wanna be [Nanki-poo] attracts flocks of women to Titipu.

Nanki-poo with the power of the boy band and his enjoyable mannerisms would run people out of his way if left unchecked on the stage.

Finale

Katisha: Psycho girlfriend character in her over zealous joy almost kills her disguised love.

No.4 Glue Nates Feet

No.5 Must understand what the character is feeling in this number.

08-26-07

Enter stage left to a circle of actors playing Wooo. A rhythmic game of wits and pointing. New additions to the stage are the tape on the floor dictating were the set is going to be built for the show. Kristy working with Sean and Cara ironing out the position of the tape on the stage with TC loking on.

Kristy calls a meeting on stage. Showing how much space the actors are really going to have to work with on stage. Trees represent where the columns for W and pi are going to be.

Questions are fielded and directions are given for the first part of practice.

Finale 1

Possitions please

Pause/accouncement Krista

Practice Blocking/Choreography
We have all the guys today

Broke down yum-yum and nanki-poo's parts

NOTE: fix last 3/8 of second run through

Still working on 1<sup>st</sup> finale

Tell: Johnny pillows
Alice-ballet shoes

Director plays Katisha for blocking perpouses.

No.13

Little blocking needed, KT good at being bridezilla

Note

Peep bo's segway on stage when running of crying so she can 'ride' off crying instead Tissues on props list – removal of tissues?

No. 14

Blockinh Fa-la-la's

No. 15

Chris/koko has better posture and enunciation

No. 16

Was preblocked, just needing katisha

No. 17

Blocking the Mikado via tap dance. Including dancing with hello Kitty as a partner. Koko practices No. 5a working on enunciation first with just the piano reading. Stage manager scribes notes onto the computer. The piano man surprise on the piano.

Run through dialog after 14. Then moving onto 15 with koko trying to capture yum-yum from under Nanki-poo's nose.

No. 10

Expressive hands as push-tush waves to the audience with pinky. John watches as the cheap chippy chopper is broken down.

No. 14

Issues with ding dong part, but does a great job and aces hard part. Thought they had it down, still needs more work. Fa-la-la-la's still need work. James working them through the vocals.

No. 6

New hip hop choreography and trying to fix up the ballet.

No. 7

Attempting segway spacing, afraid that when they get the segways they'll learn through crashing.

No. 8

Re-choreographing the tra-la-las. Carol tries to pull T.C. into the group and T.C. runs away. Very cute new addition.

08-29-07

Running through Act 1 straight then run issues afterward.

Dialog on pg 41 is having issues. Pooh bah is still changing the words in the music. Koko starts coming out of his shell as he sings the No. 5.

Stops to orchestrate a domino fall. Notes given after the rehersal.

Went over notes, starting over to run through it again.

Koko keeps looking toward the ceiling. He also keeps rocking onto his toes. James keeps a really fast tempo as the song finishes.

Reception of notes to crowd. Looking for mistakes in lyrics for music and dialog and choreography.

Gestures are too vague, jouvenile. Will need concentrated work shop including dialog.

Some dances are going to be needed to worked to death.

08-30-07

Started with the knowledge that the chorus is going to be here today. Then moved on to Finale 2 without some guys cause they were late. After stressing girls turning on their toes with their leg out.

Moving on Finale 1 starting on choreography need to redo shaking shoulders part. Chorus practice Finale 1. A volunteer/audition be held to replace one of the girls who sprained her ankle.

The girls race to join together so as they sing they can practice their dances.

From there the songs moved on from 16-18 until jumping to finale 2. The actors continue to practice their choreography as they join in the song with the chorus.

Practice Finale 2, 3 times. Chorus leaves accept for the girls who are trying out for an open position.

Practiced lines with koko until his entrance @ 14 dialog.

James didn't like it when "the flower that bloom" didn't sound happy enough

Tit willow

Gave some tips including eye contact, and others specific to koko's growth.

Finale 2 again

No. 17 for some choreography with Mikado

No. 14 the madrigal Focus on choreography.

9-1-07

Running Lines/Including character dramatizations

Katisha is a cat Nanki-poo is a lion Pish-tush is a bear Yum-yum is a swan

Patter Auria all about telling the audience everything.

No. 5a

Ko-ko does his patter auria and works on finishing gestures and making them large enough to be viewed by the audience.

HUGE improvement pull chest up and out by lapels to help with singing.

No. 8

It has been decided that the little maidens are whore in training with Pooh-Bah their new target. Modified rapture was a line that kept getting caught because noone was sure what it meant or how it should be said. As this dialog is completed the people who aren't involved are busy practicing with the orchestra.

No. 9

Ko-ko and pooh-bah ave some line issues. Pish-Tush is doing well with character changes between energy and silent giant.

9-2-07

Working out/Stretching

No.24

Finale Practice also a warm up practiced the arm over head spinning with girls, moving directly on the 5 count.

No. 1

Working on movements with bows/stick getting the timing right. T,C, at a meeting Christy suggests working on it as a group to help with unison. T.C. comes in and the group give it another try. After moving all of the instruments in an attempt to save lives and not damage items of value. Jeff still contrives to hit the one thing remaining ... THE WALL. ©

No. 2

Nanki-Poo making Jared fall in love him as he sings is absolutely hilarious.

No. 3

Sean needs to work on maintaining character even while not singing. When he steps out of character it is obvious by his busy hands. He starts fidgeting a little bit. The characters in the background learn an interactive approach to being on stage during that song.

Dialog No. 3

All guys need to review lines. Last line needs to be arched getting the point across to Nanki-poo that a price can be paid for information about him yum-yum.

No. 5

Remember to turn the sword backward so the samurai can be forced to duck.

Memorable moment:

Koko attempts to kill Chris (stage manager) with the snickesnee.

No. 5a

The reference lists on the side of the stage will help with lines.

Ko-ko

-turn out toward audience to sing

-change choreography

No more knocking heads together insead Ko-ko, now attacking the guys with the snickersnee, they in turning to escape knock heads

Go over choreography with the new girl, Catie, who was recruited to replace an actor that sprained her ankle.

Curtain Call for Finale 2

Learning the curtain calls and reviewing where people are coming on or off stage, practicing it over and over again.

9-3-07

**NUMBERS 21-23** 

No. 21

Katisha has her voice back and is bringing the lower notes more forward.

No. 22

Enunciate constantans to hear the lyrics of the song better.

Dialog after 21:

Working on choke hold and Katisha's beats. The choke hold for the choreography needs to be more real. While Katisha's beats in her dialog isn't right for the emphasis being looked for.

No. 21 with just Katasha

The character of Katisha is being emphasized to help with the understanding of the beats of the lyrics. Katisha uses recitation of the lyrics to help guide the song before then adding the music as well. Some general guidelines that were brought up were keep an eye on estures that are not completed, focus your eyes as to the types of thoughts that katisha is having.

Dialog 21

Different ways to grab Katisha to stop her from leaving + at the same time seduce her. Something they need to work out on their own.

"The meaning and motivation of gestures can be powerful even when small."

Koko has to keep his eyes focused on his tit-willow birdy arm!!!!!!

No. 23

Choreography – Teaching KoKo to dance?!?

9-4-07

Run through with Male Chorus afterward Line Speed Through

Mics are being worn through out the practice to learn the discomforts and the moldings that each individual would need.

Head movements are taught to the male chorus.

9-5-07

No. 1

Practiced choreography and worked on the vocals. The samurai characters were rearranged to help enforce the synchronization. The two main things to worry about were crisp movements and head OUT when singing. During the recit Nanki-poo keeps upstaging himself and needs to stop shuffling his feet.

No. 2

The choreography was well done, really made the samurai friend start tearing up at such a lovely song.

Quote of the day:

"When did yum-yum become the itsy bitsy spider?"

No. 3

Pish-Tush has improved his facial expressions and really stands out when he's trying to, but sometimes he falls back to himself when he doesn't seem to have set instructions, or when he's remembering lines. Those moment seem to be emphasized by his hand running through his hair.

No. 5

Ko-Ko picks up the ball on recognizances which has been a tricky word in his lyrics.

No. 5a

Ko-ko needs to pick up the pace. The tempo will be increasing and he needs to keep up with it. When he stops scooping every other word, he won't be slowed down so much. He's slowing himself down.

No. 6

The song is re-choreographed allowing more space with a much better result. The two lines really give the actors the space to feel confident they won't hit anyone which is really good since their doubt in their own abilities is really what seems to be holding them back.

No. 7 can't be worked out without segaways

No. 8

The only real adjustment was to attempt to make the saucy walk more obvious. An accent for that was the actors putting your hands on their hips.

No. 9

Good

No. 10

The patter has been a constant struggle but it looks a great deal better then the impossible attempts that were first being made a few weeks ago.

Act 1 Finale
\*\*\*\*\*TROUBLE SPOT\*\*\*\*\*
Working it, working it

Second act is really a speed through because the main work that does go into it is for Ko-ko and Katisha, with sparklings of Mikado.

9-6-07

# Run through with Chorus

Primaries + Secondaries are at the head of the hall while the chorus goes over their music. At this point the stage has been built up and there are now quiet a bit of set built, some of it has been painted other parts have not. The bridges and railings have all been built as well as the home plate, and the fans and the city horizon view in the background. My perception is that the only big thing missing right now is the building on the back of the fan so it can spin around and blend in with the scenery. The primaries, secondaries, and the people in charge are all using their personal microphones. The actors are using them for the first time in the rehearsal itself. Thus bringing some flexibility to the choreography that sometimes compromises the microphones abilities.

The men from the chorus left and the women went through their songs. After the chorus leaves the actors attempt their first run through of some of the material on stage with the set and microphones. There are some definite bumps as the actors are rattled a little bit by their new settings.

Went through songs:

Finale 1

Song 1

Song 6

Song 10

# Quotes of the day:

"Toss yum-yum over my (Nanki-poo) shoulder and book it up the ramp!!"

"You guys look like you're dancing farm animals"