

PRESENTS
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each month the College presents
profiles of 5 CCPA graduates



2002 Grad **Ali Liebert** has a busy couple of months coming up after recently being cast in two upcoming feature films. Ali will be seen with funny man Will Sasso in Sook-Yin Lee's feature film **Year of the Carnivore**, as well as in the upcoming Cuba Gooding Jr. feature **Hardwired**, also starring Val Kilmer.

Ali can also be seen on the small screen in her recurring role of 21 year old science geek, Jackie, on the ABC hit series **Kyle XY**. Ali's other television credits include roles on **Dead Like Me**, **The L Word**, **Psych**, **The 4400**, **Whistler**, **Fallen**, **Blood Ties** and recurring roles on **Intelligence** and **Young Blades**.



2005 Grad **Mark Oddan** has been busy pursuing his theatrical craft in his home province of Saskatchewan. "Saskatoon is a theatrical hot bed and Regina is fast becoming a major film and television production centre, and I'm taking advantage of opportunities in both cities," he says. Saskatoon is home to Canada's newest purpose-built theatre, the new Persephone Theatre, and at Christmas, Mark had the honour of being LeFou in its opening production of Disney's **Beauty & the Beast**. Two months later he was in the Vienna period comedy **The Guardsman**.

Saskatoon also boasts **Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan**, the longest-running Canadian Shakespeare festival outside of Stratford and Toronto, and Mark was proud to be in the company this summer for **The Tempest** and **Henry IV Part 1**. Saskatoon's independent arts scene is also thriving, and Mark was recently awarded a major grant to independently produce a two-hander musical in the 2009-10 theatre season.

Recently, Mark worked on an ongoing film and print promotional campaign for Tourism Saskatoon and last fall was a soloist with the Regina Symphony Orchestra. In a concert entitled "**Big Bands to Broadway**," Mark performed selections from **Guys & Dolls**, **110 in the Shade**, **Cabaret**, **Into the Woods**, **Evita** and **Wicked**. "It was my first time doing a concert of Broadway pieces since I was in the first CCPA/Victoria Symphony Live! From New York collaboration, and loved feeling that rush again!" Mark hopes this concert with the RSO will lead to similar gigs in the future with both Regina and Saskatoon symphonies.



1999 Grad **Sam Strasfeld**'s training in Victoria has taken him to the lights of Broadway. "I guess I was pretty lucky because I came to the Canadian College of Performing Arts knowing what I wanted," says Strasfeld. "The experience at CCPA was intense and inspiring and as soon as I graduated, I got my equity card, started auditioning and I've been working ever since. Sam has performed across Canada, as an original cast member in the Canadian Premiere of, **We Will Rock You**,

and at the prestigious Stratford and Shaw Festivals where he has been a company member for 3 and 4 seasons respectively.

Interview with Actor and Film
Producer Charlie David, CCPA
2003 Graduate



Charlie David has been a host for E! Television, NBC, OutTV, here! TV, Pink TV, EGO, and Life Network on such shows as

"F.Y.E!" (2001), "Spy TV" (2001), "Bump!" (2004) (2005-2006) and "Crash Test Mommy" (2004) (2004-2005). He has been the subject of a documentary on the Learning Channel and has appeared as musical guest on VH1, BBC, CBS's The Early Show, and dozens of radio shows.

Q) Where are you from?

A) Yorkton, Saskatchewan

Q) Was the community you are from supporters of the arts?

A) Absolutely!! Yorkton was a wonderful place to grow up. I attended Sacred Heart High School and to brag a little for my Alma Mater they continue to win numerous Regional and Provincial awards for the 1 act plays and musicals mounted there. We were very lucky to have as many award banners for the Arts as there were for the sports teams, which, is certainly not the case in every high school!

I was also involved with a touring musical revue called Saskatchewan Express for four seasons which was a group of 14 singers and dancers from across the province. The training I received there was excellent and definitely prepared me for my time at CCPA.

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW (CONTINUED)?

Presently, Strasfeld is performing in New York in the Broadway production of **Mary Poppins**. "It's such a unique experience doing live theatre. I enjoy each opportunity to interact with the audiences and provide that opportunity to escape, if only for a couple hours."



Matt Alfano is a 2005 grad. He has danced since the age of 3, having been trained in many different styles. He also enjoys working on his own choreography in his spare time. Past credits include: **Moby Dick** (Stratford), **The Music Man** (Stratford Festival), **We Will Rock You** (Mirvish), **Anne of Green Gables** (Charlottetown), **Canada Rocks** (Charlottetown), and he has also performed for Jean Ann Ryan Productions.

Matt is currently rehearsing for a dance based show in Toronto, "**Rain**" with the Helix Dance Project. He is also returning to Stratford as "Action" in **West Side Story**.



2005 Grad **Julie MacIssac** finds just as much excitement behind the scenes as she does on stage. One of the projects Julie worked on after graduation was Gateway Theatre's **Learning Through the Arts**. She was part of a group of professional artists who worked with elementary teachers to assist in developing lesson plans to help students through song, theatre and movement.

MacIssac's training also led her to stages in Victoria, Vancouver, Chemainus and she recently held the position of Musical Producer for Vancouver's Carousel Theatre's production of **Seussical the Musical**. On many occasions, Julie has shared the stage with other CCPA grads. "I relish those opportunities to explore those shared experiences we had at the College and know that based on our training that I can trust the performers around me to help create an amazing experience for the audiences."

Recent Grad Spotlight



Enrique Barragan graduated from CCPA's Year III program, Company C this past December. Born in Mexico, Enrique travelled to Canada to hone his craft and now calls it home.

However, Enrique will be leaving home very soon as he has just earned a role with Caravan Stage, a theatre company that travels to ports in Greece, Croatia, Montenegro and throughout the Mediterranean.

He had been performing with Lina De Guevera and Puente Theatre and with her support, Enrique auditioned for Caravan. "All of this happened in a matter of two days and even though I am picking up and travelling at a moment's notice, I know I am following my dream!" says Barragan. "I am thankful for the support I've received in helping me make this decision. Since finding out I earned the role, the CCPA community have asked me what I need...I should probably start with some luggage".



Image from Caravan Stage

Interview with Actor and Film Producer Charlie David, CCPA 2003 Graduate (continued)

Q) What made you come to CCPA

A) I was looking for a multi-disciplinary college to expand my education in the arts. This industry is very demanding and having a solid base in different disciplines of acting, dance, and voice is very important. The most valuable tool for me was the Business Management classes. I've gone on to open CTM International, a talent agency in Vancouver and Border2Border Entertainment, a film and TV production company. The business skills and early training I received at CCPA helped me see the big picture of not only being an artist but



also finding viable ways to not be the stereotypical starving one!

Q You are producing and directing as well as acting. Did CCPA help you plan for that as well?

A) The CCPA experience is absolutely what you make of it! I put my budding producer hat on there early by organizing a Soiree Talent Night and inviting members of the community. It was one of my first opportunities to bring together the creative and business sides of the industry. The Directors and faculty at the college are extremely supportive of innovation and 'making things happen'. One of the most important aspects for me in choosing to attend the college was the fact that each of the teachers there had worked extensively in Canada and internationally. They pass on a lifetime of knowledge in producing, writing, directing and performance and that is invaluable.