

# Theatre UNCA presents Moliere's 'Tartuffe'

*Drama department welcomes award-winning costume designer for spring production*



Photo by Beth Ellen - Staff Photographer

"Tartuffe" features 12 period piece costumes by Carol Blanchard and some of the students in the drama department.

## Maisey Cooley

*mdcooley@unca.edu - Co-A&F Editor*

The UNC Asheville drama department presents costumes from an award-winning costume designer in its two-week production of "Tartuffe."

Carol Blanchard, guest costume designer in residence at UNCA, designs commercially and internationally and taught design in New York. She won the Jeff Award, Chicago's version of the Tony Award, for her costume design for "Amadeus," a production involving several hundred costumes.

"Carol is amazing. She's just brilliant. She's got such an extensive knowledge about the period of the play, and she shares it with all of us while she works," said drama student James Sample.

Sample plays Madame Pernelle, an elderly woman in "Tartuffe," and wears the costume that Blanchard said was the most difficult to build.

"I'm so surprised they trusted me to wear it. It took about an hour and 15 minutes all together to put the costume on," said Sample.

Sample originally auditioned without a part in mind, but he was chosen specifically for the role of Madame Pernelle.

"I said, 'Well, I've never played a woman before, but OK.' This is definitely the most difficult costume I've ever had to wear. But it's also the best," Sample said.

The costume designs for "Tartuffe" have been in the works since early January, when Blanchard started her sketches.

"I've had a great time down here working with these students.

There's some really talented ones that have done a lot of great work on things they've never done before," Blanchard said.

The period for the setting of "Tartuffe" lands in the beginning of the 1600s.

Blanchard studied and researched the period before she began designing.

"This piece was set in the 1630s, so there was a lot we had to learn about the period while we were designing and building," Blanchard said. "It was an easy period for students to jump into as far as period piece costume building goes, because if you go earlier or later than that, you get into high-corseting or long-bone bodices, which are extremely difficult to learn how to stitch."

Junior costuming student Taylor Pico built Madame Pernelle's elaborate costume. "She wanted to undertake a portfolio project, so she constructed the entire costume, from beginning to end," Blanchard said. "It was one of the most difficult to build partially because it was designed to be from an older period, because Madame Pernelle is an older lady and would have been stuck in her ways."

The costuming for "Tartuffe" is comprised of 12 outfits, the most complicated of which to wear, aside from Pernelle's, are the male costumes, Blanchard said.

"All the guys have multiple pieces to wear that they're probably not used to," said Blanchard. "They all have to wear tights because they're also wearing stockings. They also

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## Alliance hosts annual Drag Ball, supports community

### Jessica LaRue

*jarue@unca.edu - Co-A&F Editor*

The annual Drag Ball, held last Thursday in Alumni Hall, brought together students and non-students for a night of drag, dancing and fundraising.

UNC Asheville's Alliance hosts the Drag Ball annually. DJ Bass Clef provided the beats for the evening.

"The event was open to the community, so we had an array of age and orientations. It's one of my favorite shows of the year because it's so theatrical," said **Dimitri Savage, judge, performer and winner of last year's Drag Ball.**

The night began with an introduction by MC Brian Sparxxx, host for the evening, and then went on to a performance by a local professional.

Audience members danced and littered the stage with dollar bills.

They were invited to give performers money if they liked what they saw, and all the tips for the evening went to Youth Outright, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering LGBTQ youths.

"This is my fourth year participating in Drag Ball. I started out doing group performances. Then the second year,

old timey tunes like 'Sharp Dressed Man.' The third year, I did a pop song. This was a bold year for me, doing two performances; one as female and one as male," said **Savannah Seithel, junior cellular and molecular biology student.**

Performers were not afraid to show

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