

# ENTERTAINMENT

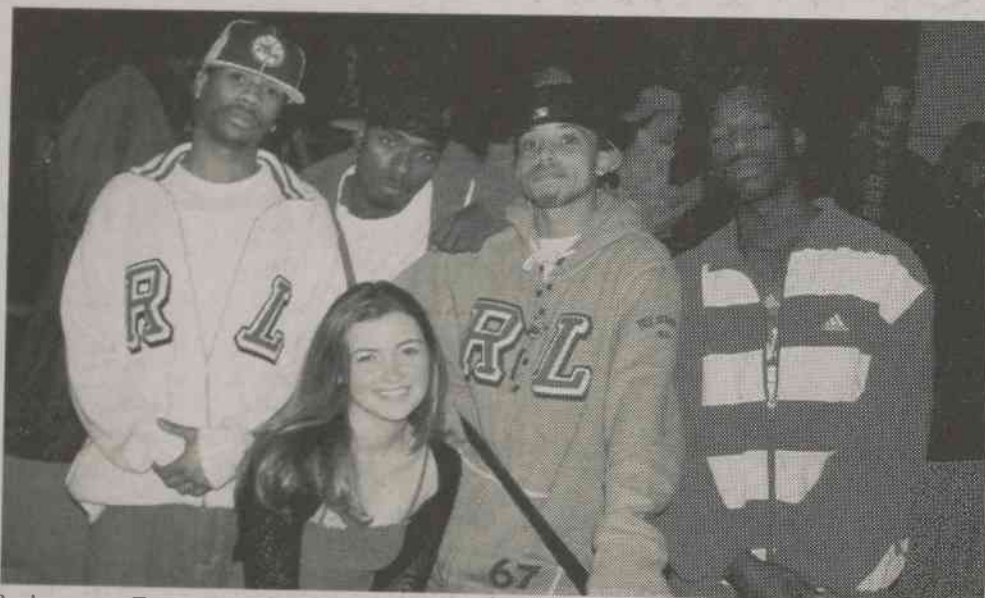
## SHOWTIME! BC Students Present Original Musical

-by HEATHER OCHSE, staff writer-

The first night of 'Fuse' proved to be a spectacular showing of the first ever production of a student-produced musical at Brevard College. Topics and conversation branching from cultures, religion, ethnicities, genders, lifestyles, creeds, and other such differing opinions in our "real world" were brought to the stage.

The musical was co-written by La'Zendra Bossard and Lindsay Shields, and composed by Jeramy Goble.

Full of humor and reality, this musical reached out to a curious audience. The looks on the audience's faces peaked curiosity in one scene in particular. "The Party" scene received various responses as empty alcohol bottles and dazed actors took to the stage. Dancing also took to the stage as the actors performed various dance techniques. The "Work" scene seemed to relate to the process of getting a job in today's world. Sexist and ethnic-like roles were portrayed to get the working atmosphere effect in this scene.



-Backstage at Fuse. From left to right; Shomari Ramsay, Reggie Perry, Phil Wilson, Kiwi Chinaka. From; Robin Rector.. Photo by Jeff Headrick.-

Many people questioned togetherness as a whole. By the last scene, unity proved to be an okay way of life for everyone to rejoice in.

Despite microphone troubles and forgetting lines, the actors went on with the show. The show went out with a bang.

**CREATION:** Co-written by La'Zendra Bossard and Lindsay Shields; Musical Composition by Jeramy Goble; Special Composition by Gerald Dishon, Gregory Milton and La'Zendra Bossard.

**PIT:** Jason Law, Ian Mathison, Shante

McKoy (sax); Sam Mattison, Martin Noffsinger (percussion); Josh Wilson (French horn); Jamie Warren (trombone); Christopher Morgan (bass guitar); Copper White, Erin Egan (clarinet); Brent Colin, Dustin Mace (trumpet); Jennifer Kalman (flute); Davis Whitfield-Cargile (tuba); and Staci Spring, Gregory Milton (piano).

**CAST:** Lenzy Slater (Michael), Robin Rector (Jessica), Chinenge Chijioke Chinaka (Kenny), Julia Hartley (Lisa), Crystal Robinson (Suzy), Katie Goetz (Meg), Bill Smith (Mr. Goldfield and Coach), Wayne Miller (Pat), Shomari Ramsay (Brent), Shen Liu (Tania), Harry Fields IV (Alex), Wendy Jo Allen (Danielle), Latish Clinkscales (Jenny), Brilliant Wilson (Harry), James Duncan (Joey), Phil Wilson (Cory), Reggie Perry (Sam), Ben Harper (Rob), Alison Mathews (Mary), Latarcia Bell (Girl #2), Laura Magnuson (Clerk and Liz), Gary Keener (Christopher), Clarise Morgan (Preacher #1), Wesley Vanasek (Preacher #2), and Kelsie Kee (Karen).

## FUSE: an author's perspective

-by LINDSAY SHIELDS, staff-

Fuse began in November of 2001 as the brainchild of Encore and the Off-Broadstreet Theatre Guild. La'Zendra Bossard and myself set out to unite the music and theatre departments of Brevard College. We wanted to write and produce an original full-length student musical. We had nothing more than a date, a place, and an idea.

Our clubs set up a booth in the cafeteria to solicit students interested in this musical. A total of fifty students signed up to receive information over winter vacation. The amount of interest meant the project was a go.

December rolled around and La'Zendra and I began to finalize plans. We conceived a plot outline and set to work. Our vacation became ritually consumed with writing and rewriting. We sent script drafts back and

forth via email. Every waking moment consisted of staring at a computer screen and editing copies of dialogue.

During script creation, the third component, our composer Jeramy Goble, sacrificed himself to his computer. As soon as he obtained libretto for a scene, he set to work writing for up to fifteen instruments and four vocal parts. Days of sleep deprivation would catch up to him, he would crash for a few hours, and he would be right back to it.

In the beginning of January, the last pieces of the script fell into place. Three-quarters of the music was written. Letters were sent out to prospective students explaining audition procedures and production dates. Everyone was exhausted.

Auditions were held shortly after students returned to campus. Approximately thirty students auditioned for a variety of vocal

and non-vocal roles. The cast and crew were assembled with each student representing a different aspect of college life. Ages ranged from seventeen to forty-seven. There were students from Nigeria, China, and all over the United States. Students with physical and learning disabilities participated. There were art, music, wilderness, theatre, organizational leadership, exercise science, math, psychology, and integrated studies majors.

The show came together in an insanely short amount of time: four weeks after auditions. The pit rehearsed together eight times before meeting with the cast. There were ten late-night vocal rehearsals. Acting rehearsals ran Monday through Friday from six to nine in the evening. The set was completed one day before the first dress rehearsal.

Finally, February 15 and 16 rolled around; the weekend of the show. The cast remained

enthusiastic through all the show's struggles and triumphs. The show was not Broadway material and was never meant to be, either. It was the story of college campus weekend life. It was the story of hardships and the story of laughter. It was the story of each of us.

All in all, the show accomplished what it set out to do. It united people through music and laughter. It gave people something to think about. The title of the show, **Fuse**, represented bringing people together and igniting what makes us all human:

"I have troubles, and sad times, and good times, and moments of laughter. Tell me, how are you looking beyond?"