

Milligan's new musical theater professor brings stage, classroom experience

It's almost show time for Milligan College's new musical theater program, which launches this fall. The college has announced that Carrie Klofach, a veteran musical theater teacher and stage actress with more than 20 years of professional experience, has landed the role of assistant professor of musical theater. Klofach hit the ground running at the college's musical theater camp in July.

Klofach, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, has extensive experience playing lead theatrical roles, singing in operatic productions and helping manage productions behind the scenes. She holds a Bachelor of Music from Grand Canyon University and a Master of Music in musical theatre performance from Arizona State University. She is completing her doctorate in vocal performance from ASU and graduates in May.

"We are excited to welcome Carrie Klofach to our faculty," said Dr. Kellie Brown, music area chair. "Her expertise in musical theater and vocal pedagogy, along with her charismatic personality, will greatly enrich our students and the college."

Klofach joins a roster of dedicated and knowledgeable music and theater professionals who will be teaching the musical theater major's interdisciplinary curriculum composed of courses in theater arts, music performance and dance, while exploring stage direction, as well as the technical and design aspects of theater production. Students also create and perform in musical productions each year.

Klofach's stage credits include appearing in the first national tour of "Veggie Tales Live" as Marcy the Stage Manager and was the tour's assistant stage manager when not on stage. She has premiered several musicals including the world premiere of "The Quiltmaker's Gift," playing the Quiltmaker at Phoenix Theatre in Phoenix, Arizona, under the direction of Michael Barnard. Klofach taught previously at Arizona State University, Estrella Mountain Community College and New Mexico State University.

"Milligan immediately felt like home," said Klofach about her visit to the college. "The students and faculty welcomed me with such kindness, and I

Carrie Klofach



knew that I wanted to be a part of this family. I am beyond excited to build a successful musical theater program and spread the word about Milligan. My husband and I can't wait to plant our roots in Tennessee."

To learn more about Milligan College, visit www.milligan.edu or call 800-262-8337. *A!*

New musical theater major coming to Milligan in the fall

Combining its strengths in music and theater, Milligan plans to launch a new major in musical theater in the fall. The major prepares students not only for Broadway, but also careers in film, musical performance, worship arts, music and theater education, ballet, dance and more.

President Dr. Bill Greer, along with music and theater faculty, announced the new major at a special event during Milligan's Homecoming celebration, which featured a performance of Broadway classics by the college's music department, as well as a theatrical performance of the Roman comedy "The Menaechmi."

"Milligan has a long tradition of excellence in music and the theatrical arts, including many wonderful collaborations in the musical theater genre," said Brown, who will be directing the new major. "Adding a major in musical theater is an exciting way to build on these strengths and provide opportunities for the many students who are interested in learning the skills and gaining the experience necessary for success on stage."

The major's interdisciplinary curriculum is composed of courses in theater arts, music performance and dance. In addition, students develop their performance skills through singing, act-

ing, and dancing, while exploring stage direction, as well as the technical and design aspects of theater production.

Students also create and perform in musical productions each year in state-of-the-art facilities, like Milligan's McGlothlin-Street Theatre located inside the Gregory Center, with 294-seats, proscenium stage, fly system, orchestra pit, green room, dressing rooms, box office and concessions area.

"Whether it has been a musical performance or a theatrical production with an orchestra, I have never left a performance at Milligan without a hearty laugh or several moments that moved me to tears," said Meg Foster, theater teacher at Elizabethton High School and adjunct French instructor at Milligan. "Milligan's new musical theater major is an important and exciting addition to the college and its students, as well as to the region, which is steeped in a deep-seated love for music and storytelling."

Milligan's music and theater areas have produced a number of successful graduates who have pursued careers in a variety of fields. Recently, Laura Mixon Mehl, a 2016 alumna who majored in music performance, is one

step closer to her Broadway dreams: she's studying in the graduate musical theatre program at New York University Steinhardt.

In addition to being prepared for a career in musical theatre, Mehl took away something more from Milligan.

"The friendships and connections I formed, as well as the input I received from those around me, have stayed with me," said Mehl, who is from Kingsport, Tennessee. "I still seek out my former teachers for support. They remind me that I am working to serve something bigger—not just to have a paycheck. I'm working to serve God and show the beauty in everyone's life and those around me."

Performance scholarships are available to incoming students interested in participating in musical theatre productions at Milligan, with auditions scheduled for Jan. 27 and Feb. 9.

Learn more about Milligan's new musical theatre program at www.milligan.edu/music or email Admissions Counselor Christina Mushayamunda at cmush@milligan.edu. *A!*

INTRODUCING NEW MAJOR
MUSICAL THEATRE
FALL 2018

