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All Eyes On: Randy Bame

Stage manager of Baldwin Auditorium Randy Bame has his time in the spotlight

BY HÉLÈNE BIELAK
Staff Reporter

His desk is crowded with memories, pictures and other souvenirs, all representing a lifetime of working and being a part of Truman. In the dark corners of Baldwin Auditorium, people come and go to work, have a coffee, ask a question or just talk. The auditorium is stage manager Randy Bame's kingdom, a universe aside from the Truman sphere.

A former undergraduate student in communication at Truman, Bame has been stage manager for eight years. Hailing from Rogers, Ark., he said he visited Kirksville between travels to Los Angeles or Chicago.

"I went to school [at] Truman from 1981 to 1985, and I came back in 1990 to finish my degree," Bame said. "In 2000, I came back again for this position, so if you do the math, I guess I've been here for 15 years."

In his daily routine, Bame is everywhere on campus. Between scheduling upcoming events, running across campus to rescue someone from a technical problem, supervising the theatre interns, coaching students and acting, his life does not always run smoothly, which is precisely what he likes.

"I like the atmosphere of the University and the plays with students," Bame said. "There are always people who come in my office, students who constantly exchange their ideas with a different kind of level or way of thinking, exploring, learning. And no matter what level they are, I like it. What is also interesting is that I have different generations of students, from freshman to senior. Then, there is always an evolution."

If Bame is well known for his campus hyperactivity, he is also known for his auditorium ghost stories. Footsteps, voices, shadows and dancing blue lights in the hall downstairs are all part of the stories he shares.

"I have already had a couple of experiences," Bame said. "Some of them were minors, but some others were significant. For example, I heard my name called one night, as I was working late. There [are] a number of stories of ghosts here. But, you know, I try to put all that stuff out of my mind, because I work here everyday."

Junior Max Glenn has been working with Bame for almost three years. Glenn said he has a lot of good memories with Bame, especially about ghost stories.

Glenn said that for kicks and giggles they go to the auditorium and frighten the interns that are working there by playing with a Ouiji board. Apart from the pranks, Bame has other resources to pass the time, Glenn said.

"We can spend nine o'clock in the morning until 10 or 11 at night together," Glenn said. "Then, the only way to survive is joking. Randy is very good at making fun of the situation."

When students are asked how they see him in everyday life, they are unanimous about Randy "Soft Good" Bame. Senior Sarah Hitzel met him three years ago. She just cannot stop singing his praises.

"He is very good [at] what he does," Hitzel said. "He tries to get everybody in it as much as he can. He is very patient, very tolerant. But he is also funny, very easy-going, very kind. He is a nice guy, like professionally and as a friend. He has a really big heart."

When Bame is not in the auditorium, he plays outdoor sports around Kirksville. Bike riding, kayaking and hiking are some of his favorite activities.

People can also find him in Kirksville's cemetery.

"When you look at the names, you can make links, find people," he said. "I like researching the names."

But sooner or later, Bame always comes back on the boards.

After more than 30 years of performing and playing about 100 different roles, Bame has not grown tired of the theater world.

"But he is also funny, very easy going, very kind. He is a nice guy, professionally and as a friend. He has a really big heart."

Sarah Hitzel
Senior



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Stage Manager Randy Bame has been collecting Baldwin Auditorium ghost stories and memories since he has been a part of Truman's faculty.

Committee finishes preparations

BY EMMA MUELLER
Staff Reporter

It's three days until the start of Homecoming, which means the life of a Homecoming committee member is hectic: meetings, class, making phone calls, hanging posters and painting a dog house — just a typical day. Planning for Homecoming began last Spring, but the bulk of the work must be done during the two weeks prior to Homecoming. The 13 committee members are finishing last-minute preparations and gearing up for a fun-filled week.

Haley Ray, senior and Homecoming committee chair, is responsible for overseeing the entire Homecoming committee. This involves watching over sub-committees, including committees for events, public relations, community liaisons, awards coordinator and points coordinator.

"I work very closely with the committee vice chair, the PR chair and our two other coordinators," Ray said. "We have a chair meeting that I lead with all of those people, and I also lead our committee-wide meetings. I do most of the external contacting.

It's very, very fun." Right now, Ray is operating not on a day-to-day or hour-to-hour basis, but on a minute-to-minute basis in the planning for Homecoming.

"Lately, we have what we call the survival guide, which is detailed, minute-to-minute everything we have to do during the week of Homecoming," Ray said. "A typical day involves lots of phone calls, lots of loose ends. This is where the fun part starts."

Amy Currier and Rachelle Williams, head Homecoming committee advisers and program advisers for the CSI, support the students every step of the way, but also let the students hold the reins and control how Homecoming is planned.

"We try to keep everyone on task but not be too controlling because it is a student committee," Currier said.

"Fortunately, we've had a lot of returners to the committee. That really helps with the positions, and those people are the people that realize how much effort and time goes into planning Homecoming week."

Like Ray, Currier and Williams are busy the days leading up to Homecoming, to say the least. There is no such thing as a typical day for these two, and they must be prepared for the unexpected.

"It's very busy," Williams said. "We have to do both jobs, being the Homecoming advisers and being there to support them, but we also have other things we have to make sure we get done during the same time. At the same time, we're there to support our students."

This year, Homecoming is a little differ-

ent than in the past. There are more events focused on individuals who are not part of a team. Junior Kelly Gorman said she thinks this year's Homecoming is better promoted than previous years, and she is excited to get the week rolling.

"I think this year it's going to be much more open to non-Greek organizations and the regular student body," Gorman said. "I also feel like there's more activities and more ways to get involved."

Homecoming is not just a week full of activities, but a week full of spirit aimed at a reconnection to the campus.

"Homecoming allows all the students and all the community to reenergize and remind them of why they're here and what the spirit of Truman is," Gorman said. "And an excuse for us to have a lot of fun."

"For every person, the reason why they chose Truman and the reason why they stay at Truman is different. By having campus-wide events, that connection that's established is why people, once they leave Truman, want to give back and come back. Part of the purpose of Homecoming is just another reason to connect the students to the school as a whole."

"Homecoming allows all of the students and all the community to reenergize and remind them of why they're here and what the spirit of Truman is."

Kelly Gorman
Junior

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