



## INTRODUCING CLUTCH PRODUCTIONS

**BY RACHEL FECHTER**  
Staff Writer

Truman State alumna Christianne Greiert started out watching episodes of “Full House” on TV with D.J., Stephanie and Michelle, who seemed like her real friends. Pretty soon, character after character, play after play, Greiert fell in love with acting. After a childhood of pursuing local theatre in her hometown of St. Joseph, Missouri, she eventually took her talents to Kirksville and after that, to New York City.

Greiert graduated during 2005 and studied theatre. She is returning from her busy life in Manhattan running her own production company, Clutch Productions, to speak at Truman’s Women and Gender Studies Conference 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, in the James G. Severns Theatre in Ophelia Parrish and again 5 p.m. Friday.

Theatre professor Dana Smith said Greiert is one of her former students and she has heard about Greiert’s production company which works with female playwrights to put on shows about feminine and social justice issues.

Smith said Greiert was a strong student even she never had any lead roles in the main stage shows. She said she thinks Greiert would have a lot to say to students, especially having to do with being discouraged and not getting cast on the college level.

“Students could look to her and see what it takes to get out there and be a working actor in

this world,” Smith said. “It’s not easy but she has done it.”

Greiert said her professors and education at Truman, in part, gave her the confidence she needed to be successful in New York City as an actress and co-founder of Clutch Productions.

Greiert said she thinks it’s a wonderful thing to say “Oh yeah, I went to Truman State University.” She said she thinks the legacy of who goes here and who comes out of Truman is stellar.

Greiert said she hoped not only to inspire Truman students who want to go into acting but to inspire any young person out there to work hard, take risks and make their own dreams into realities.

“A lot of times we all wear this armor, shielding ourselves from something that’s scary or put on an idea of who people want us to be,” Greiert said. “We have to be authentic. That’s something the conference is 100 percent embracing. We have a huge calling to take off the armor and be who we are meant to be.”

Graduate student Hayden Wilsey said Smith and student volunteers have put in time and effort to set up events for the conference, which was partially funded by the theatre department.

“A conference can be the place where a lot of the research people do behind offices and closed doors comes to life, and creates important discussions in the moment,” Wilsey said.

Wilsey said he thinks Greiert will bring a discussion to the conference that shows students how they can actively pursue their work.