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THE TRI-BUNE

Official Alumni Newsletter of the Princeton Triangle Club



Welcome to the inaugural issue of a resurrected alumni newsletter!

Some of you may recall the periodic updates that issued from the pen of Triangle Trustee, and author of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Clark Gesner '60, who circulated his reviews of the latest Triangle Show, together with a report on Club activity, throughout his tenure on the Board. While we can't hope to replicate Clark's unique style, our hope is that the collective efforts herein, from both Trustees and undergraduates, will help our alumni feel more connected to and informed about what's happening in Triangle today.



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A Message from the Chair of the Board

BY HANS KRIEFALL '87

Based on alumni conversations, the topic that you really want to know about, besides the theme of this year's kickline, is "Does Triangle still perform [your best-loved Triangle number] in the Frosh Week Show?" Depending on your vintage, the answer may be "no." "Ham and Legs," "I Want My Candy Now," "Moanin'," "What a Morning," and "Carpool" no longer grace the McCarter stage in September. As ever, Frosh Week is a combination of songs and sketches that the current undergrads feel will speak to the incoming first-years, as well as numbers they simply love to perform. Ideally, those two subsets will have considerable overlap!

But, despite the inevitable updates to "the best of Triangle," what's striking about Frosh Week is how much of the material still consists of classics from many years ago. In my first Frosh Week as a performer, in 1984, the oldest number in the running order was "Elevator" from 1973's *Future Schlock* – only 11 years old at the time. By comparison, the favorites in the fall of 2023 included "Elevator" (just turned 50!), as well as "East of the Sun" (1934), "Ivy League Look" (1958), "Examination" (1975), "Tables for One" (1984), "Yale" (1987), "Preceptor" (1992), "Honor Code" (1992), and "Orange Bubble" (2004). The "youngest" of those numbers turns 20 this year.

Some of those classic performances still nearly replicate the inspired original staging. Others enter the repertoire with a new creative sheen, like the sultry bossa nova beat Emily Whitaker '15 infused into a women's arrangement of "East of the Sun." Even the callbacks get a makeover every so often. At the latest performance of "Elevator," I laughed out loud to hear the 16-year old daughter greeted, not with the traditional cat-call of "Nice t—ts!" but "Nice Personality!" – a joke, on top of a joke, on top of social commentary, punching simultaneously in several different directions. Well done, Triangle!

Whether re-created, re-staged, re-arranged, or revised, the foundation supporting Triangle today is the foundation that we all knew and helped create. Thank you, Triangle Club past and present. A long and glorious kickline indeed.

**"Our show's
the only
thing there
is to do!"**

FROM "ORANGE BUBBLE"
MUSIC & LYRICS BY
DREW FORNAROLA '06



Meet the 2024/2025 Triangle Club Undergraduate Officers

PRESIDENT: VERA FEI '26

Vera is a sophomore from New York majoring in Architecture. She joined Triangle as the stage manager for the 2023 Spring Show and has stage managed every Triangle show since. Working on *Ship Happens: A Cruisical*, this year's Triangle Show, has been the closest she's ever gotten to being on a cruise. Above all, she is beyond grateful for the community Triangle provides. Some of her favorite moments took place in the rehearsal room, and they should probably stay in the rehearsal room... Though her favorite Triangle memory thus far is the post-show onstage reception at 2023 Reunions! Everyone sang and danced and reminisced — it felt like the night could go on forever. It was when she truly realized how special it is to be in Triangle.



VICE PRESIDENT: QUINN HAVERSTICK '25

Quinn is a junior from Pennsylvania majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He played oboe in the pit for *Camelot* and *Ship Happens: A Cruisical*, and also had a brief stint on *Keys 2*. He fell in love with Triangle on tour for *Camelot* watching all the little ways that people cared for and supported one another even when under pressure, a testament to the strength of the community that Triangle builds. His favorite Triangle memories often involve shenanigans with the pit, whether it's playing soccer in the mud or collecting rocks, though he also loves singing the classics with alumni at post-show receptions. It's the small moments that make Triangle so wonderful.



VICE PRESIDENT: ALISON SILLDORFF '25

Alison is a junior from Pennsylvania majoring in Computer Science. She was a member of the cast of *Camelot* and *Ship Happens: A Cruisical*, as well as the 2023 Business Manager. Aside from getting Butts in Seats, her favorite part of Triangle is tour! She loves the challenge of performing the show with an entirely new space and audience each night, and growing teamwork as a cast and a company in the process. One of her favorite *Camelot* tour memories was when the curtain broke in Bryn Mawr, so Irving and his hands decided to do crowd work for five minutes while it was fixed. She appreciates the tight-knit community that Triangle provides in the midst of the chaos of Princeton, and she is excited to get started working on the 2024 Triangle Season!





Don't miss *Ship Happens: A Cruisical* at Reunions 2024!



Review: *Ship Happens: A Cruisical*

BY GLEN PANNELL '87

Triangle's latest offering, *Ship Happens: A Cruisical*, set sail from McCarter this past fall buoyed by witty writing, strong performances, and one of the best sets the club has put up in the last 25 years. In his Princeton directing debut, Marc Tumminelli brought inventive staging and brisk pacing, deftly supported by choreographer Katelin Zelon and music director Pete Mills '95, returning for his nineteenth consecutive show.

A team of 13 writers crafted a framed revue, a hybrid model (part linear story, part thematic songs and sketches) that has been the preferred format for most recent Triangle shows. The plot follows two sisters on a cruise getaway with a cast of shipmates that includes a crooning prince, a power-hungry villainess, and a squeaky-voiced rodent. Yes, it's the wonderful world of Giznee. (And yes, there are enough letter swaps in that brand name to keep Triangle free of legal tangles.) No spoilers will be divulged, except that the 22-person cast played to three standing ovations. Happy endings indeed!

The tech crew delivered a "wow" moment when the curtain rose post-prologue to reveal a double-decker set that evoked *Anything Goes* meets Magic Kingdom. Lighting, sound, costume, and prop design offered delights throughout, including a backup chorus of warbling sea creatures popping through the upstage portholes. Even that infamous piece of Titanic flotsam surfaced for a trio of sketches, answering the hotly debated question, "Couldn't Jack and Rose have both fit on the door?"

Kevin Laskey '12 notched his tenth show as pit mentor, overseeing 14 players and conductor. The musical styles ranged from classic Broadway to contemporary pop to German techno. Box office receipts went up nearly 30% from 2022 thanks to a ship-shape biz team.

Ship Happens: A Cruisical returns to McCarter for Reunions Friday, May 24 at 8pm and Saturday, May 25 at 7pm.

Dispatch from Triangle Tour January 2024

Hello! My name is Charlotte Kunesh '24, and I am a senior cast member and Triangle's undergraduate tour manager! This year, we traveled to Washington, D.C.; Miami, FL; Jacksonville, FL; Palm Beach, FL; Raleigh, NC; and West Orange, NJ. The 2024 Triangle tour was filled with laughter, silliness, sleep deprivation, accidental cuddling with your neighbor on the bus ride when you inevitably fall into a deep sleep, and so much fun! Without further ado, here are some of our favorite memories...

1 GOING TO UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

We went to Universal Studios for our day off, and it was such an exciting day!! It was actually my first time on a real roller coaster, and everyone can tell you I did not hide it very well...



2 VISITING BUC-EE'S REST STOP

Buc-ee's, an iconic rest area in the Southeast, was definitely a favorite! Many of us are now sporting matching Buc-ee's sweatshirts.

3 CLASS DINNERS

It is a tradition for one night's dinner to be spent eating with all the other members in your class. I felt especially sentimental with it being my last class dinner and thinking about how fast the time has flown by!

4 VISITING THE BEACH

A must-do in Florida and a really fun stop before one of our tour venues.



5 DING! SHOWS

It was so much fun to weave this tradition back into tour and to perform so many Triangle favorites with a DING! Show that brought classic Triangle numbers to alumni far from Princeton!

6 ADAPTING AND ADJUSTING

It would not be tour without spontaneous bumps in the road, whether that be adjusting the set on the fly, placing the pit in unexpected places, or learning how to perform on stages of all shapes and sizes.

7 STAYING WITH ALUMNI

One of the coolest parts of tour is staying with so many alumni and having some of the most memorable conversations!

8 BEFRIENDING MEMBERS OF OTHER SIDES

The best part of tour for me is that it's the time when all sides get to be together the most. It is beautiful to watch so many friendships form and flourish, in addition to gaining an even deeper respect and admiration for the work that each side does.





Donald Marsden '64 Trustee Banquet

BY DAVID KALEY '97

The grand tradition of the Triangle Trustee Banquet returned in September (the inaugural event in what will become an annual tradition), thanks to a generous bequest from the late Donald Marsden '64. Don literally wrote the book on Triangle, authoring *The Long Kickline*, a definitive history of Triangle's first 75 years, as well as serving for many years as Secretary of the Graduate Board. Tradition and connection were important touchstones for Don, and the Club is grateful to him for creating this opportunity. His devotion to Triangle was unwavering, as captured in this [video](#) (recorded at the 125th Celebration in 2016).

The evening, attended by nearly 80 undergraduate Club members and Trustees, took place at the historic Palmer House just off campus. After a cocktail reception, Louis Bayard '85 (author of *The Pale Blue Eye* and *Jackie & Me*) delivered the evening's remarks, touching on his experience within the Club and the ways in which Triangle has influenced his work post-graduation. Dinner was followed by a bountiful dessert buffet, during which Triangulites from the classes of 1969 through 2026 had a chance to meet, mingle, and sing around the piano.

Let's give a locomotive and raise our glasses to Don, whose commitment to the camaraderie and craft of Triangle continues to shape the Club today!

Thank you
Donald Marsden '64
for endowing a
Triangle tradition



What's New for Triangle? The Updated Broadmead Rehearsal Space!



Triangle's rehearsal space at 171 Broadmead got a welcome upgrade over the summer of 2023

Opening in 1984 with Triangle's production of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, Broadmead was originally designed by noted architect Hugh Hardy '54 *56 as a black-box theater for Triangle's student-led productions. During its time as Triangle's off-season performance space, Broadmead hosted performances including *The Boyfriend*, *Applause*, *No Strings*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*, as well as the occasional evening of cabaret.

When the Triangle Show premiere moved back to its November slot, Broadmead was pressed into service as a rehearsal space, with only haphazard improvements and adaptations to its new role.

In summer 2023, working from Triangle's wish list, the University installed new flooring and a mirror wall in the main studio, and cleared the side rooms of their dressing room fixtures to create an additional rehearsal room and a lounge. Special thanks to Cliff Wilson '80 who donated two new pianos to the Club to complete the improvements!





Calls to Action

SEE SHIP HAPPENS



You can still catch *Ship Happens: A Cruisical* at Reunions - Friday, May 24 at 8 pm and Saturday, May 25 at 7 pm (you'll be out in time for the fireworks!). The show is free to the 30th Reunion Class of 1994.

Tickets are now available at McCarter's box office - visit mccarter.org or call 609-258-2787 for more information.

ONSTAGE REUNION



Planning is underway for our onstage Triangle Reunion, Friday May 24 at 10pm. We want to feature a few alumni performances from the major reunion classes - if your class year ends in a 4 or 9 and you'd like to suggest a performer/player or help organize your class's contribution, please send a note to info@triangleshow.com.

ALUMNI SINGALONG?



Because our late night Triangle reunion is never long enough... the Trustees are considering hosting a Triangle Alumni Singalong this summer in NYC. If you'd be interested in attending or helping to organize this event, please fill out this [quick poll](#).

TRIANGLE TOUR 2025



Tour is in the early planning stages and, in addition to some of our usual stops, we are considering a combination of Charlotte, Greensboro, Greenville, Atlanta, Nashville, Louisville, St. Louis, Indianapolis, and/or Pittsburgh. If you can help with venue or coordination in any city, please reach out to Laura Estes Ege '97 at Tour@TriangleShow.com.

SUPPORT TRIANGLE



The Trustees and undergraduate members are grateful to all alumni who have already contributed to our 2023/2024 Friends of Triangle campaign. It is not too late for you to show your support! Please visit [our website](http://www.triangleshow.com) to contribute.

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