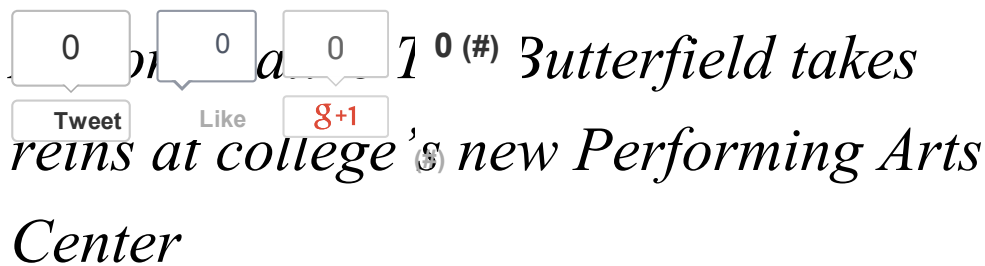


EMCC names theater technical director

Submitted by Jeannette Cruz on Fri, 01/16/2015 - 12:00am



Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale has named its first theater technical coordinator.

Tim Butterfield, an Arizona native, said his new position addresses a growing focus on education and the community in the Southwest Valley.

Butterfield said he has a vision he hopes will make the Performing Arts Center at EMCC, which is scheduled to open in the spring, a state-of-the-art destination, offering a variety of workshops and opportunities for the community.

“He’s going to be that over-arching connection between all of the fine and performing arts,” said Karen Harbin, coordinator of Marketing and Public Relations at EMCC. “He’s almost directing all of the faculty members, administration, community members, professional organizations and coalescing all of them and making them a dynamic performance.”

As the campus prepares for the grand opening of the PAC, Butterfield has been advising on the inner-workings of the facility, including budgeting, purchasing capital equipment, technical direction, staging, rigging, lighting, sound, and working with the arts faculty and developing academic content.

“The people who are working on the PAC right now are completely adept at what they do,” Butterfield said. “But, none of them work in the

theater. They needed someone with more experience working in a performance arts venue to kind of key into the day-to-day functions and how the construction will feed into that. Knowing what kind of room you need for tools and storage is beneficial to them.”

Butterfield has been involved in theater since his first performance when he was just 9 years old. He was cast as “Tiny Tim” in *A Christmas Carol*.

“It was absolutely terrifying,” Butterfield said. “I still think they gave me the part because I was the only kid in school who had crutches because I had broken my ankle a couple weeks before. I don’t think I had any talent for it.”

But, for the next decade, Butterfield worked in every function of theater nonstop. Before leaving for New York in 2005, a decision he described making “on a whim,” Butterfield attended Scottsdale Community College. He earned his Bachelors of Arts in theater from Brooklyn College in New York City and his Master of Fine Arts in directing from The New School for Drama and Acting in New York. He has performed in numerous Off and Off-Off Broadway shows, directed the New York Innovative Theatre Foundation Awards, and taught classes and workshops in stage combat, screenwriting, playwriting and acting.

In Arizona, he was the co-founder of Nearly Naked Theater and Is What It Is, with author Tom Levine. In 2003, he was artistic director for the production of *Waiting for Gateaux*, which was nominated for several Sony Awards including best director.

For Butterfield, being an artist and a director is about craftsmanship and collaboration. In grad school, however, it was his biggest challenge.

“Art is when you transcend craft,” Butterfield said. “A lot of people I have worked with were more interested in needing attention rather than taking part in the social conversation or taking responsibility for the art

they created. Needing attention is a good reason to get into acting, but it is not a good reason to stay.”

Butterfield said he is drawn to EMCC because it shares a philosophy that values collaboration.

“Because theater is a truly collaborative art form, my job as a director is to really allow everyone to function at their absolute best,”

Butterfield said. “Theater is a craft. Not every piece of theater is art, but it can be art — I want to instill that craft into this educational program so that they have tools to go out with.”

Aside from working at EMCC, Butterfield hosts screenings for the Phoenix Film Festival on a regular basis. In February, he will host a screening of *The Breakfast Club*. He is also currently working on two scholarly essays related to theater, including the difference between being a craftsman and an artist.

Jeannette Cruz can be reached by email at jcruz@westvalleyview.com (<mailto:jcruz@westvalleyview.com>).

Rate this article:

No votes yet

[Log in \(/user/login?destination=node/47966%23comment-form\)](/user/login?destination=node/47966%23comment-form) or **[register \(/user/register?destination=node/47966%23comment-form\)](/user/register?destination=node/47966%23comment-form)** to post comments

Related articles

- **[Budget talks begin in Tolleson \(/articles/2015/01/16/budget-talks-begin-tolleson\)](/articles/2015/01/16/budget-talks-begin-tolleson)**
- **[Litchfield Park to hold annual city address Sat. \(/articles/2015/01/16/litchfield-park-hold-annual-city-address-sat\)](/articles/2015/01/16/litchfield-park-hold-annual-city-address-sat)**
- **[Police arrest 3 in gas station burglary case \(/articles/2015/01/16/police-arrest-3-gas-station-burglary-case\)](/articles/2015/01/16/police-arrest-3-gas-station-burglary-case)**
- **[W. Valley principal named exemplary \(/articles/2015/01/16/w-valley-principal-named-exemplary\)](/articles/2015/01/16/w-valley-principal-named-exemplary)**
- **[EMCC names theater technical director \(/articles/2015/01/16/emcc-names-theater-technical-director\)](/articles/2015/01/16/emcc-names-theater-technical-director)**