Theater Producer and Director Gregory Mosher Tapped to Lead University Arts Initiatives

Following up on his long-standing commitment to the arts, President Lee C. Bollinger has appointed Tony Award winner Gregory Mosher to a newly created, high-profile post, the director of University Arts Initiatives.

Mosher, who brings 30 years of theater experience to Columbia, will look for innovative ways to link the arts to all academic fields of study at the University and to identify projects in which the arts can highlight and illuminate intellectual endeavors. In addition, he will manage university arts productions by exploring and vetting potential projects and then overseeing them.

In making the announcement on Feb. 9, President Bollinger said, “A great university should both integrate the arts into its intellectual and social life and contribute to the artistic creativity in the broader world. Gregory is the perfect individual to do just that.”

Mosher has directed or produced nearly 200 stage productions at Lincoln Center, on and off Broadway, at the Goodman Theater in Chicago, and at London’s Royal National Theatre and West End theaters. He has received every major American theater award, including two Tony Awards. He is credited with the development of some 200 stage productions that have been presented by Orchesis. From top: Eileen Farrell, Kevin Calhoun and Tze Chun. At left: ‘Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead’ by Tom Stoppard, performed by the Columbia Musical Theatre Society. From left, Jim Bull, Caitlin Harrity, Grace Parra, Ali Rhors and Kevin Connel.

I’m excited by the implications for the University, the neighborhood and the city. I look forward to creating a program that is worthy of President Bollinger’s vision and optimism.” At Columbia, Mosher will work closely with the School of the Arts, Bruce W. Ferguson, dean of the School of the Arts, said, “Just as the arts are central to New York City and its economy, President Bollinger continues to make them central to the life of the University. I welcome Gregory Mosher to the campus and look forward to working with him as he develops plans for sustaining this arts initiative. His creative energies will make him a strong ally in our campus-wide arts efforts.”

Among Mosher’s more notable theatrical productions are John Guare’s The House of Blue Leaves and Six Degrees of Separation; the South African township musical Sarafina!; James Joyce’s The Dead; David Mamet’s Glengarry Glen Ross; and John Leguizamo’s Freak.

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Gregory Mosher

School of the Arts Trio Wins Place in Berlin Film Fest

Film at the 2003 Rhode Island International Film Festival and Grand Prize for Best Narrative Short at the 2003 New Orleans Film Festival. As the trio basks in the success of Maree (Tides), they are also working on other projects. Pellerito is finishing a documentary, Ballperson, about a 40-year-old lawyer who has worked as a ballboy at the U.S. Open Tennis Championship for the last 25 years. Barba, a Mexican citizen, has written a short that he will direct in Mexico City titled Still Life, about a photographer who takes pictures of dead people at crime scenes. And Pellerito and his sister Jennifer hope to shoot a short film they recently cowrote called Intercourse about the role sex plays in the relationships of couples of different ages.

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Mosher is already ensconced in his new office and has begun meeting with Columbia faculty, students and administrators, as well as cultural and civic leaders in New York, to gain their perspectives and to create a strategy on integrating the arts more closely into Columbia’s lives and education.

Photo by Eileen Barroso

The Columbia University Performing Arts League put on its fourth annual Showcase for the Performing Arts, Feb. 7 in Roone Arledge Auditorium. The event featured the Barnard College Musical Theatre, Columbia Musical Theatre Society, Columbia University Dance Team, King’s Crown Shakespeare Tropege, LateNite Theatre, NOMADS (New and Original Musicals Authorized and Directed by Students), Orchesis and the 109th Annual Varsity Show.

At left: ‘Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead’ by Tom Stoppard, performed by the Columbia Musical Theatre Society. From left, Jim Bull, Caitlin Harrity, Grace Parra, Ali Rhors and Kevin Connel.

Middle: ‘Black and White and Red All Over,’ presented by Orchesis. From top: Eileen Farrell, Kevin Calhoun and Tze Chun.

At right: ‘Too Darn Hot’ from ‘Kiss Me Kate ’, presented by the Barnard College Musical Theatre Society in conjunction with the Columbia Musical Theatre Society. The production was directed by Michael Marcus and choreographed by Ashley Walker, with musical direction by Matthew Urbanek.

A Variety Night of Song and Dance and Drama at Roone Arledge Auditorium

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