

Thursday, July 30, 2015

Two OU musical theatre students earn trip to the Big Apple via online auditions

Two Oakland University musical theatre majors, **Lily Talevski** and **Mitch Aiello**, will spend part of their summer break performing in New York City.

Talevski, a sophomore, and Aiello, a junior, were selected to participate in the **2015 Carner and Gregor Barely Legal Showtune Extravaganza** and will perform on stage with Broadway guests and an amazing Broadway band.

The annual contest rewards outstanding college student performers with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend weeklong intensive workshops led by Broadway stars, casting directors, agents, actors and more. Following the workshops, students will perform in a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 17 at premier New York music venue **(Le) Poisson Rouge**, in Manhattan.

“As Head of the Musical Theatre program, I could not be more proud of Lily and Mitch,” said **Fred Love**, Doris Travis Associate Professor of Theatre at Oakland University, when asked about their accomplishment. “I can now beam, boast and brag that two of the 13 finalists for the Barely Legal Showtune Extravaganza are from Oakland - the only school represented by two singers.”

Professor Love added, “**Carner and Gregor** have made two trips to OU, including in February 2015, to work on new material, coach the students and present an evening concert. Before leaving, both mentioned that they recognized Oakland is becoming one of the best university musical theatre training programs in the country.”

The cast for the Barely Legal Showtune Extravaganza was selected by a dynamic panel of judges made up of Broadway performers and theater experts. They included Natalie Weiss (Les Miserables, American Idol), Kathryn Boswell (Gigi), casting director and producer Michael Cassara, agent Samantha Stoller (Abrams Artists) and Broadway Producer Jamie Kaye-Phillips (An Act of God, The Elephant Man, Seminar).

Alums of Carner & Gregor's "Barely Legal Showtune Extravaganza" include Danielle Wade (Dorothy in the North American tour of Wizard of Oz), Ashley Park (currently appearing as Tuptim in The King and I) Lora Lee Gayer (Young Sally in the recent Broadway production of Follies!), Blair Goldberg (Sister Act 1st National Tour) and others working Off-Broadway, regionally, and on national tours.

Read more about the **Sam Carner and Derek Gregor Barely Legal Showtune Extravaganza**.



*Lily Talevski was selected following her impressive **audition**.*



*Mitch Aiello also impressed judges with an outstanding **audition.***