

# Theatre Group with Academy Roots Gains Recognition... Finally!

In the summer of 2007, several Columbus Academy students decided to stage a production of *The Long Red Herring*. Shortly before the opening of the show, this group of students formed Shots in the Dark Independent Theatre Company. Shots in the Dark has continued to produce theatre in and around Central Ohio and is now celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. Shots in the Dark provides performance opportunities for actors and technicians ranging from middle school through college. The Columbus Academy graciously allowed the company to perform in Schoedinger Theater in 2007 and 2008 and when the school could no longer accommodate the company's summer needs, they maintained a relationship by inviting Shots in the Dark to do a teaser performance during the Summer Program of their first musical production in 2009, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*. The company used the donations it received from the "Academy years" to grow.

It formed working relationships with Parks and Recreations Departments (Westerville and Gahanna) and other community theaters (MadLab Theatre and Gallery) to perform in some of the most beautiful theatre spaces in Central Ohio. Shots in the Dark Independent Theatre Company is celebrating its fifth anniversary season with an expanded production schedule which included its inaugural winter season. *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare: Abridged* marked the company's first venture outside of Ohio with a performance in West Virginia. The bulk of their Anniversary Season is this summer. Their primary summer schedule consists of: *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* (June 24-26) and *Dracula: The Musical* (TBA). For the first time, the company has two touring productions. They reprise their performance of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* at Creekside in Gahanna as part of the "2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays" and "ARTSpeak" programs on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm and also present a premiere concert called *Broadway Through The Ages*. The group will work with Gahanna Parks and Recreation for the second year in a row to produce this concert as part of the "Concerts on the Creek" program. As a nonprofit, pre-professional theatre company, Shots in the Dark continues to rely on sponsorships and donations for their continued success.

Company Founder and Artistic Director Patrick McGregor ('08) has helped broaden the scope of Shots in the Dark by recruiting new members from all over the Central Ohio area but the company still relies on a strong base of Academy students and alumni. The company has been gaining some strong recognition as well. McGregor was recently interviewed by local theatre legend Bob Weesner of [theatrevault.com](http://theatrevault.com) about the company. The interview won't be published until after *Dog Sees God* closes and will run concurrently with Mr. Weesner's review of the production but you can see the interview here. The company was also recently granted membership in The Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable, a consortium of local theaters working to strengthen theater throughout Central Ohio.

Academy students and Alumni who will be performing with the group this summer include: Drew Klopfer ('12), Alex Farrenkopf ('12), India Myers ('09) and SueSan Chen ('14). McGregor continues to serve in his role as Artistic Director while Jeff Hobday ('07) celebrates his 3<sup>rd</sup> year as the company's music and vocal director. Other Academy Alumni not performing but serving on the Board of Directors for the company are Rachel Killoren ('09), Brenden Patch ('08), and Madison Lee ('09).

McGregor says he would, "like to see a strong show of support from the Academy family for our Fifth Anniversary Season. It would mean the world to see current and past students at our performances." For more information, visit [shotsinthedarkitc.com](http://shotsinthedarkitc.com) or email the company at [shotsinthedarkitc@rocketmail.com](mailto:shotsinthedarkitc@rocketmail.com).