

AUMNIBUS

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November 2014

Warhawk Issue - 17

Counting Stars with Galileo

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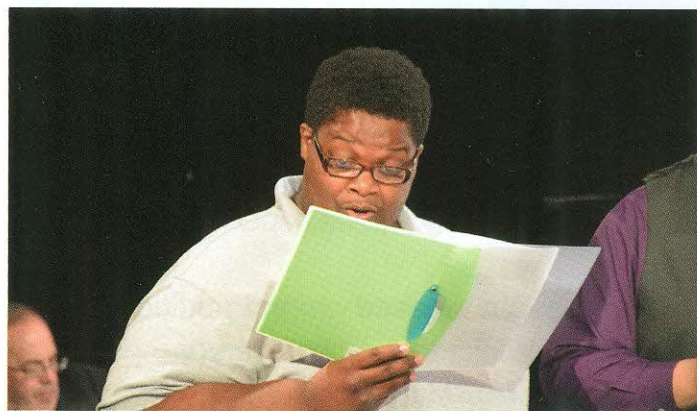
It's early October and I arrive at AUM Theatre, where I am greeted by Val Winkelman, a Professor in the Department of Communication and Dramatic Arts. Brandishing my camera, she immediately ascertains that I am there to cover auditions for the department's upcoming play, "Galileo." She offers me help, though does it with a sense of charm and wit – just what I had expected from a theater devotee. I ask her for introductions, and she requests that one of her students take me to the Green Room. Having no idea what or where this particular room was, I simply play along and follow this student into the unknown.

Upon the conclusion of our 20-second journey, I realized this room was not green at all. There are a handful of students practicing lines, and the mystical feel of art is heavy in the air. I introduce myself quietly to each person in the room, making sure to soften my normally booming voice. I then snap a couple of photos with my invasive camera and sit. Whether it is the silent conviction of these actors and actresses or my own timidity, I feel that I am somehow interrupting this solemn process of preparation.

Though, like these thespians, I have a job to do.

I approach one student, La'Brandon Tyre, and ask him for some of his precious warm-up time. Tyre, who is majoring in both Communication and Secondary Education, immediately dismantles any apprehensions I previously held about starting up a conversation. A senior at AUM, I ask Tyre what role he is auditioning for. The Communication major is quick to inform me that the audition process is not as generic as I think: "Well, I'm actually auditioning for all – we don't really do specific roles, you just come and audition, and whatever role they see you best fitting in they give it to you."

I noticed before talking to Tyre that he was not reading lines of any sort, though his companions were pacing around the room, scripts in hand. I



Tyre reads lines from the script of "Galileo."
Courtesy of Jacob Saylor

