FALL NEWSLETTER: WEEK 3

DEPARTMENT NEWS
Our second fall production of the year, *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes* by Kate Benson, began rehearsals last week. The evening included design presentations and a first reading of the play, with plenty of faculty and student attendance.

At the heart of *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes* is the idea that even in the face of conflicting points of view, and the ultimate divider, death, ritual still has the power to gather us together. The urge to be together is more powerful than what divides us.

For tickets and more information, click here ([http://theatre.ucsd.edu/season/BeautifulDay/index.htm](http://theatre.ucsd.edu/season/BeautifulDay/index.htm)).

Director – Vanessa Stalling  
Scenic Designer – Hsi-An Chen  
Lighting Designer – Mextly Almeda  
Costume Designer – Christopher Flagstad  
Sound Designer – MaeAnn Ross  
Production Stage Manager – Willie Mae Michiels  
Asst. Costume Designer – Daniella Toscano  
Asst. Stage Managers – Amber Dettmers  
Asst. Stage Manager/PA – Andrew Gutierrez

Cheesecake - Assata Hefner  
Cherry Pie - Danielle E. B. Wineman  
Trifle - Christine Penn Snap  
Dragon - Nicole Javier  
Gumbo - Amara Granderson  
@ - Allyn Moriyon  
Grandada, Twins, Runnerman - David Price  
Everywoman #1 - Serina Estrada  
Everywoman #2 - Mariah Tobin  
Everywoman #3 - Evelyn Lopez  
Everyman #1 - Ben Little  
Everyman #2 - Austin Harper  
Everyman #3 - Stephen Lightfoot
Our undergraduate fall production of the quarter, *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, began rehearsals last week. The evening included design presentations and a first reading of the play, with plenty of faculty and students in attendance.

The people of Grovers Corners, a small New Hampshire town, are intimately and profoundly presented in this deeply moving classic of American theatre. Performed on a mostly bare stage, actors mime most of the actions of the characters' lives, only to highlight how full their lives actually were. At times deeply emotional and poetic, this play also showcases the talents of a large cast through creative staging, down-home nostalgia and sly humor.

For tickets and more information, click here (http://theatre.ucsd.edu/season/OurTown/index.htm).

Director – Kim Walsh
Scenic Designer – Michael Wogulis
Costume Designer – Samantha Englander
Lighting Designer – Eunice Kim
Sound Designer – Justin Livengood
Production Stage Manager – Nicholas Lambros Smith
Asst. Stage Managers – Rebekah Fegan

Stage Manager - Elijah Douglas
Frank Gibbs - Mrigank Khema
Julia Gibbs - Farah Dinga
George Gibbs - Roberto Perez Kempton
Rebecca Gibbs - Rosie McConnell
Emily Webb - Micaela Martinez
Wally Webb - Liam Walsh
Myrtle Webb - Kirstiana Rosas
Charles Webb - August Robinson
Joe/Si Crowell - Charlie Sale
Howie Newsome - Trevor Rinzler
Professor Willard - Sebastion Clark
Simon Stimson - Teagan Rutkowski
Louella Soames - Tiffany Raditch
Constable Warren - Ryan Martinez
Sam Craig - Matthew Klimper
Joe Stoddard - Simon Martin

Ensemble: Sophia Erlich, Sophia Harris, Chloris Li, Hannah Folk, Jake Sutton, Ben McLaren, Jintao Lei, Joshua Kim

ALUMNI NEWS
ANNA MOENCH AND WILL SNIDER NAMED TO NNPN SHOWCASE

MFA Playwriting alumni Anna Moench and Will Snider will have plays presented as part of the National New Play Network Showcase of New Plays in Sacramento this December. Both plays, Mothers by Anna and Strange Men by Will received production and 2017 Wagner New Play Festival, respectively, here at UCSD.

For the National Showcase of New Plays, NNPN's Core and Associate Member Theaters, Affiliated Artists from the Playwright in Residence and Rolling World Premiere programs, and selected partner organizations submit scripts to be considered. The six plays presented as readings at the Showcase are selected by a panel of experienced NNPN-affiliated artists organized by the Literary Chair, and are cast and produced by the Core Member hosting the event. Prospective NNPN members, the Ambassadors Council, Affiliated Artists, and other industry professionals are invited to join our Core and Associate Members at the Showcase. More than 90% of the plays featured in Showcase have received a production within the next three seasons, many of them supported as NNPN Rolling World Premieres. The 2018 Showcase will be hosted December 7 – 9 by B Street Theatre.

For tickets and more information, click here (http://nnpn.org/programs/national-showcase-of-new-plays).

NGOZI ANYANWU OPENS GOOD GRIEF AT THE VINEYARD

MFA Acting alumna Ngozi Anyanwu was profiled in the New York Times in anticipation of her play Good Grief, which she wrote and stars in and just opened at the Vineyard. The article (https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/08/t-magazine/ngozi-anyanwu-good-grief-play.html) talks about her upbringing in Bucks County Pennsylvania and her journey from acting to writing while at UC San Diego.

Nkechi was a good Nigerian-American girl. She did everything right. Went to medical school. Made plans. Then life happened. And plans changed. A first-generation coming-of-age journey of love, loss, and growing into adulthood, Good Grief follows Nkechi as she navigates Pennsylvania's suburbs alongside her childhood crush, her would-be-brother, and her immigrant parents.

For tickets and more information, click here (https://www.vineyardtheatre.org/good-grief).
ANNE KAUFFMAN RECEIVES AWARD FROM SDC

MFA Directing alumna Anne Kauffman will receive the 2018 Joe A. Callaway Award from the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation for excellence in directing for Mary Jane by Amy Herzog (New York Theatre Workshop).

The Callaway Awards are peer-given awards recognizing excellence in the arts of stage direction and choreography in a given New York City Off-Broadway season.

To read more including the other three recipients of SDCF’s annual awards, click here (https://www.americantheatre.org/2018/10/12/sdcf-awards-go-to-loretta-greco-anne-kauffman-raja-feather-kelly-susan-stroman/).

WEST HYLER TO DIRECT A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF BROADWAY

MFA Directing alumnus West Hyler is directing the 35th Annual Benefit Gala: A Musical Celebration of Broadway honoring film, television, theater icon and three-time Tony Award winner Nathan Lane.

The black-tie evening, which will also celebrate theater producer Fran Weissler for Visionary Leadership in American Theater, will take place on Monday, November 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in New York City at The Plaza (768 Fifth Avenue). The Gala Co-Chairs are Kathy Henderson, Janet M. Kagan, and Joseph Pizza.

STAGE MANAGEMENT ALUMS COLLABORATE ON BEETLEJUICE

MFA Stage Management alumna Emily Hayes-Walsh and BA alumna Plato Seto are both serving on the stage management team of Beetlejuice which starts previews at Washington, D.C.'s National Theatre on October 14 with an opening slated for November 4. The production will run through November 18.

Beetlejuice tells the story of Lydia Deetz, a strange and unusual teenager obsessed with the whole “being dead thing.” Lucky for her new house is haunted by a recently deceased couple and a degenerate demon who happens to have a thing for stripes. When Lydia calls on this ghost-with-the-most to scare away her insufferable parents, Beetlejuice comes up with the perfect plan, which involves exorcism, arranged marriages and an adorable girl scout who gets scared out of her wits. Tony nominee Alex Timbers will direct the new musical featuring a book by Anthony King and Scott Brown and a score by Eddie Perfect. The production will feature choreography by Connor Gallagher and musical direction by Kris Kukul.

For tickets and more information, click here (http://thenationaldc.org/events/category/series/beetlejuice18/)
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