Monday, May 4, 2009
March/April Recap

DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Congratulations, Jorge!** - The California Latino Legislative Caucus, in conjunction with Governor Schwarzenegger and the California Legislature, honored Professor Jorge Huerta at the 8th Annual Latino Spirit Awards ceremony on May 4th. Jorge was recognized for his artistic accomplishments and commitment to the Latino community, as well as his demonstrated a commitment to positively showcasing Latino cultura. He joins the ranks of previous Latino Spirit Awards honorees that were all influential in their own respect, including pioneers in film, athletics, literature, art, and public service such as Carlos Santana, Grammy Award-winning recording artist; Edward James Olmos, award winning actor and political activist; and, Luis Valdez, founder of El Teatro Campesino. The ceremony took place at the California State Capitol in Sacramento.

Be sure to make plans to **come say “goodbye”** to Professor Huerta on Saturday, May 9th, as the Department sends him off to his well-earned retirement and to help us honor Dance Professor Margaret Marshall, in a celebration event the following weekend, on May 16th, as she also retires from UCSD. [Click on the announcements in links to RSVP.]

**Department Undergraduate Graduation Ceremony** – Each year the Department bids a fond farewell to departing Theatre and Dance graduating seniors in an award-studded, memorable, entertaining, and completely unofficial ceremony open to families and friends. At this time, the annual event is planned for June 5th at 4:00pm in the Poitiker Theatre. More information will be published as it is available.

Marianne McDonald’s translation of Phoenician Women, one of Euripides’ greatest plays, will be staged at The Theatre Inc., the first San Diego theatre to specialize in classics, from May 2nd – 31st. Phoenician Women continues the legend of Oedipus from a humanist perspective: it is the mother, Jocasta, who gives the best reasons for how tragedy can be prevented between her feuding sons. Aristotle claimed the family provided the model for the polis, or the city, with its government. Greek tragedy taught the Athenian citizens how to live and govern ethically in the world’s first democracy. Professor McDonald will also be giving a talk from 2:00-4:00pm on Sunday, April 19th, in the Wangenheim Room, San Diego Central Library (820 E Street), entitled “Euripides the Humanist.” Professor McDonald also participated on an informance panel on Stravinsky’s Oedipus Rex for the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus recently held on campus. The event also included scenes from her translation of Oedipus, plus performers singing from the opera/oratorio to illustrate discussion points.

**Arthur Wagner** and **John Rouse** were the guests in "Sam's Salon" at the San Diego Repertory Theatre on March 12th. They conducted a discussion about Bertold Brecht, Kurt Weill, and Weimar culture prior to a performance of The Threepenny Opera.

Quinn Martin Guest Chair in Directing Dominique Serrand was nominated for two Bay Area Theatre Critic Circle Awards for Figaro: Principal Performance, Male, at the Berkeley Rep., and Director, at the Berkeley Rep. and Theatre de la Jeune Lune. The production was also nominated for Sound Design (Zach Humes) and Ensemble at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Theatre de la Jeune Lune.
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MFA alum Josh Tobiessen ('07) and BA grad and MFA playwriting student Brett C. Leonard are featured authors in New Playwrights: The Best Plays of 2008. Also, Brett's new play will be directed by Philip Seymour Hoffman next season at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago.

Jennifer Barclay (MFA Playwright '09) has a couple staged readings of her plays in NY City this month (one completed and one upcoming). New York Theatre Experiment produced a staged reading of Eat It Too last week. Beyond the Wall Productions produced The Human Capacity on Sunday in March. Both readings are via The Directors Company, 311 West 43rd Street (between 8th & 9th), 4th Floor, New York City.

The 2009 Actors’ Showcase, presented with the Yale School of Drama and the NYU Tisch School of the Arts, will be presented in New York at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, 111 2nd Avenue [view map & directions] on Sunday May 3rd, 2:00pm & 7:00pm (reservations: 212-998-1960), and in Los Angeles at The Falcon Theatre, 4252 Riverside Drive, Burbank, [view map & directions] on Tuesday May 19th, 2:00pm & 7:00pm. (Reservations: 310-712-1278 or online - LA only).

Last Call! - You are cordially invited to join the ’09 MFA Actors for their last 'performance' here at UCSD. They are presenting their showcase set, days before they perform it in NYC, and would love to have you all there and are offering two showings to accommodate as many as they can. The show runs only thirty minutes. Free admission and free refreshments. Monday, April 27th, in GH 23 at 5:00pm AND/OR 8:30pm.

Johnny Wu has a video up on his blog, for those that can’t attend.

Visiting Scholar Professor Sung Hee Choi presented “(Per)Forming at the Threshold: Can Theatre Transcend National Borders?” on Monday, April 20th, Galbraith Hall 144. Professor Choi is Chair of the Department of British and American Culture at Kyung Hee University, Global Campus, South Korea, and a member of the Korean Association of Theatre Critics. She has published two dozen articles and reviews, with a special interest in cross-cultural studies and women’s studies.

Two UCSD MFA acting alums, Corey Brill (MFA ‘04) and Katie Sigismund (MFA ‘05) are appearing in Acting Professor Kyle Donnelly’s show Opus, by Michael Hollinger, at the Old Globe through the end of April. (Cory appears as “Carl” and Katie is “Grace”.) “Mystery shrouds the relationship of a world-renowned string quartet where rivalries and ambition clash and harmony is easier onstage than it is off.” The play is performed in the Globe’s temporary playhouse in the San Diego Museum of Art. Read a review here.

Current graduate dance theatre student Rebecca Salzer was just awarded a Jacob K. Javits Fellowship. Javits fellowships are awarded to “students of superior academic ability, selected on the basis of demonstrated achievement, financial need, and exceptional promise to undertake study at the doctoral and Master of Fine Arts level in selected fields of arts, humanities, and social sciences.” Congratulations, Rebecca!
San Diego Dance Theater will present the Jean Isaacs 35th Anniversary Retrospective Concert at San Diego State, May 16th and 17th, highlighting her extraordinary body of work. Jean will work with a cast of fifteen dancers, including nine from her company and six guest artists from around California, and will pair the selected choreographies with rehearsal assistants chosen from the original casts. Current and former Company members, including Terri Wilson and Tonnie Sammartano (who teach in the Dance program) will restage decades old works for the millennium. The six guest dancers include noted New York choreographer and UCSD Alum Monica Bill Barnes, who will dance Isaacs’ iconic Red Dress, a solo she learned while a student in the Department in 1994. Company photographer Manuel Rotenberg, who regularly photographs Department productions, will mount a photo exhibit in the theater lobby highlighting contemporary shots of the dances alongside reclaimed shots of the original performances. Performances will be held on Saturday, May 16th, at 8:00pm and Sunday, May 17th, at 6:00pm. Click for ticket information.

Kim Rubenstein, who teaches Acting to our undergrads, had a Falstaff Award director nomination for her work on Romeo and Juliet at Santa Cruz. Heather Carson, who has taught Lighting at UCSD, won for the Royal Shakespeare Company History cycle at the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Assistant Professor Emily Roxworthy recently was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant for Drama In the Delta: Digitally Reenacting Civil Rights Performances at Arkansas' Wartime Camps for Japanese Americans. Emily is the project director for this new collaboration with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) and the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC), which are working together to develop a role-playing video game that takes place in the two Japanese American internment camps from World War II. The camps - Rohwer and Jerome – were the only ones situated in the Southern USA, and so the only sites where anti-Japanese policies intersected with Jim Crow segregation. They also had particularly rich performance cultures. As a theatre scholar, Emily is focusing the role-playing game on reenactments of historic performances that were staged by Japanese Americans, African Americans, and white Americans at these sites. The NEH also gave the project a "We the People" designation; according to the NEH, the goal of the "We the People" initiative "is to encourage and strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture through the support of projects that explore significant events and themes in our nation's history and culture and that advance knowledge of the principles that define America." Emily spoke about Drama in the Delta at the University of Arkansas's flagship campus in Fayetteville in February, and gave another public lecture about the project at UC Santa Barbara on April 7th. As this project develops, Emily hopes to involve students and faculty from all of the department's areas.

Watts Village Theater Company presented a reading of The American Menagerie, written by graduate student Ronald McCants, directed by Gregg T. Daniel and produced by alum Guillermo Aviles-Rodriguez (MFA '02), recently in Los Angeles.
On Tuesday, March 10th, the Romanian Association of Theatre (UNITER) published the list of nominees for the 2008 Annual Theatre Awards. The Hungarian Theatre of Cluj received 7 nominations out of 9 possible categories for *Three Sisters*, which opened in September, directed by Gábor Tompa, Head of MFA Directing at UCSD. Gábor was nominated for “Best Director” and Andrei Both, Head of Design at UCSD, was nominated for “Best Stage-designer.” The members of the nominating jury are theatre and drama critics Magdalena Boiangiu, Victor Scoradeț, and Ionuț Sociu. The awarding of the XVIIth UNITER prizes took place on April 13th in the great hall of the I.L. Caragiale National Theatre, Bucharest.

**Congratulations to** current MFA student *Aimee Zygmonski* and her husband, Assistant Technical Director *Steve Gerlach*, on the birth of their daughter *Stella Ruth Gerlach (aka ‘Speedy’)*, born Thursday, April 16th, at 11:37pm. Stella debuted at 6lbs, 8 ounces, and measured 19 inches. Mom, daughter, and Dad are at home and doing well.

Professor *Nadine George-Graves* gave birth on Sunday, March 22nd, to a beautiful baby girl, *Zora Evadne Martha Graves*. Zora was 6lbs., 2oz., 19.5 in., with a full head of hair and a dimpled chin. Mom and baby are doing well. Congratulations!
Performance times & ticket information.

**Obscura**, by Jennifer Barclay (MFA ‘09). Directed by Tom Dugdale. In an apartment building feverish with yearning, neighbors eavesdrop on neighbors; the government sends menacing letters and the past won't stop knocking. And through all the noise, Ned weaves a love story for his upstairs neighbor Salvia, luring her off to a land far, far away.

**Picked**, by Stephanie Timm (MFA ‘10). Directed by Lori Petermann. Once upon a time in a raped and pillaged land where wolves prowl the woods and an endless war is all that anyone remembers, the youngest of three sisters is picked to marry a man she's never met who lives across the sea. When the next youngest sister gets the chance to marry and live happily after, she discovers that hope might just be her worst enemy.

**Refraction**, by Ronald McCants (MFA ‘10). Directed by Jeff Wienckowski. A Latino teen convicted of murder is hiding something about the murder he committed. As his counselor in a correctional facility tries to discover the truth behind an apparently senseless murder, his own family secrets begin to surface. In a world where nothing is ever what it seems, how do you determine justice? How much can you trust what you see? Can you ever truly know another person?

**Clementine and the Cyber Ducks**, by Krista Knight (MFA ‘11). Directed by Adam Arian. A dark comedic riff on the classic folk song set during the 1849 Gold Rush and the 1990s dot.com bubble. Clementine moves to California with her father to strike it rich. As Clementine gets sucked into a series of schemes and scams, the world turns into an ecstatic American Dreamscape full of shotgun-wielding sisters, angry miners, and a steampunk chorus of deviant ducks.

**Nicole and Anthony** – a Staged Reading, by Paul A. Notice II, winner of the third annual Dr. Floyd Gaffney Playwriting Competition on the African-American Experience. Set in Boston and Norfolk, Virginia, Nicole and Anthony travels lyrically through time following the life of a freed bi-racial woman - Nicole - as she returns to the chains of modern slavery. Nicole collides with a collection of men who represent the various faces of American society and her painful interactions with others detonate.
More...


WinterWorks!

Sure to inspire, this exciting range of interdisciplinary collaborations in dance theatre highlights the unique talents of our students in original, innovative choreography by faculty choreographers who welcome this season’s guest artist from New York, Miguel Gutierrez.

Woyzeck, directed by Gabor Tompa.

A soldier is driven to extreme behavior as he desperately tries to preserve his young common-law family. Based on a true story, this 19th century German play asks harrowing questions about medical experiments and the military. Woyzeck, who is poor, is the servant/slave of a German Captain who treats him as an amoral and stupid lab animal, starving and then brainwashing him. The play, unfinished, was written by a young medical student in such a cryptic, unnatural style that the scenes can be interchanged and much is left open for interpretation. A century later, after World War I, avant-garde theatre artists such as Bertolt Brecht and Georg Kaiser would use Woyzeck as a prototype for much of their work, thinking it the original “absurd” play. April 27th – May 2nd in the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre. Click for performance information.
Spring Moves! Directed by Margaret C. Marshall
Featuring Student Choreographers Michael Armstrong, Elizabeth Diaz, Christine Herde, Morgan McGreevey, Phoebe Osbourne Jessica Pusateri, Koren Rabago, & Anna Spalding

Undergraduate dancers take over the choreography in this showcase of their highly original works. An annual favorite, this year's Spring Dance includes eclectic contemporary, unique physical theatre, rhythmical tap, and a special site-specific work inspired by natural sounds heard during habitual paths through the campus. Add to the mix a bed, a few backpacks, two phones, and a surprise ending every night, and you have the formula for an outstanding production from a new generation of dancers and choreographers. In the Molli & Arthur Wagner Dance Facility, Studio III. April 30th - May 2nd
Click for performance and ticket information.

New Directions - MFA Student Choreographers' Showcase.
Co-Directed by Allyson Green & Margaret C. Marshall.
MFA Student Choreographers: Alicia Peterson Baskel and Rebecca Salzer

This season marks the beginning of the department’s new MFA in Dance/Theatre. To celebrate this step forward we’ve changed the series name to New Directions – MFA Student Choreographers’ Showcase. Please join us as we highlight works by our first class of graduate students while carrying on the tradition of presenting some of the most promising undergraduate choreographers. Don’t miss these exciting new interdisciplinary artists as they strive to redefine the boundaries of dance and dance/theatre.

June 4th – 6th at 8:00pm in the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre
ALUM UPDATES

Editor’s Note: Keeping tabs on our alums can be challenging, especially when they are scattered all over the globe. Imagine our surprise to find out about “UCSD East” – hence, our

~ 40 LINCOLN ALUM SPECIAL EDITION ~

for the folks living at The Parklane/40 Lincoln Road, Brooklyn, New York!

Looking towards Prospect Park from 40 Lincoln
Click Google map & select street view for a look around

Jonathan Silverstein (MFA Directing ‘01), the longest reigning tenant of UCSD East dorm (a.k.a. The Parklane or 40 Lincoln Road), lives high above Brooklyn on the 6th floor. When not seen roaming the halls with a bottle of gin in hand, Jonathan may be found directing The Temperamentals, a new play by Jon Marans (Old Wicked Songs) about Harry Hay, Rudi Gernreich and the founding of The Mattachine Society, the first gay rights organization in the U.S. The premiere, starring Michael Urie (Ugly Betty) and Thomas Jay Ryan (Henry Fool) opens in May at The Barrow Group in New York. Jonathan will also be directing Kaufman and Connelly’s Merton Of The Movies and the Sondheim revue Marry Me A Little for Dorset Theatre Festival this summer.

Daoud Heidami (MFA Acting ‘03) – Since working on You Don’t Mess with the Zohan, starring Adam Sandler, Daoud says he has been consumed with fantasy basketball. He also recently shot an episode of Law and Order and shot a Time Warner commercial. Daoud is about to work on the Arab-American Comedy Festival this Spring in New York.

Cristal Weatherly (MFA Design ‘01) – “I just opened Servant of Two Masters at OSF and am currently in previews for Lydia at the Mark Taper Forum, where Chris Acebo [MFA ‘98] is doing the set. I’ve spent the last year traveling around, doing shows at the Arden in Philadelphia, The Old Globe, ART, Denver Center, and was recently a guest artist at my undergraduate university, New Mexico State. I’ve also worked with Rainpan 43 (Trey Lyford [MFA ‘01] and Geoff Sobelle) on two projects this year: Amnesia and Curiosa and a new show in progress... The Elephant Room. It has been a great year of work, but I have hardly seen my apartment at 40 Lincoln Road. I’ll return to New York ... after a much-needed vacation and family visit in New Mexico.

Makela Spielman (MFA Acting ‘04) – “I'm down at the Humana Festival working with the SITI Company on Chuck Mee's newest piece, called Under Construction, directed by Anne Bogart. It's an amazing collage of America in the 1950s and today, through the lens of two different visual artists: Norman Rockwell (and the world of the Saturday Evening Post covers), and Jason Rhoades, a contemporary installation artist...and so much more.” She’s currently the Galvin Playhouse at Arizona State University, where SITI stages an annual performance to help connect the University to the local community.

Emily Donahoe (MFA Acting ‘03) - is currently making her Broadway debut in 33 Variations. This past Fall, she also did two movies - National Lampoon's 'Dirty Movie' and Handsome Harry (in which she plays Steve Buscemi's daughter). She lives with her fiancé Ryan, and her dog, Schroeder, the Boston Terrier.

Have News to Share? Hit “reply” and we’ll pass it along to your fellow alums Please let us know if you’re using a different name than at graduation and your “alum” year. As always we love photos – send them on! Let us know who’s in them so we can pass that along, too.
Michael Greif (MFA in Directing ‘85) directs the musical Next to Normal, featuring a score by Tom Kitt, with a book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey, which was given a very positive review in the New York Times recently. Next to Normal is at the Booth Theatre, 222 West 45th Street, Manhattan.

Julia Edwards’ (MFA Playwriting ‘01) play, Family Planning, is being remounted by fellow alum's Chalk Repertory Company as a site-specific event in Los Angeles area homes in April. She wrote a children's picture book, I Want My Boogers Back! that is available online and is at work on her next, Mad Max’s Meltdown and Other Natural Disasters. She lives in Pasadena with her husband, Gary Goodman, and her two wild children, Max and Sadie.

Dance Alum Monica Bill Barnes’ (BA ’95) recent work in the Harkness Dance Festival has a write-up in visual artist/writer Daniel John Weiner's blog of March 8th of this year. Daniel is a former Joint Staff Carpenter. [A video of Monica’s Another Parade is available online.]

Bill Fennelly (MFA ‘04) joined the staff of the TONY honored The Acting Company last June as their Associate Producing Artistic Director. He directed F. Murray Abraham and Lynn Redgrave in A Christmas Carol for TAC last December and helped to produce the national tour of Henry V, the first co-production between The Guthrie and The Acting Company, which just opened Off Broadway at The New Victory on 42nd street. Bill writes: “Feel free to drop me a line at bfennelly@theactingcompany.org I am trying to introduce new faces, talents and energy to the organization.”

The Cherry Lane Theater presents Jailbait, by Deirdre O'Connor, directed by Suzanne Agins (MFA ‘03). “When two teenage girls cross paths with two thirty-something men at a club, they must decide how far they are willing to go. Smart, funny, and disturbing, Jailbait asks the question: when do you really become an adult? Featuring: Kelly AuCoin, Peter O’Connor, Natalia Payne, Wrenn Schmidt.” March 19th - April 25th.

Melanie Marnich’s (MFA ‘98) play Tall Grass Gothic will be presented at Caffeine Theatre in Chicago from March 14th through April 11th at The West Stage at the Raven Theatre Complex, 6157 N Clark Street at Granville. “Inspired by the Jacobean tragedy The Changeling, Melanie Marnich weaves from desire, fear, and longing a starkly beautiful prairie ghost story. A young woman's hunger for new beginning sets off a chain of violence that unravels her small town.”

MFA Costume Design Alum Paloma Young (‘06) writes to say: “…I've been pretty busy this year. I moved to New York and was accepted into the union. I designed costumes for the world premiere of Amy Freed's You, Nero at South Coast Rep, which is a co-pro with Berkeley Rep (opens there in May) and I just finished up...
MORE...

doing costumes for *Peter and the Starcatchers* across the street, La Jolla Playhouse. I did *1001* with Sarah Rasmussen at Mixed Blood last October. I'm back here designing *No Way to Treat a Lady* at the Colony Theatre in Burbank with West Hyler and his talented wife Shelley Butler-Hyler.” [Here is the *LA Times* review of *You, Nero.*]

**Samuel Stricklen** (MFA ‘06), **Makela Spielman** (MFA ’04), and **Tom Nelis** (MFA ’90) recently opened in *Under Construction*. Chuck Mee's collage style rumination on America from the Norman Rockwell era to the present. The production is designed by **Neil Patel** (MFA ’91) and presented by SITI Company as part of the Humana Festival of New Plays. Anne Bogart directs. Makela says “It's a wild ride of a show, and I'm very very proud of the piece we've built…Subsequently we will be at the Galvin Playhouse at the Gammage Center, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, April 18 and at the Krannert Center, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, April 25.”

![Chane't Johnson](image)

**Chane’t Johnson** (MFA ‘01) says “Please watch the next four episodes of the TV show *Life* (NBC, Wednesdays, 9:00pm PST) starting February 25th - March 18th. I'm Guest Starring as FBI Agent Liz Ray.” [You can watch episodes of *Life* online on the NBC website.]

**Corey Brill** (MFA ’04), **Adam Smith** (MFA ’04), **Owiso Odera** (MFA ’05), and **Teri Kretz** appeared in alum **Larissa Kokernot’s** (MFA ‘05) direction of Chekov's *Three Sisters* recently in Los Angeles. The production was listed as a Critics Choice by *The LA Times*. [February 5th blog]

**Simone Moore** (MFA ‘04) has completed shooting a few episodes of *Cold Case* (Sundays on CBS) and just wrapped on a film called *Mrs. Washington Goes to Smith* with Cybill Shepard. The movie was made for the Hallmark Channel and is due to air sometime later this year.

![Carmen Gill](image)

**Carmen Gill** (MFA ‘05) has the role of “Irina” in *Three Sisters* at the Classical Theater of Harlem through March 8th. The production was written up in the Arts Section of the February 25th edition of the *New York Times*.

Photo Troy Hourie, *New York Times*

**Chris Acebo** (MFA ‘98) wrote to say “A Few plays on the horizon... Set Design for *Dead Man’s Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, *Lydia* by Octavio Solis at the Center Theatre Group (Mark Taper Forum) and the world premiere of a play by Bill Cain *Equivocation* at OSF. We just announced our 2010 season at OSF which is the company's 75th Anniversary!” [Christal Weatherly (MFA ’01) is doing the costumes for *Lydia.*]
MORE…

MFA Stage Management Alum Liz Brohm Hanrahan (‘99) also wrote to let us know that she “got married in August 2008 up in Santa Barbara to LA deputy district attorney Gino Hanrahan. Had baby Mack Charles December 11, 2008. Just finished teaching Stage Management to undergrads at UCLA and still SM a show here and there at the Geffen Playhouse.”

MFA Alum Actor Michael Keyloun (‘03) “is currently appearing as Etienne (the snarky, flirtatious and VERY French butler) in The Ladies Man, an adaptation of the Feydeau farce Tailleur pour Dames, for Indiana Repertory Theatre. Once we finish here, the production moves to Geva Theatre in Rochester for the month of April.”

Rachel Axler (MFA in Playwriting ‘04) is writing for Parks and Recreation, a comedy on NBC TV that airs on Thursday nights. The new series is a half-hour “mockumentary that looks at the exciting world of local government.” It was created by Greg Daniels and Michael Schur, part of the creative team on The Office. Rachel was previously a writer for the Jon Stewart Daily show and recently moved out to LA. A recent episode of Parks and Recreation titled “Canvassing” was written by Rachel and is available for viewing online.

MFA Alum Scene Designer Kelly Hanson (‘01) sends: “My husband (since June) and I run an experimental theatre company here in New York called Human Company (founded in 2006). I’m now devising and directing new work as well as designing. We are producing a festival of one woman shows at PS122 at the end of May, including my new work called Is It True What They Say About Dixie?, created with and performed by Beth Bradford. I have been working as a freelance designer and assistant since moving to NYC in 2001. I just made a big change and took a job at NBC art directing the new Late Night with Jimmy Fallon. It's pretty intense, but I'm hoping that in the long run it will form a great partnership with the work that feeds me artistically (but doesn't ever seem to pay me). Please encourage alums to check out our Human Company website at www.humancompany.org. If they are interested in the kind of work we are doing, they should feel free to contact me through the website.

Alum Raquel Barreto (MFA ‘04) won the Falstaff Award for best Costume Design for Pericles and Melpomene Katakalos (MFA ‘05) won for Scenic Design on the same production at California Shakespeare. Here’s a nice review and more photos.

Chris Acebo (MFA ‘98) was nominated for his Costume Design for Othello at Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Congratulations to all!

MFA Alum Actor Samuel Stricklen (‘06) is in a show called Under Construction, part of the 33rd Humana Festival of New Plays in Louisville, KY. Under Construction, by Charles L. Mee, is directed by Anne Bogart and created and performed by SITI Company: "A collage of America today, inspired by Norman Rockwell and contemporary installation artist Jason Rhoades, Mee's play juxtaposes the ‘50s and the present, red states and blue, where we grew up and where we live now - a piece that is, like America, permanently under construction." MFA alums Tom Nelis (‘90) and Makela Spielman (‘04) are in the cast.
Carla Harting (MFA ‘96) will appear in Legacy of Light, a world premiere play by Karen Zacarias, at Arena Stage in May. Carla appeared in A Delicate Balance at Arena Stage this season and in Sarah Ruhl’s Passion Play, a cycle. Other collaborations with Ruhl include the Playwrights Horizons production of Dead Man’s Cell Phone, as well as Eurydice at Yale Rep and its NY premiere at Second Stage. She has appeared in various NY productions with such theaters as 13P, Barrow Street, Clubbed Thumb, and New Georges. Her regional work includes The Lady from Dubuque (Seattle Rep); Night and Day (Wilma); and The Scene, After Ashley, Kid Simple, Aloha, Say the Pretty Girls and The Blue Room (Humana); A Midsummer Night’s Dream (La Jolla); What the Butler Saw (South Coast); Uncle Vanya and Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (San Diego Rep); and The Bright and Bold Design (Studio Theatre). Her film and TV credits include Never Forever, Law & Order and Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Legacy of Light runs May 8th – June 14th.

MFA Acting Alum Marsha Stephanie Blake (‘01), left, appears with Roger Robinson in Bartlet Sher’s revival of Joe Turner’s Come and Gone at the Belasco Theatre in New York. The production of the work by August Wilson will run through June 14th and is written up in an excellent review in the April 17th edition of the New York Times. There’s an audio link to the play in the review.

Jennifer Barclay’s (MFA ‘09) short play, Constriction, will be produced in Collaboraction's Sketchbook Festival in Chicago from April 16th - May 10th, directed by Devon DeMayo. Sketchbook is an annual joyful orgy of art with thirteen world premiere plays intertwined with DJs spinning, live musical performances, and visual art.

MFA Alum Stage Manager Dana DePaul (‘02) is “...flying around combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan bringing celebrity entertainment to the troops, working as a producer for the USO. Would you have ever thought, me in kevlar on a Blackhawk? Crazy right. In addition to war zones, this year I've also been to Kuwait, Italy, Turkey, Germany, Kosovo, Japan, Macedonia, and Guantanamo Bay. I'm certainly racking up the air miles :) I will be heading to the Persian Gulf with the Steven Colbert show to tape several episodes in the near future, so I'm pretty excited about that. Home base is in DC and I bought into a cooperative on Capitol Hill, so I've finally got a home to myself. Life is pretty good right now!” Dana was quoted recently on the US Army’s online homepage. [There’s a (not too good) photo of Dana taking a photo online here.]
Walter Belenky (MFA ’08) will be performing in the world premier of Arthur Laurents' play, *New Year's Eve*, at the George Street Playhouse from April 14th – May 11th. His lovely wife, Rebecca Kaasa (MFA ’07), will be performing in *Design for Living*, at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in DC. *Design* opens on May 12th.

Neil Patel (MFA ’91) is Production Designer of the new HBO series of *In Treatment*. We are pleased to note that Neil will be in residence at UCSD during the week of April 20th to give master classes to the design students.

Caridad Svich's (MFA ’88) adaptation of Isabel Allende's book *The House of the Spirits* was written up in the *NY Times* this week. *La Casa de los Espíritus* continues at Repertorio Español, Gramercy Arts Theater, 138 East 27th Street, Manhattan; (212) 225-9920.

Jonathan Silverstein (MFA ’01) directed the 25th anniversary production of A.R.Gurney's *The Dining Room* Off-Broadway for the Keen Company (2007/08 Season), where he serves as Resident Director. The production won an Outstanding Ensemble award at last season's Drama Desk Awards, as well as nominations for Outstanding Director and Outstanding Revival. This spring, Jonathan will be directing *The Temperamentals*, a new play by Jon Marans (Old Wicked Songs) about Harry Hay, Rudi Gernreich and the founding of The Mattachine Society, the first gay rights organization in the U.S. The premiere, starring Michael Urie (Ugly Betty) and Thomas Jay Ryan (Henry Fool) opens in May at The Barrow Group in New York. Jonathan will also be directing Kaufman and Connelly's *Merton Of The Movies* (July 1st – 8th) and the Sondheim revue *Marry Me A Little* (August 19th – 29th) for Dorset Theatre Festival. *Marry Me* will then be seen at Merrimack Repertory Theatre in the fall.

Ian Bedford (MFA ‘02) sent us word that he’s: “Doing well. Just returned from doing *The School of Night* at the Mark Taper Forum with fellow UCSDer Michael Bakkensen (MFA ‘00). Spent the rest of the year traveling the country doing Shakespeare. First the title role in *Macbeth* at Orlando Shakespeare Theatre and then the title role in *Richard III* at Lake Tahoe Shakespeare. Also got married in October, squeezed right into rehearsal for the *School of Night*. Ahh, life in the theater! All the best to the faculty and staff.” [Richard III photo: Lake Tahoe Shakespeare. *Macbeth* photo: Orlando Shakespeare Theatre.]
MORE...

Alum Eric Bowling (BA ‘04) has good news: “Hey all! It's finally come! Scribbulus has PUBLISHED my Harry Potter article on Hermione "The Plot Hole that Ate a Mother and Father"!!! This is my first major publication of critical analysis! You can read it here. Any comments you have, such as "You're insane!" "Good work" or even "I don't speak English" are welcome!!! E-mail: caliburst@cox.net”

Chalk Repertory Theatre Presents: Family Planning, a new play by MFA Alum Julia Edwards (‘01), directed by Larissa Kokernot (MFA ‘05), featuring actor David Ari (MFA ‘04) in the cast, April 3rd – 26th (Friday/Saturday at 8:00pm, Sunday at 7:00pm) at four different houses in the LA area. Family Planning centers on a couple having the worst fight of their marriage in front of a houseful of guests. Audience members are invited to experience the play inches away from the action. Seats are sprinkled between furniture in a real living room setting. The audience follows as scenes move from the living room to the kitchen and back. After the final moments of the script are played, out the second act begins with a reception where the audience, cast, and artistic staff can continue the conversation about our culture's response to infertility. Click here for more info.

Brian Hostenske, MFA Acting Alum (‘07), writes: “I just finished a show at South Coast Rep. I played Tim in Noises Off. [Photos and Video] It was a great experience. And also I am doing another show at South Coast in May, it’s a children’s show called The Brand New Kid. And Jenn Chang (MFA ‘06) is in it with me!”

Stage Management Alum Heath Belden (MFA ‘04) managed his first LORT level production, Crime and Punishment, at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre recently.