DEPARTMENT NEWS

Claire Trevor School of the Arts Department of Music at Chamber Series at UCI presented Loneliness of Dust, featuring traditional Persian music fused with electronic music, on March 6th, in Winifred Smith Hall at UCI. Shahrokh Yadegari will play Ney and perform vocals.


PhD student Jade Power has been selected to be a member of the inaugural class of the UCSD Chapter of the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. Students were nominated for their exemplification of the characteristics of Edward A. Bouchet, the first African American doctoral recipient in the United States (in Physics from Yale University in 1876). Membership in the society recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement and promotes diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate. The Bouchet Society seeks to develop a network of preeminent scholars who exemplify academic and personal excellence, foster environments of support and serve as examples of scholarship, leadership, character, service and advocacy for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in the academy. There will be a campus reception to recognize the inductees in March (TBA).

Marianne McDonald’s and J. Michael Walton’s translation of Orestes opened February 20th for a months’ run at The Theatre Inc, 899 C Street, in San Diego. The play is a rollicking ancient comedy/tragedy noir that puts centerstage the corruption and violence we live with today. Directed by Douglas Lay with original music by Leigh Scarritt.

Congratulations to graduate student James Tan, winner of the 2010 USITT Lighting Design Award. The USITT Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts bring recognition and support to young professionals at the beginning of their careers. The Lighting Design Award is presented to a young designer or technician who has demonstrated excellence or outstanding potential in the area of lighting in the performing arts while pursuing a graduate degree. The Award was established in 1997 by The Barbizon Companies in memory of Sam Resnick and in honor of Sid Bloom.
ALUM UPDATES

Reed Martin (MFA Acting '86) wrote to let us know that he continues to write and perform with the Reduced Shakespeare Company. In January 2010 Reed and writing partner Austin Tichenor reduced the first five seasons of the TV show LOST into ten minutes for Sky TV in London. The production will also be filmed for internet broadcast as well as on the Sky Platform’s Anytime service. They are also at work on a new Reduced Shakespeare Company stage show - THE COMPLETE WORLD OF SPORTS (abridged) - that will premiere in 2010. In 2010 the RSC “(Reduced Shakespeare Company, not that upstart British theatre company that stole our initials)” will be performing - among other places - at the New Victory Theater in NYC and the Kennedy Center, as well as in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Roxane Carrasco (BA '93) sent us word that she’s about to go into rehearsals (February 16th) for the West Coast premiere of Jose Cruz Gonzales’ play SUNSETS AND MARGARITAS at Palo Alto TheatreWorks. The show runs from March 10th -April 4th. Check out the press release.

Todd Cerveris (MFA ‘97) is “currently working with fellow UCSD mafia don Danny Burstein (MFA ‘90) in Lincoln Center's revival of SOUTH PACIFIC.”

Alex Cranmer (MFA ‘04) did a role on CSI:NY in November which is featured by BS on YouTube He writes: “This winter I had a small but comedic role on 30 ROCK and a guest star role on the new NBC series Mercy, both should air in March or April of 2010. I'll also being doing a show at Atlantic Stage 2 in July.”

Ryan Shams (MFA ‘07) took time to write to us recently. He says that he recently married an awesome woman named Loretta who laughs at most of his jokes. He has small speaking parts involving the operation of an fMRI machine and a bow and arrow, respectively, in the upcoming Angelina Jolie spy thriller SALT (with Liev Schrieber, directed by Phil Noyce) and THE LAST AIRBENDER (directed by M. Night Shyamalan, starring Dev Patel). In the trailer for SALT, you can see Mr. Shams, ever-so-briefly, in a swivel-chair, donning a fashionable Blue-Tooth® head piece and -- Spoiler Alert! -- you can also hear him off-camera saying: "Neural scan is up." Mr. Shams-al-Molkara is also speaking a little English, a little Urdu, in a scene with Mr. Vincent D’Onofrio in Part II of the coming season premiere of Law & Order: Criminal Intent on NBC-TV. Ryan teaches Movement at the New Jersey School of Dramatic Arts, where he has yet to introduce the panther crawl or gallop, but is considering it.

Shishir Kurup (MFA ‘87) and Tom Ontiveros (MFA ‘07) send that they are “are Writer/Director and Lighting Designer/Video and Still Projections respectively for Cornerstone Theater's latest play in the Justice Cycle and wanted to share this info with you. You can also go to www.cornerstonetheater.org for more details. Please do come by and see the show if you happen to be in town.”
**Ruth McKee** (MFA ‘06)’s play *STRAY* was selected for the Cherry Lane Theatre’s Mentor Project, and received a showcase production in NYC March 16th -27th. She is being mentored by David Henry Hwang. Her one-woman show FULL DISCLOSURE, featuring **Amy Ellenberger** (MFA ‘07) and directed by **Larissa Kokernot** (MFA ‘05), will be presented in Los Angeles by Chalk Rep, April 30th - May 23rd.

**Zan Aufderheide** (MFA ‘02) wrote to let us know: “I recently moved to LA from total obscurity and am performing at The Comedy Store Feb 8th, in "The Belly Room." ...The national tour that I was on is winding down after a very lucky run of being on the road for a year. My focus for the past couple of years has been purely stand-up, but at the end of Feb, I'll be re-mounting some of my one woman show "4450" for the first time since I graduated from UCSD back in the dark ages. I'm performing bits of it in North Hollywood Feb 28th. Find me on [facebook.com/Zan.Aufderheide](http://facebook.com/Zan.Aufderheide)"

**Philip Sneed** (MFA ’83) is entering his fourth season as Producing Artistic Director of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. He recently completed his second and last term as president of the Shakespeare Theatre Association of America (STAA), in which capacity he organized and led the organization’s 20th annual conference (in January, 2010), hosted by Shakespeare’s Globe in London.

**Alum Jefferson Mays** (MFA ‘91) is appearing in Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure* at the Theatre for a New Audience in New York. The production recently was written up in *The New York Times*. Jefferson plays “Duke Vincentio.”

**Tom Quaintance** (MFA ’92) is teaching at Sierra Canyon School outside Los Angeles, and co-directed *Nicholas Nickleby* at PlayMakers Repertory Company in North Carolina this fall. "The big news is that I got married in August - happiest day of my life."

**Caridad Svich** (MFA ‘88) sent word that: “IPHIGENIA CRASH LAND FALLS ON THE NEON SHELL THAT WAS ONCE HER HEART (a rave fable) receives its Latin American premiere in Spanish-language translation at Teatro Mexico in Quito, Ecuador February 3 – 6 under the direction of Ivan S. Morales as a co-production between the US Embassy and Grupo Solsticio; HOUSE OF THE SPIRITS (based on the novel by Isabel Allende) under the direction of Jose Zayas is part of the Colorado New Play Summit at Denver Theatre Center on February 12-13 and is published in the new issue of *TheatreForum*; NoPassport and the Nuyorican Poets Cafe present the 2010 NoPassport Dreaming the Americas theatre conference: Utopia in Performance on February 26 and 27 at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in NYC initiated and curated by Caridad Svich, co-curated by Daniel Banks and Daniel Gallant ([www.nuyorican.org](http://www.nuyorican.org), full conference schedule [here](http://www.nuyorican.org), and Facebook. Also in print in current issue of Yale’s *Theater* Vol. 39, No. 3: "American Playwrights on Language and the Iraq War, a virtual roundtable" moderated by Caridad Svich, with David Adjmi, Naomi Wallace, Christopher Shinn, Christine Evans, Charlotte Meehan, Lisa Schlesinger.”
Monica Cuoco (MFA ’04) is currently a stage manager for *Memphis*, a new musical playing at the Shubert Theatre. She writes: “Nothing too profound but I'm excited to report steady employment these days! I'm looking forward to reconnecting with Lisa Porter [Head of Stage Management] when she's in town. Though we were never officially at UCSD together - we keep the collegiate bond.”

Michael Keyloun (MFA ‘03) writes: “I just returned home from a pretty busy fall/winter. In October, I went back out to Salt Lake City to play Millet in Pioneer Theatre Company's production of "Is He Dead." Then, in December, I travelled to St. Louis to play one of the two Clowns in "The 39 Steps" at the Rep. Both were fantastic experiences: fun, challenging, and (thankfully) incredibly well-received.”