



April 4, 2011

Week Two, Spring Quarter

## MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

Area Heads Meeting - Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in GH 144

## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS



**Freebies Reminder** – “Employees and their spouses or domestic partners who are enrolled in non-Kaiser medical plans are eligible for free, confidential health assessments and follow-up wellness coaching under UC’s StayWell program. Once again, UC is offering a \$100 gift card incentive to faculty and staff who participate in the program. A spouses or domestic partner receives a \$50 gift card. This year, participants must complete both a health assessment and a StayWell follow-up program by December 15, 2011 to receive the incentive award. The gift cards may be used at dozens of retailers, restaurants, specialty shops, and online stores....[More.](#)”

## DEPARTMENT NEWS



**Kyle Donnelly** has a production of a South African play [Groundswell](#), by Ian Bruce, featuring UCSD MFA '05 alum **Owiso Odera** at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego until April 17<sup>th</sup>.

(from left) Executive Producer Lou Spisto and director Kyle Donnelly with the cast of *Groundswell*: Owiso Odera, Antony Hagopian and Ned Schmidtke.

## ADMINISTRIVIA

April 8<sup>th</sup> - Deadline to file for Advancement to candidacy for master's degrees

April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Deadline to [change grading option, change units, and drop classes](#) without "W" on transcript

May 30<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day, campus closed.

## ONSTAGE



*Opening Next Week* – [Baldwin New Play Festival 2011](#), world premier plays by UCSD authors.

**The Baldwin New Play Festival 2011** features world premiere productions by our talented MFA playwrights, and directed, acted, stage managed and designed by our nationally-acclaimed MFA companies. This year, the plays offer deals with the Devil to haunting from ghosts; the trials and tribulations of parenthood (and really, growing up); and the search for lost love – and a hat. Filled with passion, insight,

humor, and a dose of magic, these four plays represent some of the most original and ground-breaking new voices in American theatre. UCSD playwrights have gone on to be produced and commissioned around the country. New plays showcased at BNPf in recent years have had major productions and readings in New York City, San Francisco, Boston, Atlanta, Louisville, Minneapolis, Chicago, Washington D.C, and the O'Neill Playwrights Conference.

### *The Plays*

[A Man, His Wife, and His Hat](#) by: [Lauren Yee](#). Hetchman loves his hat. Oh, and his wife, too. But when both go missing, the retired hat maker vows to stop at nothing to find them. If he can ever muster the strength to leave his armchair. But the arrival of a talking wall and a hungry golem threatens to derail his endeavor. A klezmer-inspired love triangle between a man, his wife, and his hat.

[Salamander Leviathan](#) by: [Krista Knight](#). Winner of the Kennedy Center's 2011 American College Theatre Festival's Musical Theatre Award. It's 1890 in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. The loneliest man in the world makes a deal with the Devil: A wife and a family in exchange for his soul. When a beautiful stranger steps off the train, everything seems headed towards happily ever after. But neither the stranger nor the Devil is quite what they seem. A casio-pop fable about the price we pay for love. Music written and performed by Arkansas based band [David's Pegasus](#).

[Small Prophecies](#) by [David Myers](#). William looks in the mirror and knows that who he is now is only a part of who he will become. As he reaches for the future, he grows in a direction that his parents won't allow. How do you stop your child from becoming someone terrible? How do you become the person you want to be?

[Bodies in the Park](#) by Sharif Abu-Hamdeh. A couple grapples with ghosts from their past and secrets in the present in a neighborhood where the planes roar overhead and the night is full of dangers both visible and unseen. Can you ever really know another person? And, can you trust a world where the person you love most turns out to be a stranger?

**Special Event** - Our MFA productions will be joined again this season by a staged reading of the winner of the fourth annual [Dr. Floyd Gaffney National Playwriting Competition](#) on the African-American Experience.

**Also Coming in Spring Quarter** – [The Underground New Play Festival](#), May 26<sup>th</sup> - June 4<sup>th</sup>; [New Directions - MFA I Student Choreographers' Showcase](#), June 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>.

## ALUM UPDATES

*The Radio Adventures of Dr. Floyd's* recent episode "[Pyramus & Thisby!](#)" (*Translated*) stars Patrick Bristow (*The Suite Life of Zack & Cody*, *Desperate Housewives*), MFA '98 Alum [Kevin Berntson](#) (*Reno 911*, *Monk*), Brian Clark (*Sizzle*, *PuppetUp*) and Michael Oosterom (*The Amanda Show*, *Pushing Daisies*). [You can listen to a podcast at the episode link.]

**Whitney Anne Adams** (BA '08) writes that she has been loving life in NYC since graduation. Since September of last year, she has been working as the Costume/Art Department Assistant on Baz Luhrmann's new film adaptation of [The Great Gatsby](#), assisting costume/production designer Catherine Martin. She worked on a crucial workshop of the film in the fall with the leading actors and now she is very excited to be steaming ahead on the actual film. Before this recent job, she has been designing and assisting as well as working as a first hand at Carelli Costumes NYC making costumes for tons of different Broadway shows, the Metropolitan Opera, and other random events, including Beyonce's costumes for her last national tour. She says that if you would like to see some of the pretty things she has made, please visit [www.whitneyadams.com](http://www.whitneyadams.com).



MFA '95 Alum **Silas Weir Mitchell** is "Eddie Monroe" in the TV movie [Grimm](#), which is currently in pre-production. He also appeared in an episode of [The Mentalist](#) ["Bloodhounds"] on CBS TV in February.



**Alums – On Facebook?** Come visit the Department's [Facebook Alumni page!](#)

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**Note:** Just hit "reply" and send your info, and we'll share it for you. Be sure to let us know what your name was at graduation, if you've changed it, and your year of graduation.