Introducing the Class of 2016

Wagner New Play Festival Begins Rehearsals This Week
Head Over Heels Premieres in 2016 IDEAS Festival

Head over Heels is a performance piece by Grady Kestler exploring interaction between performers and technology. Choreographer Anne Gehman and saxophonist Steven Leffue will perform with AIIS, an intelligent electronic system developed by Kestler and Leffue for improvisatory composition. AIIS senses and reacts to the performers by generating musical structures and graphical content (to be displayed on the Qualcomm Institute's high-resolution Vroom video wall in the Calit2 Theater). Audience members will also have the opportunity to experience the performance via other virtual-reality systems in Atkinson Hall on the UC San Diego campus, and they will have the opportunity to interact with the technology after the performance.
The AIIS interactive performance system was developed in the sound design studios of the University of California, San Diego. Influenced by such artists as Merzbow, Borbetomagus, Evan Parker, Peter Evans, and Nate Wooley, the electronics are not only generated by processing of the saxophone's material in real-time, but are also generative: creating content according to analyses of texture, saturation, and volume.

Performance by:
Anne Gehman, choreography
Steven Leffue, saxophone
Grady Kestler, electronics

Head Over Heels
Calit2 Theater
Thursday, March 31, 2016
5:00-7:00pm

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Alumni News

Ryan McCarthy at Tribeca Film Festival

2006 MFA Acting Alum Ryan McCarthy has a supporting role in Almost Paris premiering in the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival.

About the Film
In the wake of the mortgage lending crisis, a former banker has to return home in order to get back on his feet. Directed by Domenica Cameron-Sorsese, Almost Paris is a story of resilience and redemption where one can rise up, collaborate and give back to those he loves in ways that are priceless.
2004 MFA Acting Alum Alex Cranmer guest stars as Dr. Hart on Madam Secretary with Tea Leoni.

Look out for Episode 19: Desperate Remedies

About the Episode
Elizabeth comes up with a plan to get the terrorist organization "Boko Haram" to release schoolgirls they are holding captive, while Henry comes closer to pinpointing Jibral Disah's exact location.
Tom Ontiveros Wins Drama Critics Circle Award

The Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle was founded in 1969. It is dedicated to excellence in theatrical criticism and to the encouragement and improvement of theatre in Greater Los Angeles.

2007 MFA Lighting Design Alum Tom Ontiveros won best Lighting Design for "My Barking Dog," at the Theatre @ Boston Court.

About Tom

Tom Ontiveros designs with light and projection for theatre, dance, and live music. His design for Completeness was nominated for Best Lighting Design (2014) by the Los Angeles Ticketholders Awards. Other recent work includes Happy Days with Brooke Adams and Tony Shaloub (2014 Ticketholders Awards, Top 10 Revival Productions) and ¡Figaro!: (90210) for the LA Opera. Ontiveros collaborated with Bob Balaban on the New York Premiere of The Exonerated (2003 Lucille Lortel & Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatrical Experience & the Outer Critics Circle Award: Outstanding Off-Broadway Play). He is a three-time recipient of the Dean Goodman Award for Lighting Design and was featured in San Francisco's Callboard magazine. He designed the lighting for the inaugural Tune In Festival at the Park Avenue Armory curated by the eighth blackbird ensemble and featuring Bora Yoon, Paul Haas, Paul Fowler, Newspeak, Red Fish Blue Fish, John Luther Adams, the Argento Chamber Ensemble and others. Other designs include Schick Machine composed by Paul Dresher and starring Steve Schick at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.
1995 MFA Dance Alum Monica Bill Barnes is on the April 2016 cover of Dance Magazine.

About Monica
Originally built upon a repertoire of solos and duets, Monica Bill Barnes & Company has a mission to celebrate individuality, humor, and the innate theatricality of daily life. The company first performed at the Pillow on Inside/Out in 2005, then returned for a Creative Development Residency in 2009. The performance seen here came during an unusually busy summer of engagements at the American Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival, and New York's Joyce Theater. While at the Pillow, Barnes participated in a PillowTalk entitled "What's So Funny About Dance?"
Raul Ramos & Brian Bose at Mixed Blood in Minneapolis

Award-winning Latino playwrights, choreographers, DJs, composers, novelists, and comedians- Dominican, Cuban, Mexican, Chilean, Colombian, Chicano, Nuyorican, and Sotarican- contribute original work, sculpted into a theatrical event by conceiver/director Mark Valdez.

The stories range from controversial issues to stories that are often overlooked to the simple-but-extraordinary events that make up a life. DJ Breakbeat Lou rocks the turntables, transforming DJ LATINIDAD'S LATINO DANCE PARTY into more dance party than play.

Gloria Mann's Film The Lennon Report Premieres at the Beverly Hills Film Festival

Gloria Mann’s performs in The Lennon Report, which has been chosen to open The Beverly Hills Film Festival at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood On April 6th, 2016 with a second show just added on April 9th at 9pm.


About the Film
The events on the night John Lennon was killed, seen through the eyes of those who lived it. The great men and women of NYC who did all they could to save a life, some without even knowing it was John Lennon himself. Based on a true story.
1993 MFA Directing Alum Tom Quaintance, artistic director of Cape Fear Regional Theatre directs Downrange: Voices from the Homefront.

About the Production
Downrange: Voices from the Homefront focuses on the families of deployed military men and women, and will develop these voices into a piece of documentary theatre, programmed as a stage reading and visual art installation. The grant supports a series of workshops run by Hidden Voices to first explore the intended outcomes and identify community partners, then to gather stories and create visual art pieces designed to give the participants a non-verbal mode of storytelling.
OSFs Season Includes UCSD Alum

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival's 2016-2017 season, where MFA Scenic Design Alum Christopher Acebo is Associate Artistic Director, includes new work by MFA Acting Alum Jiehae Park and MFA Playwriting Alum Lauren Yee as part of the Ashland New Plays Festival Women's Invitation.

MFA Acting Alum and OSF company member Paul Juhn will be reading one of the roles.

MFA Acting Alum Regan Linton will be in the reading of the third play by Martyna Majok, directed by a previous Quinn Martin Director here, Penny Metropolis.

For more information on OSF's upcoming season, click here.

Chris Medvitz on Tour with Lionel Richie

Pictured below is a photo from Lionel Richie's 'All The Hits All Night Long' tour that 1994 UG Lighting Design Alum Chris Medvitz designed lighting and media content for. The tour started in the US in summer 2014, toured Europe in 2015, and is currently on a leg through South America and South Africa, before returning to the UK this summer.

Chris is also the production, lighting and media designer for Lionel's upcoming residency at Planet Hollywood Las Vegas, which is opening at the end of April, 2016.
Angela Reed on HBO's Girls

MFA Acting Alum Angela Reed guest starred on GIRLS last weekend, Sunday March 20, 2016, in Season 5 Episode 5, "Queen for Two Days."

About the Episode
Hannah and her mom, Loreen, head to "Spring Queening," a female empowerment retreat. Loreen hopes to use the retreat as a time to figure out her next steps with Tad, now that he's come out. Loreen commiserates with a group of women at the retreat about problems with the men in their lives. Hearing the other women talk, Loreen realizes that having a gay husband is comparatively less problematic than a lot of the other women's experiences. Back in her room at the retreat, Loreen tells Hannah that she's decided to stay with Hannah's dad.
Melody Butiu in Stage Kiss at the Geffen Playhouse

1999 MFA Acting Alum Melody Butiu is in the upcoming production of Stage Kiss at The Geffen Playhouse.

About the Production
When long-lost loves are cast as long-lost lovers, two squabbling actors are slow to learn their lines but quick to ignite an old flame. MacArthur "Genius" Sarah Ruhl leads us on-stage, backstage and out the stage door as reality collides with fiction in this raucous and revealing play within a play.

Matthew Shiner Stage Manages The Lion King

An excerpt from Spotlight News' article on Matthew Shiner:

As elaborate and awe-inspiring the costumes and scenery of The Lion King can be on stage, it's the operations behind the scenes that is more impressive.
Mind you, when Pride Rock, the Elephant Graveyard, or even the giraffe costumes themselves are not on stage, they all fit some place backstage. And, while the show is going on, that backstage is as hectic as the flight deck of a naval aircraft carrier, said Production Stage Manager Matthew Shiner, 2000 MFA Stage Management Alum.

"It's a very big show. It's a grand spectacle," said Shiner, who has logged more than 25 years into a stage managing career with a list of shows that runs five pages deep on his resume. The production veteran has been at the helm with The Lion King for eight months, as it tours the nation. It makes a stop at Proctors for a near one-month run that starts Tuesday, March 22 and closes Sunday, April 17.

"Given the size and scope of the visual spectacle, the puppets and the costumes, the size of the cast, and the size of the support crew that goes along with it, [The Lion King] presents a wholly unique challenge," said Shiner. As production stage manager, he supervises a staff that outnumbers the performers. The stage managing staff helps him with the "moment-to-moment" nuances of the musical. Something he describes as a "well-oiled machine."

Cynthia Stokes Directs at City Opera

1995 MFA Directing Alum Cynthia Stokes, co-artistic director of City Opera, will direct City Opera's next production of The Andree Expedition.

About the Opera
On the eve of the 20th century, three young Swedes set out to circumnavigate the North Pole in a magnificent hot air balloon. They packed tuxedos in case the winds blew them to San Francisco at the end of their journey... Thirty-three years later their diaries were discovered. These entries became Pulitzer Prize winning composer, Dominick Argento's inspiration for "The Andrée Expedition"; an elegant tale of the uncertain adventurer in all of us.
Anjee Nero's Broadway Debut with Bright Star

After stage managing 6 world premiere musicals at regional theatres across the country, Anjee Nero, 2007 MFA Stage Management Alum, makes her Broadway debut with Bright Star, written by Steve Martin & Edie Brickell BRIGHT STAR which opened Thursday, March 24, 2016 at The Cort Theatre. Bright Star had its world premiere at the Old Globe in 2014.

About the Production
Directed by Tony winner Walter Bobbie and inspired by a real event, this "unabashedly romantic" (The New York Times) original musical tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and ‘40s. When literary editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier just home from World War II, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Haunted by their unique connection, Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past - and what she finds has the power to transform both of their lives.
Meetings of the Week

**Wagner New Play Festival:**  
1st Rehearsals  
Monday, March 28, 2016 6:30pm  
Galbraith Hall

**Faculty Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 4:00-5:00pm  
Galbraith Hall (GH) 254

**Season Planning Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 5:00-6:00pm  
Galbraith Hall (GH) 254

**Production Meetings:**  
All Wagner New Plays  
Thursday, March 31, 2016 9:00-11:00am  
Galbraith Hall (GH) 144

**actiTIME Meeting**  
Friday, April 1, 2016 10:00-11:00am  
Galbraith Hall (GH) 254
Have news to share? Send it to us at TandDNews@ucsd.edu and we'll pass it along for you. Photos are encouraged. Please be sure to let us know what year you graduated, if you're an alum. If you've changed your name, be sure to tell us what it was when you attended UC. Miss a back edition? Visit the Newsletter Archives.

Sincerely,

UCSD Department of Theatre and Dance