

UC SANDIEGO
THEATRE & DANCE

Week 5

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Department News

Gabor Tompa: Won Best Performance Award for "The Cherry Orchard" in Slovenia



Gabor Tompa's (Directing Faculty) production of "The Cherry Orchard" currently playing at the Slovenian National Theatre received the Best Performance Award at the FESTIN International Theatre Festival in Bucharest.

About the Production:

The Cherry Orchard is our failure to get a definitive answer to our own lives. It is a play that has to be set

always at a crossroad of history - the time of big social-political-cultural dilemmas and changes. It starts at the point where Faust ends - the moment of the recognition of failure. The roads ahead are closed, the horizon gets dark. From this point of view Lopahin - as Georges Banu writes in her wonderful book *Our Theatre, The Cherry Orchard* - is a character related to Mephistophilis, as he asks the same price for the solution: the sale price of the our souls.

We live in the time of huge dilemmas: human values seem to be turned upside down, culture is less and less assumed and supported, even threatened with disappearance, Internet and Facebook do what the secret police did in the 70's and 80's - they bring the era of the total surveillance. The threat with destruction has been ahead of us in time and space.

The director would like the performance to become the expression of our attachment and advocate for the "useless" thing. Like culture, tradition, faith, poetry, civilization. One, in which the silence and non-action of Liubov Andreevna and Gaiev are not a sign of impotence or helplessness, but a chosen passive way of resistance. Like a huge white library full of long time not read volumes, which opens to a frozen sea.

Alumni News

Donald Sage Mackay: In "Linda" at Manhattan Theatre Club



Donald Sage Mackay (MFA Acting '90/Adjunct Faculty) guest starred on "Masters of Sex" with Michael Sheen on October 9th. He has also been cast to play the husband of the title character in "Linda", the U.S. premiere by Penelope Skinner, at Manhattan Theatre Club directed by Lynne Meadow. Rehearsals begin in January with an opening in mid-February.

About the production:

Linda Wilde has it all. She's an award-winning senior executive as well as a busy wife and mother. But when she pitches a revolutionary concept that could change the way the world looks

at women of a certain age, she finds herself fighting for her own relevance as every part of her carefully considered life starts to show cracks. MTC is proud to present this timely, moving and fiercely funny new play by Penelope Skinner (last season's acclaimed *The Ruins of Civilization*) in the American premiere directed by MTC Artistic Director Lynne Meadow. The play was celebrated in London in its run at the Royal Court Theatre.

Christopher Scott Murillo: Receives the Pierre Cardin Award



Christopher Scott Murillo (MFA Scenic Design alum) is being honored for his scenic design work with the Playwrights' Arena, which is based in Los Angeles and was founded by Jon Lawrence Rivera in order to produce and direct original works by Los Angeles playwrights. Murillo's work has also been featured at International City Theatre, New Village Arts Theatre, The Chance Theater, Deaf West Theatre, Wallis Anneberg Center for the Performing Arts, the Hollywood Bowl, and Performance Riverside.

The Princess Grace Foundation continues the legacy of Princess Grace (Kelly) of Monaco who helped emerging artists pursue their artistic goals during her lifetime. In total, the Foundation is awarding over \$1 million to artists in theater, dance, and film.

"Winning this award is a reaffirmation that the work I have spent so many hours/years doing matters and is important," Murillo said. "As a result of this fellowship, I will be able to be a part of developing new plays by Los Angeles-based playwrights and supporting these new stories with a visual backdrop and design."

Kiersten Van Horne: Berlin Station Premieres on Epix



Kiersten Van Horne (MFA Acting alum) wrote the pilot episode of "Berlin Station" which premiered last week on Epix. "Berlin Station" follows Daniel Miller, who has just arrived at the CIA foreign station in Berlin, Germany. Miller has a clandestine mission: to uncover the source of a leak who has supplied information to a now-famous whistleblower named Thomas Shaw. Guided by veteran Hector DeJean, Daniel learns to contend with the rough-and-tumble world of the field agent: agent-running, deception, and the dangers and moral compromises.

Matt MacNelly, Jack Mikesell, & Jennifer Chang: Present Short Film "What If He Wins"



Theatre & Dance alums **Matt MacNelly (MFA Acting)**, **Jack Mikesell (MFA Acting)** and **Jennifer Chang (MFA Acting, Head of Undergraduate Acting)** created a short film about the possibility of Donald Trump winning the election.

About the film:

It's election night and five unlikely individuals gather together for a dinner party doomed from the start. Tensions build over past secrets, present hypocrisy, one truly bizarre Airbnb guest, and the fact that Donald Trump may very well end up being the next president.

Directed by Jack Mikesell and Jared Robbins

Produced by Matt MacNelly, Jack Mikesell, and Jared Robbins

Co-Produced by Michael Immerman and Stephanie Ward

Starring Christina Elmore, Matt MacNelly, Jack Mikesell, Erika Rankin, and Brigitte Valdez

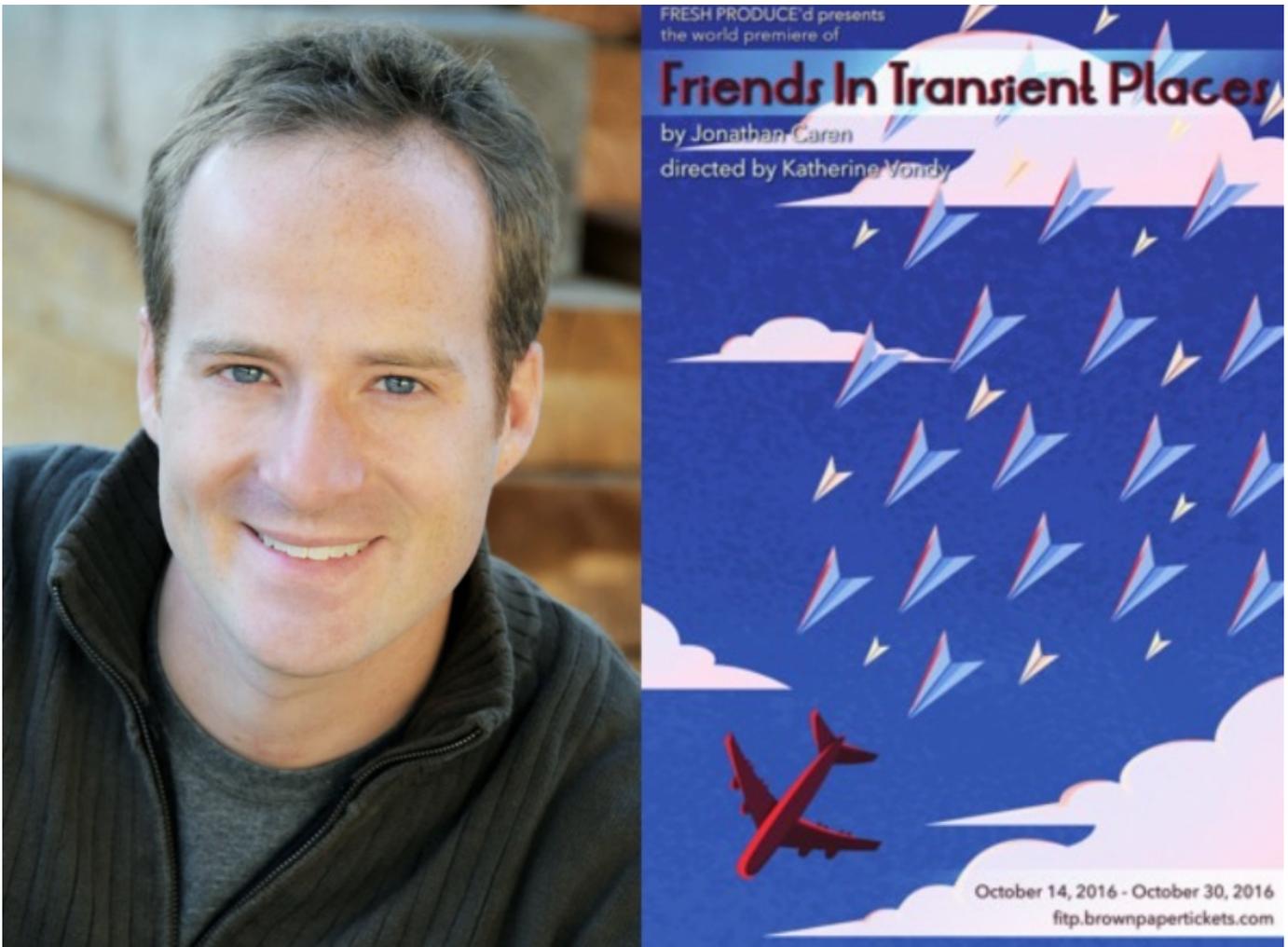
To view the 55-minute movie on YouTube, [click here](#).

Los Angeles Luncheon Includes UC San Diego Alums



Ty Granderson Jones (MFA Acting alum) attended a Los Angeles Luncheon to discuss the future with UC San Diego Dean of Arts and Humanities **Della Colletta** along with her staff **Brittani Kelly** and Theatre and Dance Chair and Stage Management Faculty **Charles Means**. Attended Alumni included renowned Bass Guitarist **Nathan East**, Director **Bob Berlinger** and Actor **Yareli Arizmendi**.

Michael Turner: In "Friends in Transient Places" in Los Angeles



Recent **MFA Acting alum, Michael Turner** performs in the world premiere of "Friends in Transient Places" by Jonathan Caren, directed by Katherine Vondy and produced by Amelia Phillips and Heather Boothby.

While traveling from New York to Los Angeles, strangers grapple with differing problems - an estranged son, a painful breakup, a conspicuously missing dog - yet they all yearn to put aside their baggage for one moment of magical connection.

Performances run October 14-30
Studio Stage Theatre, Los Angeles

For more information, [click here](#).

Lisa Portes: Receives Zelda Fichandler Award



Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF), the not-for-profit foundation of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), has given the 2016 Zelda Fichandler Award to **Lisa Portes (MFA Directing Alum)**. The prize comes with \$5,000 and recognizes an outstanding director or choreographer who has transformed the regional arts landscape.

"I am deeply honored to receive the 2016 Fichandler Award for the Central region," said Portes in a statement. "Ms. Fichandler-a woman artist, producer, and leader dedicated to changing the very nature of the American theatre-has long been an inspiration to me. In everything I do, I seek to build in some small way upon the work she began in Washington, D.C., in

1950-to break ground, make room, and expand our understanding of what the American theatre can be."

Jefferson Mays: In "The Front Page" On Broadway



(The Front Page co-stars John Slattery, Robert Morse, Nathan Lane, John Goodman, Sherie Rene Scott, **Jefferson Mays**, and Holland Taylor, photographed at Skylight at Moynihan Station, New York City.)

An excerpt from the New York Times review:

"The mud still flies in this tale of the frenzy surrounding the imminent hanging of a police killer, although some of its nastier ethnic epithets have been modified. The problem is that in this production the dirt isn't so much slung as spun, carefully and thoughtfully, so you can trace the arc of a joke before it lands. The show is pointedly and self-consciously funny, savoring its own raucous wit, which paradoxically means that it just isn't as funny as it should be.

This may partly be a consequence of having such a relentlessly socko cast, which numbers more than two dozen. The seven names above the title alone span generations of showbiz. (In addition to Nathan Lane, they are John Slattery, John Goodman, Robert Morse, **Jefferson Mays (MFA Acting Alum)**, Sherie Rene Scott and Holland Taylor). And many of the ensemble members have the grandstanding panache to solicit not only entrance but also regular exit applause."

UC San Diego

ARTS AND HUMANITIES Theatre and Dance

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Sincerely,

[UC San Diego Theatre & Dance](#)