

Department of Theatre and Dance Newsletter

Welcome Back Edition - "Zero Week"

Volume 7 No. 1 - September 22, 2008

Dear Faculty and Students,

Welcome back! I hope that you have all had creative and rejuvenating summers. I look forward to seeing you this week during Orientation Week, at our Grad lunch on Tuesday, September 23rd, at 12:00pm on the Galbraith Hall Patio to welcome our new graduate students and at our undergraduate meeting from 2:00-3:00pm, in Galbraith Hall 157. Come meet our terrific new UG reps, Morgan McGreevy and Calvin Tsang for Dance and Kendra Miller and Daniel Kim for Theatre.

We have an exciting season planned this year, and you can read all about it in our Season brochures or online at theatre.uscd.edu/season. Thank you to Rai Genna and Kristen Ellert for our beautiful new design system, Michael Fullerton for all web design, and to Kevin Fitzpatrick for our new signage to keep you all informed.

These are challenging times locally, nationally, and globally, but our department is brimming with the energy and talent that has the potential for collective transformation. Together, let's make great art this year. I have an open door policy, so please bring me your questions, concerns and ideas. We look forward to being inspired by all that you do, and to promoting your talents to the University and San Diego community.

*Allyson Green, Chair
Department of Theatre and Dance*



The Department of Theatre and Dance welcomes incoming and returning Master of Fine Arts, Ph.D., and our undergraduates this week. A PDF of the schedule of graduate student activities is attached. There will be a meeting for undergraduates on Tuesday at 2:00pm in GH157.

Your Invitation

To a play reading by first year playwright Krista Knight:

The Filling

Directed by Jeff Wienckowski

Stage Managed by Deirdre Holland

All Faculty, Staff, MFA & Ph.D. students, and Special Guests, are invited

Friday, September 26th, 7:30pm

Galbraith Hall 157

Reception following in GH170



CLASS INFO/AUDITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Seminar Available - Steven Adler will teach his popular TDGE 192 Senior Seminar in the Fall Quarter. This quarter's seminar is titled "Anatomy of a Musical: *Stephen Sondheim and Sunday in the Park with George*." The class will explore the impact of Sondheim's work on contemporary American musical theatre and will analyze the original Broadway production. This is a one-unit, P/NP class and the instructor will

waive the prerequisites for all upper-division students. The seminar meets on the first three Mondays of the quarter from 2:00-5:00pm. Contact **Andy Fenack** at afenack@ucsd.edu to enroll or for more information.

Attention Undergrad Actors! The undergraduate auditions for the Fall shows will be held during "0" week of Fall Quarter. More information and a sign-up sheet can be found at the Theatre and Dance department front desk. Roles are available for

- Grad Productions: *As You Like It* - by William Shakespeare, directed by **Tom Dugdale**, and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead*- by Tom Stoppard, directed by **Adam Arian**. MFAI actors only. Auditions to be held on Tuesday, September 23rd, from 7:00pm-11:00pm in GH15 and GH23.
- Undergraduate Production: *The Laramie Project* - by Moisés Kaufman, directed by **Raimondo Genna**. For *The Laramie Project* actors will need to prepare two contrasting one- minute monologues. The two monologues do not need to be a comedy and a dramatic piece, two comedic or two dramatic pieces are fine. The pieces in tandem should showcase the actor's character and emotional ranges, a necessity since the cast will comprise of 8 actors (4 male and 4 female) who will be playing over 60 roles. Check the Front Desk for details.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Welcome to New Faculty - Welcome and congratulations to our new faculty **Alan Burrett**, Professor and Head of Lighting Design, and **Lisa Porter**, Associate Professor, Head of Stage Management and Director of Theater. Congratulations to **Shahrokh Yadegari**, Head of Sound Design, for his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.



Ride ON! Jean Isaacs' [San Diego Dance Theatre's](#) 10th Annual *Trolley Dances* celebrates past and future favorites on Saturday and Sunday, September 27th and 28th, and again on October 4th and 5th. The company teams once again with the Metropolitan Transit System to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of *Trolley Dances*. Patrons ride the trolley to various locations where dance performances are staged (not on the trolley!) to delight and engage them. In addition to new works set on the company and community dancers by Jean, *Trolley '08* will feature choreography by longtime SDDT veteran **Terry Wilson** (in photo), NY favorite (and UCSD alum) **Monica Bill Barnes**, Anthony Rodriguez, a local master teaching artist and hip-hop performer and Katie Stevenson of Full Force Dance Theater, Hartford, CT. *Trolley Dances* is always an experience!

Shahrokh Yadegari worked the Festival of Arts and Ideas in New Haven and Ravinia for Maya Beiser's piece [Provenance](#), which will have it's New York Premiere at the Carnegie Hall on October 30th. Shahrokh was the sound designer.

Greek scholar and Euripides expert **Marianne McDonald** teamed with J. Michael Walton to create a new translation of *Helen*, by Euripides, that was staged a few weeks ago at the Swedenborg Hall in University Heights (San Diego). The production, directed by Douglas Lay for [The Theatre, Inc.](#), was given a "four star" rating by Robert Hitchcock of NewsBlaze. Marianne has a production of *Prometheus Bound* coming up and a reading of *Philosctetes* by Ion in the fall. She has also adopted a new mixed-breed puppy, auspiciously named Gengis Khan.



Professor **Steven Adler** is keeping in touch with his theatre roots even during his tenure as provost of Warren College. He just completed a chapter entitled "Box Office," which examines how money shapes producing musicals, for the new *Oxford Handbook of the American Musical*, to be published in 2009 by Oxford University Press.

Ex-Chair **Charlie Oates** served as movement coach for a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at [Chautauqua Theatre Company](#) in Chautauqua, New York. A [local review](#) hailed the production as the "finest production of a Shakespearean play...at Chautauqua in at least a decade."

Emily Roxworthy traveled to Denver in July to accept the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) [2008 Outstanding Article Award](#). The award ceremony was the opening act, after which Augusto Boal gave the conference's keynote speech. The *Outstanding Article Award* acknowledges scholarship marked by methodological sophistication, complex and critical engagement with dramatic texts and performances, focussed inquiries, and possible directions for future scholarship in a particular area. [From the Award Program] "Her piece, "'Manzanar, the eyes of the world are upon you': Performance and Archival Ambivalence at a Japanese American Internment Camp, "...demonstrates an impressive synthesis of historical research and theoretical analysis and an important rethinking of ethnic American performance histories and practices. ...Conceptually, historically, and theoretically ambitious, it not only provides an important reconsideration of internee performance and its role in shaping discourses of nationalism and immigration, but also offers methods and conclusions that will have a wide impact on theatre and performance studies more generally."



Dance faculty member **Judy Sharp**, Ballet Mistress for the [California Ballet](#), recently traveled to Munich on a trip that "was a lifetime experience!" with the Ballet. The company performed on three stages: at the Kubiz in Unterhaching; on the Veranstaltungsforum at Furstenfeld; and at the Carl Orff Saal at the Gasteig. The program consisted of *Suite Vivaldi* (by Francisco Gella), *By Candlelight* (Charles Bennett), a solo from *The Legend of Josefa* (also by Bennett), and *Pas de Duke* (by Robert Sund). Opus M dancers performed 2 pieces: *Albinoni Adagio*, by Laurel Benedict-Manniegel, and a very dynamic *Bolero* by Heinz Manniegel. The exchange included merged classes and a workshop where Judy taught part of *Suite Vivaldi* to Opus M dancers, and two CBC dancers learned part of Mr. Manniegel's *A Time to Think*, which Opus M performed here in San Diego at the Balboa in March.

Graduate Acting student **Johnny Wu** has been back in New York City, where he's "having the best summer ever, hanging out and auditioning." Recently he shot a national network commercial for Microsoft directed by Michel Gondry (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Be Kind Rewind*) which should be airing soon. He's wishing everyone a great remainder of the break and he "can't wait to do R and G in the Fall."

Lisa Porter, Head of Stage Management, is the Production Stage Manager for the new Charles Busch play, [The Third Story](#), at the La Jolla Playhouse. The Assistant Stage Manager is '08 grad **Kelly Glasow** and current SM grad student **Erin Albrecht** is doing her SM Residency on this production. Graduate students **Tom George**, **Chris Luessmann**, and **Rebecca Levy** are also doing their residencies on *The Third Story*. Lighting Design grad student **Stephen Sakowski** is the Assistant Lighting Designer. Undergraduate **Kendra Miller** is the Assistant Director.

Ph.D. student **Laura Brueckner** was Conference Coordinator for the annual Conference of the [Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas](#) in San Diego recently. The conference, sponsored by Abrams Artists, was comprised of the literary managers, dramaturgs, and other artistic development staff at many of the regional theatres in the U.S. and Canada, at the LORT-A and -B levels as well as smaller organizations. Morgan Jenness and Beth Bickers were both in attendance. Alum **DJ Hopkins** (Ph.D. '96) was Conference Chair; also in attendance were **Shelley Orr** (Ph.D. '97), who is LMDA's new president, **Nakissa Etemad** (MFA '96), and **Scott Horstein** (MFA '01). Sessions included panels on translation moderated by UCSD Professor **Jim Carmody**, dance dramaturgy, theatre at the borders, and children's theatre. Laura also participated in the [Bay Area Playwrights Festival](#) at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco, the yearly festival of new work produced by the Playwrights Foundation, where she was dramaturg for *Safe House*, a new play by Geetha Reddy, directed by Playwrights Foundation Artistic Director Amy Mueller. Alum **Nakissa Etemad** was also a dramaturg for the Festival.

Joel Gelman, soon to be Third Year Acting MFA, just finished a run of *Les Miserables* at the [Hollywood Bowl](#) directed by Richard J. Alexander and starring Brian Stokes Mitchell, J. Mark Mcvey, Lea Michele and, according to Joel, "and a bunch of other B-way stars. Played to almost 18,000 people a night. Crazy!"



MFA Lighting Year One student **James Tan** was invited to design a Repertory Light Plot for the [OCBC Singapore Theatre Festival](#) over the summer. The Festival is a biennial festival dedicated to the development and staging of new Singapore plays. Over the period of three weeks, James was responsible for the Lighting Design of three Main Stage plays, *The Last Temptation of Stamford Raffles* (see photo), *The Swordfish*, then *The Concubine*, and *Apocalypse Live!*, at a 600-seater proscenium theatre - The Drama Center Theatre. James is spending the remaining time of his vacation designing three full-length dance performances at the 900-seater Victoria Theatre and an experimental dance choreography entitled *Come, Come to Your Common Senses* to be presented by Esplanade, Theatres On The Bay - Sparks Exploration Series at the Esplanade Theatre Studio Black Box.



ALUMNI NEWS



Ian Bedford (MFA '02) was Richard in *Richard III* at the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival this Summer. Ian recently returned from playing the title role in *Macbeth* at the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre. He has performed regionally in the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, DC., the La Jolla Playhouse, Guild Hall, Florida Studio Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival and Marin Shakespeare Company (where he won a DramaLogue award) and three seasons with the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

Ryan Shams (MFA '07) recently finished playing the roles of Jesus Christ and Stephen Hawking in a new play by Deborah Zoe Laufer called *End Days* at the [Vineyard Playhouse](#) in Martha's Vineyard. The play, written by Deborah Zoe Laufer, was awarded a citation as one of the best new plays of 2008 by the Harold and Mimi Steinberg /American Theatre Critics Association. The director was Claudia Weill and the ensemble cast included Tony-nominated actress Amy Aquino. [From the Award Announcement] "Laufer's *End Days* premiered in October at Florida Stage in Manalapan. Sometimes comic, sometimes moving, it studies the challenge of maintaining faith in a world dominated by science and fear. A Jewish family copes with the aftermath of 9/11 as the mother, now a born-again Christian, tries to convert them before the rapture arrives - on Wednesday." Ryan writes that he "is also very excited to soon be working with the Queen Bee herself, **Kyle Donnelly**, on an adaptation of *The Three Musketeers* that she is directing at The Seattle Repertory Theater this fall." He will be playing the role of Aramis and is happy to be sharing the stage with fellow alumnus **Andrew Smith** (MFA '05) who will be playing D'Artagnan.

Scott Robinson (MFA '98) let us know that the MFA Acting/Directing class of 1998 held a ten-year reunion in L.A. in late July. Scott says it "went off well, with 50% of our class on hand to take part. There are some photos of the reunion up on Facebook. I just started my assignment to Taipei, and the local press was kind enough to make note of my arrival here....who's to say that my acting experience hasn't come in handy!" Scott, a former professional actor, is now the director of the American Institute in Taiwan's (AIT) American Cultural Centre. He joined the US Foreign Service in 2003 and has served in Chennai, India, and Beijing, and doubles as Cultural Affairs Officer in AIT's Public Affairs Section. While a professional actor, Scott appeared in productions of Shakespeare's *Henry VI* and Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* at the Utah Shakespearean Festival, the world premiere of Barry Manilow's musical *Harmony* at La Jolla Playhouse, and the feature film *Chasing Sunsets*.

Sierra Fisk (BA '03) "just went crazy as Ophelia in the Gangbusters Theatre Company's production of *Hamlet*... set in a modern day psych ward." You can view the trailer [online on YouTube](#). She says she's about to shoot a horror film, in which she gets her head cut off - twice! Then she'll be back to the theatre for the final play of the season... "most likely *Woyzeck*!"

Matthew Patrick Davis (BA '01) is playing Silvius in *As You Like It* on the mainstage at the [Weston Playhouse](#) in Vermont. The show runs August 28th - September 6th.

Dikla Marshall (MFA '03) checked in with us recently. She writes: "I shot two national commercials recently - one for Visa and one for Bank of America. For the B of A one I had to give birth, and they aged me and my commercial husband over a span of 30 years or so. (The guy who did the make up also did the makeup for *Star Trek* and *300*.) Apparently I don't age well. :)"



Dance alum **Deborah Lohse** (BA '01) wrote to say she's been busy with ad hoc Ballet. "It has been a busy summer culminating a several performances..." including *Game Face* recently at the [LMCC Sidelines Festival](#) in Battery City, Lower Manhattan. Choreography was by **Monica Bill Barnes** (BA '95) with performers Anna Bass, Monica Bill Barnes, Lindsey Kelley, Mindy Upin and Mary Ann Wall. [The NY Times](#) gave them a nice write-up.

Eduardo Placer (MFA '07) was offered a company membership with [The Pearl Theatre](#) and accepted. Eduardo says "This fall I will be playing Oedipus, Theseus, & Haemon in *The Oedipus Cycle* and then a whirling dervish character called Al Hafi in a holiday parable called *Nathan The Wise*. I promise to sustain, stay on my voice, use standard American speech, incorporate a neutral sequence, and break a piece of furniture!"

Tom Ontiveros (MFA '07) is happy to announce his preparation for classes this fall in a tenure track teaching position as Assistant Professor of Lighting Design at California State University, Chico. Tom will also be designing a new production with the Paul Drescher Ensemble in the spring of 2009, featuring Steven Schick and directed by Rinde Eckert.

Kevin Artigue (BA '99) recently completed an internship in the literary department at the Public Theater and will begin studies this fall at the University of Iowa's MFA playwriting program.

Donald Mackay (MFA '90) guest stars on the current episode of [AMC's Mad Men](#) and is filming *TRANSFORMERS 2* this fall. He took the summer off from Utah Shakespeare to take his nephew on a 110-mile backpacking trip through Glacier National Park. Don will be reprising his role of Reverend Morell in Shaw's *Candida* at the Colony Theatre in Los Angeles this Winter 2009 and is thrilled to return for a third year of teaching the UCSD MFA III Actors on the one class that was missing from an otherwise perfect graduate program: "Professional Preparation for the Actor" aka "What in the heck to do upon graduating to make a living in this crazy business."



Ty Granderson Jones (MFA '82) has signed with talent agent Ray Cavaleri of Cavaleri & Associates (Los Angeles). Ty recently completed filming *Napoleonic*, in which he stars and co-wrote and produced via his International production company Creole Celina Films. *Napoleonic* is a dark tale of a delusional vigilante with a severe Napoleonic complex who believes he has discovered political corruption in Post-Katrina New Orleans. The film also features Nick Mancuso, Roger Guenveur Smith, Ella Thomas and Musetta Vander.

Samantha Cooper (BA '06) send greetings from New York this summer. (She writes: "I'm tremendously overheated, how about you?") Samantha appeared recently in [Communicable Arts'](#) presentation of William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Brooklyn Lyceum and various other venues around Brooklyn.

Amy Ellenberger (MFA '07) let us know that she's been doing a web series! She says "And I'm doing it for a year! It's called [Lost Angeles](#). There is an episode a week and... [Episode 23](#) is a cute one that I'd love for you to check out."

Yusef Miller (MFA '01) had his play *The Master Shepherd(s) of Hookyjook* investigated at Lincoln Center Directors Lab in June. It is currently nominated for a Weissberger Award. **Trey Lyford** (MFA '01) was in an earlier reading at Julliard, where Yusef was a Lila Acheson Wallace Playwright Fellow. *Master Shepherd(s) of Hookyjook* is a comedic allegory set in post-9/11 in the fictitious world of Hookyjook, which nears destruction as its melodic clock winds down. (Yusef is currently searching for a director and producer.)

Jennifer Barclay's (MFA '00) new play *Eat It Too* was given a staged reading at Hot City Theatre in St. Louis in June. And thanks to her travel grant, she's now in Paris on a month's writing retreat with her husband. She'll be working on two new plays, and they'll be co-writing a screenplay.

Melody Butiu (MFA '99) has been really, really busy. She wrote to us earlier this summer: "After a couple of appearances on the season finales of *Desperate Housewives* and *Samantha Who?*, I am spending my summer at the [Geffen Playhouse](#) with **Liz Brohm** (MFA '99) as stage manager.

I'm reprising my role in Donald Margulies' three-person play, *Shipwrecked! An Entertainment: The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (As Told by Himself)*. We performed the world premiere last fall at South Coast Repertory and are thrilled at the opportunity to revisit this fantastic tale. Also, last year, I received the AriZoni Theatre Award of Best Actress for reprising the role of Jennifer Marcus in Rolin Jones' *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* at Actors Theatre of Phoenix. And this wasn't an acting gig, but certainly something fun: I was a contestant on Fox's *Don't Forget The Lyrics!* and won \$25,000!! Those nights of karaoke at the Lamplighter finally paid off!"



South Pacific, from the Tony Awards ceremony last Spring. **Danny Burstein** (MFA '90) was nominated for Featured Actor in a Musical. (He is the one in the center with his shirt open.) Check out their [performance on YouTube!](#)



Have News To Share?? Send it to the **TandDNews at Yahoo.com** and we'll put it in the next newsletter. Please, if you send photos, make sure they are no larger than 300k files. Graphics intensive PDF files may be gobbled by the spam filter so be sure to send your information as a text blurb. Also, don't forget to identify yourself, tell us if you had a different name at graduation, and what year you graduated if you're an alum. If your news features other alums, please be sure to identify them as such. News that's here by Tuesday night should normally appear in the next week's newsletter.

Welcome Back!