



Monday, November 24, 2008

Volume 7 No. 10

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

None

DEPARTMENT NEWS

***Laramie Project* Protest - Department of Theatre and Dance Response**

For the first time in the history of our department we became the focus of a protest for one of our undergraduate productions, *The Laramie Project*. We are saddened by this action initiated by an organization outside the San Diego community.

We believe it is the role of artists to ask questions about complex issues that cannot be answered in absolute dogmatic ways.

The Laramie Project was created to address the brutal killing of Matthew Shepherd, a twenty-two year young openly gay human being who was savagely beaten and left to die, tied to a fence for eighteen hours in Laramie, Wyoming in October 1998. With the 10th year anniversary of this murder, it is tragic that the play addresses topics that are still relevant to this day. Topics like tolerance, compassion, fear, and accountability for actions. As a character states in the play: "We are like this. WE are like THIS."

Audiences have been profoundly affected by the performances created by our undergraduate UCSD actors and designers. The director, stage manager and students have worked hard to present a fair conversation on a painful and difficult topic.

If these protestors watched the play, rather than protest the work of these brave young artists, they would see that their production fairly addresses all sides of a dark, painful moment in our nation's history.

We believe it is crucial for a great theater department to take on the controversial topics of the day. The outpouring of reaction regarding the recent passing of Proposition 8 in California, and the recent lynching of a young immigrant Ecuadorian boy in Long Island, makes these conversations even more relevant.

We acknowledge that our society carries historical and divisive biases based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, and political beliefs. Therefore, we seek to foster understanding and tolerance among individuals and groups, and we promote awareness through education and constructive strategies for resolving conflict.

The Department of Theater and Dance provides an important safe haven for all voices to be heard. As part of our educational mission, we believe in the power of art to transform, to activate, and to heal. We invite all to witness this important work and to join in a conversation for change, rather than a shouting match.

Allyson Green, Chair

MORE...



Another ASTR Winner - At this month's American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) meeting the Gerald Kahan Scholar's Prize (the best essay written and published in English in a refereed scholarly journal) went to Professor **Emily Colborn-Roxworthy**, for her paper *Manzanar, the eyes of the World are upon You: Performance and Archival Ambivalence at a Japanese Internment*. Emily also presented a plenary talk at this conference, which was well-attended and well-received. The speech was titled *Kabuki*

Girls in Arkansas: Transnational Performance and Segregation at Two Internment Camps. Additionally, Emily's first book has also at last appeared in print: *The Spectacle of Japanese American Trauma: Racial Performativity and World War II* (2008) is available from University of Hawaii Press.

James Newcomb directed *Midsummer Night's Dream* at [The Old Globe](#) recently.

winterWORKS Winter Dance Concert Auditions – The *winterWORKS* concert will be an eclectic blend of interdisciplinary collaboration in dance and theater, highlighting the unique talents of our theatre and dance students as they perform original, innovative choreography. Auditions for works by **Margaret Marshall**, **Patricia Rincon**, and **Yolande Snaith** will be held Saturday, December 6th, from 1:00-4:00pm in Studio 3 of the Molli and Arthur Wagner Dance Facility. Guest Choreographer [Miguel Gutierrez](#) will be in town on Sunday, January 4th, and invites interested student to meet at 4:00pm in Studio 3.



FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Last Chance for Open Enrollment – Open Enrollment ends at midnight on Tuesday, the 25th. Any changes that are made will become effective January 1st. If you want to have a flexible spending account for healthcare reimbursement or dependent care expenses, you must enroll each year. Read more about [open enrollment here](#).

Freshman and Senior Seminar Programs – Associate Vice Chancellor Sawrey posted a call for proposals for the seminar programs recently: “I am writing to encourage your participation in the Freshman Seminar and Senior Seminar Programs and remind you that the deadline for the submission of Spring Quarter 2009 seminar proposals is Wednesday, December 3rd, 2008.” Read [more here](#).



ADMINISTRIVIA

Paper Due After the Break? – All campus libraries are closed on Thanksgiving Day. Their operating hours for Friday and the weekend are [available here](#).

Parking is Free on campus over the Thanksgiving Holiday break.

ONSTAGE

Opening This Week - [As You Like It](#) - November 24th – December 6th
Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre.



About the Play - We begin in ruins. Families are at war. One brother has overthrown another, seizing control of the government and installing himself as dictator. From this dark beginning, Rosalind, Orlando, and others escape into the Forest of Arden, a mystical place with all the logic of a dream. Those who enter Arden find love, transformation, renewal: their journey through the forest is their dream of a new world rebuilt upon the ashes of the old.

Director **Tom Dugdale** is a graduate of Dartmouth college and a candidate for a Master of Fine Arts in Directing at UCSD. His department credits include *A Cure for Pain*, *Vaudeveaux Nouville*, and *The Heliotropic Man*, an original solo performance piece conceived with Joel Gelman. He directed Benjamin Britten's opera, *The Rape of Lucretia*, for Manhattan School of Music in New York and also staged the incidental vocal music from Stravinsky's ballet *Pulcinella*. In the summer of 2008, at Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, Dugdale was assistant director of *A Wedding*, an opera based on the Robert Altman film of the same name. He has assisted or observed the work of Robert Woodruff, Anne Bogart, and the Romanian director, Gábor Tompa, his teacher at UCSD.

[Click here](#) for advance tickets to all Department productions.



ALUM UPDATES



Alums **Shelley Orr** (MFA '92, PhD '03) and **DJ Hopkins** (MFA '96, PhD '03) had their baby, **James Franklin**, recently. Details are vague, but we do have a photo! Congratulations to all involved.

Tom Nelis (MFA '90) is appearing in John Doyle's production of Stephen Sondheim's [Road Show](#) at the Public Theatre in New York.

Have News To Share?? Send it to us via the newsletter's own email address, *TandDNews at Yahoo.com*, by Tuesday night and we'll put it in the next newsletter. We love photos, but please, if you send them, make sure they are no larger than 400k files. Also, don't forget to identify yourself, tell us if you had a different name at graduation, and what year you graduated. If your news features other alums, please be sure to identify them. We hope to hear from you soon!

If you're traveling this week, please travel safely. Our best wishes for a pleasant Thanksgiving Holiday!