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MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

To Be Announced



FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Retirement Benefits Forums - The Post-Employment Benefits Task Force will be visiting UCSD on Wednesday, April 7th, to provide an update to faculty, staff, and retirees on its work and the range of options it is considering for pension and retirement health benefits. The Task Force will also share the results of the recent employee benefits preference survey. Forums will be held in the Price Center East Ballroom from 8:30am to 10:30am for staff/retired staff, and from 11:00am to 1:00pm for faculty/academic employees and retirees. [More here](#) and the full [announcement here](#).

SEOEP \$500 Grants Available for Staff Career Development - “UCSD strives to foster a learning community for staff that supports education, training, and professional development. Continuous learning enhances our capacity to perform and builds our sense of community. It enables all of us to acquire skills to keep pace with the fast-changing demands that emerge from campus growth, advancing technology, and the challenges we take on in pursuing career growth within the University...” [More here](#).



DEPARTMENT NEWS

UCSD’s Theatre and Dance Department is getting some [good press](#) in the *New York Times*! A blogger wrote an article relating to their experience trying to decide which school to attend, and it’s published on the front page of the “Education” section of the *Times*.



Gabor Tompa directed two productions at the Hungarian Theatre of Cluj - *Richard III* and *Born For Never* - this month at the Spring Festival in Budapest, one of the major theatrical and musical events in Central-Eastern Europe, featuring theatre, opera, and music events from twenty-four countries. *Born for Never* was last year by the theatre critics as the Best Performance of the Avignon Festival. Photo from the *Richard III*

ONSTAGE



The Baldwin New Play Festival at UC San Diego 2010 features world premiere productions by our talented MFA playwrights - directed, acted, stage managed and designed by our nationally-acclaimed MFA companies. This year's plays take us from Rwanda to Santa Cruz, from the haunted mind of a teenage killer to the mysterious fragments of memory that a mother grieving her lost son tries to piece together. The plays take on themes ranging from the legacy of slavery for one African-American family to what it means to be an American trying to do a good in a third world nation. They explore the complexity of finding justice in an imperfect world and the redemptive powers of making art. Filled with passion, insight, humor, and a dose of magic, these five 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.

Click for [more information](#).



ALUM UPDATES



Alum **Mary Catherine Garrison** (MFA '99) has been staying quite busy. She's involved as "Maggie" in [Lend Me a Tenor](#) that's opening on Broadway on April 4. When she's not acting or [blogging](#), Mary runs an [Etsy shop online](#) where she has many of her creations for sale. Last year she appeared in *The Good Wife* and *30 Rock* on TV, and on stage in [Accent On Youth](#) (revival) on Broadway.

Jeff Hirsch (MFA Playwriting '03) is happy to announce his recently signed two-book deal with Scholastic, home to *Harry Potter*, *The Hunger Games*, and others. His first novel for young adults, *The Long Walk Home*, will be published in the summer of 2011 with his second novel, *Magisterium*, following soon after. Details on his blog at [jeff-hirsch.com](#).

MORE...

Owiso Odera (MFA '05) sends: "A couple of updates; I will guest-star on [Flashforward](#) on ABC Thursday, April 1, at 8pm/7pm central. I am also headed to the 2010 Sundance Theatre Lab which will be held at MassMOCA in North Adams, MA this year. I will be working on a new play by Kenyan Playwright/Poet titled "Bwagamoyo" and our Dramaturg will be none other than Shirley Fishman." **Maria Dizzia** (MFA '01) [is at Sundance](#) as well.



Editor's Note: Just hit "reply" to tanddnews@yahoo.com and share your info. Photos are always encouraged. Also, be sure to let us know if you're using a different name than you did here at UCSD. News that arrives by Wednesdays usually makes it into the next Monday's edition. We look forward to hearing from you!