



November 2, 2009  
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## MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> - Faculty Meeting: Assoc/Full Profs. & SLSOE, GH144, 4:00-5:00pm

Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> - Production Meetings, GH144: *Camino Real*, 9:00am; *Sexual Selection*, 10:00am



## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS



**About your retirement plans** - The Post-Employment Benefits Task Force is holding forums at UC locations throughout the fall to give faculty, staff and retirees the opportunity to ask questions and learn about how fiscal pressures are affecting the University's pension and retiree health programs. The local forum for staff and retirees will be held at 9:30am on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting for faculty will be held at 1:00pm. Both meetings will be held at the Faculty Club. Each session will consist of a presentation with time to ask questions afterwards. President Mark Yudof established a task force to study and recommend funding, policy, and benefits design alternatives.... Read [more here](#).

**What happened to...?** If you were waiting for the annual Health and Wellness Expo (and the discount flu shot), it's been cancelled this year, as has Sharecase for next year due to the budget situation.

**Early Notice!** The annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast and Craft Fair will be held on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. (Update your [Staff Association](#) membership for the "members only" ticket discounts.) The UCSD Staff Association will host booths selling arts and crafts for the holidays; ticket information will be available soon.



## DEPARTMENT NEWS

**BADA Rep Visit** - Interested in studying abroad at the British American Drama Academy (BADA)? A representative is coming to UCSD to talk about the program on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in GH 15. The Theatre and Dance department encourages students to study abroad and will accept courses taken at BADA to count towards your major/minor. Studying abroad is a once in a lifetime opportunity, don't miss out!

MORE...

**7 for \$15 UCSD Student Cards** - Now, in its eleventh season, our popular “claim your ticket at the door” program for enrolled students - undergraduate and graduate - continues to be the best educational and entertainment deal on campus and throughout San Diego County. See our award-winning productions performed on the three main stages of the state-of-the-art UC San Diego Theatre District, home to our R residency program in partnership with the Tony-winning La Jolla Playhouse. In addition to the seven main-stage shows for the phenomenally ridiculous price of less than \$2.25 a ticket, as a 7for\$15 cardholder, you are often invited to bring a free guest to selected performances of the main-stage productions and are kept up-to-date on free and value-priced tickets to cabarets and second stage shows. Read [more here!](#)



[Dr. Floyd Gaffney Playwriting Competition](#) - The Department of Theatre and Dance seeks from all enrolled undergraduate students submissions of previously unproduced, unpublished scripts highlighting the African-American experience in contemporary or historical terms. (Adaptations from books and other forms not allowed.) Prizes: a one-thousand dollar honorarium and a reading of the winning entry during the 2010 Baldwin New Play Festival, typically viewed by several national theatre professionals, including artistic directors, literary managers, agents, and playwrights.

Dr. Gaffney was one of the founding members of the Department of Theatre and Dance in 1971 and over the next two-dozen years gained a reputation as a director with a keen eye for talent. He was also active in community theatre, directing more than eighty productions for the Southeast Community Theatre (now [Common Ground Theatre](#)), San Diego’s oldest African-American troupe. Among these were *Fences*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson; the AIDS drama *Before It Hits Home*; Langston Hughes’s *Black Nativity*, featuring a 15-piece gospel choir; and, *Josephine Baker Tonight*. He was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006 as part of the KPBS Patté Awards for Theatre Excellence and was cited for “35 inspirational years of galvanizing the community with socially relevant theatre” and “for bringing new voices to San Diego stages.” Gaffney passed away on July 19, 2007. The Department subsequently instituted the Floyd Gaffney Playwriting Competition in his memory and honor.



## ADMINISTRIVIA

**Now - November 24<sup>th</sup>** - Benefits Open Enrollment  
**November 4<sup>th</sup>** - Enrollment for Winter Quarter begins  
**November 11<sup>th</sup>** - Veteran’s Day, campus closed  
**November 30<sup>th</sup>** - Deadline to drop **with** a "W"  
**December 4<sup>th</sup>** – Last day of classes before finals  
**December 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>** – Finals Week  
**December 12<sup>th</sup>** – Last day to remove a prior grade of “I”  
**December 14<sup>th</sup>** – Last day to [petition](#) for a grade of “I”  
**December 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Grades available online

## ONSTAGE



**Opens Next Week!** - [\*Topdog/Underdog\*](#), by Suzan-Lori Parks, directed by **Nadine George-Graves**, in the Arthur Wagner Theatre, November 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Topdog/Underdog* is the 2002 Pulitzer Prize winning play about two African American brothers, named Lincoln and Booth as a “joke” by their father, coping with women, work, poverty, gambling, racism, and their troubled upbringings. Using Three-card Monte as a metaphor, this play is ultimately about the Great American Con. Our production furthers UC San Diego’s conversation during the yearlong Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Celebrations.

**The Cast is:** Booth - **Johnny Gill**, Lincoln - **Bowman Wright**

### The Creative Team:

Director - **Nadine George-Graves**  
Production Stage Manager – **Cate O’Brien**  
Scenic & Costume Designer – **Christine Crook**  
Lighting Designer – **Sarah Cogan**  
Sound Designer – **David Corsello**

Dramaturg - **Jade Power**  
Asst Stage Manager - **Leighann Enos**  
Asst Scenic Designer - **TBA**  
Asst Costume Designer - **TBA**  
Asst Lighting Designer - **Wen-Ling Liao**

Click for [Ticket Information](#).



[\*Sexual Selection: Darwin and Shakespeare Ponder Love\*](#). Conceived, Directed, and Choreographed by **Kim Rubinstein** and **Yolande Snaith**. In the Mandell Weiss FORUM Theatre, November 16<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>.

Director **Kim Rubinstein** and Choreographer **Yolande Snaith** collaborate in this original dance theatre melding of William Shakespeare’s *Love’s Labour’s Lost* and Charles Darwin’s *The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex*. Don’t miss this celebration of the mating rituals of the human species seen through the lens of our greatest playwright and evolutionist!



[\*The House of Bernarda Alba\*](#), by Federico García Lorca, adapted by Chay Yew, directed by **Jeffrey Wienckowski**, in the Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre, November 19<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>.

After the death of her second husband, Bernarda Alba, a domineering Spanish matriarch, imposes a period of mourning on the five adult daughters. Tension mounts within the household where morality is dictated by the fanatical tyranny of ideology. Menial daily rituals are the only thing that makes the daughters lives bearable while they are slowly eaten alive by their own repression. *The House of Bernarda Alba*, Lorca’s last play, was completed mere months before he was assassinated by the Nationalists in 1936.

Click for [Ticket Information](#) for all shows.

## ALUM UPDATES

**Ryan McCarthy** (MFA '06) writes: "I'm currently understudying Jonny Lee Miller as 'John' in The Roundabout Theatre Company's production of Patrick Marber's [After Miss Julie](#), directed by Mark Brokaw. Much to my delight my co-understudy is **Lisa Velten Smith** (MFA '05) covering both Sienna Miller and Marin Ireland. With the exception of the mutual horror we feel when we have to kiss each other in rehearsal, we're having a great time."

*Rift*, a new play by **Caridad Svich** (MFA '88), directed by Seret Scott, will be staged December 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> at the Shubert Theatre on Broadway. *Rift* is an epic story about human sex trafficking and globalization. This play was commissioned by Mark Wing-Davey, Chair, and the NYU Graduate Acting Program. [More here.](#)

**Melody Butiu** (MFA '99) was the lead in the San Diego Repertory Theatre production of [Long Story Short](#) that just ended its run. KUSI TV has a clip of [Melody singing](#) one of her songs.



Melody and co-star Robert Brewer



**Editor's Note:** Just hit "reply" to [tanddnews@yahoo.com](mailto:tanddnews@yahoo.com) and share your info. Photos are always welcomed/encouraged, but please don't send huge files - resize them from what comes off your camera first. Also, be sure to let us know if you're using a different name than you did here at UCSD. We look forward to hearing from you!