January 31, 2011
Week Five, Winter Quarter

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday, Jan. 31st - Area Headings Meeting at 4:00pm in GH144

Wednesday, Feb. 2nd - Full Faculty Meeting at 4:00pm in GH144

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Academic Senate members - The Committee on Committees solicits your input for Academic Senate members to serve on campus committees for the 2011-2012 academic year. These committees play a key role in shared governance as they set and administer academic policies and advise the administration on issues that will have a long-term impact on our campus. More here.

Advisor to the Regents sought - The UC Staff Advisor program is intended to allow the Regents to benefit from hearing staff and non-Senate academic employee perspectives on relevant matters that come before Regents’ committees and the Board. Under the program, the current Staff Advisor Designate will serve as Staff Advisor in 2011–2013. The newly selected Staff Advisor Designate will attend all Open session Regents’ meetings. Each year, the Advisors will be invited to attend certain other UC events, including Regents’ campus visits as well as other activities related to their role as Advisors. Applications due by March 4th. More here.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Congrats go out to graduate scenic design student Chris Murillo, who recently received an award from Broadwayworld.com for his work on The Who's Tommy for Chance Theater. He was presented with the award for "Best Scenic Design Resident Non Equity" for the Southern California Region. Tommy will be opening at the Orange County Performing Arts Center (now called The Segerstrom Center for the Arts) in Costa Mesa on February 10th. Here is the information on the remount of this production, which made Broadwayworld.com’s “Best of 2010” list.

ADMINISTRIVIA

February 17th - Deadline to withdraw and retain 100% federal student aid
March 4th - Drop without penalty of "F" grade
Finals Week - Begins Monday, March 14th
Spring Break - Begins Monday, March 21st
ONSTAGE

Now Running

The Threepenny Opera, directed by Jeff Wienckowski. Book and Lyrics by Bertolt Brecht; Music by Kurt Weill. English adaptation by Marc Blitzstein. In the Sheila and Hughes Poitker Theatre through February 5th. Buy tickets online, or to purchase by phone or mail click here.

The underworld rises to the surface as the ruthless gangster Mack the Knife climbs over corrupt politicians, crooked cops, and unfaithful lovers on his way to the top. Does he have what it takes to become "too big to fail"? Director Jeffrey Wienckowski sets this production amidst the turmoil of the Great Depression, turning Brecht's epic classic with rollicking music by Kurt Weill into a parable about the sellout of the American Dream.

Cast
Betty/ Beggar - Cate Campbell
Tiger Brown - Mark Christine
Dolly/ Beggar - Sarah Halford
Macheath - Zach Harrison
Matt - Gabriel Lawrence
Street Singer - Regan Linton
Jake - Matt McNelly
Mr. Peachum - Zach Martens
Molly/ Beggar - Katie McGehee
Walt/ Constable - Jack Mikesell
Mrs. Peachum - Jenni Putney
Lucy Brown - Megan Robinson
Reverend Kimball/Warden Smith - Dan Rubiano
Coaxer - Dan Shapiro
Polly - Taylor Shurte
Jenny - Anne Stella
Bob/Constable - Maurice Williams
Filch/Messenger - Bowman Wright

Production Team
Director - Jeffrey Wienckowski
Music Director - Mark Danisovsky
Production Stage Manager - Evangeline Whitlock
Scenic Designer - Ian Wallace
Costume Designer - Elisa Benzoni
Lighting Designer - Sarah Cogan
Sound Designer - David Corsello
Asst. Director/Dramaturg - Naysan Mojgani
Asst. Music Director - Heidi Wienckowski
Asst. Stage Manager - Leannah Enos
Asst. Stage Manager - Cheng Yu Wei
Asst. Stage Manager - Laura Zingle
Asst. Set Designer - Chris Murillo
Asst. Costume Designer - Orli Nativ
Asst. Costume Designer - Mary Rochon
Production Asst. - Sylvia Trinh

More tech photos by Jim Carmody available online.
Opening Next

dance theatre thesisWorks, February 9th - 12th. This production is in two sections. Stereoblind, a screendance by Rebecca Salzer explores the limits and possibilities inherent in the act of seeing through movement, narrative, and neuroscience. Space Between, conceived and choreographed by Alicia Peterson Baskel, asks the question "How do my surroundings influence who I am at any moment? Blending movement, spoken text, projection and sound design, Space Between examines relationship to space and the transitions between personal sanctuaries and public routines.

Hedda Gabler, directed by Anthony Luciano, February 18th - 26th. Ibsen's masterpiece of modernity Hedda Gabler remains enigmatic, funny and shatteringly beautiful. Choking in a house that smells of withered violets and death, completely apathetic and desperately alive, Hedda battles for life in a world that does not want her, clinging to the hope that one noble action can offer redemption.

The Hot L Baltimore, directed by Kim Rubenstein, February 23rd - 26th. Eavesdrop on the comings and goings of an eccentric, motley group of residents on the fateful day they discover the once-elegant hotel is slated for the wrecking ball. Slices of private and public conversations reveal the fears, longings, and hilarious foibles of these lost souls as they face an uncertain future. Winner of the 1973 Obie Award for Best New Play, this ensemble comedy sings a tragic lament for the lost values of the American Dream, fracturing stability while celebrating hope and progress.

WinterWorks, directed by Yolande Snaith, March 9th - 12th. Featuring a diverse pallet of inspiring, innovative, collaborative dance theatre, winterWORKS highlights the unique talents of our students in original new works by faculty choreographers Yolande Snaith, Eric Geiger and Liam Clancy, and second year graduates Janet Hayatshahi and Kyle Sorensen.

Online Tickets are now available for our Winter Productions. Pass this information along to friends, family, agents... Go to our website, choose your production, and click "Buy Online!"

ALUM UPDATES

Scott Drummond (MFA ‘07) appears in A Perfect Future beginning performances at The Cherry Lane Theatre, February 4th. This darkly comic and provocative play explores the question of whether people can be married and truly love each other when their political persuasions are diametrically opposed. UCSD Alums get a special deal: $35 tickets (regularly $69) February 4 – 20th; $45 tickets (regularly $69) February 22nd - April 3rd. Use code APFPEK on the offers website or phone or visit the theatre box office, mentioning this code.

Yusef Miller (MFA ‘01) has a play, Breakfast, being staged as part of an evening of six short plays at The Fire This Time Festival in New York. The Festival is a platform for talented early-career playwrights of African-American descent to explore new voices, styles and challenging new directions for 21st century performing arts, and move beyond common ideas of what is possible in “black theater.” TFTTF 2011 features five staged readings, six ten-minute plays, and a panel discussion on diversity in contemporary theatre.
Ryan Shams (MFA ‘07) writes “Hello. The full version of my webisode for a Toyota Ad Campaign is up. Please go to my Facebook profile page to view it or go to www.lifeaftersanta.com and click on "Blitzen's Story." Hope you like it :) “

Note:  Just hit “reply” and send your info, and we'll share it for you. Photos are always encouraged, but don’t send huge files - please resize them from what comes off your camera - thanks! News we receive by Wednesday evening usually makes it into the next Monday’s edition. Be sure to let us know what your name was at graduation, if you’ve changed it, and your year of graduation.