

April 11, 2011  
Week Three, Spring Quarter

## MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

No faculty or production meetings scheduled for this week.

## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS



If you were enrolled in UC's Health Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) and/or Dependent Care (DepCare FSA) in 2010 and have dollars remaining in the 2010 account, you had until March 15<sup>th</sup> to incur eligible services. Requests for reimbursement for these expenses must be received by Conexis by April 15<sup>th</sup>. If you participated in 2010 and enrolled for 2011, you were able to use the Conexis Health FSA debit card to spend down remaining dollars in the 2010 Health FSA. If you did not use the card or did not enroll for 2011, you can use the [Health FSA claim form](#) to request reimbursement for eligible expenses. Be sure to include all required documentation (*i.e.* Explanation of Benefits (EOB), receipts). To spend down any remaining 2010 DepCare FSA dollars, you must use the DepCare [paper claim form](#) and include all required documentation. All paper claim forms must be received by Conexis by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Undergraduate Meeting** - Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00pm in GH 155. All undergraduates interested in Theatre and Dance are encouraged to attend. This is your chance to provide feedback, share news with your peers, and to have the latest word on what's upcoming in the Department.



**Philanthropic Efforts** - Professor **Marianne McDonald** and her daughter **Bridgit McDonald** have pledged to support expanded substance abuse treatment programs in San Diego at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital and Sharp Vista Pacifica Hospital in the Serra Mesa area. The two facilities allow tiered treatment tailored to need - hospitalization and psychiatric care, a 30-day residential treatment with group counseling, or outpatient treatment and aftercare to maintain sobriety. A short, medically monitored detox program also is provided. Read more [details here](#).

On the Theatre front, McDonald's play *The Trojan Women* has been running at the Black Box Theatre at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and has been [well-received](#).

**Congratulations in Order!** - The Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre will be presented to *Emeritus* playwrighting faculty **Athol Fugard** at the 2011 Tony Awards, on June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Beacon Theatre in New York. Read [more here](#).

**Jorge Huerta**, Chancellor's Associates Professor *Emeritus*, guest-lectured at Cal State Fullerton March 17<sup>th</sup> and will be on a plenary panel at the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Annual Meeting in Pasadena, CA, March 31<sup>st</sup>. His topic(s): Chicana/o theatre, of course!

## ONSTAGE

*Opening This Week* – [Baldwin New Play Festival 2011](#), world premier plays by UCSD authors.



**The Baldwin New Play Festival 2011** features world premiere productions by our talented MFA playwrights, and directed, acted, stage managed and designed by our nationally-acclaimed MFA companies. This year, the plays offer deals with the Devil to haunting from ghosts; the trials and tribulations of parenthood (and really, growing up); and the search for lost love – and a hat. Filled with passion, insight, humor, and a dose of magic, these four plays represent some of the most original and ground-breaking new voices in American theatre.

### *The Plays*

[A Man, His Wife, and His Hat](#) by: [Lauren Yee](#). Hetchman loves his hat. Oh, and his wife, too. But when both go missing, the retired hat maker vows to stop at nothing to find them. If he can ever muster the strength to leave his armchair. But the arrival of a talking wall and a hungry golem threatens to derail his endeavor. A klezmer-inspired love triangle between a man, his wife, and his hat.

[Salamander Leviathan](#) by: [Krista Knight](#). Winner of the Kennedy Center's 2011 American College Theatre Festival's Musical Theatre Award. It's 1890 in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. The loneliest man in the world makes a deal with the Devil: A wife and a family in exchange for his soul. When a beautiful stranger steps off the train, everything seems headed towards happily ever after. But neither the stranger nor the Devil is quite what they seem. A casio-pop fable about the price we pay for love. Music written and performed by Arkansas based band [David's Pegasus](#).

[Small Prophecies](#) by [David Myers](#). William looks in the mirror and knows that who he is now is only a part of who he will become. As he reaches for the future, he grows in a direction that his parents won't allow. How do you stop your child from becoming someone terrible? How do you become the person you want to be?

[Bodies in the Park](#) by Sharif Abu-Hamdeh. A couple grapples with ghosts from their past and secrets in the present in a neighborhood where the planes roar overhead and the night is full of dangers both visible and unseen. Can you ever really know another person? And, can you trust a world where the person you love most turns out to be a stranger?

**Special Event** - Our MFA productions will be joined again this season by a staged reading of the winner of the fourth annual [Dr. Floyd Gaffney National Playwriting Competition](#) on the African-American Experience.

**Also Coming in Spring Quarter** – [The Underground New Play Festival](#), May 26<sup>th</sup> - June 4<sup>th</sup>; [New Directions - MFA I Student Choreographers' Showcase](#), June 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>.

## ADMINISTRIVIA

April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Deadline to [change grading option, change units, and drop classes](#) without "W" on transcript  
May 30<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day, campus closed.

## ALUM UPDATES



MFA '01 alum **Maria Dizzia** (*In The Next Room, or The Vibrator Play; The Drunkn City*) will star in Manhattan Theatre' Club's world premiere of Daniel Goldfarb's two-hander comedy [\*Cradle for All\*](#), directed by Tony Award nominee Sam Buntrock at the New York City Center Stage I on May 25<sup>th</sup> (previews from May 10<sup>th</sup>).

Thurgood Marshall College/UCSD, in celebration of the college's 40<sup>th</sup> and the campus's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, present the final public arts commission installation for 2010/11, "The Boat/El Barco," by alum [\*\*Robin Sanford Roberts\*\*](#) (MFA '94), adjacent to Marshall Administration Building ([map here](#)). The piece is a meditation on the perils of open water migration between Mexico and the United States. Marshall College wishes to thank David Weiner and the La Jolla Playhouse for their support in this temporary installation. Robin is an award winning theatre set designer based in San Diego whose stage designs have been seen around the country at leading regional theatres and on Broadway. She currently teaches at the Bravo School of Art.

**Irungu Mutu** (MFA '10) will be appearing in *A Raisin in the Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry, as *Joseph Asagai* at Crossroads Theater in New Brunswick, NJ, for a three week run. [The show](#) opens April 14th - May 1st.



[\*Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo\*](#), starring Robin Williams, with MFA alums **Brad Fleischer** ('05) as "Kev" and **Daoud Heidami** ('03) and **Corey Brill** ('04) as understudies, opened on Broadway at the Richard Rogers Theatre recently to great reviews. Synopsis: "The lives of two American Marines and an Iraqi translator are forever changed by an encounter with a quick-witted tiger who haunts the streets of war-torn Baghdad attempting to find meaning, forgiveness and redemption amidst the city's ruins."

Robin Williams, Brad Fleischer and Glenn Davi onstage.

Photo by Carol Rosegg



**Alums – On Facebook?** Come visit the Department's [Facebook Alumni page!](#)

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**Note:** Just hit "reply" and send your info, and we'll share it for you. Be sure to let us know what your name was at graduation, if you've changed it, and your year of graduation.