



December 6, 2010
Finals Week, Fall Quarter

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday, Dec. 6th 10:00 - 11:00 Classical Text Presentation = (MFA II Actors + Directors) GH15
11:30 - 1:00 Acting Process I Presentation (MFA I Actors + Director) GH155
Tuesday, Dec. 7th 4:00 - 5:00 Directing Process Presentation (Directors and MFA III Actors) GH15

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Holiday Breakfast Tickets on Sale Now - Celebrate the holiday season with your family, friends, and colleagues, and enjoy hot pancakes and sausages served to you by Chancellor Marye Anne Fox and other distinguished administrators on Wednesday, December 15th, from 6:30 – 9:00 a.m. in the Price Center West Ballrooms A & B. [Click for information](#) on tickets and more! Breakfast activities include:

- [Toy drive](#)
- Holiday craft fair
- Photos with Santa
- Information about how to join different [staff associations](#)
- Prize drawings — winners need not be present to win

The Veterans Association is collecting donations and gently used clothing at this year's Pancake Breakfast. All donations benefit Veterans Village of San Diego. The donation drop-off table is located inside the ballroom, to the right as you enter. The Veterans Association is also presenting the Posting of the Colors and leading the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 a.m. For more information contact [John Will](#).

DEPARTMENT NEWS



News From the Librarian – Robert Melton sends word that new content has been added to the Theatre in Video Collection, which the Libraries has acquired from Alexander Street Press. As of November, there are 360 videos totaling 433 hours. The latest update includes 36 new films from the Broadway Theatre Archive, as well as smaller numbers from BBC, Bullfrog Films, Insight Media, and others. Performances include works by Cocteau,

McPherson, Odets, Shakespeare, Wasserstein, Williams And others, and there are new interviews with Derek Walcott, Joseph Papp, Ossie Davis, Lloyd Richards, Douglas Turner Ward, and Amiri Baraka. The complete list of new content, and link to the entire collection, is <http://ativ.alexanderstreet.com/WhatsNew/>. Enjoy!

The Sing Postponed – The Department's traditional singing cabaret is postponed until January 7th due to scheduling commitment conflicts. The Sing will be held in GH157, details to follow.

MORE...

A Special Request From the UCSD MFA Acting Class of 2011 – “We, the UC San Diego MFA Acting Class of 2011, seek your help as we prepare to launch our careers this spring. As most of you know, the culmination of our three-year program is a showcase that is held in both New York and Los Angeles, and we are responsible for the majority of fundraising for it. We have been working hard in our limited free time to organize fundraising events in our community, such as holiday parties, variety shows, and t-shirt sales. In addition to these efforts, we are asking for your financial support. The donations we receive will help to offset the financial strain of the following showcase-related costs: professional photographs and publicity postcards; travel, food, and lodging; initiation fees required to join the Actor's Equity Association; and an alumni event in each city to garner support for our transition into the professional world. If you feel that you can help us, we would deeply appreciate any donation. You can [click here](#) to donate online.

To donate by mail, please make your check payable to “UC San Diego Foundation Fund #2369” and specify in the memo: “MFA Showcase.” Send your check to:

UC San Diego Theatre and Dance MFA Showcase
9500 Gilman Dr #0406
La Jolla, CA 92093-0406

Your gift will be tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law, and a 6% fee is assessed on all gifts to support UC San Diego administrative costs. With your support, we will join many of you, our predecessors, to continue a longstanding tradition of innovation through our work in the arts.”



From L to R: Cate Campbell, Kyle Anderson, Hugo Medina, Anne Stella, Zoë Chao, Zachary Harrison, Bowman Wright, Sara Garcia.



MORE...

Baldwin New Play Festival Workshops This Week - The New Play Festival takes place each spring. In this exciting time the resources and creative energies of the entire department are focused on producing three or four full-length plays and one or two workshop productions of short plays written by students in the MFA Playwriting Program. All first year and most second year MFA students participate - actors, designers, directors, and stage managers. It is the culmination of the new play development work that begins in September of each year with readings of the first drafts of the plays that will be produced in the Festival. In early December each of these plays has a week-long workshop, where the students who will create the Festival participate in the readings and workshops. The schedule for this year's series of workshops is:

Friday December 10th, 5:00pm in the Arthur Wagner Theatre - *Salamander Leviathan*, by **Krista Knight**, directed by **Anthony Luciano**

Salamander - **Scott Patteson**
Gracie - **Zoe Chao**
The Devil - **Maurice Williams**
Victoria - **Cate Campbell**

The Man - **Matt McNelly**
Funeral Director Chorus - **Lee Montgomery** (UG),
Katie McGee, Carissa Cash (UG)
Stage Manager: **Zach Kennedy**

Friday December 10th, 8:00pm in the Arthur Wagner Theatre - *A Man, His Wife, and His Hat*, by **Lauren Yee**, directed by **Josh Brody**

Hetchman - **Hugo Medina**
Wife - **Natalie Birriel**
Meckel - **Dan Rubiano**
Voice - **Sarah Garcia**

Gabe - **Kyle Anderson**
Wall - **Clare Kaplan** (UG)
Golem - **Justin O'Neill** (UG)
Stage Manager: **Lauren Juengel**

Saturday December 11th, 10:30am in the Arthur Wagner Theatre - *Sorry*, by **David Myers**, directed by **Larissa Lury**

Father - **Gabriel Lawrence**
Skeet - **Jack Mikesell**
Maurice - **Russell Ewing**
Mother - **Regan Linton**

Kelly - **Ngoze Anyanwu**
Crystal - **Sarah Halford**
Stage Manager: **Emily Hayes**

Eric Geiger and the other instructors of the graduate Choreography Seminar invite you to view their performance of [Tere O'Connor's](#) *Baby*. Featured are Dance Theatre students **Anya Cloud, Janet Hayatshahi, Alicia Peterson-Baskel, Rebecca Salzer, and Kyle Sorenson**. Also involved are **Tere O'Connor, Erin Gerken, Hilary Clark, Heather Olson, Matthew Rogers, and Christopher Williams**. Music is composed by **James Baker**. Friday, December 10th from 3:00-4:00pm in Studio 2 of the Molli and Arthur Wagner Dance Building. A YouTube of the original *Baby* can be viewed [here](#).



MORE...

Dance Faculty member **Judy Sharp**, who is also Ballet Mistress for the California Ballet Company, passed along information regarding the CBC's holiday drive. The CBC is partnering with the Emilio Nares Foundation to bring children with cancer to performances of *The Nutcracker*. The Emilio Nares Foundation is an organization dedicated to assisting families with children who are battling childhood leukemia and other forms of childhood cancer. With the help of ENF the CBC hopes to bring children with cancer, and their families, from across San Diego County to the ballet. Their goal is to create as many smiles, new memories, and holiday traditions for these children as is possible. Here's a [link to more information](#).



ONSTAGE



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.
January 28th – February 5th

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.

The Threepenny Opera is presented through special arrangement with [R & H Theatricals](#).

Coming Soon – [dance theatre thesisWorks](#) February 9th.

Parking - Weeknight passes are \$2.00 and are available from vending machines in the parking lots. Parking is free on Saturdays and Sundays. Directions and more parking information are available [here](#).



ADMINISTRIVIA

Deadline to file for "Removal of Grade Incomplete" from previous quarter - December 11th
Deadline to file for a [Request to receive a grade of "Incomplete"](#) - December 13th
Campus closes for the Holidays - December 18th
Grades available on TritonLink - December 22nd
First day of Winter Quarter Classes - Monday, January 3rd

ALUM UPDATES



We are very sorry to report the passing of MFA '01 Acting Alum **Chane't Johnson** last week in Los Angeles. Chane't was born A'Drewana Chane't Johnson in Dallas, Texas. She graduated with honors from Duncanville High School and was awarded a talent scholarship to Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where she earned her BFA in Theatre Arts. She was chosen to play the character Lena, the role she considered her all-time favorite, in the 2000/01 staging of *Boesman and Lena*, directed by Athol Fugard, during her final year at UCSD. Chane't racked up a substantial number of acting credits, appearing on TV in *The Middle*, *Big Love*, *Brothers*, *Life*, *Cold Case* and *LAX*, among others, and in recent years had expanded her career into directing and producing, with *Nurses Who Kill* and *Trailerate*, two web shows she launched in 2010. Two of her short films (*Texas Toast* and *Pony Man*) are due out in 2011. She had additional works in progress at the time of her death. Chane't was 34 years old.

Erin Maxick (BA Acting '98) writes: "Ran away with the circus! Yes it's true! For the past 5 years I've been traveling and performing with "[Lucent Dossier Experience](#)" in many strange and exciting ways. This year I also had the opportunity to workshop with experimental theatre director/artist Phil Soltanoff and do commercials for Sears, Robitussin and the US Census Bureau. So great to see what you all are doing! Love UCSD!!"

Lisa Portes (MFA Directing '92) "Just closed [The Piano Teacher](#) by Julia Cho at Next Theatre in Chicago. Head the MFA Directing program at The Theatre School at DePaul University. Directing new and contemporary American plays in Chicago for the last many years."



Benny Sato Ambush (MFA Directing '77) is Distinguished Producing Director in Residence - Emerson Stage, the producing wing of Emerson College's Department of Performing Arts, Boston, MA. Upcoming directorially he has: Louis Nowra's *The Golden Age* (Emerson Stage), Nathan Jackson's *Broke-ology* (Lyric Stage Company of Boston), Tracey Scott Wilson's *The Story* (Harvard University Office of the Arts).

Scott Ripley (MFA Acting '93) is teaching in the PATP at UNC and company member of PlayMakers Rep. He writes that he's "Currently playing Louis in [Shipwrecked!](#), directed by Tom Quaintance. Next: *Big River* with the Red Clay Ramblers!"

Ryan McCarthy (MFA Acting '06) is "Currently Understudying alongside **Lisa Velten Smith** [MFA'05], in Beau Willimon's *Spirit Control* for [Manhattan Theatre Club](#). After working together last year on the Roundabout's *After Miss Julie* we're proving to be an inseparable duo."



MORE...

[Craig Siebels](#) (MFA Scenic Design '99) writes: "Hi All. ...I've been producing and designing a show on FOX called [The Good Guys](#). Friday nights at 9 PM / 8 PM Central. It's a heck of a lot of fun to watch, I think, and we need better ratings so please have a look this Friday! Bradley Whitford and Colin Hanks at their comic best, plus the occasional car chase and exploding building. Who could ask for more? Tivo and Hulu don't count, so try to watch when the show is actually on!"



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



WISHING YOU AND YOURS A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Editor Nan

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. The next edition of the Newsletter is due out on January 3rd.