



Week Six – Spring Quarter 2012

Monday, May 7th

## MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

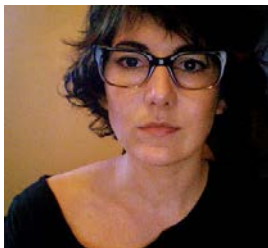
There are no meetings scheduled for this week.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS



**Professor Lisa Porter** is the Production Stage Manager for the World Premiere of *Lear Dreaming* at the Singapore Arts Festival in late May. Alum **Samantha Watson** (MFA '11) will join her as the Assistant Stage Manager. Directed by Ong Keng Sen, the production re-imagines Shakespeare's *King Lear* through the lens of Japanese Noh theatre. It will be performed in Bahasa Indonesia, Japanese, Mandarin and Korean with English surtitles. Noh master Umewaka Naohiko will be accompanied by some of the brightest stars of Asia's music cultures: contemporary pipa player Wu Man, Kang Kwon Soon, a leading vocalist in traditional Korean court music (Junga), Piterman, a specialist in the Minang musical theatre of Sumatra, electronica expert Toru Yamanaka, and celebrated composer Rahayu Supanggah with his contemporary ensemble of gamelan musicians.

**Department Alums Win Prestigious Nominations -** **Paloma Young** (MFA '06) has been nominated for a [Tony Award](#) for her costume designs for *Peter and the Starcatchers*. **Danny Burstein** (MFA '90) has been nominated for [Tony Award](#) for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical for his performance as Buddy Plummer on *Follies*. A stage veteran, Danny is probably best known for playing Aldolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Luther Billis in the Broadway revival of *South Pacific*, both of which earned him Tony Award nominations, although he has a [long list](#) of Broadway credits. Danny is also nominated for the same role for a [2012 Drama Desk Award](#), winners to be announced on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. (The Tony Awards will be broadcast live on CBS TV on June 10<sup>th</sup>.) **Jefferson Mays** (MFA '91) was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play for his work in [Blood and Gifts](#) at the Lincoln Center Theatre. He has also been nominated for a [2012 Lucille Lortel Best Actor Award](#) for the same role. **Pam MacKinnon**, who studied in the Department in the 1990s while pursuing a PhD in Political Science, was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Play Award for *Clybourne Park*. The production is Pam's debut on Broadway. [There was a good article about Pam and her work on the play in the [Boston Globe](#) recently.] Congratulations to all!



Paloma



Danny



Jefferson



Pam

## ONSTAGE

*Coming Soon!*



**June 1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>** [The Underground New Play Festival](#) - written, directed, designed, managed and performed by our undergraduate students. Celebrate the artistic achievements of our undergraduate playwrights, directors, designers, and actors in a festival dedicated to world-premiere plays and work created entirely by undergrads.

Every year, the Underground New Play Festival selects and mounts a full production for six to eight new short plays. New and experienced directors, designers, and actors join together to create works of art bigger than any one person could hope for; works of art that could not exist as they do in any other place, with any other artists.



**June 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>** [New Directions- MFA I Student Choreographers' Showcase](#) with works from our top undergraduate choreographers, directed by **Eric Geiger**, in the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre. Left of center, right of left, and centered squared in between. Celebrate exciting world premiere dance and dance theatre from UC San Diego undergraduate choreographers and MFA dance theatre candidates.

Director **Eric Geiger** was a company member of the Bill T Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company in New York City, the Lyon Opera Ballet in France, Djazzex Modern Dance in the Netherlands, and V-TOL Dance in London. As a guest artist he has performed with ODC in San Francisco, San Diego Dance Theatre, Lower Left, under the direction of Nina Martin, Allyson Green Dance, Gabriel Masson Dance, Yolande Snaith and Patricia Sandback.

Performances at 8:00pm June 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> in the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre.

## ADMINISTRIVIA

Drop without penalty of "F" grade – June 1  
Last day of classes before finals – June 9  
Final Exam week - June 6 – 15<sup>th</sup>  
Last day to remove an Incomplete grade – June 15<sup>th</sup>  
Grades Available online – June 27<sup>th</sup>

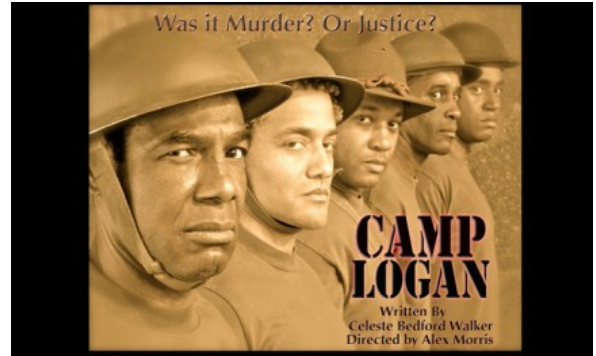
## MORE ALUM NEWS

**Matthew Stern** (BA '94) wrapped 2011 as the PSM on the Broadway run of *An Evening With Patti LuPone and Mandy Patinkin*. He started in 2012 as the ASM on the current Tony nominated revival of [Death of a Salesman](#). This May, Matt celebrates the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> birthdays of his sons, Dominick and Noah, and his own 40<sup>th</sup>.

## More...

Directing alum **Meredith McDonough** (MFA '04) has been appointed as Associate Artistic Director at the Actors Theatre in Louisville, where she will be working with faculty alum **Les Waters**. Read [more here](#).

**Dorian Baucum** (MFA '08) [2nd from left in photo] is appearing in *Camp Logan* at the [Los Angeles Theatre Center](#). This is the play's West Coast Premiere. Synopsis: Based on the 1917 court martial and execution of 19 black soldiers of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry, the play depicts the infantry as the soldiers find themselves in Houston as laborers in the construction of Camp Logan, rather than to France to prove their mettle alongside the white troops. Eighteen weeks later these heroes were hanged for mutiny in one of the most tragic chapters of U.S. military history and racial violence. Runs through May 27<sup>th</sup>.



**From the Wall - Ty Granderson Jones:** “Click link to [WIGS Sizzle Reel](#) ...!~ I am proud to have been a part of this groundbreaking entertainment programming WIGS...encompassing stories of powerful women. I was offered a role in the "Jennifer" episode (see production photos here of FB page) by the writer & director...noted actor Mykelti Williamson. The first episode "Jan" which premieres on Monday, May 14th. Mykelti Williamson along with other Hollywood heavyweight directors and writers such as Jon Avnet, and Rodrigo Garcia (director of the Oscar nominated *Albert Nobbs*) has been commissioned to create scripted content (small films) for YouTube (which is owned, of course, by Google)”

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

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**Have news to share?** The Newsletter's email address is [TandDNews@ucsd.edu](mailto:TandDNews@ucsd.edu). We're always thrilled to hear what you've been doing and to share it with our readers. Photos welcome!