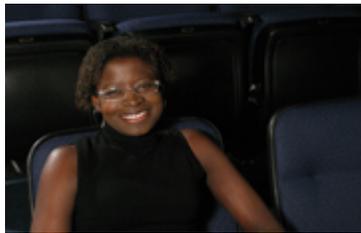


Winter Quarter – Week One  
January 6, 2014

## MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

There are no meetings announced at this time.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS



Professor **Nadine George-Graves** will be presented with a Living Legacy Award in honor of her important publications and crucial work in campus administration. The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Living Legacy Awards, made by the [Women's International Center](#) will be presented on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Nadine joins an impressive list of honorees, including Sally Ride, Melina Mercouri, Lucille Ball, Maya Angelou, and Jane Goodall. “For nearly thirty years, at our Living Legacy Awards ceremonies, we have brought hundreds of people together to celebrate the accomplishments and positive and lasting contributions of women. Many now know, understand, appreciate, and hopefully incorporate the gifts women have given to improve the world.” Congratulations to Nadine!

*Emeritus* Dance Faculty member **Jean Isaacs'** San Diego Dance Theater presents "There the Dance Is" on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00pm, with a 2:00pm performance on Sunday (the 19<sup>th</sup>) in the Mandell Weiss Theatre. The work includes choreography by Jean and alum **Monica Bill Barnes**, artistic director of Monica Bill Barnes & Company. Performers include: Dance alums **Beth Calarco**, **Jessica Curiel**, **Cecily Holcombe**, **Erica Nordin Ruse**, **Minh Noorda-Nguyen**, and **Rachel Torres**; Professor *Emeritus* **Jim Winker**; pianist Steve Baker; and, vocalist Rachel Drexler. The eclectic show will not only reflect Jean's deep connection to the Department, but will also celebrate her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Patrons can expect a sexy, smart evening of choreography performed with live music featuring piano, solo vocals and the *Sacra Profana* Vocal Ensemble. Click for [ticket info](#).

**The Department has added two UG courses** to the winter schedule: TDHT 108 - *Luis Valdez*, Tuesdays 10-12:50 in the Cross Cultural Center, room *Comunidad* Small; and, TDAC 108 - *Clifford Odets*, Wednesdays/Fridays 12-1:50pm in GH 247. No experience is required for either course. “TDHT 108. *Luis Valdez*: ...examines the works of Luis Valdez, playwright, director, screenwriter, film director, and founder of the *Teatro Campesino*. Readings include plays and essays by Valdez and critical books and articles about this important American theatre artist. TDAC 108 - *Clifford Odets* is... an Actor's journey into the world of the great American playwright Clifford Odets. We will experience his strong characters, rich language and his powerful artistic vision. The course will focus on the Actor's study of text analysis, character development, given circumstances, objectives and actions. Emphasis will be on creating clear, truthful and bold experiences on the stage.” For more information about the courses contact instructor [Robert Castro](#). Contact [Laura Jimenez](#) for clearance to enroll.

## ONSTAGE

### *Coming Winter Quarter:*

January 23<sup>rd</sup> - [dance theatre thesisWORKS](#), in the Molli and Arthur Wagner Dance Facility, Studio 3. MFA Dance Theatre candidate Paul Laurey presents a screening of his film, *Reservations O.K.*, a human journey through various ways of being and moving in the natural world. Life is the predestination.

January 29<sup>th</sup> - [A Doll House](#), by Henrik Ibsen, directed by Kate Jopson in the Mandell Weiss Forum Theatre. With the impending threat of blackmail, Nora tries desperately to hold on to life as she knows it, only to discover that everything she knows is a sham - a life constructed for her by men.

February 12<sup>th</sup> - [A Lie of the Mind](#), by Sam Shepard, directed by Charlie Oates in the Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre. The lives of two families are sent into a spiraling search for meaning as they deal with the aftermath of severe spousal abuse.

February 19<sup>th</sup> - [She Stoops to Conquer](#), by Oliver Goldsmith, directed by Penny Metropulos in the Mandell Weiss Theatre. Because her suitor Charles Marlow is a nervous wreck around upper-class women, Miss Kate Hardcastle pretends to be an innkeeper in an effort to get him to woo her.

March 6<sup>th</sup> - [The Underground New Play Festival](#), written, directed, designed, managed and performed by our Undergraduate students in the Arthur Wagner Theatre. Every year, the Underground New Play Festival selects and mounts a full production for four 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.

March 12<sup>th</sup> - [dance theatre GradWorks](#), choreographed by Lisa Frank and Sam Mitchell in the Molli and Arthur Wagner Dance Facility, Studio 3. Featuring a diverse palette of innovative, collaborative dance theatre, *winterWORKS* highlights the unique talents of our students in new works by faculty choreographers and MFA dance theatre candidates.

**Tickets:** There are several options for tickets for Department Productions. Visit the [Ticket page](#) for complete information. **Special offer for students** - three shows for \$15 - a 50% savings over our already low student ticket price. Included shows are [A Doll House](#), [A Lie of the Mind](#), and [She Stoops to Conquer](#). More [info here](#).

## ALUM NEWS

**Alums – On Facebook?** Come visit the Department's [Facebook Alumni page](#)! This group is set up for UC San Diego Department of Theatre and Dance Alumni to correspond with each other regarding their current or upcoming productions, projects or events. Please use it as a place to update each other on your past, current or future projects. If you have a show coming up let the group know. If you are performing, directing, designing, writing, stage managing or in any way involved in a creative project please let us know. Note that the Department will use some of the postings from this site for alumni updates in the newsletter. The Department will also use this group to alert you on Department information or Alumni events.



[Benicio del Toro](#), who studied in the Department as an undergraduate in the 1980s, can be seen in the after-credit footage of the hit movie [Thor, the Dark World](#), in the role of “Taneleer Tivan, The Collector.” Benicio has had an extensive career as an actor after having been bitten by “the bug,” switching majors from business to theatre, and ultimately dropping out to pursue the art in Los Angeles and New York. His appearance at the end of *Thor* was a teaser for his major role in the movie [Guardians Of The Galaxy](#), which is filming in the UK now and is due out this summer.

**Sarah Cogan** (Costume/Lighting Design MFA '11 alum) was nominated by the [International Academy of Web Television](#) (IAWTV) for Best Design (Art Direction/Production) for her art direction on the "noir" web series [Inferno](#). The Awards will be announced on January 7<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas.



**Rachel Axler** (MFA '04) is a successful television writer and playwright. In television, her credits include [New Girl](#), [Bored to Death](#), [Parks & Recreation](#), [The Goodwin Games](#), [How I Met Your Mother](#), and [The Daily Show](#). Rachel's play *Smudge* will be staged in April by the [Metropolitan Arts Council](#) in Greenville, South Carolina.

Department alums were well-represented in the *NY Times*' list of top shows of 2013: [A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder](#), starring MFA '91 **Jefferson Mays**, made the list, as did [Belleville](#), with Maria Dizzia (MFA '01), [Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play](#), directed by **Steve Cosson** (MFA '99), with **Quincy Tyler Bernstine** (MFA '99), **Jennifer Morris** (MFA '98) and **Sam Breslin Wright** (MFA '99), and sets by **Neil Patel** (MFA '91), and [Here Lies Love](#), with **Melody Butiu** (MFA '99).

BA '11 alum **Mary Summerday** designed the costumes for San Diego's Ion Theatre's recent production of [reasons to be pretty](#). Earlier this year she designed for [The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity](#) at Ion.



**In Memoriam** - We are saddened to report that BA '79 alum [James Avery](#) passed away from complications of heart surgery last week. Although best known as "Philip Banks" - the judge and uncle/patriarch to Will Smith - on *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* (1990-1996), James was a classically trained actor and scholar. His long-playing character was ranked 34<sup>th</sup> in *TV Guide*'s "50 Greatest TV Dads of All Time." A native of Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA, he joined the US Navy after graduating high school and served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. Upon leaving the military, James moved to San Diego, California and began writing TV scripts and poetry for PBS. He won an Emmy for production during his tenure there and deservedly won a scholarship to Marshall College/University of California San Diego from which he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Drama and Literature. In addition to his sitcom popularity, he has lent his voice to over a dozen animated television series and features. He also had been the primary host of the popular PBS travel and adventure series *Going Places*. Armed with a diverse resume of credits, James had become a unique creative force as convincing a comedian as he was a Shakespearean character. He was Thurgood Marshall College's Commencement Speaker in 2007 and 2012, and gave a wonderful [one person show](#) on the life of Thurgood Marshall as part of the College's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010. In 1987 he established a generous undergraduate scholarship for the performing arts at UC San Diego that continues as part of his

legacy. He leaves a wife, Barbara J. Avery (Ed.D. '74), his mother, Florence Avery, and his stepson, Kevin Waters. James was 68. You can read a statement by Chancellor Khosla [here](#).

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Have news to share? Send it to us at [TandDNews@ucsd.edu](mailto:TandDNews@ucsd.edu) and we'll pass it along for you. News received by Wednesday evening typically makes it into the next Monday's edition. Remember to add your graduation year, if an alum, and if you have changed your name since then, let us know your old one as well! Photos are encouraged. Miss a back edition? Visit the [Newsletter Archives](#).