



Newsletter Week 1

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January 9, 2015

Meetings of the Week (Week 2)

Wednesday, January 14th @ 4:00pm - Faculty Meeting,
Room 144

Department News

On Stage

The Department of Theatre and Dance's 2014-2015 season continues this quarter with three graduate theatre productions, one undergraduate theatre production and three graduate dance thesis pieces.

[Dance Theatre thesisWorks](#)

January 23-25

Mandell Weiss Theatre & Mandell Weiss Forum Theatre

MFA dance theatre candidates **Lisa Frank**, **Sam Mitchell**, and **Darcy Naganuma** present original choreography.

[VENUS](#)

by **Suzan Lori-Parks**

Directed by **MFA Director Jesca Prudencio**

January 28 - February 7

Theodore & Adele Shank Theatre

Saartje Baartman, a girl from the South African Khoikhoi tribe known for their uniquely large posteriors, was bought, sold and displayed all over the world as the sideshow oddity The Hottentot Venus. This production of Venus looks at this persona through the distorted lens of a carnivalesque freakshow. Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks explores Venus's rise and fall from the spotlight, the dealers involved, and the ways she became an object of the world's desire.

[MR. BURNS, A POST ELECTRIC PLAY](#)

by **Anne Washburn**

Directed by **Jack Rueler**

February 18 - March 1

Mandell Weiss Forum Theatre

What will endure when the cataclysm arrives- when the grid fails, society

crumbles, and we're faced with the task of rebuilding? This dark comedy propels us forward nearly a century, following a new civilization stumbling into its future. Paying homage to live theater, and to the resilience of Bart Simpson through the ages, Mr. Burns is an animated exploration of how the pop culture of one era might evolve into the mythology of another.

HAMLET

by William Shakespeare

Directed by MFA Director Michael Moran

February 25 - March 7

Mandell Weiss Theatre

Charged toward vengeance by the ghost of his murdered father and King, Hamlet seeks to cleanse Elsinore of its immoral madness by re-aligning the Shakespearean cosmos and spiritually purifying a hyper-secularized, narcissistic and politically corrupt world without killing himself or being killed. In this exploration of the play director Michael Socrates Moran casts Hamlet as an artist and pursues the artistic power to render the metaphysical and mythical realms manifest in such a manner for Elsinore to reckon with. This production seeks to reflect a contemporary, competitive culture where we give high value to achievement, status and comfort and are perhaps in need of Hamlet to reconnect us with our unpleasant depths, denied darkneses and reveal the destructive madness of which we remain unaware. In the terrifying face of death, Hamlet's legendary delay and self-wrestling may also be the self-reflection necessary to transform his princely 'perturbed spirit' into the paradoxical serenity of valor and surrender characteristic of an archetypal king-a kingliness we may all need in today's world.

In the Studio



Photo by Jim Carmody

the third thing

an evening of original dance-plays choreographed and performed by **Dina Apple, Emily Aust, Anne Gehmen, and Erin Tracy**, including:

Before Breakfast and Better Metaphors by **Kristen Idaszak**

and

Put Him in the Ground by **Will Snider**

Saturday, January 10, 8pm

Arthur Wagner Theatre

No tickets necessary!

Scenic Design by **Charlie Jicha**

Costume Design by **Melissa Ng**

Lighting Design by **Lily Bartenstein**

Sound Design by **Steven Leffue**

Stage Management **Rachael Albert**

Other Department News

Tara Knight, Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance, is the new Divisional Associate Dean of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

In this capacity, Tara will help us ensure that diversity is a meaningful part of the Division's plans for success. She will assist the Division in promoting equity and inclusion in faculty searches, advancement and retention cases, and the evaluation of faculty contributions to diversity in merit and promotion cases. She will work with the Division to create a positive climate by contributing to policies and practices that support equity and inclusion. Tara's work for the division will be an extension of her existing commitment to diversity found in her mentoring, teaching, service and research. She will draw upon the latest research practices to create resources for faculty at all stages of career and across multiple areas of study.

News for Students

Important Dates

January 15th: Wait list closes at 4:30pm.

January 16th: Deadline for Undergrads to re-enroll or ADD classes. Deadline for Graduates to re-enroll, ADD, DROP or CHANGE classes.

Alumni News

UCSD's alumni received a number of nominations for the Craig Noel awards this season. The Craig Noel awards recognize outstanding theater in the San Diego area. The following UCSD alumni were nominated:

Lighting Design

Sherrice Kelly Mojgani (MFA '12), *Jade Heart*, Moxie Theatre

Sound Design

Melanie Chen (MFA '14), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, Moxie Theatre

Emily Janikowski (MFA '13), *Jade Heart*, Moxie Theatre

Costume Design

Alina Bokovikova (MFA '11), *Fallen Angels*, North Coast Rep

Alina Bokovikova (MFA '11), *The School for Lies*, North Coast Rep

Scenic Design

Neil Patel (MFA '91), *Time and the Conways*, Old Globe Theatre

Ian Wallace (MFA '11) *El Henry*, San Diego Rep/La Jolla Playhouse

Outstanding New Play

Jeff Augustin (MFA '14), *In the Crowding Darkness*, UCSD

Tom Dugdale (MFA '10), *Orpheus & Eurydice*, *The Trip*

Acting alumni **Ryan Shams** (MFA '07) is guest starring as software-engineer-turned-fugitive, Yasin Said, on [PERSON OF INTEREST](#), Tuesday, Jan. 13 (10:00-11:00 PM, ET/PT) on the CBS Television Network. In December he also got to work with Mark Wing-Davey and Caryl Churchill on a workshop of Ms. Churchill's new adaptation of Jean Genet's *THE SCREENS* at The Public with fellow alumnus Daoud Heidami.

Dance alumni **Deborah Lohse** (BA '01) made her debut at The Joyce Theater this week in "Hapless Bizarre." "Hapless Bizarre" is a delightful dance for six performances including a new vaudevillian, which explores the intersections between physical comedy, choreography, flirtation and romance by choreographer Doug Elkins.

Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater will start the New Year by returning the Weiss Theater on the UCSD campus for three days of dance. Entitled, [Dances of Love, Laughter, and Loss](#), Isaacs will revisit a work created in 2003, while presenting a World Premiere. Both works embrace text and utilize spoken word in collaboration with movement. The program will feature "Pillow: Case", a world premiere featuring original text by alumni **Meagan Marshall (BA' 04)**. This light hearted series of miniature, often humorous, dances are inspired by 45-year-old pillow cases and by the people who have slept on them. Marshall is currently teaching creative writing at both San Diego City College and SDSU. All choreography is by Jean Isaacs, who taught dance at UCSD for 25 years. Patrons can expect a sexy, smart evening of choreography featuring video/multi-media and live music featuring piano by Steve Baker and bass by Peggy Johnson.

Acting alumni **Quincy Tyler Bernstine** (MFA '99) was recently featured in the New York Times' "In Performance" video series for his work in Heidi Schreck's play [GRAND CONCOURSE](#) at Playwrights Horizons. Check out the video here.

Have news to share? Send it to us at TandDNews@ucsd.edu and we'll pass it along for you. Photos are encouraged. Please be sure to let us know what year you graduated, if you're an alum. If you've changed your name, be sure to tell us what it was when you attended UC. Miss a back edition? Visit the [Newsletter Archives](#).

Sincerely,

[JCSD Department of Theatre and Dance](#)
