

Department of Theatre and Dance • University of California, San Diego  
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## Newsletter Week 2

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### Meetings of the Week:

**Monday, April 6th**

**4:00-5:30pm**

Faculty Meeting

**Wednesday, April 8th**

**4:00-5:30pm**

Faculty Meeting

### Department News

#### On Stage



The Department of Theatre and Dance is proud to announce this year's Wagner Festival. For more information [click here!](#)

### April 14 - 25

#### Borealis

by Ben Fisher

Directed by Jesca Prudencio

Mandell Weiss Forum Theatre

When a cryptic but ominous letter arrives from her brother on the oil fields, thirty Alaska to find him. Armed with a book by Donald Trump and an axe, Cozbi battle pursuit of her missing brother, squaring off against a host of monstrous Ass-Hats mythic journey, part workplace satire, Borealis is a darkly comic adventure about what we leave behind to make our way to the top.

### **Widower**

by David Jacobi  
Directed by Emilie Whelan  
Mandell Weiss Forum Theatre

Jonas is home alone. His drug addict father has disappeared. Hattie, a former prostitute, shows up out of the blue. Stuck together in a home in the middle in the North, they wrestle with the truth of who they are and the lies they tell to get by. When they soon realize that the only allies they have may be each other. Widower explores how heroes, enemies turn into allies, and loss is transformed into something approximating hope.

### **Three Women in Four Chairs**

by Emily Feldman  
Directed by Jim Carmody  
Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre

Three women sit in four chairs trying to reconnect. They were once inseparable, but what it was, and not what they thought it would be. Maybe a weekend away will help. Four Chairs explores how small choices grow important over time, what we hold onto, and how our buried desires transform us in unexpected ways.

### **Second Skin**

by Kristin Idaszak  
Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg  
Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre

When Quinn discovers her estranged mother is dying, she returns to a home she never knew. Quinn wrestles with disturbing childhood memories. What is her mother's story? Selkies her mother once told her really mean? Told in three interconnected monologues, Second Skin explores the fraught relationship between mothers and daughters, and how one mistake can change everything.

### **Death of a Driver**

by Will Snider  
Directed by Will Detlefsen  
Arthur Wagner Theatre

An American engineer moves to Kenya to build a road, and befriends her charismatic local election lands her driver in jail, she questions the integrity of their alliance. What she thought was her friend. Death of a Driver is a bracing examination of "doing no harm" to another person, and what happens when personal and political obligations collide.

### **Staged Reading:**

### **Ninth Annual Dr. Floyd Gaffney Playwriting Competition on the African-American Experience: Blue Heart Beats**

by Catherine Frost

## Arthur Wagner Theatre

Set in post-hurricane Katrina New Orleans, teenage Ishelle who is new at school problems for her sister Jaelah and their family. Catherine Frost's memorable script poetry the responsibility a family and a community must share, and to the indelible women.

### **Actors Showcase Class of 2015**

**NYU Tisch School of the Arts**

**Tuesday, April 7th 7:00pm**

**Wednesday, April 8th, 2:00pm & 7:00pm**



[Click here to reserve tickets!](#)

**News for Students**

**Arts Aroundd Campus: SPRINGFEST at The Loft: Experiments in Music Pa**  
**Tuesday, April 7th - Sunday, April 19th**

# SPRINGFEST

## EXPERIMENTS IN

Tommy Babin & Kyle Motl present improvisations and new compositions for two l  
(Mark Dresser and Mark Helias: basses), and Mark Helias' Open Loose with Tom

Springfest is an annual festival wholly curated by and highlighting new work from  
the premier center on the West Coast for experimental and new music. Springfes  
performers and sound explorers preview their most dangerous ideas, initiate nev  
projects. Nowhere else in San Diego do chamber sounds, computer music, noise,  
performance art all collide. And just in time for a much-needed seasonal ear-clea

Springfest is supported by the UC San Diego Department of Music, the Dean of A  
Student Association. Image Credit: Frankie Martin

For more information about the festival, visit <http://ucsdmusic.blogspot.com>

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### **Associated Students Election**

Our mission is to facilitate and encourage students to grow and develop through  
its services and auxiliaries. We promote student engagement in all areas of camp  
service in order to build and strengthen our community. General Elections are be

**Election Dates: Monday, April 6th - Friday, April 10th**  
**Vote on Tritonlink!**

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### **Wait List Closes**

**Thursday, April 9th - 4:30pm**

## Alumni News



See Acting alum **Guthrie** in *Macbeth* in [The Act](#) at The Pearl Theatre. The Pearl Theatre Company's national tour of *YANKEE IN KING* / *YANKEE IN KING* play by JEFFREY H. BRUNSON comprise the 42nd annual productions to be produced in Minneapolis' Guthrie Theater. New York at the Pearl Theatre national tour. Acting alum **BELKNAP** will direct *BRAIN* directs *Macbeth*.

Use discount code [Click here for more](#)

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Directing alum **Sarah Rasmussen** (MFA '08) was just named the next Artistic Director of the Jungle Theater in Minneapolis. Current Artistic Director Bain Boehlke is winding down 25 years as founding artistic director of the Jungle Theater. He's about to move to Seattle. And he couldn't be happier with his successor, Sarah Rasmussen.

"I think this might be the first woman artistic director in Minneapolis appointed by a board," Boehlke said. "There are not that many women artistic directors. We have four in our town, but these are all founder women; they made their own theaters. ... I'm so proud of the Board's choice. I think the selection of Sarah was quite enlightened." Click [here](#) to read the full article in the Minnpost.

See acting alum **Ryan Sham** (MFA '07) in a FREE staged reading of *MRS. GHADA'S PAIN THRESHOLD* by Abdullah Alkafri with Kathleen Chalfont and Heather Raffo on Sunday, April 26th at the [Lark Play Development Center](#) in New York. For forty years, Damascus kept on putting frustration in the memory of Ghada, the teenager, the young woman, and the woman. As the days pass by, Ghada feels yet more pain. Her past haunts her present, consumes it each and every moment and turns it into a play! Her toothache leads her to the basement of her building, where the new dental Clinique is. She falls in love with the dentist Anas, a prisoner of his own past. Will Ghada succeed in her quest? Will she be able to make peace with her past or will her pain-intoxicated memory ignite Damascus' nights with questions.

Reservations recommended.

Visit [www.larktheatre.org](http://www.larktheatre.org) for more information.

**UCSD Alumni nominated for Lucille Lortel Awards!**



Best Director: **Michael Grief** (MFA Directing '85) for *Our Lady of Kihebo*

Best Actor: **Owiso Odera** (MFA Acting '05) in *Our Lady of Kihebo*

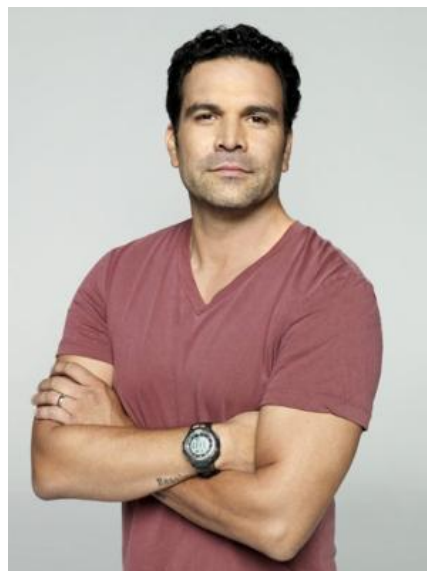
Best Actress: **Quincy Tyler Bernstein** (MFA Acting '99) in *Grand Concourse*

*The 2015 Lucille Lortel Awards will celebrate 30 years of recognizing Outstanding Annual Lucille Lortel Awards will be handed out on Sunday, May 10, 2015 at the EST. The program will be co-hosted by Emmy Award® Nominees Jesse Tyler Fer Chlumsky ("Veep," Broadway's upcoming "Living on Love").*



(**Owiso Odera**, right, in *Our Lady of Kihebo*)

(**Quincy Tyler Bernstein**, left, in *Grand Concourse*)



Acting alum Ricardo Chavira

Acting alum **Ricardo Chavira** (MFA '00) was recast as Adly Guirgis's THE MOTHERF\*\*KER WITH THE HAT in the Lyttelton Theatre. Indhu Rubasingham will direct.

Chavira will join THE GOOD WIFE's Flor de Liz Peñon as Nathalie Armin, Lisa Caruccio Came and Adly Guirgis' play premiered on Broadway in 2011 starring Cannavale, Annabella Sciorra, Elizabeth Rodriguez and Tony Awards.

The story follows Jackie, a former drug dealer who meets his girlfriend Veronica's apartment and accuses her of cheating. Chavira's other TV credits include CASTLE, BAD TEACHER, NOTICE, SIX FEET UNDER and more. Click [here](#) for more.

*Have news to share?* Send it to us at [TandDNews@ucsd.edu](mailto:TandDNews@ucsd.edu) and we'll pass it along for you. Photos are encouraged for the year you graduated, if you're an alum. If you've changed your name, be sure to tell us what it was when you graduated. Click [here](#) for the [Newsletter Archives](#).

Newsletter Week 2

4/20/15, 12:33 PM

Sincerely,

[UCSD Department of Theatre and Dance](#)