



Division of Arts & Humanities

UC SAN DIEGO

Fall Quarter – Week One

October 6, 2014

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday, 4:00 pm – Faculty Meeting

Thursday, 9:00 am – Production Meeting for *GOLDEN BOY*, room 144.

Thursday, 10:00am – Production meeting for *MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*, room 144.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Rehearsals begin this week for [BURIAL AT THEBES](#), adapted by Seamus Heaney, directed by **Sarah Wansley**. November 12th – 22nd in the Mandell Weiss Forum Theatre. The cast and creative team are very excited to begin work on this epic-scaled production. The set, designed by **Lily Bartenstein**, features a river on stage. Modeled after the L.A. River, this urban aqueduct will flow from vomitorium to vomitorium and is managed by a system of pumps and filters offstage. Meanwhile, sound designer **Andrew Vargas** is working with guest composer and musician, Tommy Crawford, on a system that will allow him to use live processing software to manipulate the sound of the instrument being played on stage. The instrument, by the way, is rather unusual; Tommy will be playing an ancient lyre for the production.

Rehearsals also start this week for the site-specific undergrad production of [MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM](#) directed by MFA directing alumni, **Kate Jopson**. The performance will take place in front of UCSD's famed Geisel Library and in the wooded grove adjacent. Costume designer **Reny Narae Kim** and lighting designer **Dolly Zhao** are working on LED-masks for the fairy ensemble that will allow these rebellious spirits to appear and disappear in the wooded glen

after dark. *MIDSUMMER* will also feature original music performed by Puck and the fairies and composed by **Lily Voon**. Set designer **Katie Hutchins** is converting the grove into a place where the rules of time and space break down and metamorphosis can occur.

Westminster College's 44th Annual Classical Greek Theater Festival just closed a touring production of Professor **Marianne McDonald's** translation of [HECUBA](#). Directed by Westminster College Professor Barbara Smith, the production toured to seven universities in the Salt Lake City area and received rave reviews. Click [here](#) to read the Salt Lake City Tribune's feature on the performance.

Sound Supervisor **Joe Huppert** has been busy in the San Diego area. He just opened Scott Joplin's [NEW RAG](#) at Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company (sound design) and will open [STOP/KISS](#) at Pasadena Playhouse Nov 9th (sound design), and is also doing video design for [THIS WONDERFUL LIFE](#) at North Coast Rep for the holidays. He also opened [THAWED](#) at Finest City Improv two weeks ago, and continues to perform there almost every Saturday night.

NEWS FOR FACULTY & STAFF

REMINDER: Mandatory annual AD password reset - You should have received a message from ACT recently reminding you of the mandatory annual AD password reset for all official faculty and staff accounts. Please note that this is a legitimate message and you will indeed need to change your AD password before October 14th (unless you changed it already in the last six months).

Open Enrollment 2015 begins Thursday, October 30th - Benefits eligible faculty and staff should receive an Open Enrollment packet in the mail toward the end of October. Additionally, later this month, all Open Enrollment materials and detailed information will be available 24/7 on the UCnet [website](#). All confirmed Open Enrollment changes must be completed online on the At Your Service website. Go to [UCnet](#) and then click on the blue AYS Online link to get to At Your Service Online.

NEWS FOR STUDENTS

October is National Disability Awareness Month in the United States. Every year, Celebration of Abilities Month events provide information related to health issues, personal well-being, and disability prevention and management. The campus is hosting a number of activities designed to enlighten and inform - you can find this year's calendar of activities [here](#).

ONSTAGE

Coming soon!

[GOLDEN BOY](#) by Clifford Odets, directed by **Emilie Whelan**, December 3-13 in the Sheila & Hughes Potiker Theater.

Clifford Odets classic 1937 ensemble driven play about Joe Bonaparte, Lorna Moon and 20 other characters chasing the American Dream arrives re-imagined in a boxing ring. Poetic, visceral, mean and epic, *Golden Boy* tells the story of a boxer and his rise to fame and tragedy against the backdrop of the 1930s American working class. Coming from New Orleans and with a background in social-political theater, Whelan is thrilled to bring the voracious hunger of Odet's and his characters to the UCSD stage.

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.

Michael Hammond (MFA '14) just started rehearsals for the national tour of *In the Heat of the Night* @ LA Theatre Works (www.latw.org). Playwright and screenwriter Matt Pelfrey sets his riveting stage adaptation of John Ball's 1965 novel, *In the Heat of the Night*, in the environment of gradual change, rebellion, anger, frustration, and stubborn clinging to old ways of life. Ball's novel reflected the difficult and personal clashes of the time - the kind of daily encounters that showed ingrained racist attitudes and behaviors. The play demonstrates the slow evolution of attitudes, but leaves the characters, and America, with a long way to go. LA Theater Works focuses on radio plays – but this one is going on the road! *In the Heat of the Night* runs in LA at UCLA from October 16-19 and then will go to 21 cities all over the US from October 23-November 18 and then again in the winter, from February 5-March 9. Check out the [online schedule](#) for full tour details.

Acting alumni **Owiso Odera (MFA '05)** and **Bowman Wright (MFA '11)** were just cast in Katori Hall's [OUR LADY OF KIBEHO](#). Directed by MFA Directing alumni **Michael Greif (MFA '85)**, this Signature Theater production runs October 28 – December 7th. In 1981, a village girl in Rwanda claims to see the Virgin Mary. Ostracized by her schoolmates and labeled disturbed, everyone refuses to believe, until the impossible starts happening again and again. Skepticism gives way to fear, faith, and fate, causing upheaval in the school community and beyond. Based on real events, *OUR LADY OF KIBEHO* is the second production of Olivier Award-winning playwright Katori Hall's Residency at Signature.

Dance alumni **Monica Bill Barnes (BA '95)** directed, choreographed and performed in a piece with “This American Life” host Ira Glass in [THREE ACTS TWO DANCERS ONE RADIO HOST](#). The New York Times called the piece “endearing and entertaining” in this [recent review](#). [Monica Bill Barnes & Company Productions](#) and Ira Glass have been working together to combine two art forms that – as Ira puts it – “have no business being together – dance and radio.” The result is a funny, lively and heartfelt evening of dance and stories that has brought down the house wherever it’s been performed, starting with its first test run at Carnegie Hall in 2013.

The show includes radio interviews restaged as dance pieces, plus stories from the lives of each of the three performers. “What makes it work is a shared sensibility,” Glass says. “As dancers, Monica and Anna are these amazingly relatable and funny storytellers without words.” Bass notes, “I think it’s still blowing Ira’s mind to see some of the radio pieces remade this way, with

props and costume changes and lighting cues.” Barnes adds, “combining these art forms has led to a show that’s unlike anything I’ve ever choreographed before.” Check out the show’s website for a national tour schedule

MFA Scenic Design alumni **Nya Patrinos (MFA ’96)** recently worked as the Set Decorator for the new TV series [TRANSPARENT](#). Nya worked on the project along with the production designer, Cat Smith, on a house, the interior for three apartments, and a condo all built in Paramount’s studio, all of which were tied to practical locations throughout L.A. As set decorator Nya was in charge of all furniture, art, rugs, window treatments and all props.

Crowded Fire Theater’s Bay area production of [THE LATE WEDDING](#) by Christopher Chen features a team of alumni, including set designer **Mellie Katakalos (MFA ’05)**, dramaturg **Laura Brueckner (PhD Dec ’14)** and actors **Odie Zulueta (BA ’84)**, **Michael Anthony Torres (MFA 92)** and **Michele Leavy (BA ’86)**. Directed by Marissa Wolf, this production runs at the Thick House September 18 – October 11. Following his success of *THE HUNDRED FLOWERS PROJECT*, playwright Christopher Chen is up to his meta-theatrical antics once again. This time around, Chen takes his cue from the sly writings of Italian fabulist writer, Italo Calvino. His winking second person narrative, delivered by a six-person shape-shifting cast, deftly guides you on a wild and delightful examination of love and longing. At once an anthropological tour through marriage customs, a spy thriller, and a sci-fi love story, the only thing you can expect from the inventive, mind-bending *The Late Wedding* is the unexpected!

Carol Abney (BA Acting alumni) will be appearing in [GLORIOUS](#) by Peter Quilter at the International City Theater in Long Beach, CA. The joyful Florence Foster Jenkins had a passion for singing, but a voice of disastrous proportions, which left audiences crying with laughter. Spinning from her bizarre recording sessions, unbelievable recitals and an ultimate triumph at New York’s Carnegie Hall – this is a true, heartwarming story about a group of eccentric friends who lived their dreams. The production runs October 8 – November 2.

Have news to share? Send it to us at TandDNews@ucsd.edu and we’ll pass it along for you. Photos are encouraged.
Miss a back edition? Visit the [Newsletter Archives](#).