



UC SAN DIEGO  
Division of Arts &  
Humanities

## Department of Theatre and Dance Newsletter

Week Two

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October 13, 2014

### Meetings of the Week

Wednesday, 4:00pm: Faculty Meeting (File Review), Room 144

### Department News

#### On Stage

Rehearsals begin this week for **GOLDEN BOY**, by Clifford Odets, directed by **Emilie Whelan**. Set designer **Raphael Zhao** has transformed the Potiker Theatre into a boxing ring for this production, which will be staged in the round. Cast member **Kim Blanck** will be playing double duty; in addition to portraying the role of Eddie Fuselli, she will also play the violin in the show. Kim's violin skills were recently featured in the La Jolla Playhouse production of *CHASING THE SONG*. Kim will be working with guest composer Krisopher Apple, who is writing five original compositions for the show inspired by the music of Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, and the union songs of Aunt Molly Jackson.

#### Faculty News

A production of Eugene Ionesco's *THE NEW TENANT*, directed by Head of Directing **Gábor Tompa**, can currently be seen at the Nottara Theatre in Bucharest. The premiere

took place on Saturday, September 20 at 7 pm in the Lovinescu Room of the Nottara Theatre. Set design is by Helmut Stürmer and costume designs are by Corina Grămoșteanu, with Spanish actor Francisco Alfonsín in the main role. Audiences in Cluj will have the chance to see *THE NEW TENANT* in December at the 4th INTERFERENCES International Theatre Festival. The performance, a co-production with the Barbican Center in London, will be touring in England in 2015/16.

"We have reached the end of an age. The culture which one naturally inherits from one's family - libraries, books, paintings and furniture - is disappearing. People of my age have a cultural inheritance which was passed on through several generations. I still have books, furniture and other objects which I inherited from my great-grandparents. Such things are being lost in the world of iPhones. *The New Tenant*, in my interpretation, is related to Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* which speaks about the disappearance of these forms of culture. This is quite an alarming fact... The inclination for reading and true art is disappearing. One dimension of the human soul is falling apart, and we need to ask ourselves, "What do we seek? What are we doing? Where have we come from and where are we going?", said Gábor Tompa about his decision to direct this performance.

George Banu wrote about the pre-opening of *The New Tenant* in July: "This performance from Ionesco and Tompa/Stürmer gives a parabolic dimension to the presented situation. The new tenant is a utopian who envisions a subordinate and controllable world governed by spiritual laws. Beyond the personal value of the narration, the conclusion is universal, human and revolutionary, at the same time. Plans fall apart, and the results are contradictory."

Gábor also recently had a book published. The English edition of his private theatrical dictionary, [label curtain](#), has been published by BOOKART and will be presented by George Banu at the National Theatre Festival in Bucharest on October 31. It will also be available at the INTERFERENCES Festival later this year.

*SERENA IN X-TREMIS: A MUSICAL FABLE*, by Professor Emeritus **Theodore Shank** (Book & Lyric) and Stephanie Robinson (Music), opened at the Hungarian Theatre of Cluj, Romania, on October 10, 2014, and will be in the rep throughout the season. Serena, a young woman, sings in the subway, is depressed, angry, and jealous of Boston Mariott, the successful pop singer. She meets a tele-evangelist who promises to make her famous. On return from a European tour it's time for her to pay up with her soul. In the Kingdom, she is miserable, hates the music, and picks a fight with the Ghostly Father and is thrown out. Go here for a [short trailer](#) or check out this 23-minute video of scenes and comments from [Cluj TV](#).

## New Dean of Arts & Humanities



Cristina Della Coletta, a professor of Italian and an Associate Dean at the University of Virginia, has been appointed the new Dean of the Division of Arts and Humanities. "With her cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural research and experience, Cristina Della Coletta is uniquely poised to lead a vibrant

division at UC San Diego, especially as we embark on furthering our work as a public university - centered on students, focused on research and oriented to service," said UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla. "I am confident her energy, her ideas and her considerable skills as a scholar and an administrator will enable the division, and UC San Diego as a whole, to reach new heights."

## News for Faculty and Staff

### Extension of Voluntary Phased Retirement Program

The University is proposing to extend the Voluntary Phased Retirement Program through December 31, 2019 to eligible career staff (except the Senior Management Group).

The University offers this program to facilitate longer term planning for employees and their families and to assist departments with their succession planning. The program also creates potential cost savings while providing a cash incentive. The Phased Retirement Program would be subject to collective bargaining for represented employees.

Voluntary Phased Retirement Program extension details including frequently asked questions are available [here](#).

Employees who would like to comment on the proposed program extension should submit their comments to [employeerelations@ucsd.edu](mailto:employeerelations@ucsd.edu) by October 22, 2014.

### Updated Senate Policies

Faculty members of the Academic Senate - There is a revised Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, approved by the Representative Assembly, now in effect. The updated Policy can be found [here](#). Major changes include: a new section

occurring outside of coursework; the implementation of a deadline for instructors to withdraw charges of academic dishonesty; and, clarification that Academic Records will only administratively re-enroll a student in a course if the student drops the course after a charge has been filed with the Academic Integrity Office. The Policy was also amended to allow instructors to submit charges for all coursework submitted by students, including those students that have since dropped themselves from the course. In these cases, academic sanctions will not be applied, but the revision would permit the University to apply administrative sanctions in cases where a student is found responsible for violating the Policy. Please feel free to submit comments or questions to the Educational Policy Committee via Lori Hullings, Senate Analyst ([lhullings@ucsd.edu](mailto:lhullings@ucsd.edu)).

### **New Library Open Access Policy**

The Library is sponsoring two informational sessions for faculty to help you understand and comply with the new UC-wide Open Access Policy, which goes into effect on November 1st. These sessions are October 22, 2014, 10:00-11:30 am, and November 3, 2:00-3:30 pm, both in the Seuss Room (1st floor of West Wing). The content of the two presentations is exactly the same. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP using this [form](#). Information about the policy can be found on the website of the UC Office of Scholarly Communication [here](#). The policy does not apply to graduate students, but you are welcome to attend one of the sessions.

## **News for Students**

### **Upcoming Deadlines**

10/17: Deadline to file for Advancement to candidacy for master's degrees

10/31:  
Deadline to change grading option, change units, and drop classes without "W" on transcript

12/5  
Drop without penalty of "F" grade - end of 9th week (undergraduates)

### **Learn about the Library**

The Library will be hosting an Open House specifically for first-year graduate and professional students for you to learn more about library resources and services and meet the theater and dance librarian. Light refreshments will be served and some prizes raffled. It's at the Seuss Room in Geisel Library (1st floor of West Wing) from 4:00-6:00 on Thursday, October 16th. To help us plan our catering, please rsvp [here](#).

## Alumni News

Youngest Brother Productions premieres its inaugural theatre production with a fully immersive performance of Sam Shepard's *True West* at a funky bungalow in Echo Park on Saturday, October 18 and running weekends through November 15, 2014. This production is directed by Professor **Kim Rubenstein** and features acting alumni Jack Mikesell (MFA '13), Russel Ewing (BA '13), and Professor **Eva Barnes**.

The realistic setting, intimate space, and ability for the actors to move fluidly in and out of the home will result in a thrilling, relentless immersion for audience members as they witness the devolution of two brothers in the summer heat. Youngest Brother is exploring a shifting perspective by toying with what the audience sees, how they see it, when they see it, or if they see it at all.

Youngest Brother intends to push the boundaries of traditional theatre with the "in your face" production, much like Shepard's iconic play itself. Audience members can shift with the action, sitting when and where they want to sit, standing, or even squatting inches from an actor if they are so inclined.

"The audience should be breathing and moving with the cast and crew as the night progresses," says director Kim Rubenstein.

Actors began rehearsals in the desert of Campo, California for five days in September, an experience that was captured by documentary cameras.

Two Acting alumni are part of the cast of [Orange is the New Black](#), the Netflix series which just finished its second season and was renewed for Season 3. **Maria Dizzia** (MFA '01) was in the cast this past year, playing Polly Harper, best friend of the main character Piper. While Piper is locked up in prison, Polly starts an affair with Piper's ex. **Marsha Stephanie Blake** (MFA '01) has been added for the third season - she'll play a [corrections officer](#).

## In Memoriam

We regret to inform you that an alumni passed away this week. **Barrett Blake** graduated with a BA in Theatre in 2013. After receiving his A.A Degree in Theatre with Honors from Santa Monica College he transferred to UC San Diego. Upon arriving to UC San Diego he was a declared Communications Major but after taking a TDAC 101 course his first quarter here, he knew where he belonged. Barrett is also a US Army Veteran, having served four years and was stationed in some interesting places like South Korea and Andrews Air Force Base. We remember Barrett for his smile

and the warmth he brought to the Theatre and Dance community.

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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. 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,

[UCSD Department of Theatre and Dance](#)