



## Newsletter Week 2

October 5, 2015

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### Meetings of the Week

#### **LJP - T&D (MFA Acting Faculty) Meeting**

**Monday, Oct 5, 4:00pm-6:00pm  
Adele Shank Conference Room**

#### **LJP - T&D (Design) Lunch Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 6, 12:00pm-2:00pm  
Adele Shank Conference Room**

#### **Faculty Meeting: File Reviews (Burelle & Stein)**

**Wednesday, October 7, 4-5pm  
GH 254**

#### **Production Meeting: TWOTW**

**Thursday, October 8, 10:00am-11:00am  
GH 144**

### Department News

#### **Grad Students Practice the Art and Science of Communication**

During a four-day immersive communication workshop, piloted by **UCSD Faculty Lisa Porter** and **Kim Rubinstein** as part of Gradvantage, 30 UCSD students were led through an intensive of learning how to prepare for careers outside of academia.



The workshop included current UCSD graduate students **Mandy Nussbaum** and **Charlie Jicha**.

[Click here to read the full article!](#)

### Save-the-Date!

An event in honor of Arthur Wagner



**Monday October 12th @ 4pm**  
**Weiss Theatre.**

Please RSVP to me if you will be attending: [mmaltby@ucsd.edu](mailto:mmaltby@ucsd.edu)

### La Jolla Playhouse presents the 2015 WoW Festival

Without Walls (WoW) is La Jolla Playhouse's acclaimed site-specific theatre program designed to break barriers by moving beyond the boundaries of a traditional four-walled theatre space. Over the past five years, the Playhouse has commissioned and/or presented works by local, national and international theatre artists in locations throughout the San Diego community. Previous WoW productions include *Susurrus* at the San Diego Botanical Garden in Encinitas; *The Car Plays: San Diego* in the Playhouse parking lot; *Sam Bendrix* at the Bon Soir at Martini's Above Fourth in Hillcrest; *Accomplice: San Diego* in Little Italy, as well as the four-day Without Walls Festival in October, 2013 that garnered major national attention and critical acclaim. Underscoring the theatre's mission of providing "unfettered creative opportunities for the leading artists of today and tomorrow," coupled with the idea that the Playhouse is defined by the work it creates, not the space in which it is performed, WoW is designed to offer theatrical experiences that venture beyond the physical confines of the Playhouse's facilities.

This year's projects featuring current UCSD students include:

#### **Dido, Queen of Carthage**

City Opera

Featuring **Morgan Zupanski (MFA Stage Manager)**, **Cynthia Stokes (MFA Directing Alum)**, **Justin Humphries (MFA Set Designer)**, **Danae McQueen (MFA Costume Designer)**, & **Kirthi Nuthi (UG Stage Manager)**



#### **About the Production**

Queen of Carthage is a contemporary re-imagining of Henry Purcell's Baroque opera *Dido and Aeneas* set in a grove of trees overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The new libretto delves into Dido's self-sabotage in spite of Aeneas' love for

her. The words and music combine to tell a story of betrayal, obsession and jealousy.

### **OjO: The Next Generation of Travel**

Bricolage Theatre Company

Featuring **N'Jameh Camara (MFA Actor)**



#### **About the Production**

OjO takes you places you've never seen, providing unparalleled personal service and the finest travel packages available. OjO's five-star staff of agents guarantee your experience will be transformative and unforgettable. Using various modes of transportation, OjO leads participants on a 75-minute perspective-altering adventure that explores the streets of the WoW Festival and the world of the senses.

### **Romulus Kilgore's Mobile Happiness Bazaar**

Written & Performed by

**Bennett Fisher (MFA Playwright)**

Directed by **Jesca Prudencio (MFA Director)**

Featuring **Brian Bose (UG Alum), Mandy Nussbaum (MFA Stage Manager), Jessie Medofer (MFA Stage Manager), Justin Humphres (MFA Set Designer), & Dominique Hill (MFA Costume Designer)**



### About the Production

Are you unhappy? Of course you are. Just look at yourself. But Romulus Kilgore has what you need to feel better, and he's selling it at competitive prices. An interactive, snake-oil medicine show for the troubled soul, Romulus Kilgore's Happiness Bazaar is an impishly comic exploration of how we buy peace of mind.

### The Bitter Game

Written and Performed by

**Keith Wallace (MFA Actor)**

Directed by **Deborah Stein (UCSD Playwrighting Faculty)**



### About the Production

The Bitter Game blends verse, prose and "shit-talkin,'" into a stirring commentary that begs the question, what does it mean to survive while Black in America? This solo work, ripe with pain, poetry and laughter, examines the relationship between a young man and his mother as each struggles to protect one another from that which seems inevitable. The Bitter Game explores the subtle and often unrecognized effects of racism, the question of police agency, and the value of Black lives in this country.

### Grounded

Written by George Brandt

Directed by **Emilie Whelan (MFA Director)**



Performed by **Heather Ramey (PhD Alum)**  
Sound Design by **Andrew Vargas (MFA Sound Design)**  
Light Design by **Anthony Januzzi (MFA Lighting Design)**



### About the Production

Named one of the 10 best plays of the year by The Guardian in London, this award-winning play seamlessly blends the personal and the political. The story explores a hot-rod F16 fighter pilot whose unexpected pregnancy ends her career in the sky. Repurposed to flying remote controlled drones in the Middle East from an air-conditioned trailer near Vegas, she struggles through surreal twelve-hour shifts far from the battlefield, hunting terrorists by day and being a wife and mother by night. Grounded flies from the heights of lyricism to the shallows of workaday existence, targeting our assumptions about war, family and the power of storytelling.

### Dances With Walls

Choreography by  
**Anne Gehman (MFA Choreographer)**



### About the Production

Dances with (or against) walls is a strategy that San Diego Dance Theater Artistic Director Jean Isaacs has employed to address the overwhelming number of choices presented by site-specific choreography. By dancing against walls, Isaacs creates a two dimensional form out of a three dimensional genre. The human body viewed moving against an unyielding concrete or stone wall challenges the viewer's emotional responses by eliciting both vulnerability and stoicism. Audiences will be encouraged to use their phones to capture photos and video of the live performance which San Diego Dance Theater will post on their website for a virtual experience of this stunning dance piece.

### Heaven on Earth

Directed by **Scott Feldspar (UG Alum)**

Set Design by **Robert Brill (Design Faculty)**

**Featuring Andrew Vargas (MFA Sound Designer), Jaymee Ngernwichit (MFA Costume Designer), Charlie Jicha (MFA Scenic Designer), Brandon Rosen (MFA Lighting Designer), Joel Britt (MFA Lighting Designer), Annie Le (MFA Costume Designer), & Amanda "Junior" Bergman (MFA Costume Designer).**



### About the Production

Thirty years after their first production in a campus canyon, Sledgehammer Theatre returns to UC San Diego with Heaven on Earth, a site-specific play with music and movement around the Powell Structural Lab. In Heaven on Earth, the apocalypse is nigh, but there is a sense time has run its course and something new is about to emerge from the spent fuel of what's gone before. Like his "Man with the Gas Can" who quietly smokes a cigarette while reminiscing about past love, what will be left if he drops the cigarette into the can? Mee seems to suggest he won't do it because there is still hope, and there always has been. Hence, Heaven on Earth offers the promise of a future, perhaps even a Utopia, if we plant the right seeds; seeds based on human goodness, love, and community, not the seeds of mass production.

### Gabor Tompa's Cherry Orchard Opens in Slovenia



On Friday, September 18 Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, directed by **UCSD Directing Faculty's Gabor Tompa**, opened at Slovenian National Theatre of Maribor. The drama, which bears the subtitle "a comedy", is not only Anton Pavlovich Chekhov's swan song, but is the forerunner of the disappearance of an era. Decay is hanging like Damocles' sword above the old world, and the past will continue to be present only in nostalgic memories. *The Cherry Orchard* is one of the most exciting dramas of the 20th century, showing the abyss between illusion and reality - that moment when man needs to confront the cruelty of reality.





### Deborah Stein featured at New Faculty Q&A Lunch Discussion

Please join the Center for the Humanities for a lunchtime discussion with **UCSD Playwrighting Faculty Deborah Stein.**

**Date:** Mon, Oct 19th

**Time:** 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

**Location:** Literature Building, Room 310



The conversation with Deborah Stein will be moderated by Dr. Anna Joy Springer of the Literature Department.

This event is part of an ongoing series of Monday lunches made possible by a gift from Gay Lester. Lunch will be provided.

[Click here to RSVP!](#)

### News for Students

### Centerpiece of the 2015 WoW Festival: Healing Wars



## **Healing Wars**

September 29 - October 25, 2015

Conceived, directed and choreographed by Liz Lerman

### **MULTIMEDIA, MULTISENSORY HEALING**

Healing Wars is a multisensory experience that blends dance, storytelling and multimedia in an exploration of how soldiers and healers cope with the physical and psychological wounds of war. Incorporating narratives from the American Civil War, as well as a remarkable performance from a young Navy veteran, this powerful piece asks how we as a nation recover from what seems like endless battles. Healing Wars anchors the Playhouse's highly-anticipated second Without Walls Festival

## **Huang Yi & Kuka at Mandeville**

Come watch multimedia elements and dance fuse together in the upcoming show, HUANG YI & KUKA!

Widely considered as one of Asia's most prolific choreographers, Huang Yi is coming to UCSD to showcase his award-winning work as he performs alongside a robot he conceptualized and programmed.

**When: Wednesday, October 14 at 8 pm**

**Where: Mandeville Auditorium at UC San Diego**



Taiwanese dancer, choreographer, inventor, and videographer Huang Yi's pioneering work is steeped in his fascination with the partnership between humans and robots. He interweaves continuous movement with mechanical and multimedia elements to create dance which corresponds with the flow of data, effectively making the performer a dancing instrument. Named by Dance Magazine as one of the "25 to Watch," Huang was immersed in the arts at a young age, spending much of his childhood in his parents' studio watching them teach tango and learning to paint alongside his father. He is widely considered one of Asia's most prolific choreographers. Huang's groundbreaking and award-winning work, HUANG YI & KUKA, in which he performs alongside a robot he conceptualized and programmed, opened the 2013 Ars Electronica Festival (Austria), the internationally renowned unique platform for digital art and media culture.

[For more information, click here!](#)

## Alumni News

### Danny Burstein Interview about Fiddler on the Roof Revival

Watch **Danny Burstein (MFA Acting Alum '90)** talk about his experience working on Tevye in rehearsals for the upcoming Broadway revival of Fiddler on the Roof



[Click here to view the interview!](#)

## 2015 WoW Festival The Trip presents Three Sisters

**THE TRIP** is a San Diego-based contemporary theater company, founded and led by **Joshua Kahan Brody (MFA Directing Alum '13)** and **Tom Dugdale (MFA Directing Alum '10)**, that strives for interdisciplinary, ensemble-driven theater that challenges traditional boundaries of narrative and space. They have worked site-specifically in San Diego in locations ranging from a parking garage (Fool for Love), to a former military barracks (Macbeth), to one of San Diego's hottest tattoo shops (Three Plays in a Tattoo Shop). THE TRIP's Orpheus & Eurydice - a new take on the myth through a blend of online content, live performance, and film - was nominated for a 2014 Craig Noel Award in the category of Best New Play. THE TRIP also created a backyard-barbecue staging of Thornton Wilder's Our Town for the Playhouse's 2013 WoW Festival. More at [thetriptheater.net](http://thetriptheater.net)



### About the Production

Irina is quickest to the net, but Olga has a killer serve. And though Masha never cared for tennis, she sure plays a mean backhand up the line! Following their acclaimed 2013 WoW Festival production of Our Town, THE TRIP returns with a new production of Anton Chekhov's famous drama, Three Sisters, staged at twilight on a tennis court, with the audience seated just beyond the lines. There will be tea from a samovar, lots of original music, and tennis outfits in various shades of flattering and absurd. If the sisters can't play nicely, maybe you'd like to jump in and play a point or two?

The team includes

**Tom Dugdale, (MDA Directing Alum), Joshua Brody, (MFA Directing Alum), Elisa Benzoni, (MFA Costume Design Alum), Taylor Shurte, (MFA Acting Alum), Jenni Putney, (MFA Acting Alum), Patrick Riley, (MFA Acting Alum), Zach Martens, (MFA Acting Alum), Thomas Miller, (UG Acting Alum), Miranda Dainard, (UG Acting Alum), Claire**



**Kaplan, (UG Acting Alum), & Sam Hunter, (UG Acting Alum)****THE TRIP's THREE SISTERS****2015 WoW Festival****David Jacobi's A Completely Factual Tour**

**David Jacobi (MFA Playwrighting Alum '15)** plays include The Monster Below, Widower, Mai Dang Lao, Battlecruiser Aristotle and Ex Machina have been produced throughout the U.S. and in Beijing, China. He received a B.F.A. in Dramatic Writing from Purchase College and is currently a 2015 M.F.A. Playwriting candidate at UC San Diego. He is co-founder of Monster Down! Theatre Company, a collaborative theatre group in Beijing.

Featuring the voice of **Mary Glen Fredrick (MFA Acting)**  
Sound design by **Emily Jankowski (MFA Alum)**

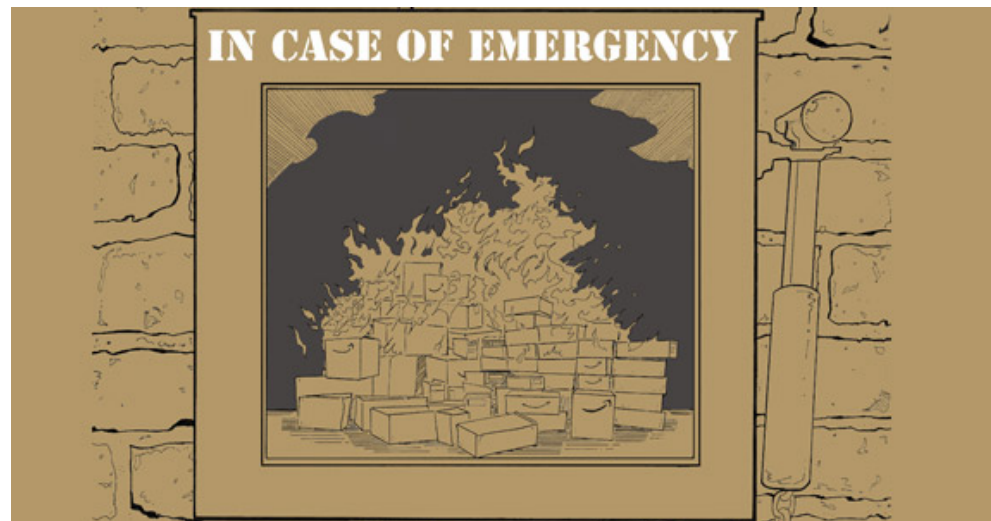
**About the Production**

Audio tours are becoming more common as tourist sites are moving away from the experience of actual human interactions. Audio tours can be cold, impersonal barriers that hinder meaningful engagement with the site. It seems counterproductive to travel to a play you've never been before only to have exploration and play removed from the equation. A Completely Factual Tour is a world-premiere audio play that begins as a simple audio tour, but soon explodes into absurdist theatricality, unexpected matchmaking and guided choreography.

## 2015 WoW Festival Chalk Repertory Theatre presents *In Case of Emergency*

**Chalk Repertory Theatre** is dedicated to presenting classical and contemporary plays in unconventional spaces around Los Angeles County. Past performance venues have included the Hollywood Forever Cemetery, a downtown LA loft and The Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits. **Founded by five graduate of the MFA Theatre Program University of California, San Diego**, Chalk Rep kicked off in 2009 with a critically-acclaimed season of four plays including the Ovation Award-winning *Family Planning*. Working with a diverse group of artists, Chalk Rep aims to transform the ideas that non-theatregoers have about what theatre can be, to create work that is intimate, relevant, and accessible to all. More at [chalkrep.com](http://chalkrep.com)

Featuring **Ruth McKee (MFA Playwrighting Alum)**, **Amy Ellenberger (MFA Acting Alum)**, **Daniel Rubiano (MFA Acting Alum)**, **Rebecca Bonebrake (MFA Lighting Alum)**, & **Tim Nottage (UG Alum)**



### About the Production

The garage door of a private home becomes a curtain, rising on Meredith, a single woman who has filled her garage with supplies for any emergency. It's gotten a little out of hand, which is why she's hired Alex from "Ready, Set, Go" to help her get organized. But neither the supplies nor the prepping expert can prepare her for the personal disasters that her younger sister brings home, on a day when the city seems set to go up in flames. A brand new site-specific theatrical experience, written by Chalk Repertory founding member Ruth

McKee, in the LA-based company's signature style.

### **2015 WoW Festival The Car Plays: Interchange**

Directed by **Michael Schwartz (MFA Directing Alum)**



#### **About the Production**

For the 2015 Without Walls Festival, the tremendously popular The Car Plays returns with a new twist. The event will again feature a series of intimate 10-minute plays, each taking place in a car, where audiences of two move from vehicle to vehicle to experience works by different playwrights. Typically, each play in a line of five cars tells a different story, unrelated to the others in the row, but with The Car Plays: Interchange, the five plays are connected through storyline or theme.

*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](#)