SPRING QUARTER: WEEK 5

DEPARTMENT NEWS
UCSD's 2017 Wagner New Play Festival opens next week. The productions have begun tech and shows are beginning to sell out so get your tickets soon!

For tickets, dates, and information about the five productions of this year's festival, click here (http://theatre.ucsd.edu/season/WNPF)

KIM RUBINSTEIN TO RECEIVE OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR AWARD

Directing and Acting Faculty Professor Kim Rubinstein has been nominated by UCSD Panhellenic chapters to receive an Outstanding Professor Award at the Annual Panhellenic Scholarship Banquet. She will receive her award on June 1st in honor of her continued excellence in teaching and research and helpfulness to the students in the Greek community.
CLASS OF 2017 FUNDRAISING FOR SENIOR CLASS GIFT

The Senior Class Gift committee is currently raising money to support their 2017 Senior Class Gift. The Senior Class Gift has been a tradition at UC San Diego since 1991, and the mission is to engage seniors to leave their legacy and cultivate a pattern of philanthropy before leaving UC San Diego. They are asking seniors to give $20.17 in honor of our graduating year so we can fund two scholarships in the amount of $2,017 for incoming Tritons and other campus initiatives such as the Theatre & Dance Department.

To learn more and to donate, click here (https://crowdsurf.ucsd.edu/project/5846).

ALUMNI NEWS

PALOMA YOUNG RECEIVES IRENE SHARAFF AWARD

MFA Costume Design alumna Paloma Young received the tdf/Irene Sharaff Awards 2017 - Kitty Leech Young Master Award in NYC last week. The Kitty Leech Young Master Award is "presented to a designer whose work, beyond being promising, has come to fruition". Costume Design and Directing Faculty Professor Judith Dolan presented Paloma with her award and are pictured here alongside one of Paloma's designs from Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812. Many other UCSD alumni were in attendance to celebrate Paloma's achievement. Check out the program from the ceremony below.
LONG-AWAITED BECKETT COMPOSITION TO PREMIERE IN SAN DIEGO

The San Diego Rep/Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival, led by Artistic Director, MFA Directing alum and Acting Faculty professor Todd Salovey, will premiere a new production of Samuel Beckett's *Imagination Dead Imagine*. The production has been created by musician and composer Michael Roth and is a chamber piece for string quartet, recorded voices, and laptop which Michael has been developing for many years after receiving encouragement and permission from Beckett himself to set Beckett's text to original music. The performance will premiere June 7-8.

A crowdfunding campaign is ongoing, to read more, click here (https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/imagination-dead-imagine-michael-roth-beckett/).
GUILLERMO REYES PLAY RECEIVES LA REVIVAL

Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown by MFA Playwriting alumnus Guillermo Reyes is receiving an Los Angeles revival at Teatro de las Américas. Reyes' acclaimed one-man show chronicles the lives of various Latino immigrants dealing with transcultural shock of race and gender identity known as the “Hispanic breakdown”.

The production runs from June 2-25 at the Macha Theatre.

For tickets and more information, click here (http://teatrodelasamericas.org/men-on-the-verge-of-a-his-panic-breakdown/).

MONIQUE GAFFNEY CLOSES RED VELVET AT OLD GLOBE

This weekend BA alumna Monique Gaffney wrapped up her run in Lolita Chakrabartiat's Red Velvet, a historical drama about the first black man to play Othello, at the Old Globe. She'll be appearing in the one-woman production Search for Signs of Intelligent Life with The Roustabouts Theatre Company performing in Diversionary Theatre's space beginning June 22nd.

For tickets and more information, click here (http://theroustabouts.org/season---tickets.html)

TIM LORD NAMED 2017-2018 JEROME FELLOW

MFA Playwriting alumnus Tim Lord has been named a 2017-2018 Jerome Fellow by the Playwrights Center. As a Jerome Fellow, Lord will receive an $18,000 award and $2,000 in play development funds and spend a year-long residency in Minnesota.

To learn more, click here (https://pwcenter.org)
2017 DRAMA DESK NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED

MFA Directing alumna Anne Kauffman has been nominated for a 2017 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Direction of a Play for her work on A Life by Adam Bock. MFA Costume Design alumna Paloma Young has been nominated for an award for Outstanding Costume Design of a Musical for her design of Bandstand. Paul Vogel's Indecent, starring MFA Acting alumnus Tom Nelis, was also nominated for Outstanding Play.


TOBY ONWUMERE DISCUSSES SENSE8

MFA Acting alumnus Toby Onwumere discussed his work on Netflix's Sense8 and the moment he discovered he was cast in the show in a video for Sense8's Facebook page.

To view the video, click here (https://www.facebook.com/Sense8TV/videos/640487396144217/).
HERE LIES LOVE WITH MELODY BUTIU EXTENDS AT SEATTLE REP

MFA Acting alumna Melody Butiu is currently starring in Seattle Rep's production of David Byrne and Fatboy Slim's Here Lies Love, which announced an extension through June 18th. The production is an immersive, disco-party of a show which tells the non-violent restoration of democracy in the Philippines in 1986 and follows the meteoric rise and dramatic fall of the controversial First Lady of the Philippines, Imelda Marcos. Butiu is playing the role of Estrella which she originated and previously performed at the Public Theatre in 2013.

For tickets and more information, click here (http://www.seattlerep.org/Plays/1617/HL/Synopsis).

PALOMA YOUNG DISCUSSES BANDSTAND DESIGN

MFA Costume Design alumna Paloma H. Young was featured by billboard.com in a story about this Broadway season's costume designs. Young was featured for her design of Bandstand, where she discussed the role costumes had to play defining period and changes through time:

"For the nearly eight-minute long opening number, “Just Like It Was Before,” uniformed soldiers in trenches change costumes as they enter multiple nightclubs post-war. “Some of the guys at the top of the show are wearing three pairs of wool pants, and as the number goes on, they keep shedding them,” says Young. “I almost could not count the number of blazers, vests, and overcoats that get danced onto another character—it's all been worked into [Andy Blankenbuehler's] choreography."

To read the full article and see images, click here (http://www.billboard.com/articles/news/broadway/7776759/broadway-costume-designers-interview-tony-nominations).
MFA Playwriting alumnus Barry Levey and MFA Directing alumna Suzanne Agins have collaborated together to develop a new play about the women who inadvertently wrote the Iliad, a comedy called Woman of Troy. The production will be produced by Upstart Creatures in New York City, of which Agins is one of the Artistic Directors. Upstart Creatures creates unique theatrical and culinary events which combine ambitious theatrical pieces with communal gourmet prepared meals. The show is free and comes with a free 3-course, gourmet meal and performs May 19th, 20th, & 21st at 6pm.

For tickets and more information, click here (http://www.upstartcreatures.com/womanoftroy).

MFA Playwriting alumna Kristin Idaszak was profiled by the UCSD Guardian newspaper to discuss her creative process, upcoming work, and her ongoing collaboration with MFA Dance alumna Erin Tracy. Idaszak collaborated with Tracy on her thesis dance project, Though It May Shift, which premiered last quarter.

To read the full article, click here (http://ucsdguardian.org/2017/02/12/behind-the-curtain-with-kristin-idaszak/).
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