



Monday, February 9, 2009

Volume 7 No. 18

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday, February 9th - Area Heads Meeting, GH 144, 4:00pm

Wednesday, February 11th -

Full Faculty Meeting, Acting Directing Candidate, GH 144, 4:00pm

Undergraduate Theatre Students Meeting, Arthur Wagner Theatre (GH 157), 5:15pm

Thursday, February 12th - *Mistakes Madeline Made* Production Meeting, GH 144, 9:00am



FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Have an account at the Credit Union? USE Credit Union has announced that a major servicer for merchant credit card processing has suffered an unauthorized intrusion related to cardholder data, including debit and visa card numbers, PIN Numbers, and expiration dates. Some USE Credit Union Visa and/or debit cards used at various retailers and restaurants from May 15th through November 13th of last year may have been compromised. The Credit Union is in the process of emailing and phoning those patrons whose cards may have been compromised, are blocking the cards (transactions will not process), and will replace the cards at no cost. Please pay particular attention to and report any unusual charges on your statements. Visit the USECU website for [more information](#).

There's one for you, nineteen for me... Beginning on February 15th, student volunteers will provide tax publications, booklets, and forms, and will staff a tax hotline at (858) 822-2414 for the campus community. The hotline will offer referrals to area Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites, where help with preparing income tax forms is available, and other resources. You can also email the service at taxinfo@ucsd.edu.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Annie Smart and *emeritus* professor **Les Waters** are working on the World Premier of Sarah Ruhl's *In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play* at the [Berkeley Repertory Theatre](#). Annie is designing the set, Les is directing, and MFA alum **Maria Dizzia** ('01) is in the cast. Play opens February 4th and plays until March 15th. It's a comedy set in the late 19th century and is about the use of the electrical vibrator to cure women of hysteria. The *LA Times* did a [review](#).

ONSTAGE

Coming Next –



[*Danton's Death*](#), by Georg Büchner. With passionate characters in epic spaces, *Danton's Death* takes place after King Louis XVI and his queen are beheaded. Charismatic leader Danton sees the massive use of the guillotine as a kind of shadow logic to the seeming benevolence of the law erected in the desire of the masses to be free. Playwright **Georg Büchner** (1813-1837) was born in Hessen, Germany. His father, a scientist and rationalist, primed him from an early age with a scientific approach to the world, which would later manifest itself in the sharp, realistic, and critical nature of his writing. In his twenties he became embroiled in his country's political arena, helping plot a conspiracy against the Hessian government. In an attempt to mobilize the peasantry, he published a famous revolutionary political tract, *The Hessian Courtier*. Because of his radical political involvement, Buchner was eventually forced to flee Germany altogether for Zurich. After settling there, he relinquished his political fervor and developed a politically-disillusioned outlook that manifested itself deeply in his three plays,

Danton's Death, *Leonce and Lena*, and especially his ultimate effort, *Woyzeck*. In addition to these, Büchner completed the introspective story, *Lenz*, and a play based on the life of the Venetian wit Pietro Arentino. Despite the short length of his literary career, Büchner contributed immeasurably to the dramatic canon and being considered "the inexhaustible source of modern drama," he never considered himself a playwright by profession.

Danton's Death previews, February 19th, opens February 20th, and runs through February 28th in the Mandell Weiss Theatre.

Coming Soon -

[*The Mistakes Madeline Made*](#), by Elizabeth Meriwether. February 25th - February 28th

[*1001*](#), by Jason Grote. February 26th - March 7th

[Click for tickets](#) to all Department productions.



ADMINISTRIVIA

President's Day Holiday - Monday, February 16th

[UCSD Young Alumni Reunion](#) - February 19th - 22nd

[Gaffney Playwriting Competition](#) Deadline – March 6th

ALUM UPDATES

Kevin Judge (MFA '04) designed sets for the new play [Irena's Vow](#) opening soon on Broadway (starring Tovah Feldshuh).

South Pacific's **Danny Burstein** (MFA '90) has been honored with [caricature at Sardi's](#) in New York.

The NY Times had a [big article](#) about alum **Steve Cosson's** company "The Civilians," which is about to open a new show Off-Broadway at the Vineyard Theatre (*This Beautiful City*). Steve got his MFA in directing in '99.

Alum Spotlight - Neal Patel (MFA '91) writes: "Since graduating from UCSD in 1991 I have been designing for theater, opera and dance and most recently for television. I live in New York City and am married to director Maria Mileaf (UCSD '90) We have two incredible children: Pia (10) and Emlyn (7). I have been working on Broadway in *Side Man*, Off Broadway at the Public Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop and BAM as well as both Regional and International Opera at the Santa Fe Opera, New York City Opera, Edinburgh International Festival and the Nikiikai Opera Theatre Tokyo. I also continue to work in the



regional theater and sometimes return to La Jolla Playhouse where Des McAnuff gave me my first professional (I got paid) job in 1989 for Lee Blessing's *Down The Road!* I work repeatedly with Anne Bogart, who taught me my first year at UCSD, and the SITI company. I'm currently the scenic designer for La Jolla Playhouse's Page-to-Stage production of [Peter and the Starcatchers](#) with performances running from February 13th through March 8th. This year I am the production designer of *In Treatment* for HBO which is taping in NYC at Silver Cup studios. I also had the great pleasure of collaborating with my wife on Lee Blessing's *A Body of Water* at Primary Stages in NYC as well. You can visit my website at www.neilpatel.design.com."

Have News To Share?? Send it to us via the newsletter's own email address, *TandDNews at Yahoo.com*, by Tuesday night and we'll put it in the next newsletter. We love photos, but please, if you send them, make sure they are no larger than 400k files. Also, don't forget to identify yourself, tell us if you had a different name at graduation, and what year you graduated. If your news features other alums, please be sure to identify them. We hope to hear from you soon!