

August 31, 2009
2009 Special Midsummer Edition

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS



System-wide details of the employee furlough plan have been [announced](#). Campus guidance has not been released at this time. The period covered by the mandatory furloughs will be from September 1, 2009, through August 31, 2010, and is on a sliding scale based on salary. (Your October 1st paycheck will show the first hit.)

Winter Holiday Schedule - During the 2009 holiday season, UCSD (excluding the hospitals and clinics) will officially close for 16 days between Saturday, December 19th, and Sunday, January 3rd. The closure period includes four University paid holidays (December 24, 25 and 31, and January 1). Six days (December 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30) are not paid holidays and non-represented Academics and Staff who are covered by the furlough plan will be required to use furlough days to cover the time off. Furlough days may be used in advance of accrual. Read [more here](#).

Problems with Flexible Spending Account Cards - Employees who use their card to pay for prescriptions and other healthcare products may find their cards no longer work at some retailers who did not install an automated payment system required by the IRS by July 1st. You have the option of paying cash and asking CONEXIS for reimbursement. Doctors, dentists, hospitals, optometrists, and other healthcare providers were not required to install the new payment system. If registered as a health care merchant, their card readers should still be allowed to process transactions, but CONEXIS cardholders may be required later to substantiate their purchases by providing receipts. (Save all receipts!) [Read more](#).

Demise of Library Copy Cards - If you have a copy card at the campus library, it will soon cease working and may be replaced by a campus ID card. Find out how to [transfer](#) your copy card balances to your ID card before the end of August.

New Student Orientation Dates Announced – Graduate Orientation will take place on Tuesday, September 22nd, and Wednesday, September 23rd throughout the day. The Undergraduate orientation/meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23rd, from 2:00-3:00pm, location TBD.



ADMINISTRIVIA

New student enrollment begins - August 20th

Memorial Day Holiday - Monday, September 7th

Department Student Orientation – Tuesday/Wednesday, September 22nd & 23rd

Fall Quarter begins - Monday, September 21st

Instruction begins - Thursday, September 24th

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Welcome New Faculty - The Department welcomes **Tara Knight**, who will be teaching digital media classes for our students. She is a filmmaker, animator and projection designer. Originally from Vermont, she attended a Buddhist women's school in Japan, completed a BA at Hampshire College, and received her MFA in Film/Video from the UCSD Visual Arts Department. As an animation assistant, Tara worked on the short films of Faith Hubley, acting as a colorist on *Africa*, *Witch Madness*, *Our Spirited Earth*, and *Northern Ice*, *Golden Sun*. She also worked on the shorts, *Pigeon Within*, *Set Set Spike*, and the animated sequences of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Also trained as an optical printer, Tara has worked to preserve the avant-garde films of artists like David Wojnarowicz for Bill Brand at B.B. Optics. For Jon Gartenberg at Re:Voir/USA, she promoted the distribution of filmmakers such as Len Lye and Stan Brakhage. In 2008 she was a co-conceiver of *Stay the Hand*, a dance production with choreographer John Malashock and composer **Shahrokh Yadegari**. Tara is the Associate Director for Culture, Art and Technology, at Sixth College.

Welcome New Staff - Please help our newest staff, Linda and Laura, feel at home as they begin their careers with Theatre and Dance.



Linda DiLeo has joined the Department as Academic Affairs Officer/Assistant to the Chair, filling the vacancy created when long-time staffer Linn Fridy retired. Linda was born on a U. S. Navy Base in the Philippines and, at age four, her family was transferred to San Diego. She grew up in San Diego and considers herself a native San Diegan. In her early career years, she worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation; with the U. S. Air Force Public Affairs Office, where she worked with the movie industry as a casting assistant for a TV-made movie; the Agency for International Development in the U.S. Embassy, Manila; and, for an international publishing company. As a military wife, she traveled throughout Asia and finally settled back in San Diego. Prior to joining the Theatre and Dance Department, Linda worked for fourteen years with the School of Medicine in the Departments of Psychiatry and Radiology. Linda's interests are dancing ("hula") and music ("ukulele") in addition to traveling.

Laura Jimenez is the Department's new Undergraduate Coordinator, replacing Andy Fenack, who is now attending graduate school. Laura is a UCSD alum, with a B.A degree in Communications. During her college years she studied abroad in London and had internships in Washington, D.C, and with San Diego's representative to the State Assembly. She subsequently earned a Masters Degree in Public Communications and Public Relations from the University of Westminster, London. Laura enjoys musicals and traveling (she has been to 14 states and 13 countries). Laura provides academic advising to undergraduates wanting to major and/or minor in the Theatre and Dance department.



New Undergraduate Representatives - The undergraduate class representatives for the 2009/10 academic year are: Theatre - **Joanna Carly Stern** and **Justin O'Neill**; Dance - **Morgan McGreevey** and **Calvin Tsang**. These individuals have volunteered to serve as a conduit between students and the Department, and are always willing to listen to student comments and concerns. They will also be facilitating undergraduate meetings throughout the year. Undergrads are welcome to contact their Reps at tdugreps@ucsd.edu.

More....

[Tower Sounds: Ancient Voices and Electronics](#), by **Shahrokh Yadegari**, was performed at a number of venues recently in support of Amnesty International. Graduate students **David Carsello** (Sound), and **Samantha Watson** (Stage Management), and MFA in Sound alum **Toby Algya** ('09), worked on the production.



Acting Instructor **Don Mackay** (Class of '90) and alum **Hilary Ward** ('07) recently returned from Aspen where Don acted/directed/produced with alum **David Ledingham** ('90) a fringe festival in repertory of *Almost, Maine* and *I Have Before Me A Remarkable Document Given To Me By A Young Lady From Rwanda*, marking the return of Pegasus to Aspen. Don is currently acting thru August 23rd as the "Duke" in *Measure For Measure* and "Don John" in *Much Ado* for Henry Woronicz' [new company](#). Don can be seen shouting orders and panicking underwater as "the Nuclear Submarine Commander" in *Transformers 2* (filmed onboard an actual nuclear sub at the San Diego Naval Sub Base).

Emeritus Professor **Jorge Huerta** let us know that "...Ginger and I are happily ensconced in the hills of Glendale. Loving it. Nothing else to report that's important. I'm finishing-up a editing a special issue of the *Latin American Theatre Review* on US Latina and Latino Theatre. I'll be delivering a speech at the UCSB Department of Theatre and Dance Fall Convocation as well a lecturing at SB City College and Fresno State University, also this fall. And I will be attending the [American Society for Theatre Research](#) (ASTR) Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico this November, where Ph.D. Student, **Jade Power**, is giving a plenary paper. That's really hot stuff!"



ONSTAGE

Upcoming Season Announced - The Department has announced a number of exciting productions this year. Please visit the Department's [Season page](#) for scheduling and ticket information. Works to be staged include:

Fall Quarter

[Topdog/Underdog](#)

[Sexual Selection: Darwin and Shakespeare Ponder Love.](#)

[The House of Bernarda Alba](#)

[Camino Real](#)

Winter Quarter

[La Mandragola](#)

[The Revenger's Tragedy](#)

[The Seagull](#)

[Marriage, Medicine, Money, and Mayhem: French Farces by Molière and Feydeau](#)

[winterWORKS!](#)

Spring Quarter

[Baldwin New Play Festival at UC San Diego 2010.](#)

[Spring Moves '10](#)

[Seven Against Thebes](#)

[New Directions - MFA Student Choreographers' Showcase.](#)



ALUM UPDATES



Online Alum Database User Alert - Due to security concerns, we recently made some changes to our [alumni database](#). As a result, the password you have been using to access the alumni database will no longer work. The fix for this is really simple, though. To get a new password, go [HERE](#), enter the email address that you've been using to login to the database, then click next. Follow the very simple instructions and you will receive a new password. Your

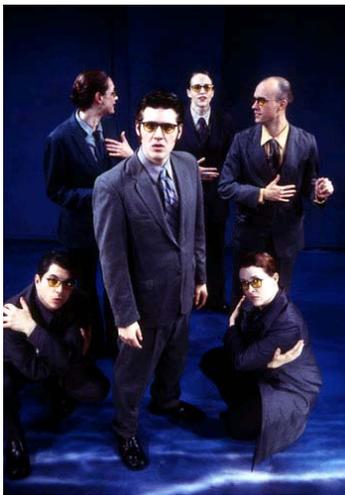
New password *will not be changeable*, so make a note of it. If you do forget it, you can always go back to the login page and click on the "[I forgot my password: send it to me](#)" link and get another one. PLEASE NOTE: the email you enter *MUST* be a working email address, because you will be sent your new password via that email address. If it is not a working email address, you will have the option of changing it when you click next. You can [search the database here](#).

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**Kelly Hanson**, a MFA scenic design alum ('01), received an [Emmy nomination](#) as Art Director on *A Colbert Christmas: The Greatest Gift of All* on Comedy Central.

**Caleb Levengood** ('07) is nominated for a [New York Innovative Theatre Award](#) (IT Awards) for Outstanding Set Design for his work in *Angel Eaters*, produced by Flux Theatre Ensemble. *Angel Eaters* is a trilogy of plays, which were staged in rep over three weeks. The production elements all had to be very flexible because they were used by all three plays. Caleb said this about this experience: "What an ambitious project. Three generations of a family who can raise the dead and steal their souls." The nominees were announced at a sold-out event on July 20<sup>th</sup> attended by over 500 artists and guests. The awards will be presented at a ceremony on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Emily DeAngelis** ('08) checked in recently to let us know that she is designing costumes for Tim J Lord's *We Declare You a Terrorist* for Summer Play Festival at [The Public Theatre](#) and that **Caleb Levengood** (see above) is doing the scenic design and **Jeff Fightmaster** ('06) is doing the lighting design for the production. Emily is also a nominee for Best Costume Design for the NY Innovative Theatre Awards for her work on *The Angel Eaters Trilogy*.



**Steve Cosson** ('99) wrote to say "Hi there. Things are busy and exciting in the world of [The Civilians](#). Our first anthology, creatively titled *The Civilians, an anthology of six plays*, just got published by Playscripts. *Gone Missing* is now available from DPS. We had a great year doing *This Beautiful City*, most recently at the Vineyard here in NYC (featuring **Marsha Stephanie Blake** ('01) and **Alison Weller** ('01), set by **Neil Patel** ('91), and co-written by me and **Jim Lewis** ('86) - so several generations of UCSD folk involved.) I'm about to spend some time in LA for a commission from Center Theatre Group - a *Civilians* musical about porn. So if anyone has friends (or a side career) in adult entertainment let me know. Also looking forward to developing another show in residence at Princeton, and later this winter I'll be directing *Bus Stop* at [Kansas City Rep](#). In the fall, *The Civilians* are producing a cool new project about divorce that will be both live and online, directed by **Anne Kauffman** ('99) with **Jennifer Morris** ('98) in the cast. And lastly, we're hiring a Development and Communications Director,

anyone interested can email our Managing Director at [Marion@thecivilians.org](mailto:Marion@thecivilians.org)."

More...

**Anne Kauffman's** production of *Stunning* at the Duke Theatre in New York was written up in the [New York Times Theatre Review](#) in June.



**Simone Moore** ('04) stars in (along with Cybill Shepard) a film for the Hallmark Channel which premiered on August 1<sup>st</sup> called [Mrs. Washington Goes to Smith](#). The movie will rerun on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Andrew Smith** ('05) has been busy - "A highlight from this past year without a doubt was my experience at [Seattle Rep](#) playing "D'artagnan" in *The Three Musketeers*. Directed by **Kyle Donnelly**, it ranks right at the top of most entertaining, worthwhile, and demanding theatrical experiences of my life. I could not have had more fun with the team that Kyle assembled, and the role that I played. And I definitely wouldn't have survived it without my graduate training to get me through. It was an absolute joy. Once back in NYC, I dove into producing with my theatre company, [Project Y Theatre](#) .... Our first play was *FUBAR*, by Karl Gajdusek, and we put together an all-star team of talent, from UCSD and beyond. Here are some UCSD names that help make it happen: Directed by **Larissa Kokernot** ('05), Set design by **Kevin Judge** ('04), Costumes by **Emily Pepper** ('05), Actors **Lisa Velten Smith** ('05) and **Ryan McCarthy** ('06), Photography by **Eduardo Placer** ('07). We had a wonderful June run at 59E59 Theaters in NYC: full houses, great reviews, and incredible performances. If there are any UCSD grads out there looking to get involved in a grassroots theatre company in NYC, I'd love to meet up and [compare notes](#). Next up for me is playing "Demetrius" in *A MidSummer Night's Dream* at [Actors Theatre of Louisville](#), rehearsals starting this September 1st."

**Kevin Artigue** ('99) has been teaching playwriting at [Interlochen Arts Center](#) in Michigan. He wrote to let us know that he recently returned from the O'Neill Conference and the inaugural MFA Playwright Convening, "having received a heavy dose of inspiration from Paula Vogel, Marc Masterson and others." Kevin will soon return to Iowa City where he is pursuing his MFA at the [Iowa Playwrights Workshop](#). His newest play *Lost Sharks* - set in 1973 in a rundown L.A. jazz club - will receive a production at the University of Iowa in October.

**Alexis Olsen** ('06) wrote to say "I've been in the [DGA Trainee program](#) for about 2 years and look to have another 6 months or so left. The program is sponsored by the Directors Guild of America and aims to train future assistant directors. It's a lot like Stage Management, but with added variety. The program places you on different television series and films over the course of 400 working days. So far, I have worked on *The Sarah Connor Chronicles*, *Scrubs*, *The Cleaner*, *24*, *Knight Rider*, *Melrose Place*, *Weeds*, and *Sons of Anarchy*. I live in a tiny apartment that I love, located in a vaguely sketchy part of town. All in all, things are good."

**Caridad Svich** (MFA '88) was interviewed for the cover story of [American Theatre Magazine](#) (July/August).



**Rebecca Lawrence** ('09) will appear as "Brooke" in [The Kids Are Alright](#), a film starring Annette Bening due out next year. She has just finished shooting her scene with Mark Ruffalo. Rebecca was also Art Coordinator for a movie that is still listed as being in production, [Untitled Black Panther Project](#).

**Eduardo Placer** ('07) writes that "I am currently working at [Idaho Shakespeare Festival/ Great Lakes Theatre Festival](#) in *Twelfth Night* (Feste) & *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Neville Landless) with fellow alums: **Charlie Fee** ('83) (Artistic Director & Director of *Twelfth Night*) and **Aled Davies** ('84). **Mark Hofflund** who is also an MFA grad ('84) is the Managing Director. Hope you are all well in La Jolla."

## More...

**Lisa Portes** ('92) is the Head of Directing and the Artistic Director of [Playworks for Young Audiences](#) at The Theatre School, DePaul University. In April she directed the world premiere of *Ghostwritten*, authored by fellow alum **Naomi Iizuka** ('92), at the Goodman Theatre. July found her directing the world premiere of *Ski Dubai*, by Laura Jacqmin, at the [First Look Festival](#) at the Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago. In January, Lisa will direct world premiere of *Tennis in Nablus*, by Ismail Khalidi, at [Alliance Theatre of Atlanta](#).

**Michael Locher** sent this word: "I'm a little over a year past my MFA from Yale. I've been living in New York. My work over the past year has been a smattering of different projects here and in San Francisco, with a few notable highlights. Last February, I did the set for the Guthrie's new production of *Happy Days*, which was a thrill. This fall, I'm opening 2 shows at [the Magic](#) in SF: *Goldfish* and *Mrs. Whitney*, both new John Kolvenbach plays (the latter a world premiere. *Goldfish* debuted at South Coast last fall directed by Loretta Grecco, who will also be doing this production.) The playwright will direct *Mrs. Whitney*. I've done my share of assisting, too--I work a good deal for **Robert Brill** ('88) and was on board for *Guys and Dolls* this past spring [Assistant Scenic Designer]. All in all, a good year..."

**Michael Bakkensen** ('00) writes that: "Tamala [Horbianski ('02)] and I (who were married two years ago) were in Portland, Oregon, last week for a workshop at Portland Center Stage's [JAW Festival](#). We worked on **Andrea Stolowitz's** ('00) latest play *Bad Family*. It was great to perform with Tam and Andrea's show was great, a real crowd pleaser. We're back in New York where Tam's teaching at SFT and the [Feldenkrais Institute](#)."



**Ruth McKee** (MFA '06)'s play *Hell Money* was recently named a runner-up for the [Yale Drama Series Award](#), judged by David Hare. Her play her play *Stray* will be produced this October - November in Los Angeles in a co-production between Chalk Rep and the Black Dahlia Theatre. The play will be directed by **Larissa Kokernot** ('05) and features **Jennifer Chang** ('06).

**Adam Smith** ('04) writes to let us know that: "Earlier this year, I joined a number of UCSD alums in Chalk Rep's inaugural, critically-acclaimed production of *Three Sisters* at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery, playing Tuzenbach. I also starred in a staged reading of *The Shadowed Cross* as part of the Dramatists Guild new play series. I then stepped into Chalk Rep's next show, *Family Planning*, by **Julia Edwards** ('01) and directed by **Larissa Kokernot** ('05) ... which also received rave reviews. Currently, I'm in a workshop of a new musical about the life of Walt Disney, in which I play the famed animator Ub Iwerks. And next week, I shoot an episode of ABC's *Castle*, opposite star Nathan Fillion. I still teach Movement & Voice on the faculty of The [Acting Corps Studio](#) in LA."

**Erika H. Sellin** ('00) is in her 6th year of casting at [Center Theatre Group](#) (Ahmanson/Mark Taper Forum/Kirk Douglas) Upcoming projects include: the Donmar version of *Parade*; *Palestine New Mexico*; and, *Lieutenant of Inishmore* at the [Mark Taper Forum](#). She is an active member of the CSA (Casting Society of America) and a guest speaker at USC and Pepperdine. Erika writes that she has enjoyed re-connecting with the many UCSD alums coming to CTG for various projects. This past year, she worked with **Sue Karutz** ('94) while sub-ASM'ing at *Wicked* (the Pantages Theatre). She recently was script supervisor for the LOGO television special with **Alec Mapa** (LJP: *Dogeaters* 1998/ *Wonderland* 1999) and is stage managing this summer at the [Ojai Playwrights Festival](#) - a new play by Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig. Erika says that she loves living in her neighborhood of Chinatown, in Los Angeles.

**Benny Sato Ambush** ('77) is Distinguished Producing Director in Residence [Emerson Stage](#), the performing wing of the Department of Performing Arts at Emerson College. He will be directing Michael Hollinger's *Incorruptible* in October.

More...



**Ricardo Chavira** ('00) writes that he is “Getting ready to start season 6 of [Housewives](#). It's the machine that never ends. They've decided to go 9 seasons with the show...we'll see if I can stay agreeable with that. My hiatus this year was filled with spending time with family in Texas and working on a project for the Weinstein Co., Piranha-3D. Had to relearn how to ride a motorcycle and learn how to scuba dive. Very interesting situation shooting scenes for a movie underwater... should come talk with MFAs about that one. One of the most difficult things I've ever had to do, as an actor and as a person... I'm currently working on producing a documentary with my father and my producing partner, David Reyes. It is about my family, and the central themes are culture, family, and the automobile. Finally, I started writing about 2 years ago. The first thing I wrote/created is a 1hour drama for cable set in deep South Texas. I've been slowly passing it around, getting the attention of other writers, actors, etc.”

**Matt Hoverman's** ('96) play *The Student* won the 2009 Samuel French [OOB Short Play Festival](#). Out of 715 submissions, the judges selected 40 to be performed - and then 13 finalists - and then 6 winners (including Matt's play) to be published in an upcoming anthology and licensed by Samuel French. It was directed by alum **Suzanne Agins** ('03). Matt's full-length comedy *Who You See Here* was also given a recent sold-out run by the Drama Desk Award-winning company [The Barrow Group](#) in March. His short play *Indian Guides* will be produced in a short play festival (featuring new work by Adam Rapp and Gina Gionfriddo) at the [Axial Theatre Company](#) in November.



**Cynthia Stokes** ('05) will be directing two opera projects this coming year- *Madama Butterfly* for [Opera Company of Philadelphia](#) in October and then *Romeo et Juliette* for [San Diego Opera](#) in March.

**Rick Ortenblad** ('97) checked in: “Hello I am currently producing the *Comedy of Errors* for the [San Francisco Shakespeare Festival](#), in my ninth year as Resident Scenic Designer. I also manage a small (88 seats) theatre in Santa Cruz, [Actor's Theatre](#). Regularly design with The San Jose Stage Company, and the Pacific Repertory Company in Carmel, this season so far; *The Blue Room*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Oliver Twist*, and *As You Like It* in rep on the outdoor stage at the Forest Theater. The last couple of years I am designing between 8 and 12 shows a year. Worked with a small Shakespeare company, (Stinson Beach Shakespeare) now defunct unfortunately, we took our last show of the season to Florence, Italy, for a one month run, three years in a row, fantastic experience. My real interest in terms of design has been big abstract paintings, large scale collage, and of course used/recycling materials and found objects as abstract set pieces. Also, I won the Central Coast cross country mountain bike race series, Beginners 55+, Pretty Cool yes?”

**Matthew Wright** ('88): “I continue to teach at Oberlin College where I am the Associate Program Director of Theater and Dance. This summer marked the inaugural season of the [Oberlin Summer Theater Festival](#) where I'm playing “Prospero” in *The Tempest*. This is an especially exciting project, as we're providing FREE theater for Northern Ohio audiences and the community response has been fantastic. This October I will be performing in the fall repertory of [Great Lakes Theater Festival](#), with roles in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Twelfth Night* (under the direction of **Charlie Fee**, Acting '83).”

**Brittany Brown Ceres** (Dance '95): “I have fun news - just sold out a show [*In/divisible*] with a great review! Will be holding auditions for dancers in January 2010.” Here's [a link](#) for more information.

More...

**Reed Martin** ('86) continues to write and perform with the [Reduced Shakespeare Company](#). Reed and writing partner Austin Tichenor are working on their second pilot for TBS and also writing a new Reduced Shakespeare Company stage show – *The Complete World of Sports (abridged)* - that will premiere in 2010. This past Spring Reed performed in *The Complete History of America (abridged)* at [San Diego Repertory Theatre](#) and caught up with **Arthur** and **Molli Wagner**, as well as classmate **Eric Grischkat** ('86). Reed writes: “In the second half of 2009 the RSC (Reduced Shakespeare Company, not that Upstart British theatre company that stole the same initials) will be performing, among other places, in Singapore and Hong Kong. In March 2010 the guys will be performing in NYC at the New Victory Theater. The weekly Reduced Shakespeare Company [Podcast](#) is now in its third year and available at I-Tunes. It has been nominated for Podcast Awards the past two years, but lost out to some obscure radio thing called This American Life.”



**Lila Rose Kaplan's** ('08) play *Wildflower* began July 13<sup>th</sup> at the McGinn/Cazale Theatre in Manhattan as part of the Second Stage Theatre's 2009 Uptown Series. The play received a nice write-up in [Playbill](#).

**Shoann Yo** ('02) is Programme Leader of the BA(Hons) Technical Theatre programme at LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore. It is the only institution offering Technical Theatre training in Singapore. Shoann designed for *Sing Dollar*, a new musical by Dream Academy in July and a full-length ballet for the Bolshoi Ballet which will open the [Singapore Sun Festival](#) in October.



**David Barrera** ('94) wrote recently: “Just wanted to update you on the last year or so. Just kidding. I was lucky enough to be part of HBO' Miniseries [Generation Kill](#). I played Gunnery Sgt. Ray "Casey Kasem" Griego. I also did an episode of [The Closer](#) with Kyra Sedgwick on TNT where I played a Commandante from Tijuana. The thing that has kept me the most busy is a film that I co-produced and co-starred in called [Cruzando](#). We shot in my hometown of San Juan, Texas. *Cruzando* has been winning a ton of awards at different film festivals both nationally and internationally. I play a *Luchador Coyote* by the name of "El Matador". I am also about to do an episode of [Raising the Bar](#) on TNT next week. I have also been recurring on a web series called [Ylse](#) which is executive produced by my good friend Ruth Livier. That's it... until next year. Adios.”

**Sierra Fisk** ('03) updates: “I'm having a really busy summer. I am musical directing for *Seussical: The Musical*, which will be at the Madrid Theatre in August. Also I'm helping to produce the [Feel Good Film Festival](#) at the Egyptian Theatre, August 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>. I would really love to encourage everybody in LA to check it out! There's going to be films, music, entertainment, awards, a discussion panel, good food and after-parties. Also, [my theatre company](#) has been invited to the New York Fringe Festival to perform George Buchner's *Woyzek*. I will be playing the lead part of “Marie.” We will be at the Lafayette Theatre on Bleecker Street.”

**Nya Patrinos** ('96) passes along this news: “I am doing just fine out here in NYC. ...I am now working full-time at The Guggenheim Museum as their Assistant Theater Manager. I've been here for almost a year, and it's been great...pretty much the perfect combo of my SM skills and some of the production management training I learned while working for you. :)” Nya is also Set Director of ABC TV's [Make It or Break It](#).

**Rebecca Kraut** ('07, Dance): “I have just been cast as Bird Girl #1 in *Seussical* in Gilroy, CA, put on by [Odyssey Theatre Company](#). Rehearsals have already begun and it is a blast!”

## More...

**Jake Cohen** ('06) is now running a bed & breakfast in Palm Springs called [Rendezvous](#). He is also moonlighting as an actor/director with California Desert Regional Theater, a start up repertory company in the Palm Springs area of which he is a founding member. Last year he performed as a lead in four shows and directed his first show. He reports that he is now also actively working on the back end on expanding the company and that the company will have its first tour up to the Seattle area in August, performing at [Bainbridge Performing Arts Center](#). Jake asks that anyone planning to be in Palm Springs [e-mail him](#).

**Bill Fennelly** ('04): "After a successful season as the Associate Producing Artistic Director at The Acting Company in NYC I have been recruited to join the artistic staff at [Cirque du Soleil](#) and work on the creation of their new Vaudeville show which is slated to open in NYC in 2010. I will be heading to Montreal in August for two months of rehearsals, then we preview in Chicago for three months. We open in NYC at the Beacon Theater in February and play an open ended run. I remember the master class **Kyle** and **Charlie** scheduled for our class with one of *Cirque's* clowns back in 2003 and I am really excited and grateful that my UCSD training has prepared me to join their team."



**Danny Burstein** ('90) let us know that "For a year now, I've been on Broadway playing the role of "Luther Billis" in [South Pacific](#) and most recently, filmed a pilot for HBO entitled [Boardwalk Empire](#), directed by Martin Scorsese. " Danny also had a [caricature](#) done of him and added to the famous wall at Sardi's this year.

Photo: BroadwayWorld.com

**Zan Aufderheide** ('02): "I'm still on my national Stand-Up tour, which is based out of Nashville, TN. Traveling around with a bunch of comics is like traveling around with a bunch of seven year olds with their own credit cards. I'm loving it. Check out my calendar on [www.ZanComedy.com](#) to see if I'm going to be anywhere near some of my alums this year. The fall tour finishes up with two weeks in California. We hit San Diego the first week of December. I look forward to catching up with some old professors while I'm out there. Not that any of you are 'old'" [Of course we're not, Zan!]



**Mark Shanks** ('83): "Just thought I'd catch up with the UCSD Theater Department.... I just completed a Ph.D. in History at U.C. Santa Barbara this June, where I wrote my dissertation on "Very Civil Wars: Reenactors, Academics and the Performance of the Past" which drew upon my many years performing, staging, and administering living history at museums and historical sites across the nation. Or as I like to think of it, I did not leave the theater... But rather took the road less traveled of bringing the joy and communication tools of theater and its performance to the world of historians. I've attached a scanned copy of a wet-plate daguerreotype of myself from a Gettysburg reenactment where I gathered some material for the dissertation while performing for the public. I'm currently started on writing "Living History: A Manuel of Methods for Performing the Past," which should provide the first practical how-to for the field."



**Editor's Note:** We anticipate that the '09/10 *Theatre and Dance Department Newsletter* will be published as planned, so send your news now! (The first edition should be out on Monday of "Zero" week.) Just hit "reply" and send your info. Photos are always welcomed/encouraged, but don't send huge files - please resize them from what comes off your camera - thanks!

AOL users: If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please send us a message or unsubscribe from the listserv. Marking the newsletter as "SPAM" causes other subscribers of AOL to not be able to receive it. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated! Thank you!