

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday October 1st, 4:00 - 5:00pm - First Full Faculty Meeting and Party! A General Department update followed by a cocktail reception from 5:00-6:00pm at the new restaurant JAI by the Forum Theatre. Please join us, as we start the new year together, and welcome Alan Burrett and Lisa Porter in their new positions, and Shahrokh Yadegari on his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.

Thursday, October 2nd, Production Meeting: *As You Like It* in GH 144 at 10:00am

DEPARTMENT NEWS



Welcoming Alan Burrett, New Head of Lighting Design - Alan's internationally acclaimed work for theatre, dance, and opera has been seen in over thirty countries. He began his career as the resident designer with *Bejart* ballet in Brussels where he designed sets, costumes and lights for numerous productions, including the 300th Anniversary of Moliere at the *Comedie Francaise* and for the Paris Opera Ballet and French television. He was later appointed Technical Director for the Ballet of the Opera of Lyon where he also designed the sets, costumes, and lighting.

Alan subsequently was head of lighting at the English National Opera and continued his lighting career in the UK and Europe, designing numerous productions for organizations such as the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Royal National Theater, Royal Opera Covent Garden, and The Paris Opera (among others). Alan lit international, large-scale arena productions of the Operas *Carmen* and *Tosca* and the complete works of Beckett for the Gate Theatre in Dublin, New York, and London, designed for the Spanish Pavilion project at the 1992 World's Fair in Seville, and lit a U.S tour for Duran Duran. Alan became the resident designer for the LA Opera in 2001.

We are pleased that Alan will bring this remarkable international experience to the Department of Theater and Dance to become the new Head of the graduate program in Lighting Design.



Lisa Porter Promoted to Associate Professor and Director of Theatre - Lisa has been the Head of Stage Management in the graduate program since 2005. She is currently Production Stage Manager for the world premiere of *The Third Story*, by Charles Busch, at the La Jolla Playhouse, following recent work for The Old Globe Theatre and the New Vision Arts Festival in Hong Kong. Lisa has toured extensively, both nationally and internationally, with productions by renowned directors Robert Wilson, Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, Anne Bogart, and many others. She worked on *The Lion King*, *Les Miserables*, and *Steel Pier* on Broadway. Lisa received her MFA from Yale and was awarded a Watson

Fellowship in 1991 to study theatre management at the Royal National Theatre in London, the *Laterna Magika* in Prague, and to work on the world premiere of Athol Fugard's *Playland* at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg. She later worked as assistant director, unit production manager, and associate producer on three films by independent filmmaker Hal Hartley, and was the Managing Director of Mr. Hartley's production company, Possible Films, from 2002-2004. She was a visiting faculty member at the Yale School of Drama from 2002-2004. Lisa has been a temporary instructor in the Department since 2005, and has now been appointed as an Associate Professor with tenure.

MORE....



Congratulations to Professor Liam Clancy, who was awarded a Hellman Fellowship this summer. The Hellman Fellowship Program was established at UCSD in 1995 through the generosity of Chris and Warren Hellman and was designed to provide financial support and encouragement to young faculty who show capacity for great distinction in their research and creative activities.

Ursula Meyer, Voice and Acting, coached two shows this summer at the [Oregon Shakespeare Festival](#): Luis Alfaro's *Breakfast Lunch and Dinner* and *A View from the Bridge*, directed by former Artistic Director Libby Appel. **James Newcomb**, Stage Combat and Acting, was seen this summer as Iago in [Othello](#) and as Valvert in *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the Utah Shakespearean Festival in Cedar City, Utah. This fall he will be directing [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#) for the Old Globe graduate acting program.



FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Show Us The Money! Governor Schwarzenegger signed the 2008/09 State budget on Tuesday, September 23rd. The press release may be accessed online at [UC's Press Release](#). Funding for the UC system will stay flat for the upcoming year, with the \$100 million dollar cut to the UC budget that was originally proposed having been restored. There is no funding for student enrollment growth or inflation-based cost increases or state-based employee compensation increases.

Open Enrollment Coming Soon - The 2009 Open Enrollment period for health and welfare plans will be held from 8:00am on Thursday, October 30th, through midnight on Tuesday, November 25th. Any changes made during this period will be effective as of January 1st of next year. The Health Care Reimbursement Account (HCRA) and Dependent Care (DepCare) carrier will be CONEXIS, selected during a competitive bidding process earlier this year to be the new plans administrator. CONEXIS currently manages UC's COBRA program. More about HCRA and DepCare will be available during [Open Enrollment](#).

Heads-Up! Retirement Plan News - The UC Regents recently reviewed a proposal regarding a new policy for the UC Retirement Plan and the re-start of employee contributions. A letter providing background information on the proposal from Associate Vice President Judith Boyette at the Office of the President, System-wide Human Resources and Benefits, is [available online](#).

Prerequisite Enforcement Update - The Academic Senate has instructed the Office of the Registrar to [enforce prerequisites](#) after grades are submitted for a term. Students will be dropped from individual classes and waitlists for a subsequent term as a result of not satisfying prerequisites.



ADMINISTRIVIA

Last Day to Add – Friday, October 10th
Candidacy (MFA) Filing – October 10th
Next Holiday – Veteran’s Day, Tuesday, November 11th
Thanksgiving Holiday – November 27th & 28th

Campus officially closes for the Winter Break from December 24th – January 1st. Info on the Thanksgiving Holiday and Winter Break Airport Shuttle is now [available here](#). Advance reservations are required.



ONSTAGE NEXT

[Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead](#)

Mandell Weiss Forum Studio
November 13th - 22nd

Director Adam Arian hails from Larchmont, New York. Now in his second year at UC, San Diego as candidate for a Master of Fine Arts in Directing, his directing credits include *The Attic Dwellers* as part of the Baldwin New Play Festival, for the New York Fringe Festival, New York Theater Experiment, Reverie Productions, Prospect Theater Co., H.E.R.E. Arts Center, Irish Arts Center, Barhoppers, and the Kraine Theater. Adam is also an actor and singer, having appeared in the Broadway national tour of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Off - Broadway in, *The Taming of the Shrew*; *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; and *The Bomb-itty of Errors*, and at other New York theaters. He has appeared on *Law and Order*, in numerous commercials, and in several small independent films.



Playwright **Tom Stoppard** has been called perhaps the most brilliant (if not widely accessible) modern English playwright. Several of his other plays have been popular with little theatres and elsewhere, although they have been denied the benefit of Broadway's approval. His best show a marked influence of the theatre of the absurd but, unlike most examples of the school, also manifest a traditional theatrical construction, superior character development, and his signature witty dialogue.

For more information about the Department’s Season or for ticket information, [click here!](#)



ALUM INFO

Anjee Nero (MFA '07) recently stage managed a workshop of the new musical *Post Office* for [Center Theatre Group](#) in Los Angeles. She is currently stage managing at the La Jolla Playhouse, where she is working on the upcoming production of *Tobacco Road* which opens this fall.

Jerry Ruiz (MFA '07) directed *The King Is Dead* at the Abingdon Theater Arts Complex in Manhattan recently and got a very nice write-up in the [New York Times](#).



Kelly Easton (MFA '91) has won the [2008 Asian Pacific American Literature Award](#) for her novel *Hiroshima Dreams*, which portrays the family dynamics of three generations living under one roof: a grandmother adjusting to life in America, a mother who has let go of her roots, and two sisters, one quiet and shy, the other defiant. The book was also a Chapel Hill Best Book for 2007, a NYPL Book for the Teen Age, and the ASTAL Rhode Island Middle School Novel of the year. Kelly's novel *White Magic* was selected as a 2008 New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age. She has two more novels in press: *To Be Mona* (Simon and Schuster, 2008), and *The Outlandish Adventures of Liberty Aims* (Wendy Lamb Books, 2009). She has recently joined the faculty at Hamline University's MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults.

Lila Rose Kaplan (MFA '08) was part of Playwrights' Week at the [Lark Play Development Center](#) in New York City recently where her play *Wildflower* had a reading directed by Sarah Rasmussen.

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 you're an alumnus. If your news features other alums, please be sure to identify them. We hope to hear from you soon!