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## MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

**Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>** - Full Faculty Meeting: Reception with LJP Staff & the Dean, Potiker Theatre Lobby, 4-5:00pm

**Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>** - Production Meeting: *Topdog*, GH 144, 9:00am; *The House of Bernarda Alba*, GH 144, 10:00am



## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

**Health Plan News for 2010** - Medical plan costs for 2010 have been announced on the [Open Enrollment](#) website. Most plans have substantially (30-50%) reduced the co-pay for generic drugs. The Mental Health Parity Act (which becomes law January 1<sup>st</sup>) requires employers to offer a level of mental health benefits at least equal to other medical benefits offered, so UC is enhancing mental health benefits, including adding out-of-network services to Anthem Blue cross PLUS and CIGNA Choice Fund, and eliminating any previous limits on in-patient treatment days from all plans. Info on other changes (including increased discounts for glasses from VSP, etc.) is available now on the Open Enrollment website.

**Free Living Will/Health Care Power of Attorney** - During Open Enrollment, all UC employees may download a copy of a living will and health care power of attorney paperwork for free from the ARAG (legal plan) website at no cost. Access to this site is for a limited time only - if you wish to keep them, be sure to download and/or print the forms prior to the end of Open Enrollment. [Read more.](#)

**California Tax Rate Tables Increased** - "In response to the state fiscal emergency, the California personal income tax withholding tables have been revised effective for wages paid on November 1 through December 31, 2009. The withholding rates have been increased by 10% in order to accelerate tax collections by the State and to prevent under withholding by employees...." For more, read the [announcement](#) from UCOP. Note: while the withholding rates have increased, the underlying tax rates that determine the taxes employees pay have not changed. View and adjust your withholding allowances at [AtYourServiceOnline](#) at any time.



## DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Donald Mackay** (MFA '90 and Guest Instructor) is guest starring in an episode of *N.C.I.S.* on CBS TV that airs November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00pm. Donald appears as "Navy Commander Kerry Killmartin" in [Outlaws and In-Laws](#).

MORE...



There will be a free public reading of Playwriting Professor **Allan Havis's** play *A Word of Secrecy* at the La Jolla Playhouse on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm with legendary comic Shelley Berman, UCSD's *Emeritus* Professor **Arthur Wagner**, and Acting Instructor **Julia Fulton** in the cast. "Someone's gone absolutely *rogue* at Shapiro Senior Center and the freakin' FBI is at the door!"



The Patricia Rincon Dance Collective, founded by Dance faculty **Patricia Rincon**, recently presented the sixth annual [Emerge Festival](#), showcasing San Diego's emerging contemporary dance artists. UCSD choreographers featured were alums **Carrie Prince** ('07) and **Natalia Valerdi** ('06), as well as current graduate student **Rebecca Salzer**. Fellow students **Kyle Sorensen** and **Leslie Armstrong**, and alums **Sarah Larson** ('08), and **Minaqua McPherson** ('07) performed.

The world premiere of **Marianne McDonald's** play, *Fires from Heaven: For Those Who Believe In Miracles*, was staged at The Theatre, Inc., recently. Sound Design faculty **Shahrokh Yadegari** co-wrote the score. Read a [review](#) here.



## ONSTAGE



Coming soon - [Topdog/Underdog](#), by Suzan-Lori Parks, directed by **Nadine George-Graves**, in the Arthur Wagner Theatre, November 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>.

Director's Vision: "As I enter this rehearsal process I'm most excited about the opportunity to work on an intimate play between two black men. Think about how many plays fit that bill. I'm going in with no preconceived notions of what this brotherly relationship is or should be - I ask you to do the same. Can we really get inside their heads? Or is it all just a con game? This will be a difficult play for audiences. We will all be challenged to confront many demons. When the preeminent African American Harvard professor can't enter his own home without being arrested what hope have Lincoln and Booth?"



[Sexual Selection: Darwin and Shakespeare Ponder Love](#). Conceived, Directed, and Choreographed by **Kim Rubinstein** and **Yolande Snaith**. In the Mandell Weiss FORUM Theatre, November 16<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>.

Yolande Snaith: "As a choreographer and dance theatre practitioner, I am personally very inspired by the prospect of working in relation to a Shakespeare play, as this is not my typical point of departure. Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* offers us a theatrical lens through which to explore Darwin's theories of sexual selection, using the languages of theatre and dance to navigate the behavior of the sexes. The characters and the narrative of this play illuminate some of Darwin's ideas on sexual selection, and the concept of bringing Darwin into the playground as an observer and commentator, exposing the action to his scrutiny, excites me enormously. I am intrigued by how testosterone plays havoc with men's intellectual idealism, and how women's reason and instinct play the final card in this game between the sexes...." [Read more](#).

Click for [Ticket Information](#) for all shows.

## ADMINISTRIVIA

October 29<sup>th</sup> - November 24<sup>th</sup> - Benefits Open Enrollment

November 4<sup>th</sup> - Enrollment for Winter Quarter begins

November 11<sup>th</sup> - Veteran's Day, campus closed

**Special Note to Students: the Holiday Airport Shuttle** provides students free transportation between Peterson Hall and the San Diego International Airport (Terminals 1, 2, and Commuter) during Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Breaks. Advance reservations are required and [can be made online](#). This is a “space available” service and typically books up quickly, so don't delay if you will need to use the service. Read [details here](#).



## ALUM UPDATES



The Nominations for Los Angeles' Stage Alliance's peer-judged [Ovation Awards](#) are in, and Chalk Rep's production of *Family Planning*, by **Julia Edwards** (MFA '01), is among this year's most celebrated shows (they received six nominations in all). Among the nominations are our **David Ari** (MFA '04) for Featured Actor in a Play and **Larissa Kokernot** (MFA '05) for Director. The awards will be announced in a ceremony on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center. [*Family Planning* is a play about a late-thirties couple trying so hard to have a baby that they are veering

toward divorce.] Larissa is now directing a production of *Stray*, by **Ruth McKee** (MFA '06) for the Black Dahlia and [Chalk Repertory](#) Theatres through November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Black Dahlia Theatre in Los Angeles.

**Chane't Johnson** (MFA '01) wrote to let us know that “Right now I'm recurring Guest Star on the new FOX show [Brothers](#). I play “Candy”, the chef of the restaurant. Also I spent this summer Exec Producing my own webseries called *Nurses Who Kill...*” [You can view episodes of *Brothers* on their website.]



**Guillermo Aviles-Rodriguez** (MFA '02) writes “Being one of the only Neo-Chicano (think ambivalent Mexican American under 40) Artistic Directors in Los Angeles theater is a mixed blessing...” in [an article](#) that appeared on the *LA Stage* website in October.

Guillermo's photo: LA Stage



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