



Week Six – Fall Quarter 2011

Monday, October 31st

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

No meetings scheduled.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Adjunct faculty **James Ingalls** designed the lighting for the New York premier of *Desdemona* at the Rose Theatre as part of the White Light Festival. Performances are November 2nd and 3rd. [More here.](#)

[Resisting Silence: On the Life of Anita Hill](#) *Free Performance and Reception* Wednesday, November 16th, 7:30 – 9:30pm, UC San Diego Theatre District [Dance Studio Three](#), in the Molli and Arthur Wagner Dance Building. This free event features an original page-to-stage production, *Resisting Silence*, presented for the first time as a staged reading by Thurgood Marshall College 2011-12 artist-in-residence Monique Gaffney, '93. The play explores the relevance of the Anita Hill and Clarence Thomas Senate hearings, 20 years later, as a woman struggles for her voice to be heard. How do those whose voices are silenced find a pathway to speak their own truths and what are the ramifications? The original piece was written by Tylar Pendgraft-Clabby, a fourth-year UCSD Literature/Writing major and Honorable Mention awardee of the Floyd Gaffney National Playwriting Contest. The performance will last approximately one hour and will be immediately followed by a reception where you can meet and talk with Monique, Tylar, fellow alumni, and faculty. Complimentary refreshments will be served. Parking is available in Lots 102, 103, and 104, near the Theatre District. Weeknight passes are available for \$2. More [information here.](#)

NEWS FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

The UCOP [Open Enrollment portal](#) is up and running. Unfortunately, the plan brochures for 2012 are not online yet. We are informed by Benefits that there are no changes to the plan benefits (except for those advertised) and so individuals who wish to compare plans are able to use the 2011 brochures for that purpose. Conexus has provided a Flexible Spending Account [savings calculator](#) to estimate your eligible health care and dependent care expenses you plan to incur in the 2012 plan year and the tax savings you will realize using the FSA.

NEWS FOR STUDENTS

Muir Musical is ramping up. [The Muir Musical](#) is a UCSD student organization that produces one completely student-run musical theatre production each year. Rehearsals run through winter quarter, culminating in a weekend of performances in Mandeville in the spring. This year's production will be RENT, by Jonathan Larson. Students interested in participating as cast or crew should attend an informational meeting to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday (November 1st & 2nd) from 5:00-7:00pm – email muir.musical@gmail.com for location and any questions.

ON STAGE

Coming Soon



[*The Dybbuk*](#), by S. Ansky, directed by second year graduate directing student **Joshua Kahan Brody**, on November 10th. Khonen, a devoted Talmudic scholar, falls in love with Leah, but when her father finds a more wealthy suitor, he drops dead of sorrow. At his gravesite, Leah becomes possessed by a Dybbuk, a malicious spirit intent on righting past wrongs, and ultimately, unites Leah with her destined love. A re-imagined classic from the Yiddish theater.

Director **Joshua Kahan Brody** is a second year MFA candidate in Directing. His directing credits include *Fourteen Flights*, *Art of Attack* (NY Fringe Festival), *A Man, His Wife, And His Hat* (UC San Diego), *True West*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Henry IV*, *Our Lady of 121st Street*, *Jesus Hopped The 'A' Train* (Yale). Most recently, Joshua won the Overall Excellence in Directing Award for his work on *Fourteen Flights* at the 2011 New York International Fringe Festival. The sold out play went on to a limited off-Broadway run at the SoHo Playhouse as part of the Fringe Encore Series. Joshua holds a B.A from Yale University in Theater Studies and was the recipient of the Seymour L. Lustman Prize for the Contribution to the Life of Arts of the College.



November 16th - [*The Thugs*](#), by Adam Bock, directed by Guest Director **Eric Hunicutt**. Someone may have died up on the ninth floor. But these temps in a law firm's back office certainly don't want to find out. Gossip and rumors abound in this Obie-award winning play.

Adam Bock's plays include his Obie-award winning *The Thugs*, *Swimming in the Shallows*, *Five Flights*, *The Typographer's Dream*, *The Shaker Chair*, and *Three Guys and a Brenda*. *The Receptionist* played an extended run at Manhattan Theatre Club, and his most recent play *The Drunken City* was produced by Playwrights Horizons in early 2011. His plays have been commissioned, developed and produced by Playwrights Horizons, Second Stage, Soho Rep, Primary Stages, The Vineyard, Rattlestick, Clubbed Thumb, and regionally at the O'Neill, the Humana Festival, in San Francisco, L.A., Seattle, Salt Lake, Montreal, Toronto, London, and Edinburgh, among others. He is the resident playwright at Encore Theater, a Shotgun Players artistic associate, and a New Dramatists member playwright. He is currently writing a screenplay for Scott Rudin/Miramax.

November 18th - [*The Storm*](#), by Alexander Ostrovsky. Directed by **Larissa Lury**. The ideal faces the real in a small storm-ridden town on the bank of a major river. A young couple, a domineering mother, an eccentric scientist, a powerful businessman, and a new-comer all harbor secrets. But some may find the weight of such hidden knowledge too much to bear. The intertwining of nature, science, and faith flood the stage in this classic play by one of Russia's most treasured dramatists.

December 2nd - [*Pedestrian Politics Performance Project*](#). Created by **Robert Castro, Patricia Rincon, Yolande Snaith, and Natalia Valerdi**. *Pedestrian* is a Site Specific Happening at various locations/times on campus.

Tickets for *The Dybbuk*, and all the Department's upcoming productions, are [available online](#).

ALUM UPDATES



Leigh Schanfein (BA Dance '05) is a freelance dance instructor in New York City. She has been a guest instructor and choreographer at various dance schools including: California Ballet School, San Diego; Silva Dance Academy, Long Island, NY; School of Classical Ballet, Billings, MT; Lafayette Ballet School, Lafayette, IN; The Dance Factory, Billings, MT; and the East Harlem Tutorial Program (after-school dance program), NYC.

Bryan Swarberg (BA '05) was creative executive on an episode of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* ([Frank Reynolds' Little Beauties](#)) on FX that aired in September. [View complete [episodes here.](#)] Bryan has been affiliated with the TV show for the last few years as executive assistant to the producers.

Giao-Chau Ly (BA '07) has been busy lately. Ly was production designer for the film [Leave It on the Floor](#), a musical set in the scene in Los Angeles 2011 and art director for the short [The Snow Queen](#) and the comedy short [Treatment](#).

Daoud Heidami (MFA '03) will appear in [Safe](#), a crime thriller to be released next year. Daoud plays the taxi driver.



Melody Butiu (MFA '99) can be seen on Saturday, November 12th's edition of HBO's [True Blood](#). Melody also repeats her role of "Mrs. Varron" in episode 13 of [No Ordinary Family](#). *Desperate Housewives* fans can catch Melody in [Episode 12](#).



Alums – On Facebook? Come visit the Department's [Facebook Alumni](#) page!

Have news to share? Please let us know. Send your news and photos to us at TandDNews@yahoo.com and we'll share them in the next edition. News received by Wednesday evening typically makes it into the next Monday's edition. Remember to add your graduation year, if an alum, and if you have changed your name since then, let us know your old one as well! Photos are encouraged. Miss a back edition? Visit the [Newsletter Archives](#).