

WEEK ONE – Spring Quarter 2013

Monday, April 1st

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

There are no meetings scheduled this week.

DEPARTMENT NEWS



Congratulations to graduate design student **Natalie Khuen**, the winner of the Rose Brand Scholarship at USITT. Khuen's design experience includes productions such as *Elizabeth I* and *Marat/Sade*. The final judging was by a panel of high profile experts in the industry, which included scenic designer and Tony award winner, Donyale Werle; Walt Disney imagineering designer, Pete Happe; scenic and production designer and primetime Emmy winner, Joe Celli; and, the owner of Tait Tower, Adam Davis. The scholarship is intended for students who wish to pursue a career in scenic design.

Graduate Playwriting student **Jeff Augustin**'s play *Cry Old Kingdom* is being staged at this year's Humana Festival. (It is extraordinarily rare for the Festival to stage a play by a student.) Directed by Princess Grace Award-winning director and alum **Tom Dugdale** (MFA '10), *Cry Old Kingdom* will be seen by artistic directors, producers, directors and critics from across the country. There's an interview with Jeff [online here](#).

Head of Directing **Gabor Tompa's** *Leonce and Lena* was presented at the Estates Theatre (*Stavovské divadlo*), the oldest building of the National Theatre of Prague, to standing ovations recently. The Estates Theatre was built at the end of the 18th century and annexed to the National Theatre in 1920. Since then, ballet, opera and a theatre company have used the space. Mozart conducted the world premiere of *Don Giovanni* in this building in 1787 and several scenes from Milos Forman's Oscar winning movie, *Amadeus*, were shot there.

NEWS FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

Staff Ed Funds Available - The Staff Equal Opportunity Enrichment Program (SEOEP) administers training and career development funds for individuals and departments and provides up to \$500 for training to eligible staff employees seeking a promotion or career change. Similarly, the program provides financial assistance to support departmental training and development programs that will enhance the skills of employees to prepare them for career advancement. SEOEP has issued its annual call for funding proposals. Read [more here](#). The deadline to apply for funds is April 22nd.

Transportation to Campus - Off-campus shuttles and the free bus zone are due to be shut down on July 1 (per [existing plans](#)). Individuals who live near campus will still be able to use the MTS SuperLoop routes 201 and 202. These routes began pilot service to existing bus stops at the Gilman footbridge (closest stop to Galbraith Hall) last week in addition to the stops at Gilman and Meyers. Once the shuttles and free zone are phased out, riders will need to purchase a regional transit pass to board MTS buses. [More here](#).

ONSTAGE



The 2013 Wagner New Play Festival at UC San Diego features world premiere productions by our talented MFA playwrights, and directed, acted, stage managed and designed by our nationally-acclaimed MFA companies. This year, the plays range in scope from the untold story of Picasso's best friend to the story of a Haitian-American immigrant struggling to make a life for herself in Miami. They take place in Paris at the dawn of the 20th century and China at the dawn of the 21st. They ask questions ranging from what drives a person to catastrophic violence to what price we pay to escape the demons of our past.

The plays produced in the Wagner New Plays Festival represent some of the most original and ground-breaking new voices in American theatre. Our MFA playwrights have gone on to be produced and commissioned around the country. New plays showcased at the festival have gone on to be produced at the Humana Festival at the Actors' Theatre of Louisville and the O'Neill Playwrights Conference, and also produced and work-shopped in major venues in New York City, San Francisco, Boston, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Chicago, and Washington D.C..

[The Festival](#) features works by MFA Playwrights **Sharif Abu-Hamdeh**, **Jeff Augustin**, **Kristin Idaszak**, and **David Jacobi**. Directed, Designed, Stage Managed and Performed by MFA students in various venues in the UCSD Theatre District / La Jolla Playhouse.

Ticket Information - Visit the Department's "[Tickets Page](#)" for individual and group ticket information.

ALUM NEWS

Alums – On Facebook? Come visit the Department's [Facebook Alumni page](#)! This group is set up for UC San Diego Department of Theatre and Dance Alumni to correspond with each other regarding their current or upcoming productions, projects or events. Please use it as a place to update each other on your past, current or future projects. If you have a show coming up let the group know. If you are performing, directing, designing, writing, stage managing or in any way involved in a creative project please let us know. Note that the Department will use some of the postings from this site for alumni updates in the newsletter. The Department will also use this group to alert you on Department information or Alumni events.

Alums **Toby Algya** (MFA '09) and [David Corsello](#) (MFA '11) worked on sound design on *Abundance*, by Beth Henley, at the Hartford Stage. [More here](#).

More...

[George Street Playhouse](#) will present David Ives' Tony Award-nominated Best Play *Venus in Fur*, the final production of its 2012-13 season, beginning April 23rd in New Jersey. The production, produced in association with Philadelphia Theatre Company, will be directed by Kip Fagan (Off-Broadway's *The Revisionists*) and continue through May 18th. MFA '12 alum **Jenny Putney** will play the character Vanda. [More here.](#)

Melody Butiu (MFA '99) will appear in David Byrne's *Here Lies Love* at [The Public Theater](#) this April and May. There's a feature about the project in the April issue of [VOGUE](#).

BA '11 alum **Mary Summerday** did the costumes for [One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest](#), now running at New Village Arts Theatre in Carlsbad.

F.J. Pratt (MFA '85) was the keynote speaker at last weekend's MFA Department Graduation Ceremonies.

Congratulations to the MFA Class of 2013, our newest alums!



Back row - Laura Zingle, Jack Mikesell, Josh Brody, Anya Cloud, Matt MacNelly; middle row - Scott Patteson, Maurice Williams, Katie McGehee, Kristin Hayes, Emily Jankowski, Sharif Abu-Hamdeh, Halei Parker, Mary Rochon, Christopher Murillo; front row - Ngozi Anyanwu, Orli Nativ, Cheng-Yu Wei (Miso), Zach Kennedy, Regan Linton, Sarah Halford.

Have news? The Newsletter's email address is TandDNews@ucsd.edu. We're always thrilled to hear what you've been doing and to share it with our readers. Photos encouraged. (Be sure to tell us your "old" name, if you've changed it, and the year you left us.)