

Fall Quarter - Week Zero
September 23, 2013

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

Zero Week traditionally sees a full slate of meetings and events. This year is no different! The full schedule is posted in the Department, but some highlights include:

Monday - MFA & PhD Welcome Barbeque hosted by MFA II **Toby Onwumere**, at 5:00pm.

Tuesday - Lunch on the Patio for Faculty, Graduate Students, and Staff from 12:00-1:30pm; Undergraduate Majors Meeting: 2:00-3:00pm in the Arthur Wagner Theatre (GH157).

Thursday - Readings of works by First Year playwrights: *A Recent Permanent Monument*, by Emily Feldman, at 5:30pm, and *Don't Be Evil*, by Bennett Fisher, at 8:00pm in the Arthur Wagner Theatre (GH 157).

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Undergraduate Auditions for Fall Productions are scheduled for Saturday, September 28th, at 7:30pm. Callbacks will be held on Monday, September 30th, at 6:30pm. (Check postings in the Department for locations.) Please prepare a one to two minute contemporary monologue of your choosing (two minutes max - you may be cut off if you go over). A sign-up sheet will be posted at the Front Desk in the main office of the Theatre and Dance Department.

The Undergraduate Class Representatives for the 2013-14 Academic Year are **Miranda Dainard** and **Rio Villa** for Theatre and **Kristianne Salcines** and **Brian Bose** for Dance. The Reps serve as liaisons between the students and the Department They also facilitate the Undergraduate Meetings. Undergrads are welcome to contact their Reps for any concerns or comments at: tdugreps@ucsd.edu. You can meet the reps at the Undergraduate Meeting on Tuesday at 2:00pm in GH157.

Rob Melton, our Subject Librarian for Theatre and Dance, has been promoted to Distinguished Librarian. The announcement notes "reaching this level is a great accomplishment and is only conferred upon individuals who have a consistent career record of demonstrated significant achievement in fulfilling responsibilities to the Library, the University, and the profession." Congrats go out to Rob!

The Without Walls (WoW) Festival is approaching! Taking place at and around the Theatre District and Galbraith Hall from October 3rd – 6th, this four-day explosion of eclectic, innovative, site-specific

programming will feature over 100 international and national artists appearing in nearly twenty projects developed with three incredible partner institutions: UC San Diego Dept of Theatre & Dance and the Dept of Music, Museum of Contemporary Art, and The New Children’s Museum. A Festival Village - where guests can enjoy complimentary artists’ talks, a beer garden with live music, food trucks, and many free public performances - will serve as a vibrant cultural and artistic hub of the Festival, the core from which exciting productions will radiate, creating "stages" in unexpected and unlikely locations. WoW are excited to present this event to the community, but need some help in making sure it's an enjoyable experience for everyone. This is where you come in! Whether it's as Greeters, Artist's Liaisons, Information Booth or Event Assembly Staff, your assistance will be crucial to their success. [Click here](#) for more about the Festival. [Click here](#) to volunteer.



Ursula



Paloma



Erica



Eduardo

The Department was well-represented this year in the [Oregon Shakespeare Festival](#)'s outdoor season. Acting Faculty member [Ursula Meyer](#) returned for her fifteenth season to serve as Voice and Text coach for *Cymbeline*. [Paloma Young](#) (MFA '06) designed costumes for *The Heart of Robin Hood*. Alums [Eduardo Placer](#) (MFA '07) and [Erica Sullivan](#) (a UCSD undergraduate who earned a MFA from Yale) acted in *The Heart of Robin Hood* and *Cymbeline*. Eduardo played “Guy of Gisborne” and the “Bishop of York” and Erica appeared as “Alice” and in the ensemble.

You can click the links to view interviews and preview video clips of [Robin Hood](#) and [Cymbeline](#).)

Emeritus Dance Faculty member **Jean Isaacs**'s San Diego Dance Theatre presents the 15th Annual *Trolley Dances* from September 28th – 29th and October 5th & 6th. Each year choreographers create a premiere site-specific dance for *Trolley Dances*, touring a trolley line (this year is the Blue Line) looking for inspiration in the landscape of San Diego. This year the sites are as diverse as the selected choreographers: a staircase, a grassy hill, a public park, and a street. Follow the tour guides for a one-of-a-kind adventure! [Click for more](#) information.

MFA II student **Kim Blanck** was recently singled out as one of three [standout](#) performers for her work in [Ex Machina](#) in the New York International Fringe Festival.

NEWS FOR FACULTY AND STAFF



Benefits Fair - There will be a benefits fair in the Price Center West Ballroom from 9:00am – 3:00pm on Wednesday, October 30th. There will be very significant changes to the health plans that will be available to employees next year, so you may want to sit in on some of the specific presentations. Plans being discontinued include the Anthem Blue Cross PPO and PLUS, Anthem Lumenos with HRA, and Health Net Full HMO. General information about the changes is [available here](#).

Open Enrollment is coming soon. UC will mail all employees information on the various benefits plans that will be available. Is your mailing address current? To update your home address, log in to the [At Your Service website](#).

UCRP Increase - The UC retirement program mandatory contribution for employees hired before 7/1/13 will be raised next year from 6.5% to 8% of your gross pay. Employees hired 7/1/13 or after will pay 7%. Employees covered by a collective bargaining unit will pay the negotiated amounts per their union agreement. [More here](#).

Holiday Closure Announced - Campus will officially close for eleven days this winter, from Saturday, December 21st, to reopen on Thursday, January 2nd. The closure period includes four University paid holidays (December 24th, 25th, & 31st and January 1st). Staff employees must charge working days not covered by paid holidays to accrued vacation, compensatory time off, or leave without pay. Academic employees on fiscal year appointments must charge the time off to accrued vacation or leave without pay.

ADMINISTRIVIA

First Day of Instruction - September 26th

Automatic Waitlist Officially Ends - October 10th

Deadline to File for Advancement to Candidacy - October 10th

Deadline to Change Grading Option or Drop Without a "W" - October 25th

ONSTAGE



The Department will stage a number of exciting productions this year. The Calendar can be [viewed online](#) and you can also subscribe and receive updates on productions and special events automatically by following instructions at that link.

First up is [An Evening with Will and the Witch](#). When a 1920s film star and amateur magician suddenly finds himself ripped from his own time in order to perform in front of a modern audience, he soon begins to realize that his very perceptions of reality are not so clearly defined. In a show that invites the audience to actively participate in its creation, *An Evening with Will & The Witch* challenges the boundaries between spectator and performer for a unique theatrical experience where no two performances will ever be the same. October 24th – 27th in the Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre.

Coming up in November are:

[Drums in the Night](#) - Bertolt Brecht wrote *Drums in the Night* as a young man scarred by his experiences as a medic in World War I. Director Sarah Wansley's update tells the story of Kragler, an Iraq war

veteran with severe PTSD intensified by his experiences as a POW. It's the increasingly familiar modern story of the soldier who makes the ultimate sacrifice for his country only to find that when he comes home it no longer feels like home. Wansley sees her version as a deeply disturbing nightmare. "I aim to put on stage the ugliest and most frightening parts of the culture I have grown up loving." November 6th – 17th in the Mandell Weiss Theatre.

[*The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*](#) - Lorraine Hansberry's sprawling and complex masterpiece tells the story of Sidney and Iris Brustein, a young couple in New York City's West Village whose troubled marriage becomes even more challenging as they clash over personal politics and ideals. Is it possible to keep one's idealism while faced with life's never ending compromises and disappointments? November 15th – 24th in the Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre.

[*The Grapes of Wrath*](#) - When their homestead dries up in the Dust Bowl, the Joads set out for California, overcoming severe hardships in their search for better lives and spiritual rejuvenation. Galati's adaptation won a Tony Award when it debuted in 1990 at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre. Director Michael Moran explores the paradoxical relationship between family and landscape in his vision of Frank Galati's adaptation of Steinbeck's Great American Classic. November 19th – 24th in the Sheila & Hughes Potiker Theatre.

Tickets: There are several options for ticket purchase: Season Subscriptions, Quarterly Student Access Passes, and Individual and Group Ticket Sales. Visit the [Ticket page](#) for complete information.

ALUM NEWS



MFA '09 alum **Jiehae Park** has been awarded a Princess Grace Fellowship in Playwriting. Jiehae is a playwright and performer in New York City. Her second full-length, *Hannah and the Dread Gazebo*, won the 2013 Leah Ryan Prize for Emerging Women Writers and was developed at the Bay Area Playwrights Festival and Ojai Playwrights Conference. The script was also finalist for the O'Neill Playwrights Conference and Abingdon's Chris Wolk Award. Her undergrad thesis and first play, *Happy Moon Day, Holly Woo*, was a finalist for the Wolk Award and placed third in the East West Players *Got Laughs* competition. She is a member of the Ma Yi Writers Lab and served two years as co-artistic director of title3, a Los Angeles company dedicated to new works by women. Read [more here](#).

Pam MacKinnon received the [Tony for Best Director of a Play](#) for her directing of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. In addition, her production received the Tony for Best Revival of a Play and Tracy Letts, who played the role of George, received the Best Actor Award. Pam was a student at UC San Diego and put shows up at 409small (the precursor to the Wagner Theatre) and in campus parking lots.

Andrea Stolowitz (MFA '00) writes: "It has been a whirlwind spring with *Antarktikos* world premiering in Pittsburgh in March, *Ithaka* in Portland in May, and *Antarktikos* winning the Oregon book award....If you would like to request a copy of *Ithaka or Antarktikos* please [click here](#). If you would like to learn more about me and my work please visit [my website](#)."

The Playwrights Realm recently presented *The Hatmaker's Wife*, by **Lauren Yee** (MFA '12) at the Peter Jay Sharp Theatre in New York. Obie-winner Rachel Chavkin directed, and Broadway vet David Margulies, Obie-winner Marcia Jean Kurtz, Tony-nominee Peter Friedman, Stephanie Wright Thompson, Frank Harts, and Megan Byrne were in the cast. You can read the *New York Times* [review here](#). The UC Alumni Association held a pre-reception at the West Bank Café on the 19th, featuring a talkback with Lauren, before the group attended the show.

Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play, a play by Anne Washburn and directed by Steve Cosson (MFA '99), got quite a [write-up](#) in the *New York Times Theatre Review* recently. The production, based on the character "Mr. Burns" of *The Simpsons* TV show, features alums **Jennifer Morris** (MFA '98), **Quincy Bernstine** (MFA '99), and **Sam Wright** (MFA '99) in the cast at Playwrights Horizons. The Scenic Designer is **Neil Patel** (MFA '91). The play is running now.



Quincy Bernstine, left, as Bart, and Jennifer Morris, second from right, as Marge in *Mr. Burns...*

Alums – Invitation to Upcoming Alumni Association Events! Los Angeles : Night at the Museum with Chalk Repertory Theatre. 4 Plays, 4 Exhibit Halls, 4 Time Periods. Sunday, September 29th, from 6:00-9:00pm at the Natural History Museum of LA County, 900 Exposition Boulevard. Price includes an exclusive pre-event reception. Click for [info and to register](#). **San Diego - Opening Night of Our Town -** Celebrate the opening night of La Jolla Playhouse's inaugural Without Walls (WoW) Festival for a new version of the classic theatrical experience *Our Town*, directed by **Tom Dugdale** (MFA '10), presented in

association with UC San Diego alumni-founded theatre company, The Trip. Special discounted ticket price includes an exclusive dessert reception following the performance. Thursday, October 3rd, from 7:00-10:00pm, at the UC San Diego Theatre District (behind the Mandell Weiss Forum Theatre). [Register here.](#)

Have News? Send it to the Newsletter at TandDNews@ucsd.edu and we'll share it for you. News that arrives by Wednesday usually makes it into the following Monday's edition. Be sure to tell us when you graduated, if you're an alum, and your "old" name if you're using another now.

Welcome Back for 2013/14!