

Newsletter Week 6

In This Issue

Department News

News for Faculty and Staff

News for Students

Alumni News

February 9, 2015

Meetings of the Week

Monday, February 9th @ 4pm

Faculty Meeting: Scenic Design Candidate, Room 144

Wednesday February 11th @ 4pm

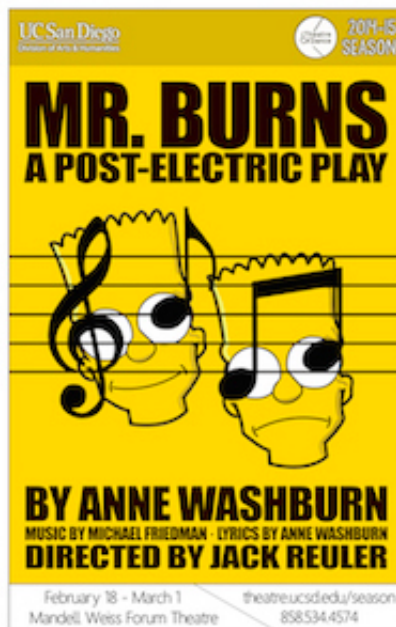
Faculty Meeting: File Review, Room 144

Friday, February 13th @ 8:30am

Production Meeting: GradWorks, Room 144

Department News

On Stage



This week two Department shows begin tech. UCSD is proud to present the San Diego premiere of Anne Washburn's [*MR. BURNS, A POST ELECTRIC PLAY*](#), directed by **Jack Reuler**, who is the Quinn Martin Guest Director this semester. Jack Reuler founded the [*Mixed Blood Theatre Company*](#) at the age of 22 and has served as its Artistic Director for 38 years. Mixed Blood is dedicated to the spirit of Dr. King's dream, promoting successful pluralism using theatre as a vehicle for artistry, entertainment, education, and effecting social change. To that end he has produced and directed 147 world premieres

and hundreds of comedies, musicals, extravaganzas, and chamber theatre pieces.

MR. BURNS asks what will endure when the cataclysm arrives- when the grid fails, society crumbles, and we're faced with the task of rebuilding? This dark comedy propels us forward nearly a century, following a new civilization stumbling into its future. Paying homage to live theater, and to the resilience of Bart Simpson through the ages, *MR BURNS* is an animated exploration of how the pop culture of one era might evolve into the mythology of another. This play is presented by special arrangement with Samuel

French, Inc.

Playwrights Horizons, Inc. produced the New York City premiere of *MR. BURNS* off-Broadway in 2013. Originally produced in June, 2012 by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, DC, Howard Shalwitz, Artistic Director; Jeffrey Herrmann, Managing Director. *MR. BURNS* was Commissioned by The Civilians, New York, NY **Steven Cosson** (UCSD MFA '99), Artistic Director. For the language of the remembering of the Simpsons' episode, Cape Feare, the author would like to credit the Civilians actors involved in the initial workshop: **Quincy Tyler Bernstine***, **Maria Dizzia***, Gibson Frazier, Matt Maher, **Jennifer Morris***, Colleen Werthmann and **Sam Breslin Wright***. An asterisk (*) denotes UC San Diego MFA Acting Alumni.

MR. BURNS, A POST ELECTRIC PLAY

By Anne Washburn

Score by Michael Friedman, Lyrics by Anne Washburn

Directed by Jack Reuler

Quinn Martin Endowed Chair Production

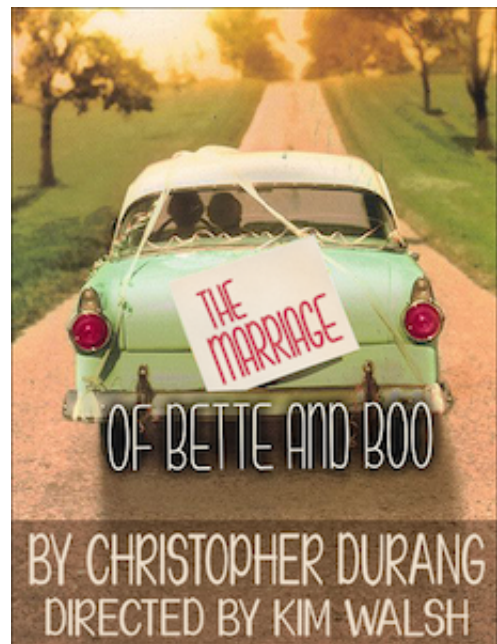
February 18 - March 1

Also beginning tech this week is the undergraduate production of Christopher Durang's [THE MARRIAGE OF BETTE AND BOO](#)

directed by Professor **Kim Walsh**.

Kim Walsh has been acting, directing and teaching theatre throughout the country and abroad for over twenty years. A UCSD acting alum (MFA '92), Kim has appeared in film, television and regional theatres including the Signature Theatre, the Ernie Martin Studio Theatre and locally at La Jolla Playhouse where she

was in the original productions of *Fortinbras*, by Lee Blessing, and the musical *Elmer Gantry*, directed by Des McAnuff. She was a member of the Elysium Theater Company in New York, where she performed in classic and existential German plays including *Hinkemann*, *Fun and Games* at the Barbershop and *Offending the Audience*. She directed Theatre Workshop for Kaiser Permanente, a program for abused women suffering obesity. She has taught from South East Los Angeles to Lugano, Switzerland, as well as the Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse and at UC San Diego, where she has been teaching Acting for the last 12 years.



The Marriage of Bette and Boo is Christopher Durang's most autobiographical play. It examines an American mainstay - the dysfunctional family - with Durang's uniquely wonderful

dark humor. It begins with the happy wedding celebration of the title characters, who navigate through disappointment and loss, and, despite their best intentions, become unhinged and lost. Kim writes: I find the play relevant today, 30 years after its premiere, as it depicts human beings as they pursue love and fail miserably, with unrelenting courage and huge forgiveness.

[The Marriage of Bette and Boo](#)

By Christopher Durang
Directed by **Kim Walsh**
February 20 - March 1
Arthur Wagner Theatre

UP NEXT

[Hamlet](#)

By William Shakespeare
Directed by **Michael Moran**
February 25 - March 7
Mandell Weiss Theatre

[dance theatre GradWorks](#)

Choreographed by Dina Apple and Emily Aust
March 12 - 14
Wagner Dance Studio 3

News for Faculty and Staff

Becky Petitt Named UCSD's Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



Following a comprehensive nationwide search, the University of California, San Diego announces the appointment of Becky Petitt as Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (VC-EDI), effective March 23, 2015. She will serve as the lead senior executive responsible for providing a holistic and integrated vision on all major equity, diversity and inclusion efforts. Petitt brings to UC San Diego 24 years of progressive leadership experience in diversity work across the university community, most recently at Texas A&M University as Associate Vice President for Diversity.

"We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Becky Petitt as UC San Diego's next Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion," said Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla. "She has a strong record of achievement as a visionary leader, guiding campus constituents in a collaborative and cohesive effort to achieve a climate of equity, diversity and inclusion. We look forward to her leadership in our initiatives to ensure that UC San Diego is a welcoming, diverse and

inclusive campus community."

Cyber Attack on Anthem (UCSD Health Network Provider)

As many of you have heard in the news, Anthem, Inc. disclosed today (Feb. 5, 2015) that the health insurer was the target of a very sophisticated external cyber attack and that data for its 80 million members was accessed. This potentially includes information about UC students, faculty, staff and retirees, as well as their dependents.

Currently, Anthem is the network provider and claims administrator for UC SHIP, the university's student health insurance plan, at UC San Diego. In addition, from 2003 until Jan. 1, 2014, Anthem provided health insurance to certain UC employees and retirees and their dependents.

According to Anthem, the information accessed through the attack includes member names, member health ID numbers/Social Security numbers (Anthem does not possess Social Security numbers for UC students), dates of birth, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, and employment information such as the UC campus or medical center location and the separation date.

Anthem has created a dedicated website where current and former Anthem members can find information. Members may also call 1-877-263-7995.

Editor's note: On Feb. 6, Anthem notified UC of a phishing scam related to the cyber attack. The phishing scam, which uses Anthem's logo, includes an offer to sign up for a year of credit card protection. If you receive this or a similar email, do not respond to or click on any links. Anthem is not calling or emailing members.

News for Students

New Bike Paths Around Campus



A popular pathway is about to get a makeover as part of UC San Diego's efforts to create a more bicycle-friendly campus. Peterson Hill, located between Peterson Hall, the Cognitive Science Building and the Faculty Club is undergoing extensive improvements that will transform the way bicyclists and pedestrians access the busy area.

"UC San Diego was originally planned for cars, not bikes," said Gary C. Matthews, vice chancellor of Resource Management and Planning. "But with our goal of becoming a carbon-neutral campus by 2025, we need to proactively address the challenges of becoming a more bicycle-friendly campus. This project is just one of many steps we're taking in that direction."

Construction on the University Center Bike and Pedestrian Improvements project began this week and is expected to be completed in summer 2015. The project - which was developed with extensive student input and support - will replace an existing steep, shared-use path with separate pedestrian and bicycle paths and create a new ADA accessible route from Peterson Hall to Geisel Library. Pedestrians will be able to use a new concrete walk with a series of staircases on Peterson Hill, while bicycle riders will be able to use the designated bike paths. A ramp will be available for all wheeled and disabled users.

In addition to the Peterson Hill improvements, a second dedicated bike path will also be installed to run through the Park Eucalyptus Grove, west of the Student Health Center. Called the Grove Path Connection, the route will parallel Library Walk and enhance bicycle connection with Peterson Hill. Once the Grove Path is open, bicycle riders will have an alternative to pedestrian-only Library Walk, where they are required to dismount.

"These improvements are going to make a tremendous difference," said campus landscape architect Todd Pitman of Physical and Community Planning. "Peterson Hill is a very high-traffic area with up to 1,200 people passing through on a daily basis. Once construction is completed, everyone who travels through the area will benefit."

In addition to the new paths, improvements will also include adding signage and lighting as well as installing improved drainage. There will also be significant re-forestation done within the campus's iconic eucalyptus grove.

"We're planting two trees for every one tree we have to remove," said Pitman. "The new trees will be much healthier and will ensure the eucalyptus grove continues to thrive for years to come."

Nomads

Nomads Theatre Company would like to invite YOU to Variations, our quarterly showcase of student-written one-acts! This performance will take place Friday, February 27th, so make sure to mark your calendars!

Nomads is on the hunt for student writers, actors, directors, and designers! If you would like to participate in this quarter's Variations, please email us at: nomadstheatre@gmail.com

Alumni News



X's and O's (A Football Love Story) at Berkeley Rep,
Photo by Kevin Berne

Acting alum **KJ Sanchez** (MFA 92)'s new collaboration with Jenny Mercein [*X's and O's \(A FOOTBALL LOVE STORY\)*](#) was recently featured in the NY Times. The Times writes *"The dialogue of the football-playing characters has been plucked verbatim from interviews with former players, including Mr. Mercein. The dialogue of other characters - wives, children, doctors, soldiers, fans - were heavily influenced by interviews. Ms. Mercein and Ms. Sanchez, who wrote the script, conducted more than 50 interviews, and said that telling the story in the words of former players allowed for a truer portrait."*

'I have no interest in my own opinions or agenda, and I don't have any interest in agitprop theater,' Ms. Sanchez said. 'The documentary process is really a great way for me to work as a photographer rather than a novelist.'" [Click here](#) for the full article.

The production, directed by Tony Taccone, is currently running at Berkeley Rep. [Click here](#) for more information about the show.



Alicia Peterson Baskel (photo by Jim Carmody)

Dance alum **Alicia Peterson Baskel** (MFA '11) was recently chosen as one of the San Diego Foundation 10 Creative Catalyst Fellows. Her project, Process Works, will bring live contemporary dance performance directly to companies in the fields of Science and Technology with the intention of supporting creativity in the workplace.

Alicia writes: I've already started rehearsals with my group, [Wallpaper Performance Company](#), and I'm excited about the direction this work is taking us. If you'd like to witness our process, we will have several open rehearsals you are invited to attend. The first will be Tuesday, February 24th @ 7:30pm @ [The White Box Theater](#). Additionally, if you are interested in tracking my thought process along the way, I will be updating my blog throughout the project. Check it out at [aliciabaskel.blogspot.com](#).



[Chalk Repertory Theatre](#) - founded by UCSD alumnae, including **Jennifer Chang** (MFA '06), **Ruth McKee** (MFA '06), **Amy Ellenberger** (MFA '07), **Larissa Kokernot** (MFA '05), and **Hilary Ward** (MFA '07) - is currently developing a new version of [UNCLE VANYA](#) by Libby Appel directed by alum **Larissa Kokernot**. This site specific production will take place at the Neutra Institute Museum, a celebrated mid-century modern architectural office space in Silverlake. The production features Professor **Eva Barnes**, acting alum **Owiso Odera** (MFA '05) and **Hilary Ward**. The design team also features costume design alum **Halei Parker** (MFA '13) and sound design alum **Melanie Chen** (MFA '14). The show runs February 20 - March 15. [Click here](#) for tickets and information.

Have news to share? Send it to us at TandDNews@ucsd.edu and we'll pass it along for you. Photos are encouraged. Please be sure to let us know what year you graduated, if you're an alum. If you've changed your name, be sure to tell us what it was when you attended UC. Miss a back edition? Visit the [Newsletter Archives](#).

Sincerely,

[UCSD Department of Theatre and Dance](#)