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Newsletter Week 7

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May 11, 2015

Meeting of the Week

Production Meeting- New Direction 2015

Mon, May 11, 8:30am-9:50am
 GH 247

Chair's Advisory Committee

Mon, May 11, 4pm-5pm
 GH 254

Full Faculty Meeting

Wed, May 13, 4pm-5pm
 GH 254

Department News

Chekhov Workshop with Yury Kordonsky

Russian actor-director Yury Kordonsky will be teaching a workshop next week at UCSD. Kordonsky will work on classic Russian texts by Chekhov: The Seagull, Ivanov, & Uncle Vanya.



Yury Kordonsky was trained in St. Petersburg at the famous Theatre Academy and then became an actor in the world class company of the Mali Theatre in St Petersburg.

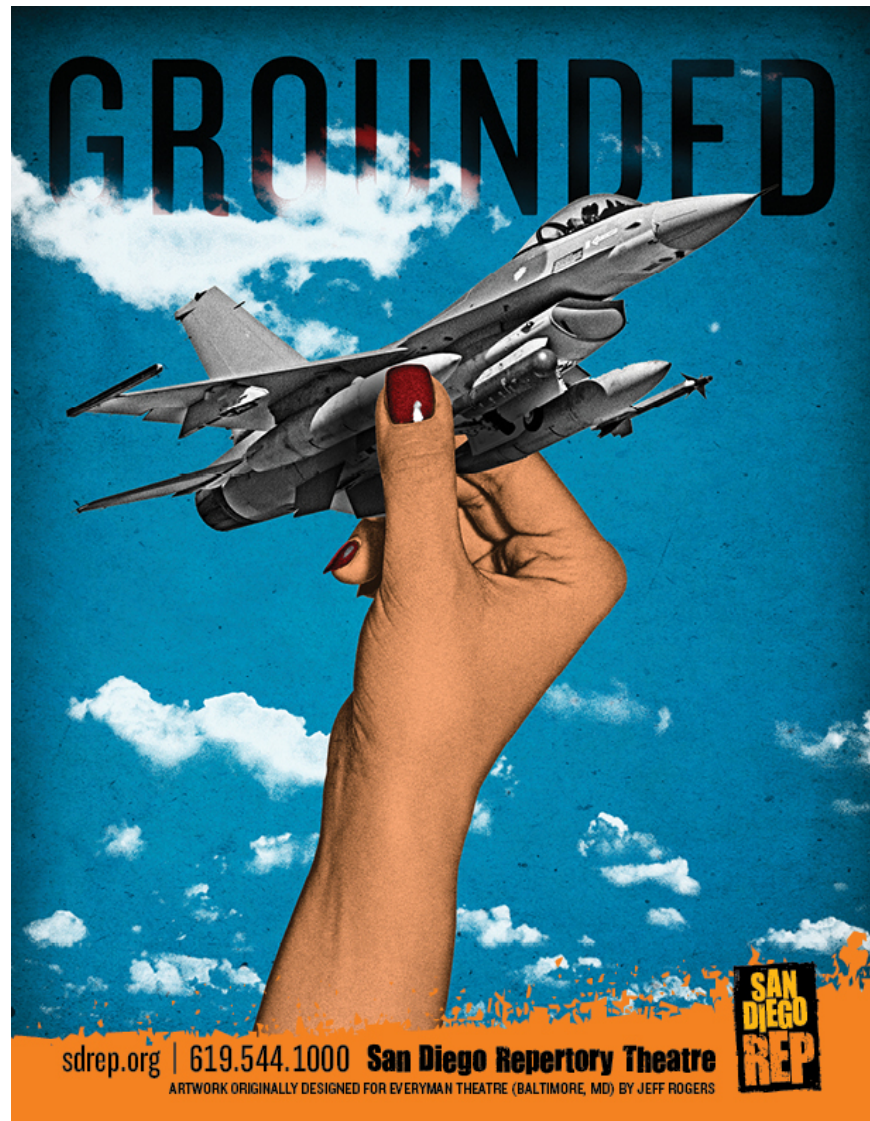
After becoming a director he worked worldwide. Kordonsky has been in the U.S. for approximately 10 years and has taught at Columbia, Yale and Wesleyan where he is currently serving as the Chair of Theatre. In the fall, he will teach at the Yale School of Drama.

The workshop will be held from May 13th - 20th from 6-9pm.

See San Diego Rep's GROUNDED

Directed by **2nd Year MFA Director, Emilie Whelan**, and designed by **2nd Year MFA Designers, Anthony Januzzi & Andrew Vargas**, GROUNDED plays for one performance only!

Named one of the 10 best plays of the year by The Guardian, this award-winning play seamlessly blends the personal and the political. "Grounded" explores a hot-rod F16 fighter pilot whose unexpected pregnancy ends her career in the sky. Repurposed to flying remote-controlled drones in the Middle East from an air-conditioned trailer near Vegas, she struggles through surreal twelve-hour shifts far from the battlefield, hunting terrorists by day and being a wife and mother by night. A tour-de-force play for actress **Heather Ramey, 2014 Ph.D Alum** "Grounded" flies from the heights of lyricism to the shallows of workaday existence, targeting our assumptions about war, family and the power of storytelling.

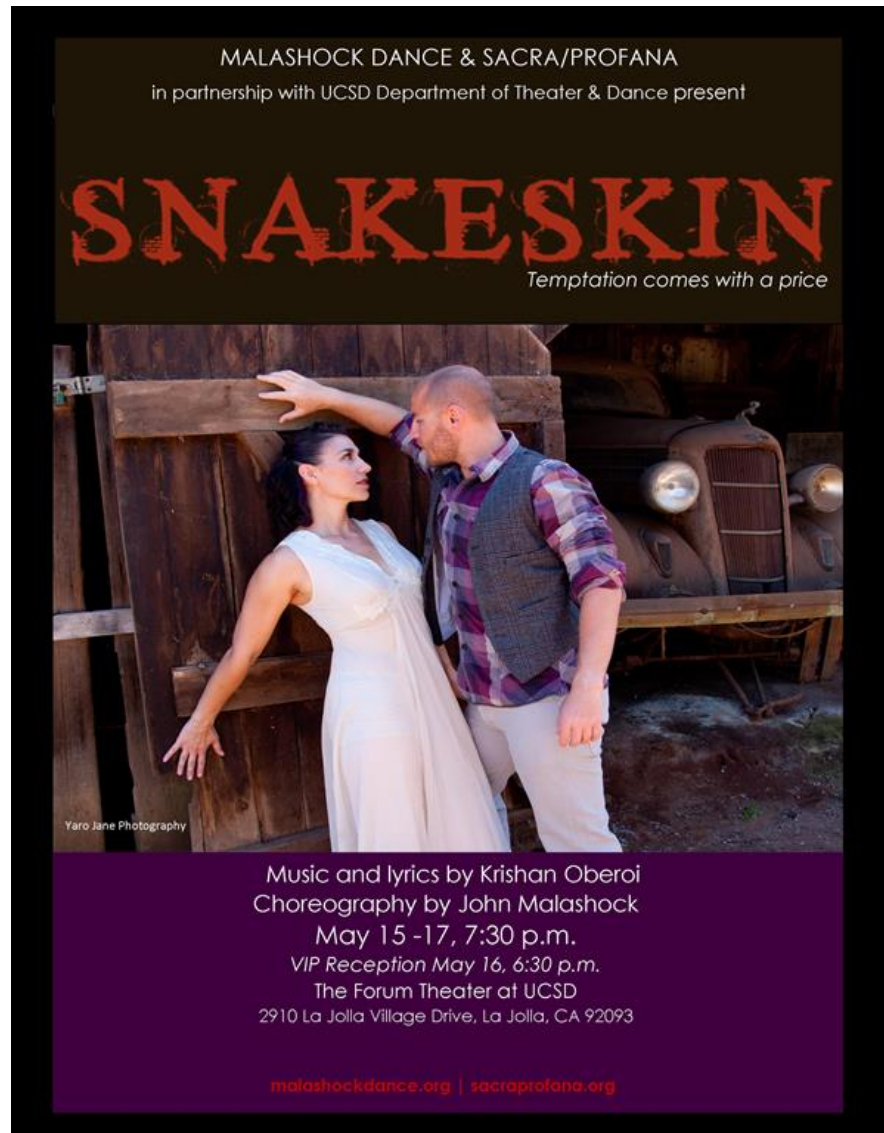


"This show is a hot ticket and has been staged multiple times around the world, and most recently was produced off-Broadway starring Anne Hathaway," says Sam Woodhouse, co-founder and artistic director, San Diego REP. "We are thrilled to bring this important conversation to our military-infused community." The May 17 performance at San Diego REP is free and is just one of several that will be staged throughout San Diego County for veterans, military members and their families. The San Diego run of "Grounded" is supported by the Blue Star Theatres Grant Program, a collaboration between Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and Blue Star Families. San Diego REP recently received a \$5,000 grant from the program to support activities that can include talkbacks, outreach programs, sponsored tickets, performances, playwriting workshops, readings or workshops that focus on military themes and service. Following the May 17 performance, the director and actor of "Grounded" will host a post-show conversation with the audience about the work onstage.

Admission is free, but you must reserve your seats in advance by following [this link](#).

News Around Campus

MALASHOCK Dance Performance



Malashock Dance and SACRA/PROFANA, in partnership with UCSD Department of Theater and Dance present **SNAKESKIN**; a sultry evening-length dance drama, told through live folk-rock song, instrumental music, and breathtaking choreography. Krishan Oberoi and John Malashock explore timeless themes through a mythic story set in a small Southern town. Watch the journey unfold as uniquely flawed characters navigate feelings of isolation that lead to the discovery intimacy and human connection.


May 15 - 17, 2015

7:30 P.M.
Forum Theater at UCSD

[Click here to purchase tickets!](#)

Katie Duck Dance Workshop

Katie Duck has been investigating theater, dance and music with live performance for over 30 years. In her workshop, she takes a microscopic view on the role improvisation plays in a live performance combining her background in the performing arts with her curiosity for advances in brain studies, music and movement research.



weekend workshop with
Katie Duck

**music/performance/
dance/collaboration**
May 16 & 17, 1 - 5pm
Molli and Arthur Wagner Dance
Building
UC San Diego

For more information visit:
<http://kateduck.com/3538-2/>

cost: regular \$30 for 2 days or \$20 for 1 day
students \$20 for 2 days or \$15 for 1 day

Katie guides the dancers and performers through physical exercises that highlight how the eye and ears affect movement choices. She extends the workshop toward improvisation sessions by setting a fictional front in the studio space and then declaring this as a platform to choose pause, flow or exit. This platform highlights how the limit of these three choices can already provide the frame for a composition to take place, and that misunderstanding, coincidence, live time, interactivity, messiness, emotions, intuition and inspiration are basic materials in a creative process. These raw materials are integrated with the combined fact that everyone in the workshop group can choose.

The improvisation sessions are given a delegated time frame with an option for the workshop group to shift, drop or lift the space at will. This shifting, dropping and lifting of the performance space places each individual in a position where they need to be to be fully awake or they will recognizably lose the thread of creative activity in play.

Choice is introduced to the workshop group as a compositional reality but also as a means for individuals to choose to participate in the performative, musical or as a viewer and yet remain involved in the process. These experimental physical activities gathers the workshop group to recognize that in a creative process time is passing at different perceived speeds and that space is shifting in several dimensions at once. This awareness creates a presence in the space. This sustained presence of space is eventually placed in the hands of the workshop group in improvisation sessions.

"In my experience it is best to remain open to change and the flow of new ideas during the creation and performance of music for dance. Often the emphasis is on the emergence of simple musical ideas, the choices made about when and how to develop and evolve these ideas, and the confidence to let go and move on into new musical territory at any moment".

Katie guides the dancers and performers through physical exercises that highlight how the eyes and ears affect movement

choices and developmental brain studies about "how we learned to walk". She extends the workshop toward improvisation sessions by setting a fictional front in the studio space and then declaring this as a platform to choose pause, flow or exit. This platform highlights how the limit of these three choices can already provide the frame for a composition to take place, and that misunderstanding, coincidence, live time, interactivity, messiness, emotions, intuition and inspiration are basic materials in a creative process. These raw materials are integrated with the combined fact that everyone in the workshop group can make a choice.

May 16th & 17th 1-5pm
Arthur Wagner Theatre
[For more information, click here!](#)

Alumni News

See Chris Butler on the Season 6 Finale of *The Good Wife*

MFA Acting Alum, Chris Butler will appear on the finale of *The Good Wife* on Sunday, May 10th at 9pm on CBS. Butler is an accomplished screen and stage actor who now spends much of his time walking his blind dog, Sam or on the softball fields and golf courses of sunny Southern California.

In film and television Chris has experienced both the comedic and the tragic. Some of his major or recurring roles include Werner Herzog's *Rescue Dawn* (starring Christian Bale), *The Good Wife* (as ASA Matan Brody), *King & Maxwell* (as Darius Carter), *True Blood*, *NCIS: LA*, *Torchwood*, *Criminal Minds*, *Castle*, *Rizzoli & Isles*, *Two Guys and a Girl*, and *iCarly* (co-starring First Lady Michelle Obama).



In the theater, Chris has performed the works of some of the great playwrights of the past and present. He has been blessed with the opportunity to experience William Shakespeare, Arthur Miller, August Wilson, David Mamet and many more. On Broadway, Chris played Audra McDonald's brother, Noah, in the Tony nominated revival of *110 In The Shade*. And he was blessed to call Phylicia Rashaad, Diahann Carroll, Clifton Davis and Leslie Uggams "family" in *Blue at The Pasadena Playhouse*. Chris has received two LA Ovation, LA Drama Critics' and NAACP Theater Awards

for his work in Yellowman.

See UCSD Alums in UNTETHERED



untethered

a love + death
experience @
Mountain View
Mausoleum

a new play by **julia edwards**
directed by **jen bloom**

*a wacky new love story
not the Hallmark variety
the messy, screwing up, begging for mercy kind*

starring
Kevin McCorkle
Joy Osmanski
Gabriella Rhodeen
Adam J. Smith
Eli Weinberg

scenic designer
Murray Burn

costume designer
Maddie Keller

lighting designer
Brian Barraza

choreographer
Stephanie Zaletel

composer/ musician
Steven Van Betten

publicists
Sandra Kuker & Anita Lee



A LOVE + DEATH EXPERIENCE AT MOUNTAIN VIEW MAUSOLEUM

A new play by **2001 MFA Playwrighting Alum Julia Edwards**

A wacky new love story

Not the Hallmark variety

The messy, screwing up, begging for mercy kind

Friday May 8th - Sunday, June 7th

Friday & Saturday @ 8 PM and Sunday @ 7:30 PM

BONUS SHOW THURSDAY JUNE 4th @ 8 PM

Directed by Jen Bloom

Featuring Kevin McCorkle, **2003 MFA Acting Alum, Joy Osmanski**, Gabriella Rhodeen, **2004 MFA Acting Alum, Adam J. Smith** & Eli Weinberg

Original music by Steven van Betten

Choreography by Stephanie Zaletel

Untethered is a project of Pasadena Arts Council's EMERGE program.

[For more information, click here!](http://www.untetheredtheplay.com)

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](#)