



Newsletter Week 6

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News Around Town

Theatre Week in San Diego

The first ever San Diego Theatre Week takes place in late February and early March. Dozens of arts organizations are participating in this event that celebrates the breadth of the San Diego performing arts community, offering ticket discounts, concessions, and talkbacks. UC San Diego Theatre and Dance is offering a Theatre Week discount on regular ticket prices for performances of *The Venetian Twins*, by Carlo Goldoni, which runs March 5-12.

More information on this and other Theatre Week offerings is available [here](#):

UC San Diego's *The Venetian Twins* will be a part of Theatre Week!

Meetings of the Week

Season Planning Meeting Student Presentations

**Monday, February 8,
2016 4:00-5:00pm**

Faculty Discussion

5:00-6:00pm

Galbraith Hall (GH) 254

Faculty Meeting

**Wednesday, February 10,
2016 4:00pm**

Galbraith Hall (GH) 254

Mover + Shakers

Creative Team

Host Chancellor's

Associates

**Wednesday, February 10,
2016 5:30-6:30pm**

Forum Theatre

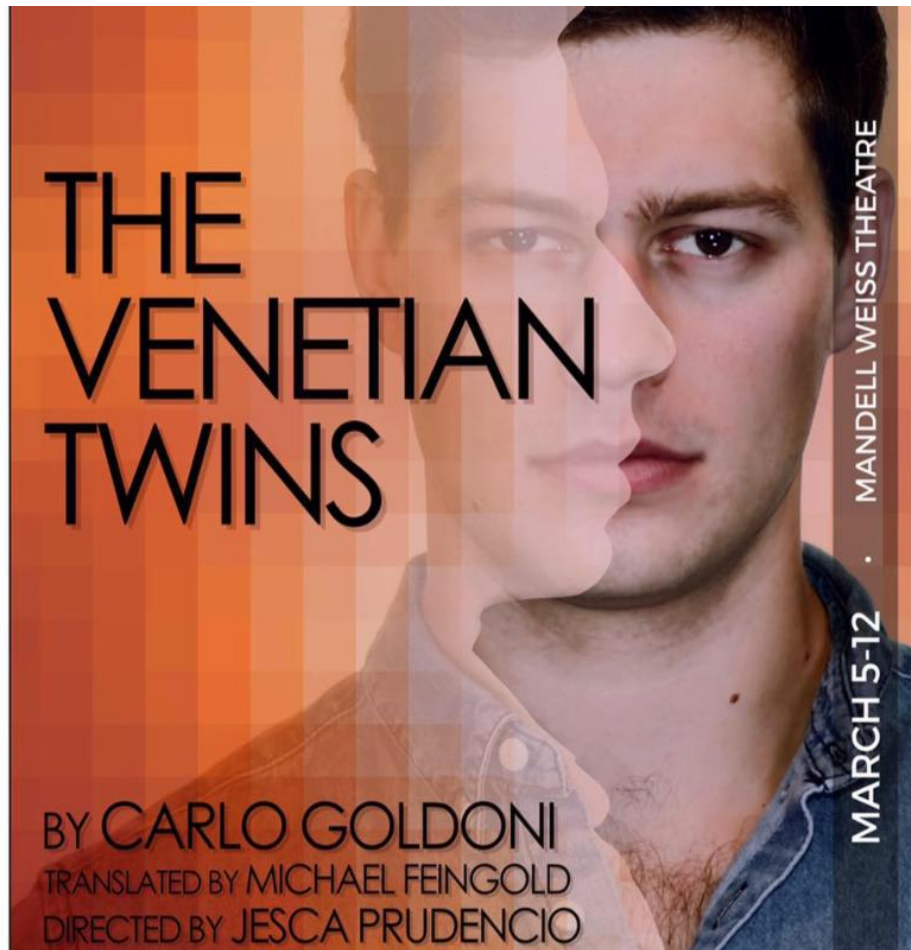
Production Meeting:

Venetian Twins

**Thursday, February 11,
2016 9:00-10:00am**

Galbraith Hall (GH) 144

Fe



THEATRE WEEK OFFER:

25% off regular ticket price.

General Admission: \$20

UCSD Faculty/Staff/Alumni Association, and Seniors (over 62): \$15

UCSD Students/UCSD Alumni Association (with ID): \$10

For more information, [click here!](#)

Department News

Mingshuo Zhao (Raphael) Wins USITT Scene Design Award

The Institute will recognize 10 young technical theatre artists with its 2016 Young Technicians Awards in the Performing Arts at USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City. The awards will be presented on Thursday, March 17. Winners receive free registration for the four-day Annual Conference & Stage Expo, cash prizes, and an impressive addition to their resumes.

USITT Scene Design Award sponsored by Rose Brand:

Mingshuo Zhao (MFA Scenic Designer), UCSD, MFA March 2016



"The model work here is very professional, and the sketches have a wonderful, to them. Mingshuo is exceptionally talented, and his work is simply stunning."

Bennett Fisher: Emory Playwriting Fellowship Finalist



Bennett Fisher (MFA Playwriting) is a finalist for the Emory Playwriting Fellowship, which is a two-year writing residency at Emory University in Atlanta. As part of his fellowship at Emory campus, he presented several of his plays at Theater Emory's bi-annual New Works Festival. Bennett's short play *Monument* was also selected for Theater Emory's Master's Take Ten content and was presented at Aspen earlier the month. Theater Emory will present the play again in New York.

Shahrokh Yadegari's "The Scarlet Stone" Online Streaming

The University of California, San Diego Division of Arts and Humanities recently streamed "The Scarlet Stone," a modern dance/theater retelling of a tragic Persian myth developed by **Shahrokh Yadegari, professor of sound design** in the Department of Theater and Dance. The production was performed last summer at UC San Diego's Mandell Weiss Forum.

Toronto for the Tirgan Festival-the largest Persian arts festival in the western hemisphere, then to Los Angeles at UCLA's Royce Hall. This production, which involves university and alumni, will reach more than 14 million viewers worldwide through four satellite broadcasts during the week of Feb. 8 on BBC Persian in Iran, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and online streaming at the time of broadcast.



"The production had great critical and popular success in all of its performances, delighted that the piece is to be broadcast on BBC Persian," explained Yadegari, "has spent the last three months preparing the recording that will air in February around the Persian New Year. "The piece is about the contemporary political connection to its past 1,000-year history. The reaction of Iranians in diaspora and not interested in the sociopolitical life of Iran has been phenomenal. However, the fact that people in Iran will see the piece is really important to me."

COMING SOON: Movers + Shakers & La Bete

Movers + Shakers

A Play With Songs

Conceived and Created by Stein | Holum Projects

In collaboration with MFA Students from UCSD Theatre & Dance

Book by Deborah Stein

Music by James Sugg and Daniel Kluger

Lyrics by Deborah Stein and James Sugg

Directed by Suli Holum

February 13 - 21, 2016

Mandell Weiss Forum Theatre

About the Play

MOVERS + SHAKERS uses song and farce to explore the virtual mating habits of Century political elite, inspired by Anthony Weiner's problems with texting and S. aggressively unapologetic retrograde femininity. During a routine campaign stop Wisconsin, Congressman Darren Finn and his hardworking campaign staff tangle community as they try to do damage control on an out-of-control dick pic. This n explores at how technology has melted borders between good behavior and bad, same technology has encouraged exhibitionism in our most private behaviors.



La Bete

Written by David Hirson

Directed by Marco Barricelli

February 20 - 27, 2016

Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre

About the Play

Written in rhymed couplets of iambic pentameter, the Molière-inspired story, set century France, pits dignified, stuffy Elomire, the head of the royal court-sponsor troupe, against the foppish, frivolous street entertainer Valere, whom the troupe Prince Conti, wishes them to bring aboard. Despite Elomire's violent objections, t forced to perform one of Valere's own plays, which results in dramatic changes to Elomire, Valere, and the company itself.



Alumni News

"All the Way" Production Features UCSD Alum and Faculty

Adjunct Acting Faculty James Newcomb is opening this week in the Tony award-winning play, "All the Way", at the Denver Center Theatre Company. He is playing the role of Lyndon B. Johnson.

'97 Grad Acting Alum, Todd Cerveris is also in the production. He is playing the role of Hubert H. Humphrey.



All the Way, a "jaw-dropping political drama" (Variety), vividly portrays the group of men who took the steps taken by ambitious figures of the 1960s to pass the Civil Rights Act. Set in the year after JFK's assassination, President Lyndon Baines Johnson hurls himself at the task, confronted by Martin Luther King, Jr., determined to rebuild the country into the Great Society that promised equality for all. Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Robert Kennedy (The 12, The Kentucky Cycle).

Ryan Shams in Harvey at the Guthrie Theater

Ryan Shams ('07 MFA Grad Acting Alum) will be playing Dr. Lyman Sanders by Mary Chase, directed by Libby Appel at The Guthrie Theater.

Elwood P. Dowd is charming, lovable and kind with just one catch: his best friend is a tall invisible rabbit named Harvey. When Elwood's sister Veta hosts a social gathering to introduce her daughter into society, Elwood's idiosyncrasies threaten to upset the family's plans. Veta tries to have him committed to the sanatorium, but a whirlwind of confusion ensues as the town tries to catch a man and his invisible rabbit. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, *Harvey* is a delightful comedy for the whole family.



Ricardo Chavira in Scandal

Ricardo Chavira ('00 MFA Acting Alum) has landed a recurring role on *Scandal*. The *Desperate Housewives* alum is set to join the cast in the second episode back after a winter hiatus, though details on his role are being kept under wraps. Because *Scandal* is jumping ahead six months after the events of the midseason presidential primary election is mounting, so Chavira could be playing either an antagonist or a Mellie (Bellamy Young) on the Republican side, or a challenger on the Democratic side.

"It's an amazing field of candidates," Young recently told us of *Scandal*'s upcoming season. "We cannot wait for everybody to see some new and old faces. Some folks will be a surprise, some folks will be folks you know very, very well, and some folks you may not have seen before. It's good and juicy."



Lauren Yee Wins Will Glickman Playwright Award

Lauren Yee ('12 MFA Playwriting Alum) has won the 2015 Will Glickman Playwright Award for "In a Word," an imaginative missing-child drama that opened in April in San Francisco at Playhouse's Sandbox Series as a National New Play Network rolling world premiere produced subsequently in Cleveland and San Diego, and opens this month in Chicago.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Yee honed her writing skills with Berkeley Rep's Playhouse Council theater program and first attracted wide notice with her stereotype-busting "Ching Chong Chinaman" at Impact Theatre. "In a Word," described by Chronicle's David Hurwitt as an "emotional mystery wrapped in word puzzles peeled away like the onion," was one of her two world premieres in the Bay Area last year. In an unexpected move, her "Hookman" at Encore was named a runner-up for the 2015 award, along with Brown's "Black Virgins Are Not for Hipsters" at the Marsh.

Presented annually since 1984, the Glickman is a \$4,000 award for the best play produced in the Bay Area during the previous year, selected by a panel of Bay Area theater critics and presented March 28 by Theatre Bay Area at its annual conference.



Ogie Zulueta in Digesters at the Magic Theatre

Ogie Zulueta ('96 UG Alum) is in this production of Dogeaters at the Magic Theatre, which is currently in previews. Costume design is by **Brandin Baron ('96 MFA Costume Design Alum)**. The production is directed by Magic Theatre Artistic Director and one time UG student here at the department **Loretta Greco**.

Magic Theatre transforms into Manila's mythical Studio 54 - where you'll find drag beauty queens and movie stars alongside statesmen, activists and rebels. Welcome to the Philippines 1982 and Jessica Hagedorn's no-holds-barred, Dogeaters. Explore the workings of power, culture clash, sex and celebrity as a country unravels at the end of the Marcos regime.



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

Sincerely,

[UCSD Department of Theatre and Dance](#)