

## Newsletter Week 9

November 23, 2015

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### Department News

#### THANKSGIVING Break

Thursday, Nov. 26, 2015 - Thanksgiving - **No School**

Friday, Nov. 27, 2015 - **No School**

#### UBUNTU Theatre Project Awards

The Theatre Bay Area Awards are designed to honor excellence in professionally oriented theatre through a peer-based, Bay Area-wide adjudication process.

Each week, all season long, hundreds of TBA Awards adjudicators attend and evaluate eligible productions all over the Bay Area. Based on the overall production scores from these adjudicators, Theatre Bay Area publishes a weekly list of productions that have reached the required threshold of scoring to be deemed "TBA Awards Recommended." All adjudicator votes throughout the season are then tabulated to determine that year's TBA Awards Finalists and TBA Awards Recipients.

### Meetings of the Week

#### Graduate Committee Meeting

Monday, Nov. 23,  
2015 4:00pm  
Galbraith Hall (GH) 254

#### UG Committee Meeting

Monday, Nov. 23,  
2015 4:00pm  
Galbraith Hall (GH) 102



Current **MFA Actor, Keith Wallace's** production of *The Brothers Size* won 2 Bay Area Theatre Awards:

Outstanding Performance by Ensemble

Outstanding Production.

The production starred current **MFA Actors, Terrance White** and **Deleon Dallas**. The sound design was by current **MFA Designer, Steven Leffue**.

The Ubuntu Theatre Project is founded and run by **MFA Alums Michael Moran** and **William Hodgson**.

### Lois Chant at War of the Worlds

Lois Chant recently visited the undergrad production of War of the Worlds. She is pictured below with some of the cast and crew.



Teachers often inspire students, but students can move teachers, too. Such was the case during a recent visit to UC San Diego's Department of Theatre and Dance by long-time educator and arts supporter Lois Chant. Her \$1.25 million legacy gift will boost the department's efforts to continue its top-ranked theater training program. With an even distribution to occur between the Lois Chant Endowed Scholarship Fund in support of undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships in Theatre and Dance and the Theatre & Dance Student Productions Endowment, the return on the gift will help continue the valuable training experience theater students need, including funding actual productions and associated program expenses.

"I was most touched by the students; they were so enthusiastic about the program at the university," noted Chant, whose vision for the significant planned gift is to bring stronger students into the arts.

### Alumni News



"The Last Tiger in Haiti," by **Jeff Augustin ('14 MFA Playwrighting Alum)**: The UC San Diego-trained playwright, who was already a rising star even before he completed his degree there, sets this new piece in Haiti, the place of his own family heritage.

The piece, workshopped in the DNA series last year, centers on a group of restaveks (or child slaves) struggling to survive in the earthquake-rattled country and dreaming of freedom.

Ashley recalls that immediately after the work's DNA reading, "I walked over to the writer and said, 'I want this in our next season.'" (The only other time he

has done that, as it happens, was with Akhtar's "The Who & The What.")  
The director is **Joshua Kahan Brody ('14 MFA Directing Alum)**, a fellow UC San Diego alumnus and co-founder of the locally-based theatre troupe The Trip



### **David Jacobi at University of Arts**

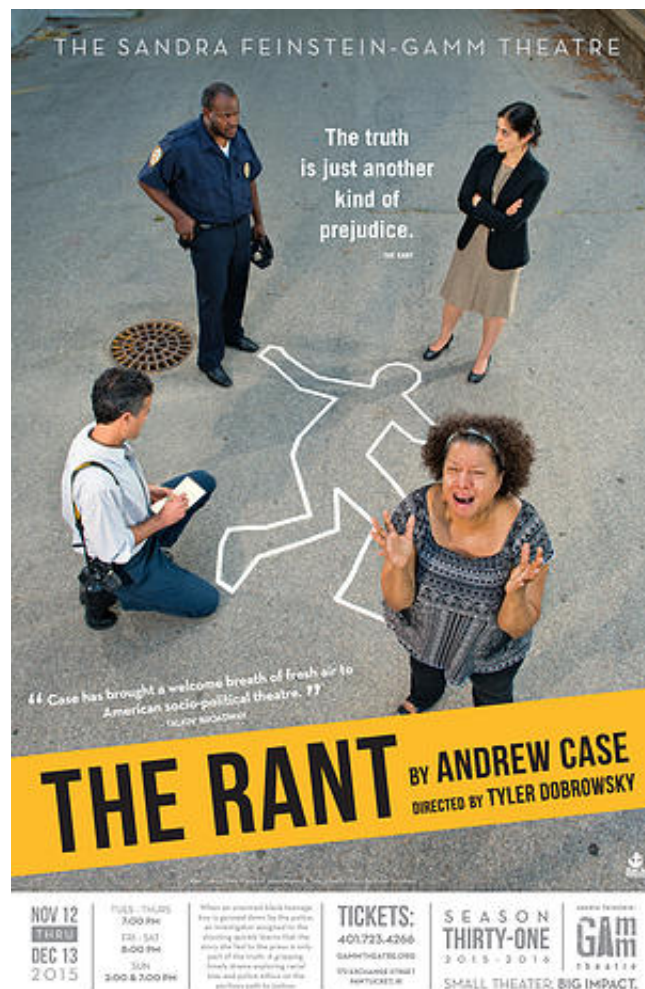
**David Jacobi ('15 MFA Playwriting Alum)** recently accepted a position as senior lecturer at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He will be teaching Advanced Playwriting in the BFA Theatre Program.



### **Andrew Case at the Gamm Theatre**

**Andrew Case's ('00 MFA Playwriting Alum)** play based on his experience investigating police misconduct just opened at the Gamm Theatre in Providence, and the response has been overwhelming.

THE RANT by Andrew Case | directed by Tyler Dobrowsky



One summer night in Brooklyn, an unarmed black teenage boy is gunned down by the police. When the department closes ranks around the accused officer, an investigator assigned to the shooting takes what she knows to a tabloid reporter. But she quickly learns that the story she fed to the press is still only part of the truth. Alone, she must wade through prejudice, deceit, and a volley of anonymous threats to find where culpability and truth really lie. Based on playwright Andrew Case's eight years' experience working on police misconduct issues for New York City, *The Rant* is a gripping, timely drama exploring racial bias and police ethics on the perilous path to justice.

"The author's passion is undeniable, giving 'The Rant' its dramatic power."

-New York Times

"Case has brought a welcome breath of fresh air to American socio-political theatre."

-Talkin' Broadway

### Jihae Park at Yale Repertory

If there were standardized tests for emerging playwrights, it's a good bet that **Jihae Park ('09 MFA Acting Alum)** would ace them. Her darkly comic play "Peerless," which relocates elements of "Macbeth" to an American high school in the Midwest during college admissions season, opens on Nov. 27 at the Yale Repertory Theater in New Haven. This major, highly esteemed credit now joins a long list of brand-name honors, grants and play-development workshops on her sterling résumé. This play also references a play by **Naomi Izuoka (Playwrighting Faculty)**.



[Read the full New York Times article here!](#)

## News Around Campus

### Indecent at La Jolla Playhouse



November 13 - December 10, 2015

Co-created by Paula Vogel and Rebecca Taichman

Written by Paula Vogel

Directed by Rebecca Taichman

In association with Yale Repertory Theatre

THE PERILOUS LIFE OF A PLAY

Indecent is a world-premiere play with music inspired by the true events surrounding the controversial 1922 Broadway debut of *God of Vengeance* - a work considered by many to be a seminal work of Jewish culture, by others, a work of traitorous libel. Alive with popular songs of the era, this deeply-moving piece charts the history of an incendiary work, the artists who risked their careers and lives to perform it, and the evolving identity of the culturally-rich community that inspired its creation.

Indecent was commissioned by Yale Rep and American Revolutions: The United States History Cycle at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

*Have news to share?* Send it to us at [TandDNews@ucsd.edu](mailto: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](#)