



## Newsletter Week 10

November 30, 2015

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### Department News

#### CHERRY ORCHARD Opens This Week!

Why do we maintain memories when they have nothing in common with the present? And what is that awful feeling inside our heads when the lights come up at the end of an all night party we'll never forget? In Chekhov's final play *The Cherry Orchard*, written only months before his impending death at 44 years old an estate and its memory stands vulnerable to progress. Heartsick love slings like mud, the drink pours strong, and music hides everywhere as the party just keeps. trying. to. storm.



### Meetings of the Week

#### Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, Nov. 30,  
2015 4:00pm

Galbraith Hall (GH) 231

#### UG Committee Meeting

Monday, Nov. 30,  
2015 4:00pm

Galbraith Hall (GH) 102

#### Faculty Meeting: File Reviews

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015  
4:00pm

Galbraith Hall (GH) 254

#### Production Meeting: ThesisWorks Dance

Friday, Dec. 4, 2015  
9:00am

Galbraith Hall (GH) 144

#### Division of Arts & Humanities Holiday Reception

Friday, Dec. 4, 2015  
11:30am

Price Center West  
Ballroom AB

### The Cast

Madame Lyubov Andreievna Ranevskaya - Caroline Siewert  
 Peter Trofimov - Keith Wallace  
 Boris Borisovich Simeonov-Pishchik - Gabriel Cruz  
 Anya - N'Jameh Camara  
 Varya - Mary Glen Fredrick  
 Leonid Andreieievitch Gaev - Martin Meccouri  
 Yermolai Alexeievitch Lopakhin - Terrance White  
 Charlotta Ivanovna - Zakiya Markland  
 Yepikhodov - Sean McIntyre  
 Dunyasha - Zora Howard  
 Firs - Theodore Shank  
 Yasha - Josiah Glesener  
 A Stranger - Erin Tracy  
 Musicians - Kyle Adam Blair (piano), Fiona Digney (percussion)  
 Dancers - Issa Hourani, Claudia Varela

### The Creative Team

Director - Emilie Whelan  
Scenic Designer - Justin Humphres  
Costume Designer - Dominique Hill  
Lighting Designer - Alex Miller-Long  
Sound Designer - Andrew Vargas  
Projections Designer - Melissa Ng  
Choreographer - Erin Tracy  
Musical Director - Kyle Adam Blair  
Vocal Coach - Ursula Meyer  
Production Stage Manager - Mandy Nussbaum  
Asst. Director/Dramaturg - Jon Reimer  
Asst. Scenic Designer - Anna Robinson  
Asst. Costume Designer - Annie Le  
Asst. Lighting Designer - Joel Britt  
Asst. Projections Designer - Samantha Rojas  
Asst. Choreographer - Claudia Varela  
Asst. Stage Managers - Mandisa Reed, Hsiui Lu  
Production Assistant - Bryan Clements

### **Performances**

Sun. Nov. 29 7:00pm      PREVIEW

Tue. Dec. 1 7:00pm      PREVIEW

Thu. Dec. 3 7:30pm      OPENING

Fri. Dec. 4 7:30pm

Sat. Dec. 5 7:30pm      CLOSING

### **The Sheila & Hughes Potiker Theatre**

[For more information click here!](#)

### **Alumni News**

#### **Tom Nelis in Indecent**

**Tom Nelis ('90 MFA Acting Alum)**, currently plays a major role in Indecent at La Jolla Playhouse.

FUN FACT: He also played Firs in Arthur Wagner's production of "The Cherry Orchard" long ago, which is currently played by our very own **Ted Shank**.



### Sarah Wansley at The Drama League



**Sarah Wansley ('14 MFA Directing Alum)** is currently a Drama League Fall Fellow blogging about her experience working on a show "out-of-town" in Cleveland, OH.

Here is an excerpt:

"For my first Drama League assisting assignment I packed up everything I needed for 5.5 weeks in an overstuffed carry-on and hopped on a plane for an adventure...in Cleveland. Ok, I'm going to admit it took a little while for Roger to convince me to go to Cleveland - I had just returned from graduate school in California and three years of long distance with my boyfriend-recently-turned-fiancée and I was really looking forward to spending the fall in New York in our new apartment. After doing some research on the Cleveland Playhouse and the director I would be assisting Laura Kepley, however, I signed on

for what turned out to be a strange but wonderful Midwestern adventure."

[To read the rest of the blog, click here!](#)

### **The Persephone Project**



### **The Persephone Project**

Created in collaboration by **Lauren Yee ('12 MFA Playwriting Alum)**, **Larissa Lury ('11 MFA Directing Alum)**, and **Pearl Rhein ('09 MFA Acting Alum)**





**Taylor Shurte ('11 MFA Acting Alum)** has been working on it with them from the beginning. Along the way, **Matt MacNelly ('13 MFA Acting Alum)** and **Zach Martens ('11 MFA Acting Alum)** have also helped us out with it.



They recently did a small invited reading of it in New York for San Francisco-based company, PlayGround.

### Humanitas / CTG Playwrighting Nominations



Center Theatre Group has announced the 10 finalists who have been chosen for the first annual Humanitas/CTG Playwrighting Prize. The award will be given to the best new and unproduced play written by a Southern California playwright.

The finalists and their selected works are **Ngozi Anyanwu ('13 MFA Acting**

**Alum)** (Good Grief), Linda Bannister and James E. Hurd Jr. (Turpentine Jake), Aleta Barthell (Window of Shame), Louisa Hill (Lord of the Underworld's Home for Unwed Mothers), Jennifer Lane (Harlowe), **David Myers (MFA Playwriting Alum)** (How to Conquer America: A Mostly True History of Yogurt), Dan O'Brien (Scarsdale), Steve Totland (You Are Here), Stephanie Alison Walker (The Madres), and Marlow Wyatt (SHE).

The winning playwright will receive a \$5,000 cash prize and an additional \$5,000 will be given to a Southern California theater to subsidize the play's world-premiere production. Two runners-up will each be awarded a cash prize of \$2,000. The winning and runner-up plays will be developed with CTG's literary staff, led by CTG's Director of New Play Development Pier Carlo Talenti, and presented in staged readings at the Kirk Douglas Theatre Rehearsal Room from February 12-14, 2016.

Winners will be announced January 11.

### **Krista Knight at The Vineyard Theatre**



KIRK AT THE SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT  
HYATT

BY **KRISTA KNIGHT ('11 MFA  
Playwriting Alum)**

DIRECTED BY JESS CHAYES

**December 7, 2015**

On his and the hotel's last day on Earth, stroke survivor Kirk and his Ethiopian Caretaker Asel give Kirk's daughter Krista a tour of the San Francisco Airport Hyatt, where Kirk lives. For the last 29 years, Kirk has believed his death will be imminent. For the last 29 years, he has continued to live.

### **Brian Slaten in Straight White Men**





**(MFA Acting Alum Brian Slaten, far right)**

When Ed and his three adult sons come together to celebrate Christmas, they enjoy cheerful trash-talking, pranks, and takeout Chinese before confronting a problem that even being a happy family can't solve: when identity matters, and privilege is problematic, what is the value of being a straight white man? Obie Award-winning playwright Young Jean Lee defies expectations with a conventionally structured take on the classic American father-son drama - seen through the lens of an observer - in her thought-provoking and witty new play.

This Young Jean Lee Theater Company production, directed by the author herself, contains a fair amount of rowdy horseplay. But for brothers who still enjoy playing a homemade version of Monopoly called Privilege - an invention of their mother's more in keeping with their archly held liberal values - there's no real threat of imminent violence.

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

## **News Around Campus**

### **Native Voices Artists Ensemble**

From the Fringe Festival Program: Based on first person narratives, videos and historical documents, this touching, funny and gritty collection of stories depict the reality and repercussions of the American Indian Boarding School system from the late 1800's to the present. Children were often forcibly taken to off reservation schools hundreds of miles across the continent to break tribal ties and authority. The motto of the schools, coined by General Richard H. Pratt, was "Kill the Indian, save the man" which translated into blotting out all language, tradition, culture and familial ties. The American Indian Boarding School system was devastating to children and their families - the effects of which can still be felt today.



### **Stories from the Indian Boarding School**

Written and performed by the Native Voices Artists Ensemble  
Tuesday December 1st  
Dance Studio 3, Molli and Arthur Wagner Dance Building  
7:00pm

### **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](#)