



FALL NEWSLETTER: WEEK 7

DEPARTMENT NEWS



~Mo Rodvanich and Nicole Javier in What of the Night, photo by Jim Carmody

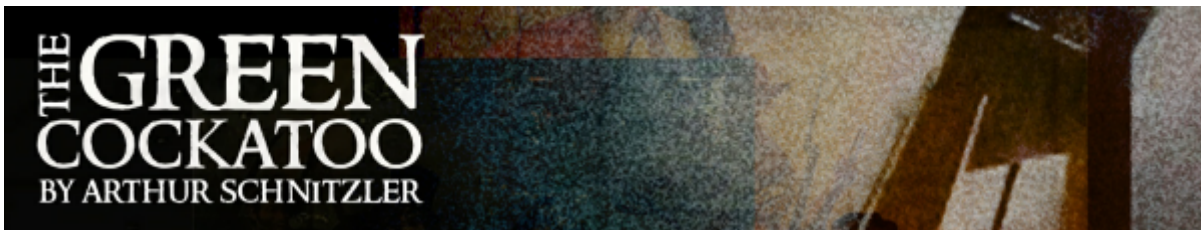
TONIGHT AT 7:30: DEPARTMENT-WIDE OPENING NIGHT PARTY FOR *WHAT OF THE NIGHT?*

All students, staff, alumni, and faculty are invited to our department-wide opening night party on **Tuesday, November 14th at 7:30pm to toast off the start of a new season of performances** as UC San Diego Theatre & Dance Department begins its fall 2017 season with its graduate production of *What of the Night?* by Maria Irene Fornes, directed by Quinn Martin director Katie Pearl which runs from November 11th - 18th in the Potiker Theatre.

What of the Night?, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, offers a panoramic view into the spiritual and economic poverty of 20th and 21st century United States. Taking place over a 60-year span and following four individual family members through four linked plays, *What of the Night?* lifts the lid off societal oppression to expose the unstoppable humans within. Meet Nadine, who sets her children on their course by teaching them that love means survival at all costs and by any means; meet young Birdie who walks out of that life in search of a better existence. Meet Rainbow who carries her mother's lesson forward, caring for her lover Greta by renting out her body to a man who, unbeknownst to her, is her half-brother, Ray. Meet abusive and power-addicted Ray, who makes it to the echelons of corporate success only to be terrorized by the emptiness he finds there. Get to know tender-hearted Charlie, who in his old age finds himself in charge of a vast bureaucratized homeless shelter, where Ray and eventually fourth sibling Birdie come under his care. *What of the Night?* is a sweeping portrait of society, a brutal castigation of greed, and a brilliant assertion of human spirit. It is a tender and brutal telling of the impossibility of love and the spiritual disintegration that happens when the stranglehold of poverty - or the forces of great wealth--infiltrate the inner workings of our lives and relationships.



~Kyle Hester in *What of the Night*, photo by Jim Carmody



THE GREEN COCKATOO OPENS THIS WEEK

We will continue our fall season with our Graduate production of *The Green Cockatoo* by Arthur Schnitzler, translated by Carl R Mueller and directed by **MFA Acting Faculty Professor Marco Barricelli**. *The Green Cockatoo* performs November 15 - 19 in the Forum Theatre.

It's July 14th, 1789, Paris. The city is in an uproar and the political/social life is on the very brink of enormous changes ... changes that will effect the entire world from then on. A rag-tag theatrical group is performing their improvised show for some of the aristocracy. At a certain moment no one is sure if the frenzied performers are screaming real insults at the nobility as part of the show, or if they are finally telling them their cathartic truth about the burgeoning revolution and the overthrow of the aristocracy.



~MFA Directing alumnus Michael Greif, Charles Means, and MFA Costume Design alumna Paloma Young after *Junk*

ALUMNI TOAST *JUNK* ON BROADWAY

Cristina Della Coletta, the Chair of UC San Diego Division of Arts and Humanities hosted an evening to celebrate the UC San Diego Theatre and Dance program at *Junk*, currently running on Broadway at Lincoln Center. The production originated at La Jolla Playhouse and features **Chair and MFA Stage Management Faculty Professor Charles Means** as its Production Stage Manager and includes **MFA Acting alumnus Sean McIntyre** among the cast. Guests joined for dinner at the Atlantic Grill and enjoyed a talkback after the show. The event was held in support of UC San Diego, the Division of Arts & Humanities and the Theatre & Dance Performing Arts Endowment fund



~Guests and alumni pose with Arts and Humanities Chair Cristina Della Coletta, center.

ALUMNI NEWS



ALUMNI OPEN *ROMEO AND JULIET* AT THE OLD GLOBE

The Old Globe opened their latest production of *Romeo and Juliet* this weekend and runs through November 19th. The production featured work from **BA alumnus Carlos Angel-Barajas** in the role of Benvolio and design from **MFA Lighting Design alumna Sherrice Mojgani**, **MFA Costume Design alumna Elisa Benzoni**, and **MFA Sound Design alumna Melanie Chen Cole**.

CHRISTOPHER RANDOLPH IN FINAL FRIEL DRAMA

MFA acting alumnus Christopher Randolph is currently starring in Brian Friel's *The Home Place* at The Irish Repertory Theatre in New York City. *The Home Place* was Friel's last play and this production marks its New York premiere. The show has been extended until December 17th so there is still time to catch it!



UC SAN DIEGO CONVENE AT ENCUENTRO DE LAS AMERICAS

"Encuentro de las Americas," an international theatre festival is currently convening in Los Angeles. The festival is a collaboration with the Los Angeles Theater Center, the Latinx Theater Commons and the Latino Theater Company. Several Alumni were in attendance including **MFA Acting alumna Micha Espinosa**, **Professor Emeritus Jorge Huerta**, **PhD alumna Patrice Amon**, **BA alumna Danel Malan-Gonzales**, **MFA Directing alumna Lisa Portes**, and **MFA Directing and BA Acting Faculty Professor Robert Castro**, all pictured below. **MFA Scenic Design alumnus Christopher Acebo** and **BA alumna Sandra Quintana** also participated. The festival runs through the weekend.



LUIS VEGA APPEARS IN NATIONAL TOUR OF *THE HUMANS*

The 2016 Tony Award-winner for Best Play, Stephen Karam's *The Humans* is receiving a national tour which will feature **MFA Acting alumnus Luis Vega** in the role of Richard. The tour kicks off this week in Seattle and will run across the country through next summer.

MELANIE CHEN COLE PROFILED BY SD UNION-TRIBUNE

MFA Sound Design alumna Melanie Chen Cole was profiled by the San Diego Union-Tribune this week for her sound design work throughout the city. Melanie has had a busy summer and fall, designing for Rachel Bond's *At the Old Place* for La Jolla Playhouse and *Romeo and Juliet* for The Old Globe. She discusses her latest work and her time at UC San Diego in the interview.



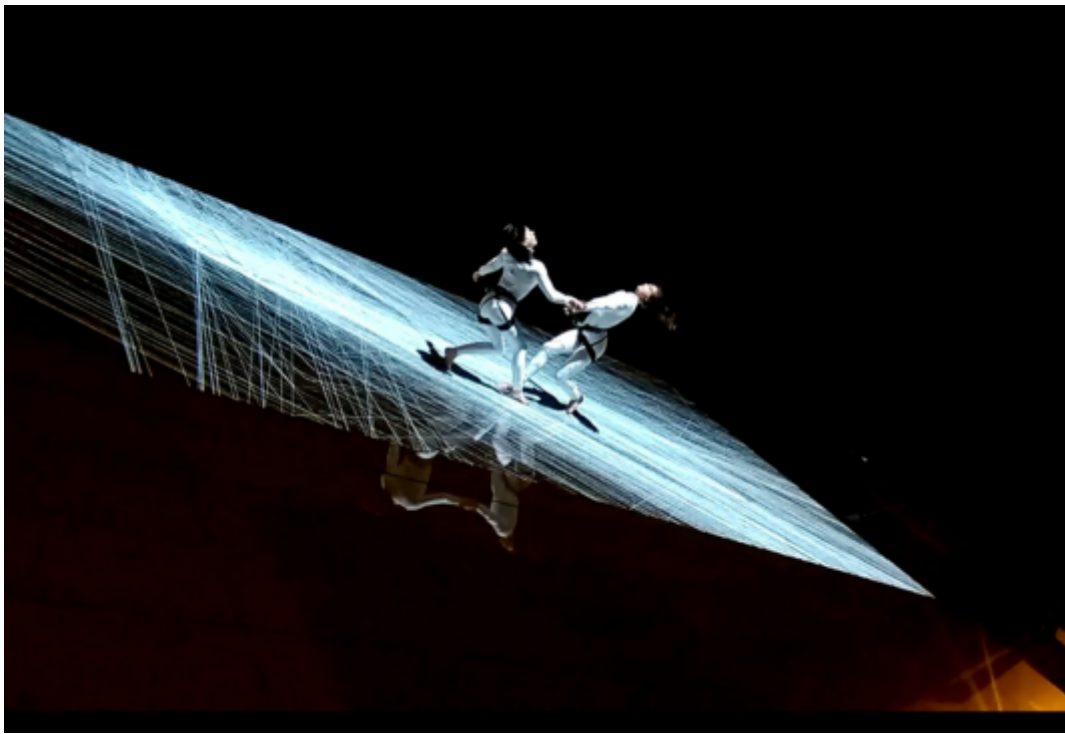
DAISY WALKER WINS BERKSHIRE CRITICS AWARD

MFA directing alumna Daisy Walker and her production of David Auburn's *Lost Lake* received the Outstanding Production of a Play award from the Berkshire Critics Awards. **MFA lighting design alumna Patricia Nichols** was the lighting designer. Congratulations Daisy and Patricia!

RIA MURPHY PREMIERES NEW DANCE PIECE

BA alumna Ria Murphy premiered a new dance piece in Dublin Ireland through her company Aerial Clique. The piece was developed and performed by her and involved she and another dancer moving along the vertical side of a building on top of projections.





SUZANNE AGINS NOMINATED FOR BWW RALEIGH AWARDS

MFA Directing alumna Suzanne Agins and her production of *Dreamgirls* have been nominated for multiple BroadwayWorld Raleigh awards, including Best Musical and Best Director. The production was staged at Cape Fear Regional Theatre.

UC San Diego

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Theatre and Dance

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