



Newsletter Week 1

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September 28, 2015

Meetings of the Week

Faculty Meeting: Welcome Back & Work Ahead

Wednesday, September 30th @ 4pm
GH 157

This mtg will focus on the significant work to be accomplished by the end of Fall Quarter and throughout the course of the year, such as voting into practice a new governance structure & by-laws, budget parameters, etc. Nancy Hartley will provide an orientation and detailed explanation of the department budget and process.

Production Meeting: RHINOCEROS

Thursday, October 1st @ 10am
GH 144

Department News

Sad News about Arthur Wagner



Excerpt from The San Diego Union-Tribune article:

"It's very hard to imagine San Diego theater without him..."

Born in the Bronx, N.Y., on May 11, 1923, Wagner earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Indiana's Earlham College in 1946, and a master's in theater arts from Smith College in Massachusetts.

Originally an actor, Wagner (who at one time supported himself as a shoe salesman) became an artistic director before turning to theater education in the 1950s.

He served stints at several educational institutions and earned a doctorate in drama from Stanford, founding actor-training programs at Tulane, Ohio and Temple universities.

When he arrived at UC San Diego in 1972, Wagner recalled in a 2012 Union-Tribune interview, speculation was that the number of faculty "maybe would grow to seven. We had four that year. Of course, we're over 30 full-time faculty now."

To read the full article, [click here](#).

Condolences should be sent to Arthur's son, Wayne.

Wayne Wagner
1310 Saxony Rd.
Encinitas, CA 92024



Jefferson Mays (MFA Acting Alum '91), one of his most devoted and accomplished students - and Tony Award-winner for *I Am My Own Wife* - pays tribute to Arthur Wagner.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

Save-the-Date!

An event in honor of Arthur Wagner

**Monday October 12th @ 4pm
Weiss Theatre.**

Please RSVP to me if you will be attending: mmaltby@ucsd.edu

Welcome the New UCSD Class of 2018!



(photo by Jim Carmody)

The Brothers Size Nominated for 3 TBA Awards!

The Ubuntu Theater Project was founded in Oakland, California in 2013 as part of the global ubuntu movement with the mission to share diverse works and bridge the class divide by offering exhilarating professional performances at a pay-what-you-can price and removing barriers to access for our audiences.

The artistic company is a mixture of local Bay Area artists and artists from UCSD, current students and alumni.



The Brothers Size, by Tarell Alvin McCraney, was directed by current **MFA acting** student, **Keith Wallace**, and featuring **MFA acting** students **Terrance White** and **DeLeon Dallas**.

(DeLeon Dallas and Terrance White pictured to the left)

The production was recently nominated for 3 TBA Awards:
Outstanding Production

Outstanding Performance by Ensemble
Outstanding Performance by Male Actor in a Lead Role (Willie HP)

Houston)

La Jolla Playhouse presents the 2015 WoW Festival

Without Walls (WoW) is La Jolla Playhouse's acclaimed site-specific theatre program designed to break barriers by moving beyond the boundaries of a traditional four-walled theatre space. Over the past five years, the Playhouse has commissioned and/or presented works by local, national and international theatre artists in locations throughout the San Diego community. Previous WoW productions include *Susurrus* at the San Diego Botanical Garden in Encinitas; *The Car Plays: San Diego* in the Playhouse parking lot; *Sam Bendrix* at the *Bon Soir* at Martini's Above Fourth in Hillcrest; *Accomplice: San Diego* in Little Italy, as well as the four-day Without Walls Festival in October, 2013 that garnered major national attention and critical acclaim. Underscoring the theatre's mission of providing "unfettered creative opportunities for the leading artists of today and tomorrow," coupled with the idea that the Playhouse is defined by the work it creates, not the space in which it is performed, WoW is designed to offer theatrical experiences that venture beyond the physical confines of the Playhouse's facilities.

This year's projects featuring current UCSD students include:

Romulus Kilgore's Mobile Happiness Bazaar

Written by **Bennett Fisher (MFA Playwright)**

Directed by **Jesca Prudencio (MFA Director)**



The Bitter Game

Written and Performed by **Keith Wallace (MFA Actor)**

Directed by **Deborah Stein (UCSD Playwrighting Faculty)**



Grounded

Written by George Brandt

Directed by **Emilie Whelan (MFA Director)**



To purchase tickets and/or read more information, [click here.](#)

New 2015/2016 Theatre and Dance Representatives

Theatre:

Mondis Vakili
Sofia Zaragoza

Dance:

Claudia Varela
Vanessa Diaz

As the Theatre and Dance Representatives they serve as the Department's student liaison and conduct the quarterly undergraduate meetings.

Anne Gehman Choreographs for Trolley

Trolley Dances 2015: Catch the Rapid

Saturday and Sunday
September 26 - 27 & October 3



Four SITE-SPECIFIC DANCE SERIES VENTURES TO BALBOA PARK FOR THE FIRST TIME

Guided Tour Times: 10:00, 10:45, 11:30, 12:15, 1:00, 1:45

This year's Annual TROLLEY DANCES will travel from downtown to Balboa Park in celebration of Centennial with lots of surprises in between. A stellar team of choreographers are on board to create new work that is sure to delight and engage.

Meet the Choreographers:

Jean Isaacs, Stephan Koplowitz, Mark Haim, Liv Isaacs-Nollet, **Anne Gehman (MFA Choreographer)**, and Suzanne Forbes-Vierling.

(Photo by Jim Carmody)

[For tickets and information, click here!](#)

[To read Anne's interview, click here!](#)

News for Students

La Jolla Playhouse presents Blueprints to Freedom



World Premiere

**Blueprints to Freedom:
An Ode to Bayard Rustin**

Thru October 4, 2015

By Michael Benjamin Washington
Directed by Lucie Tiberghien

A co-production with Kansas City Repertory Theatre

THE PORTRAIT OF REDEMPTION

In the sweltering political and racial heat of 1963, Bayard Rustin - the brilliant proponent of non-violent civil disobedience - is assigned to orchestrate an unprecedented march for jobs and freedom. Exiled from the Civil Rights Movement by both internal and external forces, Rustin grapples with his last chance for professional restoration and spiritual redemption.

Blueprints to Freedom: An Ode to Bayard Rustin is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award.

Centerpiece of the 2015 WoW Festival: Healing Wars



Healing Wars

September 29 - October 25, 2015

Conceived, directed and choreographed by Liz Lerman

MULTIMEDIA, MULTISENSORY HEALING

Healing Wars is a multisensory experience that blends dance, storytelling and multimedia in an exploration of how soldiers and healers cope with the physical and psychological wounds of war. Incorporating narratives from the American Civil War, as well as a remarkable performance from a young Navy veteran, this powerful

piece asks how we as a nation recover from what seems like endless battles. Healing Wars anchors the Playhouse's highly-anticipated second Without Walls Festival

Alumni News

2015 WoW Festival The Trip presents Three Sisters

THE TRIP is a San Diego-based contemporary theater company, founded and led by **Joshua Kahan Brody (MFA Directing Alum '13)** and **Tom Dugdale (MFA Directing Alum '10)**, that strives for interdisciplinary, ensemble-driven theater that challenges traditional boundaries of narrative and space. They have worked site-specifically in San Diego in locations ranging from a parking garage (Fool for Love), to a former military barracks (Macbeth), to one of San Diego's hottest tattoo shops (Three Plays in a Tattoo Shop). THE TRIP's Orpheus & Eurydice - a new take on the myth through a blend of online content, live performance, and film - was nominated for a 2014 Craig Noel Award in the category of Best New Play. THE TRIP also created a backyard-barbecue staging of Thornton Wilder's Our Town for the Playhouse's 2013 WoW Festival. More at thetriptheater.net



About the Production

Irina is quickest to the net, but Olga has a killer serve. And though Masha never cared for tennis, she sure plays a mean backhand up the line! Following their acclaimed 2013 WoW Festival production of Our Town, THE TRIP returns with a new production of Anton Chekhov's famous drama, Three Sisters, staged at twilight on a tennis court, with the audience seated just beyond the lines. There will be tea from a samovar, lots of original music, and tennis outfits in various shades of flattering and absurd. If the sisters can't play nicely, maybe you'd like to jump in and play a point or two?

2015 WoW Festival David Jacobi's A Completely Factual Tour

David Jacobi (MFA Playwriting Alum '15) plays include *The Monster Below*, *Widower*, *Mai Dang Lao*, *Battlecruiser Aristotle* and *Ex Machina* have been produced throughout the U.S. and in Beijing, China. He received a B.F.A. in Dramatic Writing from Purchase College and is currently a 2015 M.F.A. Playwriting candidate at UC San Diego. He is co-founder of *Monster Down! Theatre Company*, a collaborative theatre group in Beijing.

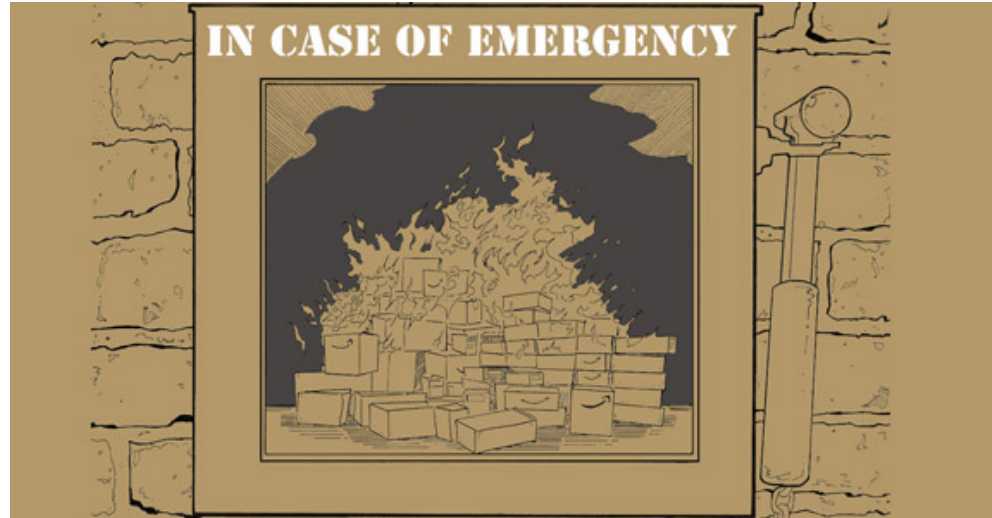


About the Production

Audio tours are becoming more common as tourist sites are moving away from the experience of actual human interactions. Audio tours can be cold, impersonal barriers that hinder meaningful engagement with the site. It seems counterproductive to travel to a play you've never been before only to have exploration and play removed from the equation. *A Completely Factual Tour* is a world-premiere audio play that begins as a simple audio tour, but soon explodes into absurdist theatricality, unexpected matchmaking and guided choreography.

2015 WoW Festival Chalk Repertory Theatre presents In Case of Emergency

Chalk Repertory Theatre is dedicated to presenting classical and contemporary plays in unconventional spaces around Los Angeles County. Past performance venues have included the Hollywood Forever Cemetery, a downtown LA loft and The Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits. **Founded by five graduate of the MFA Theatre Program University of California, San Diego**, Chalk Rep kicked off in 2009 with a critically-acclaimed season of four plays including the Ovation Award-winning *Family Planning*. Working with a diverse group of artists, Chalk Rep aims to transform the ideas that non-theatregoers have about what theatre can be, to create work that is intimate, relevant, and accessible to all. More at chalkrep.com



About the Production

The garage door of a private home becomes a curtain, rising on Meredith, a single woman who has filled her garage with supplies for any emergency. It's gotten a little out of hand, which is why she's hired Alex from "Ready, Set, Go" to help her get organized. But neither the supplies nor the prepping expert can prepare her for the personal disasters that her younger sister brings home, on a day when the city seems set to go up in flames. A brand new site-specific theatrical experience, written by Chalk Repertory founding member Ruth McKee, in the LA-based company's signature style.

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](#)