

Dear Alumni and Friends of UC Irvine Drama,

Greetings and welcome to our newsletter! This has been a banner year for our department. We began by welcoming Luke Cantarella as our new Head of Scenic Design. Along with fellow new faculty members Holly Poe Durbin – costumes, Jamie Lee Smith – lighting, and Vinnie Olivieri and Mike Hooker – sound, we have revitalized our design areas. This fall, we launched our new BFA in Music Theatre. This was a logical (and happy) extension of the excellent Honors in MT program that Professors Dennis Castellano, Gary Busby, and Myrona Delaney have overseen during the past decade. We are already attracting top talent to our BFA and are well positioned to be the finest music theatre training program on the West Coast.

Speaking of outstanding achievements in music theatre, let's give a deserved round of applause to our singing/dancing/acting alumni triple threats. On Broadway, UCI alums starred in the following musicals: Jenny Foote as Val in *A Chorus Line*, Allison Case as Sophie in *Mamma Mia*, Zach Reiner Harris in *Spring Awakening*, Andrew Samonsky as Cable in *South Pacific*, Alan Mingo u/s Sebastian in *Little Mermaid*, and Jeremy Stolle in *Phantom of the Opera*. Teal Wicks played Elphaba in *Wicked* in LA and is now opening the San Francisco company. Quinn Van Antwerp is starring as Bob Gaudio in the Toronto company of *Jersey Boys*. And off-Broadway, Beth Malone played one of the four leading roles, Betty Jean, in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*.

We have many other alums performing, directing, designing, stage managing and producing in theatre, film and television across the country. Please take a moment to peruse the pages that follow to fully appreciate the varied and significant accomplishments of our talented alumni. UCI Drama continues its tradition as a launching pad for distinguished careers in the arts.

May your theatrical dreams come true,

Eli Simon
Chair, Drama
esimon@uci.edu

Closing paragraph:

If you are an alumnus, please stay in touch with us - we really want to know what you're up to! You can send your alumni news to Eli at esimon@uci.edu, Robert at cohen@uci.edu, or drama@uci.edu. Thanks and have a great year!

1960's

RICKY HARRIS ('69), an original member of the UCI Repertory Company lives in San Miguel de Allende, north of Mexico City. She reports: I am still doing workshops in the U.S. but am now culling them, as it was getting too much (she led daily calisthenics at UCI). After all, I did come down here to retire! I still exercise EVERY MORNING for 40 to 60 minutes. That, and good nutrition is helping me stay youthful and healthy. I will be 86 in March! That is unbelievable to me. I have younger women following me around asking what my secret is. Of course it is just "discipline" which most of them who ask, would not have to do what I do.

JERRY HOFFMAN ('67) appeared as Edward IV in Shakespeare at Play's limited engagement of the Bard of Avon's *Richard III* at The Colony Theatre in Burbank, CA. Jerry also appeared as the Rabbi (again) in *Return – The Musical* at the Edgemar Center for the Arts in Santa Monica. JERRY received rave reviews at Marin Shakespeare Festival as ANTIGONUS in *A Winter's Tale*; AUTOLYCUS in *A Winter's Tale*; BARON von STRACK in *Amadeus*. "Some deft comedy as the con man Autolycus." (San Francisco Examiner) "Jerry Hoffman's performance as Autolycus was outstanding." (Patron Review) "Jerry Hoffman stands out in the plum role of the merry rogue, Autolycus." (Marin Independent Journal) "Very amusing antics of Autolycus provided great comic relief." (Patron Review) "Jerry Hoffman cons the audience as he moves into the bleachers." (Pacific Sun)

1970's

ELAINE BARNARD ('71) recently invited us to a production of her short stories, which was produced at the Beverly Hills Public Library Auditorium.

BRUCE BOUCHARD ('71) has been named the new executive director of the Paramount Theatre, the most recognized theater in Rutland County. During his 30-year career in theater, Bouchard has served as vice president of production for Red House Entertainment, Warner Brothers Studio – which is owned by actor Tim Daly – and co-founded a Los Angeles, Calif., company with a client list that includes James Gandolfini, Jimmy Fallon and Felicity Huffman, among others. One of the aspects Bouchard said he likes most about the new theater is its size. Always a fan of smaller theaters, the 850-seat Paramount sits comfortably on the threshold between too big and too small, he said. "It's an intimate big theater," he said, coining a phrase. "I have to hit the ground running because there's a lot of work to be done," he said. "Suffice to say I see a lot of excitement at the Paramount in the future."

ROB and LESLEY CURRIER ('72) continue as the artistic directors of Marin Shakespeare Festival. The 2008 season featured *The Winter's Tale*, *Amadeus*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. They also run a successful children's camp at the festival.

KITTY FELDE ('76) continues as the Special Correspondent for KPCC – Pasadena's NPR station – where she spent a two-week junket last year interviewing California Senators and Congresspersons in Washington, D.C. – including Barbara Boxer who “adored my edgy California jacket” – and covering the 2006 State of the Union address, where she stood in line next to Senator Barak Obama and amused him with a story of how popular he is in Nairobi, from where she had just returned. KITTY's newest play, *Journalist of the Year*, was produced this year by the Towne Street Theatre Company at the Stella Adler Theatre in Hollywood. KITTY also appeared on Larry Mantle's “Airtalk”, KPCC, Public Radio Los Angeles, to discuss her first book, *A Patch of Earth*. “It's just been published in a new collection from the University of Wisconsin Press called *The Theatre of Genocide: Four Plays about Mass Murder in Rwanda, Bosnia, Cambodia, and Armenia*. This was the story from the United Nations Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia that wouldn't leave me alone once I returned to the states. He was a 25 year old kid with acne scars and a hip haircut who confessed to killing “no more than 70” of the twelve hundred people killed that July afternoon in a cornfield near Srebrenica. He said he didn't want to kill, but was told to shoot or stand up there with the Bosnian Muslim men and boys and be shot himself. The play uses trial transcripts and then veers off dramatically to explain how Drazen Erdemovic ended up in the first international criminal justice trial since Nuremberg.” *A Patch of Earth* has been performed in Buffalo, Detroit, Costa Mesa, and Pretoria, South Africa. It won the Maxim Mazumdar playwriting award.

BILL GEKAS ('78) reports, “Westwood College in Anaheim, which is known more for its designers than its performers, opened its doors to performing arts. I was able to produce and direct *Grease* and *Footloose* with students who had never performed before. They welcomed the challenge and the joy, and I loved every minute of it. I was awarded the title of Director of Performing Arts and am looking forward to *Chicago* and maybe *Rocky Horror*.”

GARY GRAHAM ('73) is featured in a new web show called “The Jace Hall Show”. (Type in crackle.com on your browser.) It's primarily geared for gamers, though it will appeal to a broad audience. It's only five minutes with new episodes airing each week.

SANDS HALL's ('73) latest project is *The Philadelphia Story* at the Center for the Arts in Grass Valley. Sands says, “It's a lovely script, full of wit, humor, and delight, and we have a great cast and design team.”

KIT HOPE ('74) writes, “After 6 years back in Orange County, I have pulled up stakes again and am now in the DC area. I'm still working with the American Red Cross - now I'm at national headquarters in International Humanitarian Law Dissemination. That means that I work with Red Cross chapters around the country helping them teach people about the Geneva Conventions and why they are important. The biggest challenge for me in this work is presenting the information while maintaining neutrality concerning current events and government policy. Once again, my acting training comes to the rescue!”

ROBIN KREIGER ('73) tells us: I'm still plugging away and making my living acting. I love it! Last job was on the new show *Miss Guided*, which I'm hoping gets picked up as they may have me back. (keep your fingers crossed!)

Veteran Hollywood producer/executive producer **SCOTT KROOPF** ('73) was on hand for the groundbreaking of the new UCI Arts multidisciplinary building earlier this year. SCOTT's films appearing this coming year include *The Prodigy* with Richard Gere, *Ratko: The Dictator's Son* from National Lampoon, and *One Missed Call*.

TED KRYCZKO ('78) won a Grammy Award for Best Musical Album For Children - *A Green And Red Christmas*, The Muppets, Ted Kryczko & Ed Mitchell, producers, Walt Disney Record.

MARY JO LANGE ('74) has built quite a career as a Foley artist/sound designer in the feature film industry. <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0485850/> Mary Jo came to UCI to speak to our graduate sound design students.

JON LOVITZ ('79) was one of the performers on Comedy Central's “Roast of Bob Saget” this past August, and played in the 9th annual Chris Evert/Raymond James Pro-Celebrity Tennis Classic in Delray Beach, Florida.

JAMES NORWOOD ('72) one of our first students who went on to take a faculty position in theatre at the University of Minnesota and is now teaching there in the Humanities. JAMES reports, “I am now part of the Humanities program, which is a component of the philosophy department here at Minnesota. I teach a six-course cycle in the humanities (art, literature philosophy, as well as theatre), plus other specialized topics, such as a course on JFK for the upcoming fall semester.”

Our heart went out to **BOB SCHNEIDER** ('74) who is an Associate Professor at Northern Illinois State University and was lecturing on Richard Brinsley Sheridan at the time of the tragic Cole Hall shooting there last February. His own class had met in Cole Hall the previous day, as he reported in a long piece in the *Chicago Tribune* “The room where I'd spent every Wednesday evening for the last six school years now was transformed into a generic space of mayhem: yellow plastic ribbons of police tape in the foreground as the camera gawked at ambulances and police cars going and coming. The ‘elsewhere’ that I'd always understood to be part of CNN's crime scene montages had suddenly been folded into my classroom, my school.”

ELLEN SNORTLAND ('74) wrote and appeared in her one-woman show, *Now That She's Gone*, at the New York Fringe Festival. Gloria Steinem said, “Ellen says I'm the ‘grandmother’ of this play, but I'm not crazy enough to think that it was my planting of a seed when in fact it is her enormous talent... She has a gift for being serious and funny, making you laugh and understand at the same time. The first time I saw it, I brought two friends who were visiting New York City from Kenya (a mother and a daughter) to see it, and they loved it too; it's universal.”

1980's

ALLISON LIDDY BROWN ('85) wrote in from location in South Carolina where she was directing an episode of TV's "Army Wives" for Lifetime. She was heading from there to New Mexico to direct episodes of the new Starz TV series, "Crash".

CHERIE BROWN ('81) is now on the faculty at Citrus College in Glendora.

DAVID CHEANEY ('87) received the LA Weekly award for Best Director and **STEPHEN BENSON** ('88) for Best Actor in *Why Marry?*. These awards are for the best theatre in Los Angeles.

LAURA DAVIS-JAOUI ('80) writes: I moved to Los Angeles before I graduated with my BA in drama at UCI and joined SAG in 1979 and after graduating UCI, I joined AEA. I worked mostly in Los Angeles, acting and stage managing for several theaters and theater groups as well as doing bit parts on TV and in movies. I traveled for over 2 years throughout Europe and the Middle East, making friends with theater types in France and meeting the likes of Ionesco. I translated French plays by David Guerdon, the author of the 1963 Broadway play *The Laundry* and lived with his family in Paris at one time. His wife, Marthe Phillippe was the very first actress who played "the maid" in *The Bald Soprano* at the La Huechette theater in the Quartier Latin. I married in 1982 and was widowed in 2007. I ran an apparel manufacturing and wholesale firm with my husband for 9 years. (You can see my denim jacket on Thelma in the movie *Thelma and Louise*). I retired to raise my two sons (now 18 and 20 and college students themselves!) I got my MA in theater at Cal State LA while my kids were small but never got around to using the degree. (I toy with the idea of applying at UCI for a PhD in theater with the idea of writing on the works of Ariane Mnouchkine). Since 1991 I have lived in Claremont while taking care of my elderly father. I have worked part-time since 1995 as a field supervisor for the US Census from whom I get my family's health insurance. It is a brainless job and gives me plenty of time for my real interests. Since I started taking care of my dad I directed a couple plays in LA and an oratorio in Claremont. I have worked as a theater and music instructor at local schools on occasion. I also am active in amateur astronomy and play viola in my local symphony orchestra. You can catch me singing in churches and synagogues and occasionally with orchestras. I love listening to Kitty Felde on KPCC and reading about alums I knew at Irvine in publications like the New Yorker...(David Greenspan for instance) who I am sure would never remember me but I do him and glory to his accomplishments, same to Jon Lovitz. That's my story. I hope it gets to join the rest of the alums' bios.

KELLY EASTON ('85) has won the 2008 Asian Pacific American Literature Award for her novel *Hiroshima Dreams*. The book was also a Chapel Hill Best Book for 2007, a NYPL Book for the Teen Age, and the ASTAL Rhode Island Middle School Novel of the year. Her novel *White Magic* was selected as a 2008 New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age. She has two more novels in press: *To Be Mona* (Simon and Schuster, 2008), and *The Outlandish Adventures of Liberty Aims* (Wendy Lamb Books, 2009). She has recently joined the faculty at Hamline University's MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults. Her website is www.kellyeaston.com

JOSHUA FINKEL ('84) directed *Maids of Honor* by Joan Casademont. It is opening at the Little Theater at California Lutheran University. The play is a fun serio-comedy about the antics that arise between the three Bowlin Sisters in the 20 hours before Monica the eldest gets married. JOSHUA is also overseeing the Academy for New Musical Theater Performers' Workshop for adults and teens. JOSH is not only a Broadway star (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*), he played a bunch of them (Cole Porter, Moss Hart and Billy Rose) to fine critical response in the El Portal production of the new musical, *The Kid From Brooklyn: The Danny Kaye Story* in North Hollywood. After that, he directed *Maids of Honor*. JOSHUA is Creator and Director of the ANMT Performers' Workshop. The PW is established to contribute to the development of new musical theatre by providing the performing artist with training and experience in the creative workshop process. He recently produced the *DARE TO BE TRUTHFUL* Performers Workshop Cabaret. Performers' Workshop Mission Statement: To contribute to the development of new musical theatre by providing the performing artist with training and experience in the creative workshop process. He hosted a free potluck and performance of the comedy and style class of ANMT performers' workshop in North Hollywood. JOSH also starred as Lew Fields in the new musical *Pazzazz!* about the famous vaudevillian/producing team Weber and Fields in 1899. It played at the Haugh PAC located in Glendora on the Citrus College Campus and at the newly refurbished Granada Theater in Santa Barbara. *Pazzazz!* was written by Oscar Winning Disney Composer Richard M. Sherman and Magic Castle owner Milt Larsen. JOSH is also teaching master classes in acting at the San Francisco Academy for the Performing Arts.

A great grinning photo and story on **JOSE CRUZ GONZALES** ('86) in *American Theatre* last April, featuring his play of *The Blue House*, which JOSE, now the playwright-in-residence at Arizona's Childplay theatre, was overseeing at Adventure Stages Chicago where it played a five week run in April and May. "Before the play was ever written," JOSE commented, "I worked with about 500 young people exploring the questions 'What scares you?' to 'How does one deal with death?'"

After graduating from UC Irvine, **JOHN GRADY** ('87) moved to Toronto, Ontario to train at the National Ballet School. "I trained at the school for two years, and then danced professionally with Ballet British Columbia in Vancouver for four seasons. Moved back to Toronto to play the role of the Slavemaster in *Phantom of the Opera* at the Pantages Theatre. Filmed my first television role on "Due South" as a singing Mountee along with Leslie Nielson. While in Toronto I met the creators of Blue Man Group and, later, they offered me a role in their Obie Award Winning show in NYC. I moved to NYC to perform with Blue Man Group. During that time, I was cast in a co-starring role on "Sex and the City" opposite Cynthia Nixon. And began performing stand up comedy with Fred Armisen (cast member of "SNL"). Fred and I were invited to perform as guest comedians at the Aspen Comedy Festival, on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien", and on Comedy Central's "Premium Blend." It was about this time I began making my own short films and sold one that I wrote, starred, directed and edited, "Watch Her" to the AMC channel as part of their Monsterfest that aired in October. I also had taken my dog training skills, having raised and trained my own Bernese Mountain Dog, to the next level. From Certified Therapy Dog working in Chicago and in NYC post 9/11, to using her in commercials, television, and film. Her first film, a Bollywood movie, *The Little Magician* will be

released sometime soon. I retired from being a Blue Man in 2004 after almost 8 years. I was cast in a short film, *Checkout* that won 'Best College Short' at the Aspen Comedy Festival 2006 and continues to win awards at various film festivals. I starred in several off Broadway showcase plays, *Hazard County* by Alison Moore (picked up by the Humana Festival), *Happiness Island*, *Vestibular* (Neurofest), *Ghost Monologues*, and *The Twilight Zone*. I just made my feature film debut as one of the principal creatures in *I Am Legend* starring Will Smith, directed by Francis Lawrence and then starred off Broadway in *Spalding Gray: Stories Left to Tell* at the Minetta Lane Theatre. I continue to compete in the MOTH Storytelling Championship at the Players Club here in NYC. Whew, that's a lot of life work in a one short paragraph!

R. MICHAEL GROS ('81) dropped us a line "Regarding the impact on my acting students of the Pledge of Allegiance exercise from *Acting One*. I know that you set forth disclaimers that the exercise is not an overtly political exercise and I dutifully go over that with the students before we proceed. That being said, given Kansas State University ROTC program and its close proximity and affinity with Ft. Riley (home of The Big Red 1), I inevitably have more than one student who has a family member serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, or who themselves are regular army or ROTC (many students come to class in uniform). No one in my classes that experience the Pledge exercise with a classmate in uniform will ever again say the pledge without contemplating the passion and the sacrifices required to protect one's family and support one's beliefs. At its most pedestrian, it is an excellent acting exercise. In a room full of young men and women directly impacted by a country at war, it engages them on an emotional level I would generally not expect so early in a fundamentals of acting class. The tremendous sense of immediacy experienced by my students exploring that exercise, does, linger on and positively affects their work later in the term."

MARGARET MCGURR ('89) has been appointed the Associate Ticket Services Director at South Coast Repertory.

RICHARD MEDUGNO's ('81) new play *Silent Salzburg* was staged May 9-11 by the Pensacola Opera Company. A play written for Deaf and Hearing Actors, this is a powerful piece about an Austrian Christian family that goes into hiding in 1940 to protect their deaf teenage son from sterilization by the Nazis. Anyone interested in discussing the play with the author can contact Richard Medugno via email at silentsalzburg@yahoo.com.

JEFF MEEK ('83) has been asked to play Macheath in *Three Penny* at the Rep in San Diego. It will start in Feb. 2009.

MEHR MANSOURI ('87) is the founding artistic director of the Childrens Theatre Workshop in NYC - which now has nine satellite operations and is opening a new one in Newport Beach - and makes her living as a voice actor, mainly on audio books. *Publisher's Weekly* says of *The Saffron Kitchen* "Mansuri's voice takes on myriad emotional shades, from wonder and delight to sharp regret and painful uncertainty. Intervals of Persian-inflected music helps set an exotic yet contemplative mood. Her authentic pronunciation of the occasional foreign words allows listeners to be swept up by Crowther's lovely, haunting story even more easily than when reading it for themselves." Equally terrific reviews.

ANDREA PRESS ('83) appeared in the Hollywood production of *Waiting for Life to Begin*, directed by Clifford Bell with musical Direction by Tom Griep.

RON RICHARDS ('85) is director of Communications and Marketing at the University of South Florida where he does marketing and PR for the School of Theatre and Dance and works at the Utah Shakespeare Festival in communications and marketing.

JIM SLOWIAK ('85) gave a week-long session with his New World Performance Laboratory partner, Jairo Cuesta, at the Grotowski Institute in Wroclaw, Poland last June. He is a Professor of Theatre at The University of Akron in Ohio, led a work session entitled *Performance Ecology* at the New World Performance Laboratory in Akron. JAMES served as assistant to Jerzy Grotowski in all facets of the Focused Research Program in Objective Drama at the University of California-Irvine and at the Workcenter of Grotowski in Pontedera, Italy. He co-founded and was Artistic Director of At Random Theatre Ensemble in St. Paul, Minnesota. He has directed more than 60 theatre events in the US and abroad.

DONNA SOTO-MORETTINI ('80) writes that she is no longer at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. "I made a rather momentous decision back in April and just handed in my notice. I had a very long notice period to work out so I have only just finished with them. I'm absolutely loving the freedom of the moment and am in the fortunate position of not actually having to work for a while, so I'm beavering away on a second book and just loving life! I will apply for work in the new year (and have already applied to a few places), but I'm determined not to do anything more than freelance until at least the end of the summer."

RONAL STEPNEY ('80) has a new position at Virginia State. "I have never before had the opportunity to work and teach in a predominantly Black school. It is definitely a positive, learning and growing experience. I directed two August Wilson plays last year: *Ma Rainey* and *King Hedley II*. I was also an Equity Guest artist last fall semester at the University of Richmond, and I got to play the lead role in "the Scottish play."

MATT SULLIVAN ('86) is now on the faculty at UC Davis.

MARY WORKMAN ('87) is still teaching at the American Academy and The Acting Studio in New York. "I find myself in an interesting position this Summer, as my private students here in NYC have asked me to put together a Summer intensive class. It's exciting to be forming my own program - and even more exciting to have a full group. I want to thank you, Robert, so much for *Acting Two*, because one of the things they've requested is an exploration of historical styles. Your book is truly helping me plan these classes. What fun!"

1990's

JASON ADES ('95) writes, I'm producing video games at Activision in order to support my wild Los Angeles theater habit. I've worked on games like *Batman Begins*, *Justice League*, *Harry Potter* and most recently, *Transformers* and *Kung Fu Panda*. I'm the guy they bring in to hit tough dates with difficult partners... like with the folks at the studios or toy companies. I'm still doing some VO work primarily in games and of course I am a theater junkie... so when the passion hits and I believe in the project... I'm on stage doing it.

LARRY BIEDERMAN ('92) directed Schnitzler's *La Ronde* at the Zephyr Theatre in Los Angeles.

STEPHEN BURDMAN ('95) continues as artistic director of the critically acclaimed New York Classical Theatre. This summer season features free productions of *Cymbeline*, *Macbeth*, and *Misalliance* in Central and Battery Parks. There are 96 open rehearsals, 12 educational workshops and 48 nights of free roving classical theatre.

JAMES CALLERI ('90) who is the founder/president of CalleriCasting in New York, is co-authoring the next edition of *Acting Professionally* with one of his UCI profs (guess who?) and was extensively quoted in *Variety* this year for his insights into the New York casting opportunities in theatre, TV and film.

BARRY CAVIN ('95) is Chair of Visual and Performing Arts at Florida Coast University, and this year was promoted to Full Professor as well. **RONALD STEPNEY** ('80) was one of his faculty colleagues.

HOPE CHERNOFF ('94) has played two episodes as Dr. Seidman on "As The World Turns" this year.

KA-LING CHEUNG ('99) reports, "Finally!!! My "Law & Order: SVU" debut. I get all geeked out and in love with Robin Williams' character. Don't get too excited. I didn't get to work with Robin Williams. I'm in a couple of scenes...BUT, DO NOT blink, sneeze, cough or dare to run to the bathroom or take a drink of water..cuz you might miss me in my Aerodax labcoat."

REBECCA CLARK ('93) writes to us: I'm back at RADA this year covering for another voice teacher who is on a leave of absence, and I love many things about it - the amazing students, the small classes (3-4 students at a time), the creative work, the inspiring staff - but one of my favorite things is the four weeks off at Christmas. Last week, we took the Eurostar under the Channel and got in a few nights in Belgium. We spent a day each in Ghent and Brugges and an afternoon in Bruxelles - gorgeous VanEykes, crazy pretty towns, and the best French fries in the world - it was a really lovely break. (Husband) David, also a voice/speech teacher, won a big teaching fellowship this year which will pay for him to spend the first part of the term working on the next book we're writing together. The first one is coming out this spring. We've just finished editing the companion DVD demonstrating exercises, and we're pretty excited about it. The next one will be called *Verbal Arts* (if the publisher picks

it up) and will focus on text work where the first one focuses on voice work. We're hoping that it will take a bit less time to finish than the two years the first one took.

ANDY DEAL ('99) has been teaching for the past three years at a school called Act Hollywood: Theater of Arts. I've taught an American film class for three years now, but this is the first semester I'm adding a foreign film class. I'm very excited about it. I also teach the new student's first acting class at the school. **WILL PETERS** ('99) has been teaching there for five years now. We are still very close friends.

CHRIS DUVAL ('98) reports from Ashland Oregon Shakespeare Festival, "I am teaching a National Stage Combat Workshop this summer in Ashland, Oregon. Students have the opportunity to test and certify in a wide variety of weapons and see shows at OSF. Below is the link to the pdf file that describes the workshop in more detail.
http://www.duelingarts.com/workshops_08/Ashland_Oregon_Workshop.pdf

MICHAEL FOX ('95) is teaching acting at the Laguna School of Art and Design, and recently published, *Like a Poor Player: Audience Emotional Response, Nonrepresentational Performance, and the Staging of Suffering in Macbeth in Macbeth: New Critical Essays*, (Routledge Press, 2007) and directed *Spider's Web* (Christie) at the Long Beach Playhouse. "Puzzle-picture perfect," said the Gazette, "Fox slyly keeps us chasing after red herrings like a color-blind cat. With his solid ensemble cast, he juggles culprit candidates with such a light and sure hand that we realize it's not so much about resolving someone's murder as it is keeping us guessing who, what, and why."

Just heard from **JOHN GLORIA** ('95) and **FRANK GALLEGOS** ('97) who want you to know that their hit single *Ensenada* can be viewed at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzgmzqRkU0. They are two of the four members of Good Ol' Country Railroad and are gigging all over Los Angeles and beyond. Good Ol' Country Railroad, celebrated their 7th anniversary by hosting a night of alt-country music in Silverlake at Zen Sushi. The evening was called, *Circle the Wagons*, and included Brant Lanston and the Supermodels.

GEOFFREY GOING ('99) starred in the West Coast Premiere of the musical *Camila*, featured in the Festival of new American Musicals in California. The *Santa Monica Mirror*: Real musicals are getting hard to find. *Camila* is a gem. He writes: Greetings friends and colleagues. Hope everyone is doing well. I enjoyed seeing many of your faces last night at our successful opening of the musical, *Jekyll and Hyde*, and I hope to see more of your faces next week. I know many of you will not be able to attend, but I thought to send out another invitation just in case you are in town or not going to see the movies, *Mamma Mia* or *Batman*. *Jekyll and Hyde* is now running until July 27th. Steve Cuden, Frank Wildhorn's partner with the original conception of this musical attended last night and gave a wonderful open discussion for the cast and the audience on the history of the show from its conception in the early 1980's to its opening on Broadway in the late 1990s. A very interesting history indeed. GEOFFREY opened a musical theatre revue titled *American Reflections Broadway In Concert*. It performed for two weekends in Santa Monica, CA, and then toured to China. This production, with selections from well-known musicals such as *Sweet Charity*, *Into the Woods*, *A Chorus Line*, *Young Frankenstein*, *City of*

Angels, Ragtime, Seussical and many more will travel to China and participate in the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of Shandong University of the Arts. GEOFFREY writes, "I have some wonderful news. After my successful concert Nov. 8, 2008 I was asked to headline my concert at a bigger venue called The Canyon Club. The series is called *Broadway In Concert* and celebrates some of the best Broadway and Movie Musical Composers.

JOEL GOLDES ('90) reports, "It's been a busy year for me despite the economic downturn (knock wood). I seem to have become the resident dialect coach for the Pasadena Playhouse, this year coaching the world premiere of *Mask, The Musical*, Valerie Harper as Tallulah Bankhead in *Looped* and Mimi Kennedy as Ann Landers in *The Lady With All the Answers*, among others. I appeared on-camera on reality series on MTV, VH-1 and Bravo, and was interviewed for a slate.com article about the late William F. Buckley's accent. My association with Julia Ormond continues, and I've prepped her or coached her in ADR sessions for *Che* (over the phone to a recording studio in London), *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* and *CSI: New York*. I also taught workshops through the SAG Foundation in the General American and Standard English accents. In addition to several other plays I returned to La Jolla Playhouse to coach the premiere of a new musical, *Memphis*, and coached *The School of Night* at the Mark Taper Forum, helmed by English director Bill Alexander."

DON GUY ('99) designed the lighting for *Return*, directed by Donald McKayle at the Edgemar Center for the Arts.

JASON HEIL ('96) enjoyed his directorial debut with George Bernard Shaw's *You Never Can Tell* at the Moonlight Stage Production in Vista, CA. He writes, I have a top-notch cast, with some of San Diego's premiere actors. If you can't make that, I will be acting in *The Voyage Inheritance* at Lamb's Players Theatre in Coronado in April/May. JASON HEIL also starred in *Three Days of Rain*, at Compass Theatre, a black box award winning theatre in the heart of Hillcrest.

More about **JASON.... HEIL**'s directing debut at Moonlight Stage Productions in San Diego was a huge success. "Put together a director with a passion for Shavian comedy, an exuberant cast and a classy physical production like the one Moonlight Stage Productions has assembled and you'll wonder why *You Never Can Tell* isn't staged more often. Director JASON HEIL celebrates the wit and wisdom of Shaw's words, but he also mines the script for maximum comic potential, producing an evening that's as smart as it is funny. Heil's cast is uniformly strong." *Pam Kragen: North County Times*.

HOLLY HOLSINGER ('91) was offered a tenure track position at Cleveland State University.

CHARLIE HUSTON's ('95) eighth novel, *Every Last Drop*, appeared in September – it was the fourth of an intended five in his Joe Pitt Casebook series. CHARLIE has become one of America's top noir crime fiction writers, with his Hank Thompson Trilogy, the Joe Pitt series of vampire goings-on, and his stand-alone, *The Shotgun Rule*; he's also published short stories and the *Moon Knight* series of comic books.

STEPHANIE T. KEEFER ('90) appeared as Rosemary in William Inge's *PICNIC: A tale of forbidden love!* at the Underground Theater, Hollywood. Catching up with her: STEPHANIE has appeared in eight films since studying with Grotowski at UCI, shot 2 national commercials this summer: a comedy for Six Flags and a nice dramatic piece for Allstate. She wrapped supporting roles on a couple of indie features, one of which has an effective trailer at <http://www.deuceofspadesmovie.com> Another independent in which she has several good scenes is premiering in France this month at the DEAUVILLE 34th FESTIVAL DU CINEMA AMERICAIN. She also performed in *The Alleged Adventures of Blenderman*, a 10 Minute Musical, which won the Actoberfest Competition at North Hollywood's Secret Rose Theatre last October (UCI alumna Kitty Felde was one of the judges). STEPHANIE is currently teaching acting at Fullerton College in Orange County.

BEN KEMBER ('99) is a member of 3KO Broadway Theater Company (<http://www.3ko.org/>), which performed its first show of 2008, a black comedy entitled *Mr. Marmalade* by Noah Haidle. The show revolves around the active imagination of a 4 year old girl named Lucy whose imaginary friend, Mr. Marmalade is an overworked alcoholic and drug addict who cannot always find the time to spend with her. BEN reports, "The theater company I am with is doing a show called *The Way We Get By*. It is a collection of scenes and monologues by Neil LaBute, and I will be doing the monologue "Stand Up" which is featured in *Wrecks and other plays...* Aside from that, I am still working at LaureateEducation, Inc. as I have been for the past 5 years. I still write a lot of movie reviews and I get a lot of feedback on them which is great.

ERIC KUNZE ('95) was featured in the *Sacramento Bee* recently. He played the revolutionary Che Guevara, narrator of the story in *Evita*. ERIC played Che in the Music Circus production of *Evita* in 2000. Kunze has performed in plenty of non-Lloyd Webber shows. His first professional role at 21 was on Broadway, as Marius in *Les Misérables*. He played Chris in *Miss Saigon* and Joe Hardy in *Damn Yankees* (opposite Jerry Lewis), also on Broadway. "I've been on the road since last August (with the national tour of *Whistle Down the Wind*). I'm ready to be in my own house, in my own bed."

TYLER LAYTON ('95) wrote to tell us: "I am currently beginning the process of applying for a number of university teaching positions all over the US. I am thrilled and delighted that I am finally ready to go from a successful professional acting career to encouraging and guiding others to their own successful careers as performers. I was certain that the perfect time to make the transition would reveal itself and I know it has arrived. Chicago continues to be wonderful. I've nearly finished my book and I'll soon be looking for a publisher. It's very exciting. Also, I've been cast in a film that will shoot here in the spring which I'm looking forward to. My agents keep me very busy.

After her leading performances in the Marlowe Season (*Edward II*, in which she played the Queen, and *Tamberlaine*) for the opening of the new Lansburgh Theatre at the Washington (DC) Shakespeare Theatre last winter, **DEANNE LORETTE** ('92) has been engaged to star in the same company's *Way of the World* this coming Fall.

LISA HUNT MANTCHEV ('97) tells us, "I am pleased to share the news that my literary agent just sold my first young adult trilogy. Here's the copy as it appeared in Publishers Marketplace: Lisa Mantchev's debut novels about the Théâtre Illuminata, where real fairies fly on wires and pirates sail painted seas, and a foundling must take Center Stage so that the next curtain call won't be the last, to Jean Feiwei at Feiwei and Friends, at auction, in a three-book deal, by Ashley Grayson of Ashley Grayson Literary Agency. The first book is scheduled for release in the Spring of 2009.

BART MCHENRY ('94) was recently promoted to full professor at Azusa Pacific University where he is the Chair of the Department of Theater, Film, and Television. Bart lives in Irvine with his wife Laura and their two daughters Becca and Noelle.

On Broadway this season is **ALAN MINGO** ('98), in the ensemble of Disney's new musical, *Little Mermaid*.

SUSANNA MORROW ('98) is an Assistant Professor of Drama in the Department of Speech and Drama at Trinity University. She has directed *The Laramie Project* and *Fuddy Meers* so far, and will be doing UCI Professor Robert Cohen's translation of *The Misanthrope* in the spring.

BRIAN NEWBERG ('98), is a faculty member at Linn-Benton Community College in the comparatively frigid climes of northern Oregon. He reports: Things are working out well up here and to show that I'm still telling people what do, I enclose a snap that some paparazzi took during a recent photo shoot for the college children's theater show that I'm currently rehearsing. Although I wasn't able to direct the play I originally selected (by the brilliant Bret Martin, whose work I will do in the future) the production is coming along nicely. I think of you and sunny California often, particularly when it rains, which it usually does.

ANDREA ODINOV ('98) reports, "I am now teaching voice/movement and acting in the Theatre Arts department at Loyola Marymount University here in Los Angeles. My students are learning Fitzmaurice Voicework while getting their G.O.T.E., and I am grateful for such a fine group of creative, inquisitive theatre students."

KELLY PERINE ('94) is now starring in a new sitcom with Flavor Flav--premiering on the MyNetworkTV station (which is Channel 13 in the LA/OC area). Terrell "TO" Owens (the All-Pro wide receiver of the Dallas Cowboys) was in the sitcom premiere. And more.... KELLY writes, "2008 was a very busy year for me. I spent the first part of the year in Vancouver shooting *Under One Roof*, a My Network TV comedy where the infamous Flavor Flav and I played brothers. I recently shot a commercial for H&R Block, and a commercial for Jimmy Dean where I play the moon continues to play. I'm currently working on 2 independent features: *Convincing Clooney* and *Speed Dating*. They should be out sometime in 2009."

TINA POLZIN ('95) gave a reading of an original piece at Greenway Arts Alliance in Los Angeles.

WAYNE PYLE ('96) performed in *Emancipation*, Off-Broadway with Ty Jones and the Classical Theatre of Harlem. They received glowing reviews including this from the *NY Times*: *Emancipation*, a vigorously staged play about Nat Turner, who led the

most sustained slave revolt in American history, connects two defiant champions of black resistance to white racism. Staged in the round, the sleek, streamlined production is compelling.

THOM RIVERA ('95) has been, "All over the place recently: another season at OSF, San Jose Rep, I just opened a new play here in New York and in June I am off to the Berkshire Theatre Festival to do *A Man For All Seasons*." Thom received the following notice in the *LA Times* for his work in *The Vows of Penelope Corelli*: *The Vows of Penelope Corelli* begins with Andrea Maulella's dim and needy Sheila returning home from a date with Charlie, in the amiably vulgar person of Thom Rivera. With their crack timing and stagey accents, Ms. Maulella and Mr. Rivera live in the same cartoony Queens neighborhood as Ms. DiCarlo. It's the *Odyssey* set in ethnic Queens and performed by the Sopranos.

Congratulations to **RAE ROBINSON** ('99) who has been awarded a 2007 National Teaching Artist Grant by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. RAE is on the costume design faculty of Humboldt State University, in northern California, and was at last report directing the production of *In Conclusive Woman* for the Kansas City Fringe Festival and the Red Hen Theatre.

STACY ROSS ('90) appeared in *The Triumph of Love*, a co-production of California Shakespeare Theatre and San Jose Rep. "Julie Eccles, Michael Butler and **STACY ROSS** head a generally strong cast in Jonathan Moscone's highly enjoyable and provocatively political staging of Oscar Wilde's witty marital-crisis comedy, *An Ideal Husband*, a bright and brazen, 2¾-hour new look at a classic."

LAURA STANDLEY ('97) has accepted the Visiting Lecturer in Directing position at UNC in Charlotte, North Carolina. She will be teaching directing, play analysis, and directing for their main stage season.

TAMIKO WASHINGTON ('92) directed Sheridan's *School for Scandal* at Chapman College, where she is on the faculty, in April.

JOE WEIN ('91) made a short film that stars fellow alumni **MIKE ROBINSON** ('91). It was made for Downy Fabric Softener and Gen Art as part of a promotion on the People's Choice Awards.

ASHLEY WEST LEONARD ('98) "delivers a focused, intense performance" in the lead female performance of world-premiere production of Bob Clymore's *Tranced* at the Laguna Playhouse, according to the *OC Register*, which also had a front-page feature preview with two photos of our Hollywood-based alum-thesp. "LEONARD has a nice, seductive chemistry," echoed McNulty in the *L.A. Times*.

SAM ZELLER ('92) writes: I portray Chicago mobster George "Bugs" Moran in *Twice Upon A Time*, a world premiere musical by Ray Cooney. With artistic license, history has been somewhat changed for the musical convention, but nonetheless, the story is original, the music is fun, and I'm in love with the cast. **SAM ZELLER** "is a raucously funny scene-stealer as the narcissistic blowhard Miles Gloriosis, and he blasts out his powerful singing voice with aplomb," said *Back Stage West* about our alum's contribution to the "sidesplitting production" of *A Funny Thing Happened on*

the Way to the Forum at the Downey Civic Light Opera this summer which earned a Critic's Pick from the theatre mag. SAM also played Jud Fry in Fullerton CLO's 65th Anniversary production of *Oklahoma!*

MARK ZUFELT ('93) is the artistic director on Next Stage, a brand new company which gave a reading of *Odalisque* at the Frye Art Museum in Seattle, Washington. *Odalisque* is a new work by Seattle playwright David Quicksall, about the complexities of provenance in modern art.

2000's

ADRIAN ALITA ('07) has been teaching undergraduate acting at UC Irvine, was a guest teacher at Sage Hill High School, is a core member of CLOWNZILLA, and continues falling off buildings as part of his stunt work at Knott's Berry Farm.

MARK BEDARD ('06) writes, "Things have been going exceedingly well for me up here at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Last year, I was paying my dues in the ensemble of *On the Razzle* and was able to show a bit of my acting chops as Biondello in *The Taming of the Shrew*. This year I'm playing Antipholus of Ephesus in *The Comedy of Errors* and 1st Fairy/Moth in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. I've also been staying busy with a lot of side projects. I played Feste in a site specific production of *Twelfth Night* organized by actors that we did in a parking lot in town. *Bardbershop* was a huge hit on the green show stage this year and was initiated/organized by yours truly. I've also been teaching for the festival as well as giving tours of the theaters. Last year they sent me out on their School Visit Program (where a team of two actors perform/teach at schools during the off season) and they're sending me again this year. I've also gone on as an understudy as Puck in *Midsummer* and Rodolpho in *A View from the Bridge*. Next year they have me coming back on a three-show contract and they're giving me my equity card! I'm playing Truffaldino in *Servant of Two Masters*, Kewpie in *Paradise Lost*, and Balthasar in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Six actors in the company have been chosen to have their picture on the cover of the OSF brochures (6 brochures in all) and I'm one of them! It's unbelievable . . ."

CAMBRIA BEILSTEIN ('08) is a core member of CLOWNZILLA and toured to Korea to perform in *CLOWNZILLA: A Love Story* at the Gwacheon International Theatre Festival. She also helped create CLOWN PLANET at the Arezzo Festival in Italy. She also performed at The Muckenthaler Cultural Center.

BLOSSOM BENEDICT ('03) writes in, "I'm living in San Francisco right now and directing a theatre summer camp for TheatreWorks in Palo Alto. During the school year I'm the lead teacher for the Children's Healing Project at the Stanford Children's Hospital, doing theatre bedside with kids, plus singing jazz, traveling and teaching classes. I've also joined AEA."

TREVOR BISHOP ('06) directed Robert Schennkan's *The Kentucky Cycle* for California Repertory Company in Long Beach.

In THE LONE WOLF SERIES at Coyote Rep in New York, **ANDREA CABAN**'s ('07) piece "YOU GOT QUESTIONS? I GOT ANSWERS!" mixes anthropology and psychotherapy. She investigates the gaps between isolation and connection through interviews with ten New Yorkers and her father. ANDREA won an award for her one woman show that Coyote Rep produced: Outstanding Solo Performance at the New York Innovative Theater awards.

LOUIS CARAZO ('06) tells us: Things are going really well; I have a busy year ahead of me. I just finished shooting a short film that I starred in, which was an awesome experience! I think some really good work was captured and I can't wait to see how it turns out. I am shooting two features later this month back to back. The first is called *ADDICTS* and the second is a feature called *LOS ANGELES*, which is basically the Latino version of *Friday* or *Barber Shop*. This last one has some known actors attached and I am co-lead so it will be pretty good exposure. I will keep you posted on things as they develop! LOUIS later writes, "I am about to finish wrapping my second feature which will be my first IMDB credit. Things are going well and I am learning A LOT. I also just sent out a big mailing packet to the casting directors that saw showcase and the ones I have auditioned for in the past. Just trying to stay on top of things and be proactive. As soon as I get the copy from the features and short films I have shot since moving out here I should have good material to put together a nice demo reel." LOUIS booked an episode of "Medium" and is now officially SAG. His episodes of "Medium" and "The Unit" aired in the first week of October.

ALLISON CASE ('05), BA Drama/Music Theatre is cast in the Public Theatre's revival of *Hair* coming up this summer. She writes: "the Public is going to fully stage *Hair* and bring it back to Shakespeare in the Park this summer (after the 3 day concert last summer) and they offered me my role back! I am soooooo lucky and grateful for that. So I get to sing Frank Mills again this summer! And Jonathan Groff from Spring Awakening will be back in *Hair* too. So exciting." So it looks like she'll be rubbing elbows with the big-time. Alison also made her Broadway debut in the role of Sophie in *Mamma Mia*. "I will forever be haunted by the vision of ALLISON CASE, the charmingly dewy actress who sings the memorable 'Frank Mills,' scrunching up her face and stomping her foot like a child in a temper, as her character rails against the injustice of the Vietnam War," said no less than *New York Times* lead reviewer, Ben Brantley, about our alum's perf as Crissy in the NY Public Theatre production of *Hair* last summer in Central Park, reprising that role from the company's Astor Place theatre downtown of last year.

JENN COLELLA ('02) starred in the title role in the off-Broadway production of *The Beebo Brinker Chronicles*, directed by Leigh Silverman (who last staged *Well* on Broadway). "The show is a combination of several Ann Bannon novels from the late 1950's. If you are unfamiliar with Ms. Bannon's work, it's lesbian pulp fiction - so I suppose the term 'straight play' might not be the best one to employ in this circumstance! At any rate, I'm thrilled to be a part of it." Fellow alum (but from an earlier era) **DAVID GREENSPAN** ('78) was also in the cast. JENN also reports, "I'm so ridiculously proud to have met and been interviewed with one of my heroes! Lily Tomlin (and her partner, Jane Wagner) are producers of the Off-Broadway play I'm in, *Beebo Brinker Chronicles*. Recently, I was interviewed on GMA NOW with Lily and Leigh Silverman, my director. JENN COLELLA played the title role in

Annie Get Your Gun for the Pittsburgh Light Opera Company, one of the nation's largest producers. "As the rough-hewn, over-achieving Annie, JENN COLLELA displays a delicious balance of guts and vulnerability, unwilling to mask her talents yet thoroughly aware that "You Can't Get A Man With a Gun." said *PittsburghLive*. "The show's other chief selling point is Annie herself, as the list of stars who've tackled her over the years testifies - Here, the CLO is in the very best of hands with JENN COLLELA, who delivers a sassy, funny performance you can't resist. COLLELA just blew [the producers] away in audition, and she does that in performance, too. It's the ease of her comedy I most admire, the confident detail of her pointed (but not excessive) reactions even when the ball's in someone else's hands," said the *Post-Gazette*. JENN was subsequently cast as one of the leads in a new musical, *Broadway: Three Generations* that will open at the Kennedy Center in Washington on Oct 2 for four nights, directed by Lonny Price with an all-star cast. The show is a medley of three musicals, each by different composers. JENN will be playing Molly Gray in *Girl Crazy* and Daisy Hilton (one of the twins in the title) in *Side Show*, along with smaller roles in *Bye Bye Birdie*.

KRISTA COWAN ('05) appeared in *Ball & Chain* - a compilation of seven short original plays written by local playwrights for the Capitol Fringe Festival on the theme of Love & Marriage. KRISTA has been named the new Artistic Director of Journeymen Theater ensemble in Washington DC.

MICHELLE COWIN ('05) writes: I have some terrific news! My boyfriend and I are recently engaged! Yes, Henry and I are engaged and beside ourselves with excitement for our upcoming nuptials. We've set a date for March 14, 2009. That gives everyone (including ourselves) time to prep for the big day. Life as a Lemon Productions is going great. We are hosting a monthly series entitled *Women in Cinema*. For more information, check us out at www.lifeasalemon.com. MICHELLE was featured in **REBECCA TOURINO's** ('05) play *Quickening* at Center Stage, NY on W. 21st Street between 5th and 6th Avenues.

JENNIFER DAY ('01) is gainfully employed as a lighting designer and technician at theatres throughout NYC. She works regularly at Theatre Row Theatres on 42nd Street.

BRYAN DOERRIES ('00) was featured in the *LA Times* on his presentation of his translations from Sophocles to a large Marine Corps Conference in San Diego. BRYAN's group, the Philoctetes Project, was invited by the Marines to offer excerpts showing classic views of battlefield stress. Bryan directed a strong panel of actors, including David Strathairn. The BBC also aired a 10-minute radio piece on Bryan and the *LA Weekly* featured the project too. BRYAN was featured on NPR's "All Things Considered" about The Philoctetes Project and his recent performance of Sophocles' *AJAX* and *PHILOCTETES* in Washington, D.C. for 300 military leaders at the Defense Centers of Excellence Warrior Resilience Conference.

MEL DOMINGO ('03) designed lights for *The Tragical Comedy or Comical Tragedy of Mr. Punch*, for Rogue Artists Ensemble in Los Angeles.

I have just changed my name from **COLLEEN DOWLING** ('02) to Colleen Albrecht. Most of you know I recently got married. In the past year, Colleen has

lighting designed for *Dreamgirls* at Great Lakes Theater Festival & Cleveland Metropolitan School District and *Othello, The Sound of Music, Urinetown the Musical, Kiss Me Kate, The Man Who Came to Dinner, and The Chalk Circle* at PCPA Theaterfest in Santa Maria and Solvang. COLLEEN was appointed a full time Lighting Design Assistant Professor at Kent State University. Her position includes teaching lighting design, stage management, moving lights technology, and mentoring design students for all productions.

ASHLEY DUNN ('03) writes, "I have accepted an offer from Lincoln Center Theater to join their staff as the new Marketing Assistant. This is an extremely exciting turn of events for me, as this is a company I have dreamed of working for since moving to NYC. Working at Manhattan Theater Club has been an extremely rewarding experience, but I am looking forward to a new set of challenges!"

In THE LONE WOLF SERIES at Coyote Rep in New York: In *the cowboy is dying*, **DONNETTA LIVINIA GRAYS** ('02) fuses storytelling about her Southern upbringing and original music in a semi-autobiographical tale of self-discovery. GRAY's piece is a queer comedic look at God, romance, and the wondrous limitations of childhood expectations. DONNETTA later reports, Not really too much of a change from what I am doing now in regards to a next phase. I did my first feature film earlier this year, performed an original solo show with Coyote Rep and will be playing Nilaja Sun in *No Child...* in Hartford, CT. I am also teaching acting, voice and movement at New York Film Academy. After making my Broadway debut in 2006 as an understudy in *Well* by Lisa Kron I got the opportunity in '07 to play the multi-character role that I understudied twice. Once opposite Lisa Kron and Mary Pat Gleason and directed by Leigh Silverman at The Huntington and again, a few months later, with a whole new cast at Arena Stage directed by Kyle Donnelly. To finish out '07, I was cast as Martha Pentecost in Joe Turner's *Come and Gone* at Centerstage in Baltimore, MD. '08 is starting out pretty neat as well as I have a small supporting role in *The Wrestler* starring Evan Rachel Wood, Marisa Tomei and Mickey Rourke directed by Darren Aronofsky. And will be starring in *No Child* by Nilaja Sun at Hartford Theatreworks this summer...Somewhere in there I wrote and performed in my first solo show (*the cowboy is dying*) with Coyote REP. here is a snip of one of the notices: "*the cowboy is dying* is a fine model of a fully-developed story. It is a fusion of a great narrative, heartfelt drama, and original music dressed in soulful vocals...She creates wonderful characters and anecdotes, and when she likens herself to the Marlboro man, it is not only hilarious, but also painfully tender. The cowboy may be dying, but unlike in the Westerns, we don't watch him go with sorrow. From his death springs the birth of a rising, talented artist." -- *Theater Talk Review* (PBS) DONNETTA also is in her fourth season as Officer Rameriz on the Emmy-winning *Law and Order: Special Victim Unit* on NBC, and continues as the Managing Director of the UCI-founded Coyote Rep, a theatre company in New York focusing on the premiering of new plays.

CHRIS HANSEN ('07) designed the sets for *Return*, directed by Donald McKayle at the Edgemar Center for the Arts.

EVANS JARNEFELDT ('08) wrote, "In June I completed my MFA studies at UC Irvine, and Saturday, September 12, *The Weir* opens at PCPA Theaterfest in debut of

my professional career. Working with the sublime work of Conor McPherson and direction of Patricia Troxel has been an absolute pleasure.

GLENN KALISON ('02) reports: "I was appointed as Co-Chair of the Acting for Film program at the New York Film Academy this fall which has been a wonderful development for me, giving me the opportunity to continue pursuing professional work in New York while leading a young program. I'm also teaching a variety of acting/voice/audition classes. It's really amazing because teaching has been so good for my acting. I played Mitch Albom in the two-person *Tuesdays with Morrie* to full 1000 seat houses at the beautiful Victoria Theatre in Dayton, Ohio (production of the Human Race Theatre Company) - and ended the year with a national Carnival Cruise Lines commercial (that shot for 2 weeks in the Caribbean!) Also, GLENN and fellow alums **JEANNE LA SALA** ('04), **DONNETTA GRAYS** ('02), **MICHAEL MORGAN** ('05), **REBECCA TOURINO** ('05), **COREY ALLEN** ('02), **CARRIE BAKER** ('02), **MEGAN BYRNE** ('01), **ANDREA CABAN** ('07), **LISA CLAYTON** ('03), **JENN COLELLA** ('02), **JEFF DAVIS**, **JENY FOOTE** ('00), **RYAN JENSEN** ('02), **DUDLEY KNIGHT**, **RACHEL MAIER** ('05), AND **CARA MALTZ** ('05) contributed to a second successful Coyote REP fundraiser at the Player Club in November. We're now planning a season of sound play production and a one-person stage play festival. While our first season explored ideas of "community," this season will explore ideas of "isolation."

KEVIN KILER ('03) played Horace in Molière's *The School for Wives* at the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespearean Festival last summer, opposite future alumna **BETSY MUGAVERO** who played the leading female role of Agnès. The production was directed by **Professor Robert Cohen**. Also in the 2007 USF company were **COREY ALLEN** ('02), who played the Duke in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and several roles in *Cyrano de Bergerac* and **ERIC KLEIN**.

KEVIN KRECZKO ('08) is the Production Manager and artistic director for park theming at SeaWorld San Antonio. He is also the production director for all haunted attractions and overall Director for our HOS and Christmas product.

LAU LAPIDES ('00) directed *the Black and White Minstrel Show* in the evening's line up on Tuesday night July 22nd. This was sponsored by Another Country Productions, Diverse Voices in Theater, at the Boston Center for the Arts.

In THE LONE WOLF SERIES at Coyote Rep in New York: *SPOILED BEA*, by **JEANNE LASALA** ('04), directed by **REBECCA TOURINO** ('05), deals with isolation as it forces its way into the life of a dancer who, due to a tragic accident, is no longer able to communicate with the outside world. Rather than succumbing to the horror of her situation, Beatrice finds humorous, poignant and creative ways to connect with the characters that populate her new world and to access the freedom and beauty that dance inside of her.

JANE LE ('04) Just wanted to share with you the trailer for the latest film I am in, *1968: Tunnel Rats* that got picked up by Universal Pictures. It was an amazing experience where I was able to go to South Africa for a month and a half and go through intense boot camp training.

ANDREW LEVY ('00) holds the following posts: Rio Hondo College, Adjunct instructor of theatre, (acting and Intro to theatre); Coastline Community College, Adjunct instructor of theatre (acting); Riverside Community College, Adjunct instructor of theatre (intro to theatre); Mariner's Christian School, Costa Mesa, Head of Drama (Director of school productions; *My Fair lady*, *Schoolhouse Rock*, *Bugsy Malone*)

CHARLES MACEO ('06) appeared as Laurence in the World Premiere of *Who Do You Love* at the Wilshire Theater. The play was picked up Off-Broadway in New York, and CHARLES was cast as one of the leads: Eric Armstrong. During the NY run, he auditioned and got the part of David Logan in a 20-state National Tour of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. He writes, "Things get better and better with time. I am just so thankful to have had the acting experiences/training I had at UCI because TRUST ME...they come in handy during the performing and audition processes." CHARLES has also been cast in Connecticut Free Shakespeare's Company summer production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. "After the offer was made, the very next morning I received an e-mail from one of CSF's Artistic Director who is a playwright for National Theater For Arts & Education. After seeing me audition for *Much Ado*, he offered me the lead in a Greek Tragedy he is writing centered around Prometheus. I am so humbled and honored to be doing Shakespeare and Greek Tragedy because cultivation and challenge is so relevant for my career at this time. Also, it's exciting to know that both plays will pretty much close out my 2008 starting on June 30th.

NATHAN MAKARYK's ('02) Picasso, in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* at the Maverick Theatre in Fullerton "is intense, hot-blooded, amorous and passionate to the core," said *BackStage West*, who also praised our alum's scenic and lighting design and co-producing roles for the production, which leaves audiences "stunned with wonder, as are we," said the scribe.

BETH MALONE ('00) is the female lead, "Parker" in the new musical *Pest Control: The Musical*, an all-Equity world premiere at the NoHo Arts Center, Los Angeles. *Backstage*: "The requisite love interest is Parker, a CIA agent in the guise of a waitress, played by the divinely captivating Beth Malone, sporting Audrey Hepburn sophistication." *Variety*: "Malone's role is underwritten yet she makes it work through sheer talent; her rendition of "It Must Be a Pheromone Thing" is delightful." *LA Stage*: "Malone took the role despite the fact that she "barely has time to do anything outside her lucrative commercial career." The *LA Times* has this to say of Beth in *Pest Control*: "Ritchie and Malone act up a comic storm in their scenes together". BETH MALONE is back in New York City where she opened (playing Betty Jean in a cast of four women) in the NY premiere of *The Marvelous Wonderettes* at the Westside Theatre on 43rd Street for a six month run this fall. "All four are gifted comedians, with subtle timing and absolute commitment to every corny joke. Plus, they're incredible singers," said *Variety*. "It's a show you'll want to see twice: once to appreciate the dazzling lead singing by each of its four outstanding comedic actor-vocalists, and a second time to focus on the marvelously understated antics of the other three as they sing backup for one another," said *Backstage*. "The acting and singing is uniformly excellent. These triple-threats not only have voices that can cut diamonds, but they also give a shot in the arm to the pop standards that defined the 50's and 60's" said *Curtain Up*.

BEN MATHES ('08) is in New York and recently performed in the independent film, *City Island* starring Andy Garcia and Alan Arkin, and he has two scenes with Mr. Arkin – who plays an acting teacher while BEN is one of his students.

AMANDA MCRAVEN ('07) MFA, Directing, is recipient of a Fulbright Grant to New Zealand, where she will research Theater and Cultural Studies. Amanda is already making headway in professional theater. A revival of her production of *WOOF DADDY* (by UCI Prof. Bryan Reynolds) is heading to the New York Fringe Festival this summer, and her early summer direction of the premiere of Richard Caliban's *FAMINE PLAYS* at Theatre of NOTE in Los Angeles received great critical praise in the *LA Times* plus a "Pick of the Week" from *LA Weekly*.

WINDELL MIDDLEBROOKS ('05) kept very busy since graduation and showcase. He's become spokesperson for Miller High Life and was featured in eight episodes as the Delivery Guy. He also appeared in full football regalia during the Superbowl for Dr. Pepper. In addition he appeared on *Entourage*, *Hannah Montana*, *You Gotta Not Fight for Your Right to Party*, *Veronica Mars*, *Poughkeepsie*, *Tramps and Thieves*, and *My Name Is Earl*.

A great front-page story on **ANGEL MOORE** ('06) graced the *Orange County Register* last January. Titled "Give Her a Part, Stat!", it traced the UCI acting MFA grad's "nailing the most important audition of her fledgling career" the day after graduating, and landing the role of Nurse Dawn Archer on *ER*, which she had been performing for more than a year when the piece came out. ANGEL confides that she appreciates "making the right decision – going to UCI and holding off on Manhattan and Broadway" since "at UCI you have to bring your 'A' game if you want to keep up!" For the time being, she loves being a member of the cast, who have "welcomed her into the fold" so much that "you would have thought I'd been there for years." Now she says "it's been nice to be part of a legacy – but I'd also like to start my own legacy someday too." And we know she will.

CARINA MORALES ('07) wrote recently, "Last summer, I did summer stock at the Point Sebago Resort in Maine, where I played Philia in *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, and Chiffon in *Little Shop Of Horrors*. At the end of May I accepted a job performing the starring role of Belle in *The Golden Mickeys* show at Hong Kong Disneyland, and I am scheduled to stay here until April 2009. All of my experience thus far has made me extremely grateful for both the artistic and professional training that I received at UCI, and the clear advantage that I feel it has already given me over the competition. I know that I am lucky to have been taught the things that I was taught."

ADRIENNE MUELER ('07) is a core member of CLOWNZILLA and toured to Korea to perform in *CLOWNZILLA: A Love Story* at the Gwacheon International Theatre Festival. She also performed in the Drama Fundraiser's Holiday Extravaganza and at The Muckenthaler Cultural Center.

SARA OVERGARD ('03) writes, "All is well in New York; I had my first anniversary at Columbia Artists Management (CAMI) in September. I'm still in production, but work in classical music instead of theater. I work with foreign

musicians and orchestras and manage their engagements in the US and sometimes overseas. It's a lot of contracts, budgeting, and logistics planning, and keeps me busy! Hopefully in a couple of years I'll be back in theater. I really miss it and hope to get into general management at a company here in NYC. Sara later writes, "I'm still in NYC, still working for Columbia Artists. Job security is a good thing! Moved in a few months ago with my boyfriend Ben—we have a nice place in Park Slope complete with backyard, so we're never moving out! I'm working on a project with conductor Michael Tilson Thomas at the LA Phil in December, so I hope to be able to come down to Irvine for a visit. SARA OVERGAARD left her position at Columbia Artists (CAMI) at the end of September to take an Assistant Director of Concert Halls/Production position at Lincoln Center.

BENJAMIN POHLMEIER ('08) produced and directed *Shopping & Fu**ing* by Mark Ravenhill followed by *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* by David Mamet, at the Lyric Hyperion Theater Café in Silver Lake. Reviewed in *Gorgeous Magazines*, "The acting is superb and made all the more memorable by a minimalist set and intimate theater in the round concept that keeps you focused on the stage and the action, the emotions and the sex. The Lyric Hyperion Theater Café is Silver Lake's newest entertainment destination! Don't let these two plays leave town without seeing them, you won't be sorry!"

TERESA POND ('03) reports: After directing Shakespeare in Hollywood (Ken Ludwig) at the TCG theatre, *Cyranos* Theatre last spring, I spent a busy summer directing *Run for Your Wife* in Pennsylvania (Millbrook Playhouse) and then *Nickel and Dimed* in California (Western Stage Theatre). This fall I put up *Extraordinary!* for Vital Theatre in New York City, followed by *Much Ado About Nothing* at The Loft Theatre. 2008 will have me directing *The Clean House* (Sarah Ruhl) and *Sylvia* (AR Gurney), among others. Last weekend I opened *Pinkalicious*, *The Musical*, off-Broadway at New World Stages, it sold out for the first weekend and they're possibly extending the run.

ROBERTO PRESTIGIACOMO ('03) has had a busy year teaching and directing. AtticRep, his young and well-received theatre company, won eleven local theatre awards this fall and was recently featured on Texas Public Radio. In addition to directing for Trinity and AtticRep, he directed *Julius Caesar* from New Theatre in Miami where he had the chance to work with some old friends from our Florida days. He also traveled to Italy over the summer to complete the second phase of his directing project in Sicily. ROBERTO also directed *One for the Road* by Harold Pinter at the Attic Rep's *Season of Taboos* in San Antonio.

We just got a postcard from **JEN EVANS RESTIVO** ('07) all the way from South Africa where she's been shooting Opal commercials over a two-week period. "It's really been more like a movie shoot than a commercial. Can't wait to share the spots with you. But it's not been all work and no play – did some exploring and saw the African penguins, wild baboon, and giant ostriches.

ASHLEY RHODES ('07) has been hired as the Resident Costume Design Assistant at the Pasadena Playhouse. She assisted Holly Poe Durbin on her production at the Playhouse of *Lady With All the Answers*

EMILY ROGGE ('06) reports: All is well in NYC; I'm playing Antigone here in town and surviving the cold. The play is being produced by Hand Cart Ensemble which is devoted to bringing new life to literary masterworks by combining bold, inventive staging with language-rich translations, adaptations, and classically inspired new works. EMILY also just accepted a teaching position at West Chester University outside of Philadelphia. She'll still be close enough to NYC and miles from downtown Philly so her acting days are far from over.

PATRICK SABONGUI ('05) was very busy in Vancouver this year. He appeared in several episodes of "Stargate: Atlantis," and filmed *The Day the Earth Stood Whiteout, Adam's Wall, Tortured, and Darkness Waits*. He also appeared on "The Kindred, Parts 2 and 1," "Intelligence," and "We Were Here Now We Disappear" on television.

ANDREW SAMONSKY ('03) reports from the Great White Way: "Many of you may or may not know that I am currently in *South Pacific* at Lincoln Center, my first Broadway show! The show has received unbelievable high critical praise (including 11 Tony nominations) and I am so grateful to be a part of such a beautiful and meaningful production. I am in the male ensemble and understudy the role of Lt Cable (the one who sings "Younger Than Springtime), one of the leads in the show, and I have received word that I will be going on as Lt Cable for the entire week of July 22nd - 28th, while Matt Morrison, who plays the role, is on vacation. I had the thrill of a lifetime, going on three times during previews, with no rehearsal, but I am excited to have some advance notice this time to invite my friends and family (and to rehearse some more!)"

RYAN SANBGURG ('07) writes, I recently finished my *Evita* tour in mid-May and hit the streets running. I must have been to at least twenty auditions in the past four weeks, hoping for my next break. To my surprise I not only received another offer, I got two calls within an hour of each other. I was offered the male swing position in *Oklahoma!* at Papermill Playhouse in New Jersey, and also an ensemble role in *The Producers* at Westchester Broadway Theatre. I decided that the responsibility of being a swing, and working more closely with the artistic staff, was exactly what I wanted to do. I was also influenced by the fact that *Oklahoma!* was much harder to get. *The Producers* was a single day of singing, dancing, and acting; the other stretched over a month long span of callbacks against at least a hundred other dancers. I also have to appreciate any audition that makes you do a double tour at the end of an already absurdly fast and taxing ballet combination. I have never had to do such a quick reverser, yet, I made sure to emphasize my nice à la seconde. Papermill has offered me EMC points, which is one step closer to becoming equity. In fact, if I do a second show with them, they'll give me my equity card. I can hardly wait. When they called this last time, I was sure they would ask me to come to yet another callback. Then the words "We'd like you to be in Oklahoma" came out of her mouth, and I literally sat there for a few seconds and said "Wow." She got a good chuckle out of that one. I was sitting with one of my new New York friends yesterday, another dancer, and we were talking about our schools. It made me realize how lucky I was to go to Irvine. It really is a top notch school, and I certainly have learned so much from being a part of it. I hope everything is going well over there, and I'm sure I'll make an appearance sometime in the future.

COLETTE SEARL'S ('02) production of *Vigils* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company was nominated for four 2008 Helen Hayes Awards: Outstanding Lead Actress, Outstanding Supporting Actor, Outstanding Sound Design, and the Canadian Assembly Award for Outstanding Ensemble.

SEAN SPANN ('07) appeared in a production of *Richard III* at the Colony Theatre in Burbank. Things are very LA lately. I'm still teaching at AMDA, Voice and Speech classes. I have a hip pocket (freelance basically) agreement with an agency called Affinity Talent. I turned down a role at Gangbusters Theatre to understudy a much bigger role in a play called *The Company of Wayward Saints* with the Write Act Theatre Company. It was one of those, "This will be a bigger challenge, and therefore a better experience," decisions. I've really only done Shakespeare, on stage at least, since I left Irvine so I wanted to do something more recent. I WILL get a full weekend where I'll perform and I'll be playing Harlequin, so it'll be the biggest role I've had since leaving Irvine. SEAN also appeared in Stephen Sondheim's *Into The Woods* at the Lyric Theatre in Los Angeles

WILL SHANKLIN ('03) is living in Chicago where he just opened in a new play, *The Brother*, about the Rosenberg spy trial, winning a rave review from Chicago Critic, who said "the acting is so strong that it seems that one is actually watching the real Rosenbergs tell their tragic story," and noting in particular that "WILL SHANKLIN is infuriating as the smug prosecutor Roy Cohn."

ERIC STEIN ('00) appeared as Lord Mortimer in Glendale's critically-acclaimed theatre, A Noise Within's *Henry IV Part I*. The *LA Times* review stated, "This is old school Shakespeare, smartly done, from its lively tavern scenes to the epic Battle of Shrewsbury." ERIC reports, "I had a terrific and long season (first half of the year) at A Noise Within in Glendale, as Mortimer and Vernon in *Henry IV*. I am on my way to Utah to adjudicate and teach at the High School Shakespeare Competition in a few weeks. I'm also very involved in this election cycle, volunteering and phone banking for Obama/Biden... a combo which sounds like a great ski resort in the Alps, doesn't it? "Ah, I spent two weeks at Obama-Biden, it was vanderful!"

JEREMY STOLLE ('00) (Music Major) is also on Broadway, in *Phantom of the Opera* where, in addition to performing in the ensemble, he is understudying the two male leads: Raul and the title role of The Phantom.

MAT STOVALL ('08) writes, "I just spent the last month at Mattel toys designing their Hot Wheels gallery, which was pretty cool." **LEAH SPRINGMAN** ('05) sends her regards. The rest of my year is filled with miscellaneous corporate shows, and I'm lighting a few red carpets, which is kind of cool."

DANE SVENNINGSSEN ('07) is a core member of CLOWNZILLA and toured to Korea to perform in *CLOWNZILLA: A Love Story* at the Gwacheon International Theatre Festival. He also clowned around in *A Love Story* at The Muckenthaler Cultural Center.

ERIKA TAI ('02) correctly defines gluttony not as overeating but as voracious consumption of all a person can lay her hands upon," said *Backstage West* of our

alum-thesps performance in the *Seven Deadly Sins* (vis a vis her UCI performance as one of the Four Heavenly Virtues in *Castle of Perseverance*) at the Rude Guerilla Theatre in Santa Ana this summer.

REBECCA TOURINO's ('05) play *Quickening* was produced at Center Stage in NYC with the author at the helm as director too. REBECCA also taught at the New York Film Academy.

KATJANA VADEBONCEUR ('00) Co-Artistic Director of Washington Ensemble Theatre reports, "I directed the regional premiere of *Mr. Marmalade* at Washington Ensemble Theatre (W.E.T.), and we've extended for another weekend. The *Seattle Weekly* review stated, "It's dark, to be sure, but *Mr. Marmalade* is also charming and sincerely funny, due in part to Katjana Vadeboncoeur's brilliant direction: In a story that could have taken a melodramatic turn, she's emphasized the play's comic potential while retaining its underlying sadness."

QUINN VAN ANTWERP ('08) understudied the lead role in L.A.'s Geffen Theatre premiere of the musical, *Atlanta* last spring – after performing in *South Pacific* at the Hollywood Bowl and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at the Welk Theatre. QUINN also reported to Dennis Castellano and Myrona Delaney, "Tuesday I start rehearsal to play Bob Gaudio in *Jersey Boys* in Toronto. I go in tonight for a fitting and to meet the Broadway cast and get to watch the show. I got a one year offer with the company as a whole so who knows how long Toronto will last but I am thrilled. I couldn't pick a better part in a better show playing right now. Thank you so much for all your help and support and I am convinced that none of this would have ever happened (especially so fast!) without you!

KENNETH VERDUGO ('01) Assistant Professor at University of North Texas, reports, "A year ago fall, I designed a very post-modern & eclectic version of *Antigone* for Andrew Harris. The concept was based on an idea largely pulled from *Planet of the Apes* -- the visual idea suggesting that our very own Jeffersonian & American architectural environs had been compromised and defaced by a rather unexpected & unanticipated Persian/Theban a.k.a. Iraqi occupational force. This was followed by a very outside-of-the-box version of *Landscape of the Body* for Susan Sargaent. Currently, I am designing *The Merchant of Venice* for Shakespeare Dallas. This will be followed by my chairing a USITT panel session in Cincinnati, Spring 2009.

SELAH VICTOR ('03) wrote, "I am pleased to announce my new musical, *A Very Brady Musical*, produced by the creators of the original "Brady Bunch" and performed at Theater West. Just like in my Second City shows, I play so many different fun characters that you might not even recognize me!! How's that for incentive to come see the show?! We had dozens of wonderful reviews from our opening weekend!

SCOTT WERVE ('03) directed the West Coast premiere of *Office Sonata* for his and **MARIE WONG's** ('03) Range View Productions at the Hayworth Theatre in Los Angeles last Spring – and **LAURA SIMMS** ('07) and **AMANDA RANDALL** ('04) were in the cast.

TEAL WICKS ('05) is "...thrilled to be stepping into the role of Elphaba and going green," as the new lead in the musical *Wicked* at the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles May 13, 2008. Teal graduated with a degree in Drama with honors in Musical Theatre. TEAL will head the cast of the open ended run of *Wicked* in San Francisco. TEAL will play Elphaba and Glinda.

JOANN YARROW's ('00) production of *Los intereses creados* (*The Bonds of Interest*) by Jacinto Benavente received a rave review in the *Miami Herald*.

"Convinced of the text's continuing capacity to entertain and provoke today's audiences, director Joann María Yarrow has intelligently adapted the work for Miami's Prometeo Theatre, making it the company's offering at the ongoing XXIII International Hispanic Theatre Festival. The most difficult task Yarrow had was to avoid imbalance in a cast that included a well-known actor and students with different levels of experience, but she did just that. Though some actors did shine more than others, the company achieved an energetic balance."

MAGDELENA ZIRA ('06) directed *You* in Athens by Olga Mukhina. This was a contemporary Russian play with a great deal of Chekhovian parody in it, about life in Moscow in the '90s. It was a difficult text, but rewarding in the end. She'll be back in New York in September to direct *Lysistrata*, at the same theatre where she directed the *Frogs* last year, the Greek Cultural Center. "The *Frogs* was a big success, but the prospect of doing Aristophanes again does not get less daunting. Comedy is hard, as Keith Fowler often says..."

Additional News:

ASHLEY CARR (faculty, '72-'79) writes " I just want to make sure I send my full gratitude and thank you to all the faculty, staff and students who made possible and were responsible for such an extraordinarily creative period in my own life from 1972-79 at UCI. It has been a true pleasure to read of all your great accomplishments over the years in this Alumni Newsletter. In 2002 I retired to Palm Springs after 18 years of heading the Acting program in Theatre Arts at CSU, Long Beach. My very next door neighbor is no less than **JOAN MCGILLIS** ('78). We have been having lots of fun doing theatre out here together in the Coachella valley. She directed me as Madeline in *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, this year we acted together in *Light Up the Sky* and she was stage manager as I acted Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot*. I've also had the fun of playing Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Saunders in *Lend Me a Tenor*, and being employed as Standby for Harold Gould in *Viagara Falls*. Again, my thanks and best wishes to all of you."

DUDLEY KNIGHT is teaching at Temple and playing Gloucester this summer at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival in a production directed by Fontaine Seyr. "Maybe I'll make it through the run this time! It'll be my first LEAR sans ROBERT COHEN at the helm. I'll try to cope."

AMANDA KRAMER, a senior drama major, has taken a leave of absence to perform in the Old Globe's production of *The Women* along side a star-studded cast of Broadway veterans. The play has had wonderful reviews and often mentions AMANDA KRAMER and that she is a student at UCI.

VIRGINIE MAGNAT writes, I have some good news: my research project "Meetings with Remarkable Women: Investigating Women's Contribution to Grotowski's Cross-Cultural Performance Research" has received funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada in the form of a three-year Standard Research Grant. My main collaborators will be professors Grzegorz Ziolkowski and Paul Allain, and my project is designed to be part of the 2009 Year of Grotowski series of events co-organized by the Polish Grotowski Institute and the British Grotowski Project. **ROB ORNELLAS** ('88) will be my research associate for this project. I will also be contacting publishers about securing a book contract.

GARRETT MENDEZ directed and co-wrote an original sketch comedy show called *Totally Bahassa*, It enjoyed a four week run at Avery Schreiber Theater North Hollywood and included UCI alums and current students: **MARISA BARAM, JULIAN CLARK, ANDREW DELMAN, SHEA DEPMORE, ALI DUBROW, SEAN JACKSON, TAYLOR JACKSON ROSS, BRITTANY MORRISON, DANIEL MILLER, AYSHA WAX, and JEFF WHEELER.**

DEB STYER, who was not an alumna but the school's longtime Assistant Production Manager, spent the year stage managing Broadway's prize-winning hit, *August: Osage County* at the Imperial Theatre on the Great White Way's famous 45th Street.

ZACH REINER HARRIS has just been cast as a swing (replacement for several performers) in the Broadway *Spring Awakening*. This means we have six alums performing on Broadway this summer.

ADRIENNE MUELLER ('07), **ADRIAN ALITA** ('07), **CAMBRIA BEILSTEIN** ('08), **DANE SVENNINGSEN** ('07), **ELIZABETH GRACIANO** ('07) are core member of CLOWNZILLA, a clown troupe featuring UCI trained actor/clowns. He/she performed in *CLOWNZILLA: A Love Story* at Rude Guerilla Theatre Company in Santa Ana, receiving glowing reviews and Critic's Choice in the LA Times. The show subsequently toured to the Arezzo International Theatre Festival in Italy and the Gwacheon International Theatre Festival in South Korea. *CLOWNZILLA: A Holiday Extravaganza* was also hosted by Rude Guerilla and garnered critical acclaim in the *LA Times*, *OC Weekly*, and *Backstage West*. **RJ ROMERO** is also a core member of CLOWNZILLA and toured to Korea to perform in *CLOWNZILLA: A Love Story* at the Gwacheon International Theatre Festival. He also performed in the Drama Fundraiser's Holiday Extravaganza and at The Muckenthaler Cultural Center. **ALEXANDER "GRANDE" PHILLIPS** ('07) is also a core member of CLOWNZILLA and toured to Korea to stage manage *CLOWNZILLA: A Love Story* at the Gwacheon International Theatre Festival. He also stage managed at The Muckenthaler Cultural Center.

Additional Announcements:

Network and Academic Computing Services, in close collaboration with the UCI Alumni Association, has deployed a lifetime e-mail forwarding service for students graduating from UCI. Students from the 2006, 2007 and 2008 graduating classes have been given the opportunity to establish a lifetime "UCInetID@alumni.uci.edu" e-mail address. Graduates register a forwarding address of their choice to which their @alumni.uci.edu e-mail will be delivered. Lifetime e-mail forwarding provides an additional way for graduates to maintain a connection with UCI. Graduates who set up their forwarding address also retain their UCInetID login and password which can be used to access a subset of campus services. These include the UCI Alumni Association's online services, the campus wireless network, and the Registrar's StudentAccess system. The UCInetIDs will also allow the campus to provide additional services to alumni in the future. Since summer 2007, more than 5,300 students have signed up and are using the @alumni.uci.edu lifetime e-mail service. We plan to extend the service to all UCI alumni over the next several months. If you have any questions about the new service, please contact NACS (nacs@uci.edu, 949-824-2222).