

## UCI DRAMA NEWSLETTER – 2016

COMPILED AND EDITED BY THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT STAFF

*This is not a complete listing. Alumni are welcome and encouraged to submit updates on their current achievements and endeavors; please send corrections and/or additions (with images, when possible) to Leslie Blough at [lblough@uci.edu](mailto:lblough@uci.edu).*



### IN MEMORIAM

UC Irvine's Department of Drama mourns the passing of Founding Dean **CLAYTON GARRISON**, who died on July 30, 2015, at the age of 93. Clayton was invited by Chancellor Dan Aldrich to create a "Department of Arts" in 1964, the year before the campus opened. After signing on, he proposed that instead of lumping Drama, Dance, Music and Art into a "department," he wished to create these four

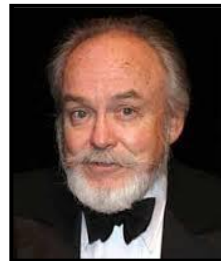
units as individual departments within what would be called a "School of Fine Arts."

The School began with only seven faculty members: two each in Drama, Music, and Art, and one in Dance, but within a few years, it grew into a major national arts academy. Garrison's teaching and directing were as important to him as his administration, however, and he became famous for his superb staging of musicals.

More than just a Dean and a Director, Clayton maintained close collegial work with administrative officers, Deans of other schools, faculty members in all School of Fine Arts departments and, above all, with his hundreds of drama and dance students, with whom he often performed. Clayton Garrison was more than a superb theatrical artist and educator: he was a true visionary, and a mentor to all who worked with him.

### RETIREMENT

**KEITH FOWLER**, who will retire in December 2015, helmed the Directing program until 2012 and guided the budding careers of both actors and directors in his long and vibrant career in the department.



### SAVE THE DATE:

**23 – 24 APRIL 2016**

PLAN TO JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF THE CAREER AND SCHOLARSHIP OF **PROFESSOR ROBERT COHEN**, WHO WILL BE AWARDED THE FOURTH CLAIRE TREVOR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS COMMEMORATIVE STAR ON THE WALK OF FAME IN FRONT OF THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER.



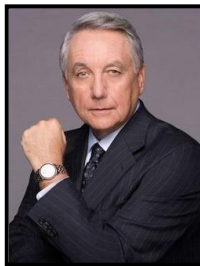
ON APRIL 23 WILL BE A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS CONNECTED TO COHEN'S TEACHINGS. ON APRIL 24 WILL BE A RECEPTION IN THE ARTS PLAZA FOLLOWED BY A STAR-STUDED PERFORMANCE IN THE CLAIRE TREVOR THEATRE, A CELEBRATION IN SONG OF ALUMNI AND CURRENT STUDENTS, IN ROBERT'S HONOR.

**WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!**



## 1960s

**BOB GUNTON ('68)**, previously featured in the films *Argo* and *The Shawshank Redemption*, has joined the cast of "Daredevil," Marvel's first series for Netflix. The series also stars Rosario Dawson and Scott Glenn.



Bob Gunton

## 1970s



David Greenspan

The Abron Arts Center presented the world premiere of five-time OBIE recipient **DAVID GREENSPAN'S ('78)** *I'm Looking for Twelvetees*, directed by long-time collaborator and Tony nominee Leigh Silverman. *Twelvetees* is Greenspan's 25th original work, written and performed by him.

**MARY JO LANG ('74)** was nominated for a Cinema Audio Award 2014 for her work as Foley mixer on the film *Interstellar*.

## 1980s



Ron Hastings

**RON HASTINGS ('88)** returned to the stage in the summer of 2012 (after 20 years away), appearing in the Lewis Family Playhouse (Rancho Cucamonga) production of *Rabbit Hole*. Since then he has performed in over a dozen productions around the Inland Empire.

## 1990s

**JAMES CALLERI ('90)** was featured in *Backstage* in an article entitled "The Secret to Calleri Casting's Success."

**CRAIG J. GEORGE ('91)** directed *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays* at the Gordon Square Theatre in Cleveland, OH.

**JASON HEIL ('96)** played Roy in ion theatre company's production of *Sea of Souls* at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater in NY.

**TYLER LAYTON ('95)** was featured in Florida Repertory Theatre's world premiere of *Split in Three*, a new play by Daryl Lisa Fazio.



James Calleri, center



Tyler Layton (center)

**KITTY BALAY ('90), KARIN HENDRICKS ('90), and ANDREW PHILPOT ('90)**, were featured in *Man of La Mancha*, which had runs at both the Marian Theatre and the Solvang Festival Theater.

**STACY ROSS ('90)** played Malvolio in California Shakespeare Theater's production of *Twelfth Night*, directed by Christopher Liam Moore.

## 2000s

**ANDREA CABAN ('07)** is heading *Sparkling Curiosity*, a three-year documentary theater series which is being presented as part of the Carpenter Center's *Arts for Life* program.



**ALLISON CASE ('05)** returned to Broadway as Miss Honey in the hit musical, *Matilda*. She was also featured on The Drama Desk-nominated Off-Broadway production *Fly By Night: A New Musical*, which played at Playwrights Horizons last spring.

**JENN COLELLA ('02)** played the title role of *Peter Pan* at the Sacramento Music Circus. She was also featured as Beverly in La Jolla's world premiere of the rock musical *Come from Away*.

**NATHAN CROCKER ('09)** performed in the 2015 *Actors' Renaissance Season* at the Blackfriars Playhouse.

**LAURA D'ANDRE ('07)** starred as Sheila in *Hair* at the Sacramento Music Circus, musically directed by Dennis Castellano ('84). She was also featured in City Center's *Encores!* production of the classic musical *Zorba!* starring John Turturro.



**GARRETT DEAGON ('11)** played Rooster Hannigan in *Annie* Featuring as, at Texas' Bass Concert Hall as part of Lexus' *Broadway in Austin* series.



**BRYAN DOERRIES ('01)** published *The Theater of War: What Ancient Tragedies Can Teach Us Today* (Knopf), a work of non-fiction that draws on the author's experience as a director of socially conscious theater.

**RYAN FARNSWORTH ('09)** appeared in the national tour of *Beautiful - The Carol King Musical*.

**JENIFER FOOTE ('00)** will return to Broadway next February in the cast of Roundabout Theatre Company's production of *Nine*.

**DONNETTA LAVINIA GRAYS ('02)** was featured in Barrington Stage Company's production of the new work *Veils*, by Tom Coash She also worked in *Let There Be Love*, presented by American Conservatory Theater.

**LIESEL HANSON ('08)** was featured as part of the "Miskatonic pep squad" in *Re-Animator the Musical* at The Smith Center in Las Vegas



**DAREN A. HERBERT ('05)** joined the national tour of *IF/THEN*, starring Tony winner Idina Menzel.

**PETER KUO ('05)** directed *Washer/Dryer* at East West Players.

**BETH MALONE ('00)** was nominated for Best Actress in a Musical for *Fun Home* at the 69th annual Tony Awards.

**AMANDA McRAVEN ('07)** directed *Pulp Shakespeare* (or *Bard Fiction*) at Theatre Asylum in Hollywood.

**CARINA MORALES ('07)** starred as "Clarie McGreely" in the world premiere of *Natural Life* at the award winning T. Schreiber Studio and Theatre in NY.

**MICHAEL DEAN MORGAN ('05)** was featured in *Amazing Grace*, under the direction of Gabriel Barre, at Broadway's Nederlander Theatre.

**BETSY MUGAVERO ('09)** returned to Utah Shakespeare Festival to play Constanze, the flirtatious and resilient wife of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, in *Amadeus*.

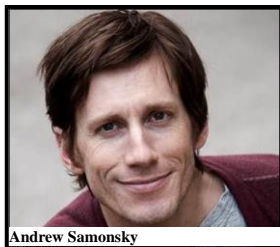


**SHARON RIETKIRK ('06)** and **LAURA D'ANDRE ('07)** starred in the new musical, *Triangle*, at Theatreworks in Palo Alto. Sharon also starred as the Elinor in *Sense and Sensibility* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre.

**ANDREW SAMONSKY ('03)** starred as Robert Kincaid in the national tour of *Bridges of Madison County*. Samonsky was also featured in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Paper Mill Playhouse.

**TAYLOR STEPHENSON ('09)** musically directed *She Loves Me* at Chance Theater in Anaheim.

**RACHEL STIVERS ('08)** received an Ovation nomination for Costume Design in 2014 for her work on *The Pliant Girls* with the Fugitive Kind Theater Company. Rachel was also



admitted to the Motion Picture Costumers Union in 2010 while working on the adultswim show *Eagleheart*, and has since requalified as a Journeyman Costumer.

**QUINN VAN ANTWERP ('08)** and the cast of *Jersey Boys* performed "Oh What a Night" to close the 2015 Tony Awards, to celebrate the show's ten years on Broadway.



**TEAL WICKS ('05)** returned to Broadway in *Finding Neverland*, playing J.M. Barrie's social-climbing wife Mary.

**KYRA ZAGORSKY ('06)** continues her run as Julia on the popular SyFy cult show *Helix*.



## 2010s

**SKYE BRONFENBRENNER ('10)** joined the tour of *Guys and Dolls*, which made a stop at Orange County's Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

**LUCAS CALHOUN ('13)** enjoyed a run in Broadway's *The Elephant Man*, as understudy to Bradley Cooper in the title role.

**CARYN DESAI ('12)** was featured in *Abigail/1702* at International City Theatre, Long Beach Performing Arts Center.



Leah Dutchin

**LEAH DUTCHIN ('12)** took on the title role of *Othello* in Titan Theatre Company's all-female production.

**BETH GARDINER ('10)** directed (with Lori Wolter Hudson) a limited engagement of *Hank V*, based on William Shakespeare's *Henry V* (adapted by Three Day Hangover) at Stumble Inn's East Wing, NY.

**GRACE GEALEY ('10)** continues her run as Anika Gibbons on the hit FOX drama *Empire*.

**BEN GIBSON ('13)** appeared in *Dogfight* at the Cygnet Theatre in San Diego.

**BEN JACOBY ('12)** played Berowne in *Love's Labour Lost* in his first season with The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey.

**PALMER JANKINS ('10)** was tagged as the "Young Designer to Watch" by [livedesignonline.com](http://livedesignonline.com).

**KARYN LAWRENCE ('12)** did the lighting design and **SEAN CAWELTI ('03)** the projection design for East West Players' 50th Anniversary Season production of *The Who's Tommy*.

**SHERYL LIU ('11)** designed the sets for *Film Chinois* at the Beckett Theater.



Grace Gealey

**ZACH REINER-HARRIS ('13)** joined other cast members from the Broadway and touring companies of *Spring Awakening* on the stage of 54 Below for a one-night concert.



Anthony Simone (left)

**ROB SALAS ('11)** directed *Twelfth Night* for the Davis Shakespeare Festival.

**ANTHONY SIMONE ('14)** joined the cast of *The Whipping Man* at the Sacramento Theatre Company.

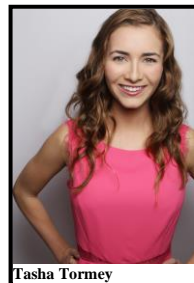
**ABBEY SMITH ('12)** performed *Edgar & Annabel* with The Poor Theatre in Chicago.

**IAN MICHAEL STUART ('10)** joined the first national tour of *Matilda the Musical*.

**TASHA TORMEY ('15)** joined Bigfork Summer Playhouse in Montana for their 56<sup>th</sup> Summer Season. She performed throughout the summer in five musicals.

**VICTOR VAZQUEZ ('11)** was the project leader for MI HISTORIA, MI MANERA a Pasadena Playhouse Theatre Initiative for the Latino Community.

**MICHAEL VITALE ('13)** was the Production Stage Manager of Lythgoe Family Productions' *Sleeping Beauty and her Winter Knight* at The Pasadena Playhouse.



Tasha Tormey