Greetings and welcome to our UC Irvine Drama newsletter! This has been another banner year for our department. We began with our first-ever Festival of New Music Theatre, an alliance with the distinguished Academy for New Musical Theatre in Los Angeles. Our festival featured world premiere workshop stagings of Aging Out and e-Scape - full-length musicals written specifically for UC Irvine Drama. In the middle of our once-Frisbee tossing quad, the new Arts Media Building is under construction and should be fully operational very soon. This facility will feature state-of-the-art design labs, rehearsal rooms, and multi-media studios. Last season featured a wildly successful production of The Bacchae Trilogy directed by esteemed Romanian director, Mihai Maniutiu. We are looking forward to hosting Herbert Siguenza of Culture Clash for The Herbert Siguenza Project this season and have plans to continue our tradition of bringing top-flight artists here to work with our students.

For this year’s newsletter, let’s throw the spotlight on alumnus Bryan Doerries who was featured at the top of page one in the New York Times Art Section in an article entitled, The Anguish of War for Today's Soldiers, Explored by Sophocles. The Pentagon has provided $3.7 million for his independent production company, Theater of War, to visit 50 military sites through at least next year and stage readings from two plays by Sophocles, Ajax and Philoctetes, for service members struggling with both physical and emotional pain. Bryan described the effort as a public health project to help service members and relatives overcome stigmas about psychological injuries by showing that some of the bravest heroes suffered mentally from battle. “Through theater we’re trying to offer some ideas and experiences for our troops and veterans to think about when they don’t feel comfortable opening up about their private thoughts.” And so we extend to Bryan a heartfelt round of applause for conceiving and staging these life altering theatrical endeavors.

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. UC Irvine 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

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!

UCI DRAMA NEWSLETTER – 2010
Compiled and Edited by the Drama Department Staff

1960’s

CHARLES "CHARLIE" HUTCHINS ('69) writes, "I've been keeping busy since I saw you last at that big Drama Alumni gathering a few years ago. Since 1996 I've worked 8 summers at Kingsman Shakespeare Festival out in Thousand Oaks. Last show I did was 3 years ago "Othello" (as Lodovico) and Midsummer Night's Dream (as Peter Quince). I've done a couple of low budget films this year, as well as, some TV. It's never simple being an actor as you are well aware but I'm a pretty happy guy about what I've chosen to do.

1970’s

KITTY FELDE’s ('76) new play, The Gogol Project, received its world premier with Rogue Artists, directed by anteater alum SEAN CAWELTI.

DAVID GREENSPAN ('78) played the title role (and the dress) in William M. Hoffman's Cornbury: The Queen's Governor at the Hudson Guild Theater in NYC. Says the NY Times: “In David Greenspan, the marvelously odd downtown actor who plays the title role, the play has an interpreter more than equal to the task of imbuing a historical footnote with theatrical allure. Mr. Greenspan is a stalwart foe of dull or ordinary line readings, and he settles happily into the arch period language of the play as if reclining on a bed of silken pillows. In a role that allows him to indulge his penchant for embellishing a phrase with a graceful sweep of the arm or flick of a wrist, he swans grandly off into his own personal heaven.”

ARYE GROSS ('78) starred in SCR's Our Mother's Brief Affair (Richard Greenberg's world premiere) with this rave review in Hollywood Reporter: [Lead actress Jenny O'Hara] ...is "complemented to perfection by ...Gross -- who doesn't waste a second setting the play into motion with his droll, gallows-humor manner. The identification between the actors and their roles is nearly as seamless as their onstage relationships. Each actor embraces her or his character and space with absorbing passion."

BOB HOWELL ('73) is on the Board of Directors at Group Rep in Los Angeles. They recently premiered the new musical: A Christmas Carol.

MARYJO LANG ('74) was nominated for the UC Irvine Alumni Association Lauds and Laurels award – and SHE WON! MaryJo is the premiere foley mixer in Hollywood, and has worked on dozens of successful movies over the past decade.
JON LOVITZ ('79) was in production this year for a new cinematic thriller Casino Jack with Kevin Spacey and Kelly Preston, directed by George Hickenlooper and written by Norman Snider.

1980’s

CONSTANTINE ARVANITAKIS ('88) writes, "I guess the most important thing is my teaching. Firstly at my alma mater, the U of Athens which is the most prestigious Drama Department in the country. A lot more important is my job at my other alma mater, the Athens Conservatory from which my father, brother and I all graduated as musicians, and where my father taught for years. This I've come to consider the most rewarding aspect of my life at this stage. Along with my associates, managed to turn it into one of the best drama schools in the country. I'm very proud of that. Did Shrew on the mainstage of the National Theatre last November. Now I'm preparing to do a New Greek play for next fall, Ben Jonson's The Silent Woman for next winter, and hopefully a revival of The Mystery of Irma Vep.

JOSE CRUZ GONZALEZ ('86) directed Zona Rosa by Carlos Morton at UC Santa Barbara’s Performing Arts Theatre.

JOHN GRADY ('87) I've just finished shooting a recurring role on the first season of “KINGS” on NBC with Ian McShane. The short film I starred in, Doga, was voted ‘Best of’ at the TropfestNY short film festival. Fugue, a short film I starred in, is screening at the Palm Beach International Film Festival this month. I also just wrapped work on Ipso Facto another short film (executive producer, Vincent D’Onofrio).

R. MICHAEL GROS ('81) Please add to my alumni update that my production of Doubt at the Manhattan (KS) Arts Center, was very well received by the local critics (which may not mean too much). "As always, when a production unfolds as this one does, with the inexorable assurance of a formidable army on the march, you can be sure that a thoughtfully determined director has done his job well. R. Michael Gros clearly knows how to get this play from its opening sermon to its final, muted, amen." My cast were equally recognized. I've also been offered a guest directing assignment at Oklahoma State University next season. I'm off to the Inge Festival having recently attended the Humana Festival.

ROGER MICHELSION ('84) wrote, “Our production of Twelfth Night will go on the boards at Westridge School. I am very proud of this production and every one of my actors (all of which are female).”

ANDREA PRESS ('83) I’ve been involved for the past 5 years with the Academy for New Musical Theatre - an organization that is dedicated to the development of new musicals. I'm a member of their resident company of singers/actors - ARC (Academy Repertory Company) as well as on staff as a producer. I'm so thrilled that we're now starting to work on some projects with UCIrvine...kind of brings things full circle for me. Recent projects I've done with them include producing and performing in a benefit concert at the Colony Theatre in January, which included amazing performances from various stars of the Broadway and Cabaret worlds - Lara Teeter, Douglas Sills, Todd Murray & Spencer Day, among others. We also produce a concert reading series at the Colony Theatre. Recent readings include Bonnie & Clyde, A Folktale (Rick Crom, Hunter Foster) and The Water (Georgia Stitt, Jeff Hylton, and Tim Werenko). Last year I produced the Biz of the Musical Theatre Biz conference and directed 2 of the 15 Minute Musicals and choreographed a third. In June, I'll be co-producing/directing and performing in the ANMT Writers' Showcase, which will take place on June 23 & 25 as the second act of the evenings which include one set of this year's 15 Minute Musicals.

After 20 years, DIANE ROBINSON ('87) is returning to studying voice and speech with Kate Fitzmaurice and Dudley Knight in the certificate program this summer in New York (2009). Diane is currently living in Chicago with her husband, Gerry, and acting and directing. Recent projects include directing a new play by Cheryl Sloan at Bailiwick and a production of Blithe Spirit at Madison Rep in Wisconsin, and acting for First Stage Children's Theatre in Milwaukee and Delaware Theatre Company in Wilmington.

LORI SCHIEFELBEIN ('88) let us know that she's working at Samuel French in licensing as well as part time teaching with the Los Angeles Unified School District. Says LORI, "Of course the auditions take priority over everything else."

MATTHEW SULLIVAN ('86) reports he has been teaching acting the last two summers at UC Davis and just acted in Elephant's Graveyard, by Jade McCutcheon at the Mondavi theatre in Davis.

DAVID TAYLOR ('80) is now the Manager of lighting, scenery, and props at WDI Imagineering and he recently re-lit the big ferris wheel at California Adventure - you can see the lighting effects as you drive by on the 5 Freeway.

WENDY WARREN ('83) is now a novelist: she's published 17 books, including Biding Her Time, The Baby Bargain, Once More, At Midnight, and The Boss and Miss Baxter. She is a two-time recipient of Romance Writers of America’s RITA Award and a finalist for Affaire de Coeur’s Best Up-and-Coming Romance Author.

MONICA WEATHERHOLT ('80) I’m back in the theater since retiring from public education after 25 years in the K-12 system. Enough already with No Child Left Behind! I’m working and living in the San Francisco Bay area and looking forward to becoming the character actress I always knew I was until life intervened. My older daughter, the one I was carrying during my junior year at UCIrvine, is now 30. Younger daughter Kate is now in a board and care home, a distressing but necessary move when her disabilities became more than I could handle. I see her often! In October 2008, I directed a 1970’s version of Blithe Spirit, sort of Armistead Maupin meets Noel Coward. They had a dry martini and liked each other very much! My next project is directing I Am My Own Wife next season. In the
meantime, I’m helping two arts organizations keep their respective heads above water in these challenging times, and substitute teaching when I need extra cash. In September 2008 I started (timing, Mónica, timing) a consulting business, Allow Me!Productions.

PIPPA WINSLOW (’83) is starring in a new musical in Guildford, UK, called Fasten Your Seatbelts. PIPPA is a major music theatre star in London (she was Johanna in Robert’s Sweeney Todd at UCIrvine).

BRAD YATES (’88) is the author of Freedom at Your Fingertips: Get Rapid Physical and Emotional Relief with the Breakthrough System of Tapping. This is the only book about EFT (Emotional Freedom Techniques) written by 20 world class EFT practitioners. At 336 pages, it’s loaded with practical ways you can learn and use this cutting-edge personal development system to overcome emotional and physical issues.

1990’s

MELANIE ABRAMS (’95) had a novel come out last year. The publisher’s tagline is “Rapturous, illuminating, and emotionally charged, Playing is an unflinching look at the irrevocable consequences of giving into our most secret passions, and the freedom and imprisonment that comes with true self-knowledge”.

NICK ANSELMO (‘91) teaches acting and is the Director of the Mandell Professionals in Residence Project (MPiRP). He came to Drexel from Mercer County Community College (MCCC) where he was the head of the theatre and dance programs for over five years. He created the successful Late Night Series (LNS) at MCCC over six years ago and opened LNS-Philly three years ago upon arriving at Drexel. He was the Artistic Associate / Education Director of the Passage Theatre Company in Trenton, New Jersey, where he ran a successful replication of New York’s 52nd Street Project. He has directed several productions including his own adaptation of letters from soldiers fighting in Vietnam for a show called Vietnam: Letters and Remembrances, for which he also composed the music. As an actor, Nick appeared Off-Broadway at the York and Ensemble Studio Theaters and was a member of The Pulse Ensemble on 42nd Street in New York City. A few of the theaters he has appeared at regionally include The Williamstown Theater Festival, Walnut Street Theater, Asolo Theatre, Arkansas Repertory and Mill Mountain Theater.

KITTY BALAY (’90) performed in the play Distracted at the Severson Theatre on the Allan Hancock College, playing the role of Dr. Waller. She also performed in PCPA’s production of The Music Man at the Marian Theatre in Santa Maria, CA, playing the role of Mrs. Paroo.

MARIKA BECZ (’96) wrote and performed a solo piece with collaborator Matt Hoverman, and starred in his new play Who You See Here in New York at the Barrow Group. She also starred in an independent film called Beyond Belief which will hit the festival circuit in the spring. MARIKA works as a Voice Over artist for a company called Viva Media in NYC. Still teaching for the Playwrights Horizons Theatre School studio in affiliation with Tisch and still working with The Gravity Project when time permits. MARIKA will be working on fellow alum DANI BEDAU’ s new project in Los Angeles this coming December.

LARRY BIEDERMAN (’92) directed La Ronde at the Zephyr Theatre in Los Angeles.

ALLISON BRUMMER (’99) writes: I’m on tour as the Lighting Designer for Regina Spektor. We just had a show Oct 14th at Radio City in NYC and will be at the LA Greek. I also had the great luck to spend part of the summer traveling as the Lighting Designer for Elvis Costello & The Sugarcanes.

STEPHEN BURDMAN (’95) Artistic Director of New York Classical Theatre, reports, ”I’ve married a wonderful woman, Adena Abramson, and we have a beautiful little boy, Ezekiel “Zeke” Lev, my greatest production ever! We are also living in a new “green” building in Harlem. And we expect to reach over 15,000 people this year with our shows - it’s our 10th Anniversary! STEPHEN continued in his capacity as Artistic Director for the tenth anniversary season of New York Classical Theatre. This year, he directed and presented King Lear in Central and Battery Parks.

GUY CONGER (’93) is part owner of MSA Lighting and Event Company.

MIRLA CRISTE (’98) Assistant Professor teaching Undergraduate acting, voice and movement, as well as graduate voice and movement at University of Georgia, Department of Theatre and Film Studies.

CHRISTOPER DUVAL (’98) writes, ”This year has been one of some exciting changes in our lives. I decided to not ask for an acting season at OSF this year and instead was very generously asked to be the Associate Fight Director at OSF, assisting Jon Toppo and fight directing three productions. I will be finishing up my work at OSF this summer and am so enjoying my collaborations. Currently, I’m at Tim Bond’s wonderful theatre, Syracuse Stage, acting in a production of UP directed by Penny Metropolus. The rest of 2009 is a busy one of traveling, teaching, assistant directing, assistant fight directing, and taking part in a private stage combat study at the Denver Center. The latest news is that Suzie and I will be relocating to the beautiful area of northern Idaho - I’ve accepted an Assistant Professorship at the University of Idaho. Suzie, Megan and I are quite excited to start this new life at this remarkable university and we’ll be there by August 2nd, 2009. Please do keep in touch, please visit, and we’re not that far away so we hope to often return to Ashland and the Pacific Northwest and see you all often and soon!”
ANNA FITZWATER ('97) This year her short film *The Other Side of Employment* has been selected as a winner with Filmaka online. Another of her short films *Cry For Me Now* has also been selected as a winner with Filmaka online. Her film *Sondra Stingray: Sapphic Gumshoe* is screened at the Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival on October 19th. In September she shot a national commercial for Vick's.

COLBY FRENCH ('95) appeared on several ABC dramas this year including "The Forgotten" with Christian Slater, "Lost", and "Castle". This year he has also appeared on HBO's "True Blood". He has also recently finished production on the movie "The Inner Circle".

FRANK GALLEGOS ('97) has appeared this year on the CBS comedy “Gary Unmarried”, CBS drama “CSI: Miami”, the ABC dramas “Brothers & Sisters” and “Castle”, TNT’s drama “Saving Grace” with Academy Award winner Holly Hunter, and CBS’ drama “The Mentalist”. He recently finished filming the movie *Fuel*.

CRAIG GEORGE ('91) has directed *Lighter* (original musical) at the New York Musical Theater Festival in October 2009, *The Aperture* at the Cleveland Public Theatre, and also at FringeNYC in August 2009.

JOHN GLORIA ('95) has appeared on the NBC crime show “Life” this year.

JOEL GOLDES ('90) is a dialect coach and has worked this year several TV shows including 1 episode of “Dora the Explorer,” 2 episodes of “CSI: NY,” 1 episode of the new CBS show “Three Rivers”. He is working as a dialect coach for the currently filming TV show, “The Wronged Man”. JOEL also coached Indian actor Anil Kapoor (Slumdog Millionaire) on 15 episodes of the Fox series “24”, as well as coaching several Russian characters. He coached Liberian accents for *Eclipsed* at CTG’s Kirk Douglas Theatre (about which Variety wrote, Kudos to dialect coach), Croatian and Somali accents for Furious Theatre’s *The Pain and the Itch* and Boston and Brazilian dialects for *The Night is a Child* at the Pasadena Playhouse. Joel also coached Kevin Costner in a Boston accent for feature film *The Company Men* and taught the Serbian language for an episode of CBS’ “Criminal Minds.” He enjoyed seeing Ken Jeong as Mr. Chow in this summer’s hit film *The Hangover*, a role for which Joel prepped him. Joel coached Julia Ormond on-set in a Shreveport, Louisiana dialect for *The Wronged Man*, a Lifetime movie shot in Georgia; coached *The Little Foxes* at the Pasadena Playhouse with Kelly McGillis, Marc Singer and Julia Duffy; and is coaching Chuy Bravo, Chelsea Handler’s sidekick on E!’s *Chelsea Lately* in the American accent so that his jokes land better.

HARMONY HOPE GOODMAN ('94) produced a short film based on a story by Isabel Allende. "Wasn't supposed to produce really, just act, but my producer bailed at the last minute and left me stuck.” It was a combination labor of love and total disaster, but I'm proud of myself for seeing it through and hope to hit some festivals when it's completed. And then I want back to the theatre! Truly, my moments onstage, are what sustain me as an artist and a human being. Thank you again for fostering that love and appreciation of the craft. Sometimes I wish life could always be school!"

KIM GREENBERG ('98) starred in a new Off-Broadway run of *Danny and Sylvia: The Danny Kaye Musical*, a show seen in regional productions and in a Manhattan showcase. The commercial run of the biographical show about the beloved entertainer and his writer wife officially opened May 13 at St. Luke's Theatre.

JACK GREENMAN ('90) Assistant Professor of Voice in the Meadows School of the Arts’ Division of Theatre at Southern Methodist University. Summer 2009, he was voice and dialect coach of the indoor repertory at Utah Shakespearean Festival for productions of *Firefox, The Secret Garden* and *Private Lives*. November 2009, he was voice and dialect coach at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre.

DON GUY ('99) is Assistant Professor in Entertainment Technology at Chapman University.

ANN HAMILTON ('91) returned to her role as Rex Balsam's Aunt Corrine on ABC’s “One Life to Live” in early November.

EDDY HANSEN ('97) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Southern Methodist University. Summer 2009, he was voice and dialect coach of the indoor repertory at Utah Shakespearean Festival for productions of *Firefox, The Secret Garden* and *Private Lives*. November 2009, he was voice and dialect coach at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre.

ERIC HANSON ('92) is the Principal Designer for Brite Ideas. He also served his alma mater by designing the UCI Medal Ceremony.

JASON HEIL ('96) Last summer was fun. Right in the midst of closing *Three Days Of Rain* at Compass Theatre and opening *Into the Woods* at Starlight, my son Tristan Jeffrey was born. Due to some complications, he spent his first few weeks in the NICU, but emerged healthy (whew!). Big sister Katrina has adapted to sibling life wonderfully. She'll celebrate her fourth birthday this summer. Kim and I bought a house in San Diego a few years ago and it's definitely starting to feel like home here. Work-wise, I'm in the midst of a nice run. I am now an Associate Artist at Lamb's Players Theatre, currently appearing as the Gentleman Caller in *Glass Menagerie*, after doing my second year of *An American Christmas* and an extended run of *Room Service*. This summer, I'm heading to Cygnet Theatre Company to do Garry in *Noises Off*.

MICHAEL THOMAS HOLMES ('94) produced a short film based on a story by Isabel Allende. "Wasn't supposed to produce really, just act, but my producer bailed at the last minute and left me stuck.” It was a combination labor of love and total disaster, but I'm proud of myself for seeing it through and hope to hit some festivals when it's completed. And then I want back to the theatre! Truly, my moments onstage, are what sustain me as an artist and a human being. Thank you again for fostering that love and appreciation of the craft. Sometimes I wish life could always be school!"

HOLLY HOLSINGER is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Cleveland State University, specializing in acting, voice, and movement, as well experimental theatre techniques. She has been an artist at Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT) for the past thirteen years and is a member and co-founder of Wishhounds, a group which researches and creates performance. As a local theatre artist, she has created/performed in over ten original plays including *Blue Sky Transmission* and her solo piece *Frankenstein's Wake*, both of which toured Off-Broadway.

SHANNON HUMPHRIES ('98) writes: I graduated with a BA in Drama in 1998. I am currently employed as the Director of Finance & Business Affairs at a small,
family film distribution company which specializes in animations and Lifetime-type movies. In 2005, I married UCI BA in Film Studies graduate Scott Humphries (who also took loads of drama classes) and we are expecting our first child this September. Scott works as a Producer on mobile games for Electronic Arts.

We received this funny email from **BEN KEMBER** ('99): I just wanted to let you know that I won an award at the Associated Content website. I got a Best of AC award for January 2009 for my movie reviews. I was going to take the money and move to a nice villa in the country, but then I remembered that I got only $100. Maybe I could buy Rock Band.

**LAURIE KINCMAN** ('96) writes, “I’ve recently made a cross-country move, and wanted to update my information with the department. I’m now an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, where I will be heading the undergraduate emphases in stage management and arts administration. I continue to work professionally as a stage manager and production manager when I can, and was fortunate to have an article published last fall in Theatre Design & Technology on a high school technical apprenticeship program I founded.”

**DAMON KUPPER** ('98) is a member of Third Rail Core Company.

**TYLER LAYTON** ('95) starred at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Utah Shakespearean Festival. She recently relocated to Alabama.

**KAREN LOFTUS** ('93) I'm currently an Entertainment Manager at the Walt Disney World Resort as well as a theatre teacher in the area.

**DEANNE LORETTE** ('92) was featured in *Way of the World* at Washington Shakespeare Theatre in D.C.

**JAY LOUDEN** ('97) moved with his family to Colorado 3 years ago. JAY taught at Colorado University and Arapahoe Community College before landing a full-time tenure track position at Metro State College of Denver - a four year urban college offering BFA’s in Musical Theatre and Technical Theatre as well as BA’s. At Metro, he has directed *The Hot l Baltimore*, *The Diviners*, and *12th Night*. He’s also working on an Acting for the Camera class in conjunction with the media department.

**PAUL LOVELY** ('99) writes: My good Dr. Cohen! Your ears must have been ringing about a week ago. A group of us were reminiscing about you at a little dinner reunion we had. Facebook has facilitated a couple of those recently! I’m very well...living in Long Beach, working for a large hospital-based HIV/AIDS clinic doing patient education and advocacy. The bulk of my participation in theatre takes place in the audience these days, though my training at UCIrvine makes a difference in my work (and the rest of my life) in wonderful, sometimes unexpected ways.

**BART MCHENRY** ('94) is the Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Theater, Film, and Television at Azusa Pacific University.

**TANGI MILLER** ('97) has appeared in the movie *Hurricane in the Rose Garden*. Her movies *Drones* and *My Girlfriend’s Back* are currently in post-production.

**ALAN MINGO** ('98) has performed on Broadway in *The Little Mermaid* musical as both an ensemble member and as replacement and understudy for the character of Sebastian at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre.

**LAURA MULRENAN** ('95) is the owner and director of Pilates by the Park in Los Angeles.

**DAVID NEVELL** ('96) starred in the Ensemble Theatre Company’s West Coast Premiere of *The Scene* by Theresa Rebeck. A feature article in the Santa Barbara Independent said, “The Scene is a story of seduction, so it’s appropriate that Theresa Rebeck’s dark comedy has lured two major Southern California theater artists to Santa Barbara. The Ensemble Theatre Company production, which opens Thursday night in the Alhecama Theatre, marks the local debut of director Art Manke, and the return of versatile character actor David Nevell.” The LA Times: “The focal point is Charlie (David Nevell) a bright, arrogant and naturally unemployed New York actor whose disdain for artistic compromise comes cheap.

**BRIAN NEWBERG** ('98) writes: I was selected as the Associate Artistic Director for Willamette Stage Company (wSc) in Corvallis, which is the only professional theatre company in the region and, in their first two seasons, have grown to be one of the most important between Ashland and Portland. We work in a black box theater currently and specialize in provocative, mostly contemporary work. I’ve also started up an acting studio for the company (called Stage U Studio) and the response has been overwhelming. Last year I directed *Blackbird* for wSc, and will direct three of their five mainstage shows for next season, including *A Delicate Balance* in the Fall. The other two shows may include *Frozen* and *God of Carnage* (if we can obtain rights) or *Skylight*. I will also act the role of Beane in *Love Song* by John Kolvenbach. I’m currently in rehearsal for *True West*, which I’m directing as a Stage Showcase production, featuring strong young actors in the Stage U Studio.

**ANDREA ODINOV** ('98) writes, "I had the pleasure of teaching with Cynthia Bassham during the Fitzmaurice Voicework Certification Program a few weeks ago and I’m sure the UCIrvine students must really love her. Most of my work is comprised of teaching at Loyola Marymount University, TVI Actors Studio and private clients. I’ve also been asked to do a "Public Speaking and Communications Skills" workshop for a corporation.

**SEAN J. O'NEIL** ('93) is teaching college and high school acting in the East Bay area.

**KELLY PERINE** ('94) 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 two independent features: *Convincing Clooney* and *Speed Dating*. They should be out sometime in 2009. Two of the feature film
scripts are also in various stages of development. The comedy *I Wanna’ White Baby* is set to shoot sometime in 2010, and the drama *Greyhounds* set in Miami is being packaged. KELLY is also spearheading a UC Irvine alumni group designed to reconnect graduates in the arts. Along with TINA POLZIN (*’95) and HARMONY GOODMAN (*’94), KELLY started the Irvine Entertainment Collective: a networking group in Los Angeles for industry professionals. They are looking to have 3-4 events a year and encourage everyone to come out and participate. The inaugural event was a huge success and the next one promises to be bigger and better. "It's time UCIrvine was on the map as a Hollywood-adjacent institution that graduates the next generation of film and television superstars. We're too close to it not to be running it!"

TINA POLZIN (*’95) has been engaging in creative improvisation performances at the Upright Citizen's Brigade in Hollywood.

ANDREA REESE (*’95) performed in her one woman play about Jackie O, *Cirque Jacqueline*. She wrote the play, Charles Messina directed it, and there was a mysterious silent appearance by Paul Urban. It was presented by The Players Loft in Greenwich Village. The New Yorker reported: "Andrea Reese channels Jackie O. in this one-woman show. The upshot is a character of both charm and substance."

DANIEL RENKIN (*’93) writes: I'm continuing to teach stage combat for the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and Circle in the Square conservatory… *Combat for Film* for the New York Film Academy, where I've overlapped with UC Irvine alumni Glenn Kalislon (chair, acting dept), Glynis Rigsby (teaching AND expecting) and for a lovely while Mary Workman...some stunt coordination for “As the World Turns” and various indie flicks. My fights for *Miracle Worker* at Lost Nation Theater in VT are apparently getting an ovation nightly. In my performer hat, I picked up an “Outstanding Actor” nod in this year's Chester Horn Festival, playing Death. I'll be Drosselmeyer with New York Theatre Ballet this Winter for possibly my 10th (!) anniversary of *Nutcracker* with them; it's also the company's 30th, and they're hoping to have the season documented for film screenings nationally as the Met Opera has already been doing. And speaking of the Met, having previously fought in their *Carmen* and *Otello*, as well as coaching principals in their sword work, I'll be back in rehearsals with them in August in the acting ensemble of their 2010 premiere of *The Nose*. Jeanne (Hime) Slater is teaching dance-for-actors madly at both Juilliard and Circle in the Square, and she and husband JARED SLATER (ALSO Irvine alum) are acclimating well to the fact that daughter Aeleyah Grace is now chatting articulately with random strangers, all of whom fall in love with her instantly.

PAUL TIFFORD JR. (*’92) is busy Associate producing and acting in short film *The Little Samaritan*.

KEN WARD (*’99) appeared in the movie *Twice as Dead*.

TAMIKO WASHINGTON (*’92) is an Associate Professor of Acting and Movement at Chapman University, where she directed *The Trojan Women* on their mainstage. She is also a private vocal consultant in Los Angeles, California. She is a professional respondent for the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, Region VII, Circuits I and II. In 2009, as a member of the Los Angeles Women’s Shakespeare Company she was honored, with the company, in receiving the Margaret Hartford Award for sustained excellence in theatre.

LYNN WATSON (*’93) Last year directed the world premiere of *Milk and Water*, a short play by Tina Howe about a postpartum water aerobics class set in the swimming pool of a New York City health club. It was great fun and Tina Howe was extremely generous in taking time to discuss the play and allowing me to make some changes to the script to fit current events (one of the characters is a stock market trader). Early this year, I did dialect and vocal work on another premiere at Ford's Theatre--*The Heavens are Hung in Black* by James Still—for the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth and the opening of the newly renovated theatre.

SAM ZELLER (*’92) writes: Hi Everyone! I am fulfilling a life-long dream to play Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables* at the Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts, and it couldn't have happened at a better place--the company here is amazing! We are only one of 6 theaters in the country to have the rights to this show right now. Solvang is about 2 hours north of LA—if you've never been here, it's an adorable Danish village, complete with windmills, costumed citizens—and lots of pastries!!! Plus, we're in wine country, so you can wine taste all over the place! SAM also starred as Jud Fry in *Oklahoma* at South Bay Citites Civic Light Opera. StageSceneLA: "Of even greater note is Zeller’s amazing work as Jud. Here, the actor digs deep into Jud Fry’s profoundly troubled soul and warped sexual longings to create a breathtaking performance. His rendition of *Lonely Room*, in which Jud breaks down sobbing, is unforgettable." SAM also appeared as Gunther the Great on the Emmy Award-winning Disney program "The Imagination Movers".

**2000’s**

COLLEEN ALBRECHT (*’02) is the resident lighting designer for Convergence-Continuum. They just opened *Finn in the Underworld* and next they will close this season with *Ouroboros*. COLLEEN designed *Beauty and the Beast* for The Fine Arts Association. This past summer she designed *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* in Santa Maria and Solvang, CA for PCA Theaterfest. Last spring COLLEEN designed the all-city musical for Great Lakes Theater Festival and Cleveland Metropolitan School District in the newly renovated Hanna Theatre in Playhouse Square, Cleveland. COLLEEN is the lighting supervisor for Opera Cleveland and last year was a professor of Lighting Design and Technology and Stage Management at Kent State University.

ADRIAN ALITA (*’07) reports, “2009 was a very good year for us! I obtained representation through LL Talent, they like UC Irvine people, and booked two commercials! One is a promo for truTV that runs and runs and runs and runs and marks the first time that some one came up to me and said, "I saw you on tv"! The other is a 20-spot campaign for 1stBank that should start running in Colorado this
year. Also on deck for 2010 is the release of Disney's Toy Story Read-Along CD, narrated by DRIAN ALITA! Thank you to TED KRYCZKO for keeping that relationship alive! And just before the end of the year I recorded a vo for a SAG websisode and so I am now eligible to join the union! That, coupled with footage from a short film I was in over the summer, has me hoping that I will be able to secure more prominent theatrical representation in the new year. I remain a huge fan of UCIrvine and am very grateful for the grad program. I wish to congratulate you all, as I consider my success your success, and thank you for the generous efforts which have set me on this path.

LEIGH ALLEN ('01) received an excellent review for her lighting of the revival of Children of a Lesser God at the Deaf West Theatre. TOM RUZIKA designed the original production at the Taper in 1979 — the torch has been passed after 30 years.

PAUL BACKER ('09) served as an Associate Professor of Theatre Practice and Director of Undergraduate Voice and Movement at the University of Southern California.

CYNTHIA BECKERT ('01) appeared in the TLC show “I Didn’t Know I Was Pregnant”.

CAMBRIA BEILSTEIN ('08) appeared in a concert version of the musical Bare in Los Angeles. Our latest reports indicate that it will be fully produced at a larger venue in the city of Angels.

TREVOR BISHOP’s ('06) Theater of NOTE production, Film, made it into American Theater magazine. Film puts Samuel Beckett onstage with Alan Schneider, the first director of Waiting for Godot in the United States, as it follows the pair's first collaboration from page to stage to screen.

ASHLEY BOEHNE ('09) was hired as the Production Manager/Resident Stage Manager in Education for the Norris Center for the Performing Arts in Palos Verdes, California.

HANNAH BORNSTEIN ('09) appeared in a concert version of the musical Bare in Los Angeles.

EMMETT BUHMANN ('09) served as scene shop foreman/master electrician for the Texas Tech University’s Department of Theatre and Dance. He designed sets and lights for Lubbock Christian University’s production of Thoroughly Modern Millie where he is the scenic and lighting designer. He also served as the staff lighting designer for the Cactus Theatre, a live performance venue in Lubbock.

PATRICK BURNS ('09) tells us, “This summer I was the assistant conductor for the season at Sacramento Music Circus for seven shows! We did Thoroughly Modern Millie, Altar Boyz, Guys & Dolls, Into the Woods, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Man of La Mancha and Cats! It was a lot of work, and I learned a lot and made a lot of contacts. Then I came back to Irvine and assisted Dennis Castellano in musical direction for Putting It Together at South Coast Repertory. I made the move to Los Angeles and have been living in Koreatown. I'll be appearing in Bare: A Pop Opera as Lucas at the ArtsWork theatre in LA and early next month I'll be appearing in a one night reading of Sweeney Todd as Anthony at the Hayworth Theatre.” Later, PATRICK writes, “My one-man-musical, From Foster Care to Fabulous, enjoyed a three-day reading at UC-Irvine’s intimate Studio Four Theater. The show chronicles my tumultuous life in and out of Foster Care- complete with my life’s bizarre cast of characters, original and classic songs both played on the piano and sung by me, and heartfelt revelations about who I am today- alive and ready for what’s next. So what’s next? I am ecstatic to announce that From Foster Care to Fabulous will be having a three-week run this winter in Los Angeles! It is being produced by the Ahimsa Collective. I will be under the direction of fellow UC-Irvine Alum, Negin Singh, the company’s Founder/Artistic Director. We believe that this boundary- pushing work has the power to be both wildly entertaining while also reaching out and inspiring those newly out of the Foster Care system.

MEGAN BYRNE ('01) appeared in the Meryl Streep movie Julie & Julia. She also appeared on the NBC drama “Kings” and finished shooting the movie The Rebound with Catherine Zeta-Jones which will be released in 2010.

ANDREA CABAN ('07) sent us this note: I wrote a solo show based on 8 interviews I conducted of various New Yorkers, and performed it last Spring for the Coyote Rep Lone Wolf Series. My show You Got Questions? I Got Answers! was nominated for three New York Innovative Theatre Awards: Outstanding Solo Performance, Outstanding Short Script and Outstanding Performance Art Piece. In September when the ceremony was held I was out west doing a play but I sent my director in my stead and she brought me an Outstanding Solo Performance award as a welcome home present. It gives me a warm fuzzie when I see it on the bookshelf! And the spark that inspired the piece come directly from the documentary theater class I took at UCIrvine with Bill Rauch. ANDREA later writes, "I'm returning to Boise Contemporary Theater this week for their season opener The Pavilion. I narrate this three actor play and play 16 different people at a high school reunion in Minnesota. Huge challenge which I'm really looking forward to. I had a busy summer working at New York Film Academy as their resident clown & mask teacher. I also teach everything from speech to Shakespeare. It's really a fabulous job! I booked my first national network commercial last month, actually commercials, there were three. They will certainly help support my theater habit. And I'm happy to report I'm booking lots of voiceover as well! I'm very excited about developing my new one person show. I'm planning on bringing it to the Coyote Rep workshop sessions to iron out some kinks and get a few priceless coyote insights. Thank you to Eli & Annie for writing books this year! They are so helpful in my teaching and in my acting; it's like having grad school on a shelf."

LUIS CARAZO ('07) accepted a teaching position in the Drama Department at the University of California at Riverside. He also appeared in the short film Family Recipes and the film Addicts. LUIS appeared on the CBS drama “Medium”. He will appear in the film Tic in 2010 and will also appear in the comedy Las Angeles, currently in post-production.
In Upstaged, Scene Stealer of the Week, Adam Feldman writes of **ALLISON CASE** (’05) The cast of Broadway’s Hair is so well braided that much of the time it seems to move as a single intertwined, undulating unit. But one strand sometimes grabs your eye: the copper-topped, creamy-faced Allison Case. As Crissy, the special Case sings one of the musical’s best-loved songs the plaintive, unhymed, artlessly yearning Frank Mills which she delivers with perfect clueless poignancy. Otherwise, Crissy doesn’t get very much to do, yet your eyes are drawn to her when she’s onstage, making her role seem bigger than it is. Something about the way she moves makes her different from the others: Her face shines with sincerity, but she’s often just slightly off the beat; there is a touch of imitation about her urgency, as though maybe she were someone’s younger sister, and not quite sure yet how to fit in. In Diane Paulus’s production, which brings out some of the darker strands in Hair’s tribal weave, she remains an innocent, and her earnestness is both touching and adorable.

**SEAN CAWELTI** (’03) artistic director of the Rogue Artists Ensemble, directed **KITTY FELDE’s latest play The Gogol Project.**

**JESSICA CHAMPAGNE-HANSEN** (’08) is busy with the following: Disneyland Resort— worked as an Assistant Designer and buyer/shopper for High School Musical 3, and Street Parade; Costume Design for an Independent Feature Thanks for Dying Stonebound Production Company, Costume Design for several short films, Costume Design for the Culver City High School Audio Visual Performing Arts Department, Freelance Cutter/Draper at CSU-Long Beach, Founder of a new retail design company for dog clothes--Tailored Pets

**MAUREEN CHESUS** (’08) and **NATHAN CROCKER** (’09) appeared in a concert version of the musical Bare in Los Angeles.

**BRYAN DOERRIES** (’00) was featured at the top of page one in the New York Times Art Section in an article entitled, The Anguish of War for Today’s Soldiers, Explored by Sophocles. Here are excerpts from the article: The Pentagon has provided $3.7 million for an independent production company, Theater of War, to visit 50 military sites through at least next summer and stage readings from two plays by Sophocles, Ajax and Philoctetes, for service members. So far the group has performed at Fort Riley in Kansas; at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Md.; and at last week’s Warrior Resilience Conference in Norfolk, Va. The Philoctetes segment portrays Greek military leaders plotting to trick the hero into leading an attack on Troy, and shows Philoctetes struggling with both physical and emotional pain. Bryan Doerries, a writer and director who founded Theater of War, said the performances were not psychotherapy, noting, for instance, that the efficacy of his group’s work had not been studied in clinical trials. He described the effort as a public health project to help service members and relatives overcome stigmas about psychological injuries by showing that some of the bravest heroes suffered mentally from battle. ‘Through theater we’re trying to offer some ideas and experiences for our troops and veterans to think about when they don’t feel comfortable opening up about their private thoughts,’ said Mr. Doerries, whose work grew out of an earlier effort, the Philoctetes Project, that drew media attention for a performance at the Juilliard School last fall. ‘Sophocles was himself a general, and Athens during his time was at war for decades,’’ he continued. “These two plays were seen by thousands of citizen-soldiers. By performing these scenes, we’re hoping that our modern-day soldiers will see their difficulties in a larger historical context, and perhaps feel less alone.’ A special performance was held on Monday night for dozens of service members, veterans, relatives and Pentagon officials at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Manhattan. The actors in the one-hour reading were David Strathairn, Jeffrey Wright Gloria Reuben and Adam Driver, a former Marine. There were echoes of Fort Hood, especially in the story of Ajax — in the pain that soldiers and their loved ones faced then and now, and in the questions raised by the play about whether war can drive warriors to acts of evil.

**JAKE DOGIAS** (’06) was featured in an episode of CBS’ “The Mentalist!” and ABC’s “The Forgotten”. By the way, he is doing a second episode of “Better Off Ted” and they may make him a recurring character! YEA!!!

**CRISTIN DOWNS** (’06) stage managed 42nd Street at the El Dorado Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

**JAMIE ELVEY** (’08) appeared in the film American Judoka. Currently filming the film Nicholas of Myra.

**RYAN FARNSWORTH** (’09) signed a record deal with Get Bizzy Records. One of his original songs will be appearing on a story book album for the Disney/Pixar movie Up. The song is called “Away From Me”. RYAN also appeared in a concert version of the musical Bare in Los Angeles.

**CRISTA FLANAGAN** (’01) Mad Men’s infamous foot-dicing secretary found another job! CRISTA - who became a permanent part of Mad Men lore when her character ran over an ad exec’s foot with a lawn tractor - is joining ABC’s new Kelsey Grammer sitcom, “Hank”. CRISTA, who also spent three years on MADtv, will play the recurring role of Dawn, the wife of David Kochern’s Grady and sister-in-law to Grammer’s Hank. The fate of CRISTA’s Mad alter ego, Lois, was left up in the air.

**JENIFER FOOTE** (’00) joined the Broadway company of Rock of Ages as the new dance captain. She also understudied the female leads.

**ANGELIQUE FOSTER** (’09) was recently hired as assistant company manager in dance touring for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

**ASHLEY FULLER** (’00) starred in a one-woman play wherein three of Dorothy Parker’s soliloquies were woven into a scintillating evening of theatre. You Might As Well Live: A Waltz with Dorothy Parker played at Ziu Theatre Group in Hollywood.

**BEN GLEIHAUF** (’09) one of our first Music Theatre BFA graduates, landed a national tour of Fiddler On the Roof that traveled throughout the southern states during the fall and winter, 2009/2010.
JEN GOLDSTEIN ('08) is a full time lighting designer at Visual Terrain. She recently designed a bird show called Soar which is played at the San Diego Zoo. She is working on a new attraction at Universal Studios that will open in late 2010. Jennifer also just finished programming for Beyond All Boundaries, a 4d movie at the World War II Museum in New Orleans that opened in November, and is heading to Oklahoma to program a building façade and some water features for a new casino. Jennifer has also designed a series of theatre productions at the Group Rep in North Hollywood, and recently completed dance productions with Contratiempo – A Latino Activist dance company, LA Country High School for the Arts, and the China Press featuring dancers from the Beijing Dance Academy.

DONETTA GRAYS ('02) has been working quite a bit regionally. After having understudied Well on Broadway, she performed with Lisa Kron (Leigh Silverman director) in Well at The Huntington and then performed Well again at Arena Stage with a whole new cast. She traveled to Baltimore Centerstage and performed as Martha Pentecost in Joe Turner. Booked a supporting role in the movie The Wrestler with Mickey Rourke, Marissa Tomei and Evan Rachel Wood. She played Nilaja Sun in the first ever ensemble production of Nilaja Sun’s play No Child… at Hartford Theatrerworks in summer of 2008. And now, in 2009, she’s working on the off-Broadway production of Shipwrecked! An Entertainment -The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (As Told by Himself) by Donald Margulies at Primary Stages. DONNETTA won two awards for No Child… at TheatreWorks – Connecticut Critics Circle Awards for Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Debut. DONNETTA also enjoyed a terrific run on Shipwrecked!

ELISHA GRIEGO ('05) served as Assistant Lighting Designer on Cirque du Soleil's Elvis. ELISHA was Associate Designer on The Black Eyed Peas The E.N.D. World Tour and for Yusuf Islam (Cat Steven's) Guess I'll Take My Time tour. ELISHA was Lighting designer for Colorado Ballet's All Pointes West.

KRISTINE HAAG ('06) is a member of 892 Design Union and 705 Film Costumer Union. In the past 18 months she has worked as Costume Designer: TV movie for the Hallmark Channel: A Kiss At Midnight with Faith Ford and Dyan Cannon, as a Film/TV Costumer: “Mad Men”, “Samantha Who”, “Secret Girlfriend” on Comedy Central, Alvin and the Chipmunks 2 The Squeakquel, Flipped a period film set in 1962 directed by Rob Reiner, and is currently working on “90210”.

COURTNEY HARPER ('08) After graduating in June of 2008, I was offered the position of Company Manager at the Pasadena Playhouse which I accepted. As Company manager I got to work on some amazing projects and with some other UCIrvine folk. In fact ASHLEY RHODES ('07) office as Resident Assistant Costume Designer is right down the hall from me! I came in on the tail end of VANITIES the musical which is now going to Second Stage off-Broadway, worked David Rambo's THE LADY WITH ALL THE ANSWERS starring Mimi Kennedy with JOEL GOLDES ('00) as Dialect Coach and HOLLY POE DURBIN as Costume Designer. Production managed one of our Hot House at the Playhouse Staged Readings by Jamie Pachino called SOME OF THE PEOPLE, ALL OF THE TIME with Scott Lowell and Sharon Lawrence. I Company managed the new musical STORMY WEATHER starring Leslie Uggams and based on the life and times of Lena Horne. Production managed three more Hot House Readings NO GOOD DEED by Matt Pelfry, SHH! ART! by John Kretchmer starring Enrico Colantoni, and AIR GUITAR HIGH, and we are just closing MAURITIUS starring Ray Abruzzo from Soprano's fame this weekend for which the lovely JAYMI SMITH did the lighting design. While my position as Company manager was eliminated recently, I have stayed on with the Pasadena Playhouse as their new Artistic, Literary, and Education Intern. My newest project is Assistant Director and Dramaturg for Associate Artistic Director Damaso Rodriguez's production of Lillian Hellman's THE LITTLE FOXES which starts previews May 22 and officially opens May 29. I am blessed to work again with the wonderful JOEL GOLDES as Dialect Coach and welcome MIKE HOOKER back to the playhouse as Sound Designer. He previously designed 2008's smash hit LOOped starring Valerie Harper at the playhouse. The cast is amazing and includes Kelly McGillis as Regina, Julia Duffy as Birdie, Marc Singer as Oscar, and Tony Winner, Clevant Derricks as Cal. Looking forward there are going to be many wonderful opportunities. This summer I'll be working over at the Theatre @ Boston Court with the Furious Theatre Company's co-production of THE PAIN AND THE ITCH. I am amazed and excited to be coming into contact with so many UCI alumni, LUIS CARAZO ('07) came and saw MAURITIUS, KATE DUTHLER ('08) and KATIE HORWITCH ('08) were in the final running for a part in THE LITTLE FOXES, just to name a few. Even as I start my career, I can see that UCI alumni are everywhere in this town and succeeding! It's exciting to be a member of such a great group of people, not to mention a talented group! On a personal front, my sister who was diagnosed with Acute Mylogenous Leukemia just prior to our graduating is now in remission!! This is probably the best news of all. She had a long battle, but was a warrior all the way through and has come out on top.

LAURA HARTLEY ('08) appeared in a concert version of the musical Bare in Los Angeles.

CAMERON HENDERSON ('03) was a featured performer in ON THE TOWN at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey.

KARIN HENDRICKS ('09) is a visiting artist at Conservatory for Performing Arts at UCI Riverside and a member of 892 Design Union. In the past 18 months she has worked as Costume Designer: TV movie for the Hallmark Channel: A Kiss At Midnight with Faith Ford and Dyan Cannon, as a Film/TV Costumer: “Mad Men”, “Samantha Who”, “Secret Girlfriend” on Comedy Central, Alvin and the Chipmunks 2 The Squeakquel, Flipped a period film set in 1962 directed by Rob Reiner, and is currently working on “90210”.

DAREN HERBERT ('05) appeared in the ABC Family original series “Kyle XY” and a recurring role on the CW’s “Smallville”. He also is appearing in the movies 2012.

ANDREW HERINGER ('07) Since graduating, I have been touring the west coast (and a couple of trips to New York) playing my music with my band and solo. We completed an album, The Paradise Sessions (which also features UCI alum MAX HAYMER ('07) who was musical director for Urinetown, and have plans to record again at the end of the year.
JENNIFER JACOBS ('09) recently received her Equity card from the Laguna Playhouse for their production of *Menopause, The Musical*.

EVANS JARNEFELDT ('08) is a visiting artist at Conservatory for Performing Arts in Santa Maria, teaching acting in the conservatory and playing leading roles in the season.

SHANNON JARRELL IVEY ('03) appeared in the comedy/fantasy show *Gold*.

GLENN KALISON ('02) tells us: In the showbiz world, I'm in a film that will get a national release in the fall - it's called *Mystery Team* - it's a comedy and I'm sort of the straight man/unsuspected bad guy. It was a popular Sundance selection this year. I also have a part in a TV pilot likely coming to FX soon. And I'm teaching and running the acting department at the New York Film Academy where many former UCIrvine people are now teaching.

STEHANIE KEEFER ('90) starred in *Love, Sex, Violence, etc.* at Whitefire Theatre in Sherman Oaks.

EMILY KRECH ('08) I'm coordinating cancer research trials and headed back to school to become a teacher. Hopefully I will be able to update you in a year or so when I open a children's performing arts center.

LAU LAPIDES ('00) has opened the Lau Lapides Company in Massachusetts. This is a casting and actors’ studio company dedicated to providing the highest level of professional training and expertise in the theatre, film, and television industries.

JEAN LASALA ('04) Well, Coyote REP is still going strong. We produced the Lone Wolf Series at the Abingdon Theater last spring and it was a big success. My solo show (with a male dancer) *Spoiled Bea* went well and I continued to work on it throughout the summer. I moved up to Middlebury, VT, at the end of the summer and taught 2 sections of Acting One, using Robert's book as a text. I also directed a showcase of scenes I called "Discover: Scenes of Unearthing." It was a showcase they do every year for the freshmen primarily called the First Year Show and I selected 7 scenes written in the last ten years by emerging and established playwrights (including our very own REBECCA TOURINO COLLINSWORTH ('05)) and interspersed some very fun movement pieces throughout, all centered on the theme of discovery. I also performed *Spoiled Bea* at Middlebury with a member of the Dance Faculty, which was fantastic and probably the best production to date. It was a lot of fun and I really enjoyed Vermont in the fall. Back in NY we recorded the pilot for the sound play series, the COMPOSER SERIES on Beethoven, starring DUDLEY KNIGHT as Beethoven, directed by DONNETTA LAVINIA GRAYS ('02). We are still in post-production for that, but hope to make it a full series which will be available on iTunes. I also appeared twice on "The Guiding Light" in the past year and did a print ad with Jerry Seinfeld. I cracked a joke during the shoot and made him laugh. I was pretty psyched about that. I've been teaching Voice and Movement, Speech and Scene Study at the NY Film Academy, under the direction of GLENN KALISON ('02) and I continue to teach acting in at-risk public schools in NYC through a program called THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.

MIRACLE LAURIE ('04) continues to star as Mellie, on Joss Whedon's "Doll House" on FOX. She’s into the second season now. Season 1 is available on DVD/Blue Ray to buy or rent. Says Miracle, "We're right in the middle of shooting Season 2 and I just finished shooting my stuff for episode 6 this week. I'm excited to be watching and shooting the show at the same time. It's a REALLY strong season so far. I've been lucky enough to acquire a great manager and some terrific agents who have been wonderful the last few months and I now have a great publicist who's gotten me several interviews, a red carpet premiere for Sorority Row, a charity event and other fun stuff and we've been together less than a month! I'm really excited about the near and distant future of my career now that I have this wonderful team to work with. I'll also be going back to England in May for the first official Dollhouse Convention in the UK called ECHO-1. It's really great to be able to meet fans from all over and make that connection. I was also lucky enough to Guest Star on a brand new Web Series called "The Cabonauts".

KARYN LAWRENCE ('07) designed lights for Julius Caesar at the Powerhouse Theatre in Santa Monica.


ALLEN LIU ('01) appeared on the ABC comedy "Better Off Dead". He is appearing in the movie *The Mikado Project*, currently in post-production.

AMY MAIER ('08) “Over this last year, I have designed shows for Focus Dance Center, The world premiere of *For All Time* with Cornerstone Theater Company. I was hired as a guest artist for the University of Redland’s Production of *History of Bowling*, and I just opened *Eurydice* with Range View Productions that is playing at the Hayworth Theatre. I worked with Gothic Moon Productions designing multiple television commercials, *Oreck, Spinning*, and Laura Geller. In March I started working with the Art Department of the television series “24”, and we currently are preparing the sets for season eight. I am also designing The Heretic Mysteries, which will open at the Power House Theatre in Santa Monica on May 14th.”

RACHEL MAIER ('05) tells us: I’ve been stage managing full time since moving to NYC, working on numerous off Broadway shows. This past year I worked on my first Broadway show; *All My Sons* which was an amazing experience. Right now I am working on the NYC debut of Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson which is going up at the Public Theater. I'm also still teaching flying trapeze at STREB.
MERCEDES MANNING ('07) produced _La Ronde_ at the Zephyr Theatre in Los Angeles.

GARRET MENDEZ ('09) appeared in a concert version of the musical _Bare_ in Los Angeles.

WINDELL MIDDLEBROOKS ('05) was a guest on the Jay Leno show, touting his new one second commercial as the Miller High Life guy. He also appeared on the CBS TV pilot “Ace in the Hole” starring Adam Carolla. Has appeared in the comedy, short film _Enlightened_ and in the movie _Miss March_. He has also appeared on the NBC comedy “Parks and Recreation” starring Amy Poehler and has a recurring role on the Disney Channel hit series “The Suite Life on Deck”. He currently is in pre-production for the movie _Popcorn Ceiling_.

ASHLEY MONIZ ('08) received her BA and jumped right into _High School Musical_ in NYC. She writes:  While doing HSM, I got a call from Justin Huff (a casting director who I took a class with a couple weeks ago here in New York). I was in Washington DC and took a train in on my day off to go audition (this is Tuesday). Then as I was boarding the train to go back to DC, Justin called me for a callback the following day (Wednesday). I had rehearsal and a show so I couldn't make the callbacks... but he scheduled a callback for me on Thursday (today). So I took a 12am bus after the Wed show, had a dance call at 1130pm in NY, jumped on a train for DC at 12:35, then got a call that I booked it at 1pm!! CRAZY couple days... but I am finally back in DC and getting ready to do the show tonight. So looks like I am graduating from high school and going to college starting Monday in Costa Mesa!
I get to rehearse near home! I get back from HSM on Monday morning and will be flying out that night to LA. Insane but I am really excited!

ANGEL LAKETA MOORE ('06) appeared on the hit NBC drama “ER”.

MICHAEL MORGAN ('05) enjoyed his three month run of _I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change_ with the Tony Award winning Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Before that he returned to NY for a few months and taught at the New York Film Academy along with many other UCI Irvine alumni. The next few years will keep us much closer to NY as Shana finishes her Masters at Columbia University and Dean (5 this June!) and Avery (2) are getting to school age.

MARIISSA MOSES ('08) reports, "I went to an audition for _Measure for Measure_ at Writ Act Repertory. I used the Joan Puzel monologue I worked on in Robert Cohen's Shakespeare class a year ago, and they asked me to be a part of the show on the spot. I was very proud of the audition and thought of Robert and everything I learned in his class as I was leaving the theater. It’s only a part in the chorus, but I am excited to be doing some theater again. I have continued dancing with Helios Dance Theater, and we had a great premiere of our show _The Lotus Eaters_ at the Ceritos Performing Arts Center. We recently got back from a showcase performance in New York. JEN EVANS ('07) and JEFF PARKER ('08) came out to support me, which was great. Now, we are preparing for another show on April 3rd in Santa Monica. Over the summer we are also booked to perform at the Ford Theater in DC. I've never been there, and can't wait!"

BREANNE MOWDY ('06) produced _La Ronde_ at the Zephyr Theatre in Los Angeles.

JESSICA MUELLER ('09) did a professional internship in the Western Costume Company Research Library, designed a touring show for Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Division and is now earning her 705 union hours as a Film/TV Costumer at United American Costume Company in Los Angeles.

CHRISSI MUNICH ('03) received a Garland Award in 2008 for Lighting Design of _Jekyll and Hyde_ for Fullerton Civic Light Opera. CHRISSIIE is the resident lighting designer and heads the lighting program at the Orange County High School of the Arts. She has been teaching the lighting section of the Theatre Crafts at Pomona College and this year is also teaching the central lighting class, as well as designing there every year. In addition, she is the resident LD for the Moonlight Amphitheatre and has designed at Long Beach City College Dance Ensemble, Fullerton Civic Light Opera, Norris Center for the Performing Arts, DreamDance Ensemble, Rubicon Theatre Company, and Los Angeles Movement Arts. Upcoming new companies include Cabrillo Musical Theatre, Pacifico Dance Company, and South Bay Ballet.

JEANINE NICHOLAS ('09) reports, “In the theater world I worked on _Little Dog Laughed_ at Theatre Out and then I did _Chesapeake_, a one man show for Syzygy theater with JAYMI LEE SMITH as the lighting designer. That was interesting because the show opened two weeks after I was hired for it. I've been mainly working as a painter and an art department PA. I painted two sets for Chapman University and started out as a painter on an independent feature and somehow ended up as the set dresser for the final three locations. I’ve been an art PA on a Verizon commercial and a Nescafe commercial and was the art director for a series of webisodes for sofiaandsam.com. I'm currently the PD for a UCLA thesis.”

From KURT NORBY ('04) 2008 was very busy for me so I feel blessed. I shared the stage with fellow Anteaters multiple times. I started off the year in _Hello Dolly!_ followed by _The Voysey Inheritance_ both at Lamb's Players in Coronado, CA. Directly after that I was pulling double duty performing daily (that’s right - daily) at The San Diego Zoo and Sea World. Right after that I headed to The Old Globe making my debut in _How the Grinch Stole Christmas_. And at the beginning of 2009, I shared the stage with UCI Alumni, JASON HEIL ('96) in the 1930's farce _Room Service_.

CARLY NYKANAN ('06) appeared in _Bonnie and Clyde_, a new musical at the La Jolla Playhouse.

KAREN O'BRIEN ('09) having just completed her PhD, was invited to join the Department of Dramatic Art at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

KAREN OLDS ('07) Since graduation, I have taught and directed at several schools working with children of all ages. I have taught music, musical theatre, voice and
acting. I now teach private voice lessons and work as a voice and acting coach from my home. Most recently, I have also been working in casting at Discovery Studios TLC. Both ADRIAN ALITA ('07) and SEAN SPANN ('07) got cast on the latest show I've been working on. Feels good when that stuff happens!!! I have played four theatrical leads in the last year. Cyla Cybulska in Mala, an original Holocaust piece by Max Leavitt of Last Lion Productions. Lulu in Shopping and F*ing. Deborah in Sexual Perversity in Chicago. (Both directed by BENJAMIN POHLMIEGER ('08) and ran back to back as a double feature for a month at the Lyric/Hyperion). Currentlly starring in Dead, Therefore I Am as the role of Sophie Taylor Deno. A new Goth/Punk Tragicomedy, written and directed by Max Leavitt of Last Lion Productions. Last Lion has decided to become a full-fledge theatre group and we plan on developing many new pieces that we're writing and have on the back burner. Our next piece is called, Girls in Tanks, written by Max Leavitt. It's a piece about female soldiers - based on true accounts.

SARA OVERGAARD ('03) I'm coming up on six years in NYC, living in Park Slope, Brooklyn with my boyfriend Ben and our 2 dogs and cat. I started a full-time position at Lincoln Center last October, and before that I was an associate for two years at Columbia Artists Management. It was a great learning experience, but it made me miss working in an actual theater. I'm now a production manager at Alice Tully Hall, which was reopened in February after being under renovation for the last couple of years. It has been a lot of fun to be in such a busy venue - its given great publicity so its almost never dark here. I'm meeting some really great people. I'm still enjoying NYC very much; it feels more and more like home each year I'm here, so I think I'll be here for the long haul.

SARA PARRY ('03) is working as both writer and actress in the comedy/drama movie What A Great Idea, which is currently in post-production.

DARCY PREVOST ('09) did the properties design and set adjustments for Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theater Program's The Amazing Food Detective shows—one for 1-3rd graders and one for 4-6th graders. She also designed On Golden Pond for the Pittsburgh Theatre Factory and did her first set decoration work for a student film at AFI called Harvest. Currently she's designing the sets and props for an all clown version of A Christmas Carol at the Powerhouse Theater in Santa Monica for the Ahimsa Company (founded by Drama alum NEGIN SINGH). In addition Darcy was the balloon consultant for the bawdy body parts in Culture Clash's Peace at the Getty Villa in Malibu. There was also the "balloon consulting" I did for SHIGERU (YAJI) for Numb, which was a hilarious time!

RICK PRIGGE ('06) starred in Steven Berkoff’s West, a play about courage, at The Electric Lodge in Venice, California.

AMANDA RANDALL ('04) says: I'm doing well here in Los Angeles. Moved here after graduation in 04, then moved to New York for a year in 05-06. However the weather got to me, so I've been back and happy as a clam on the West Coast since! I've done a few guest star television roles and had a recurring role on a soap. Shot a commercial in NY, hosted an infomercial in Boston/Vegas, filmed an independent comedy film that had Chevy Chase and Burt Reynolds in it among others, and have done a few various plays here and there. I still love the theatre the most, though. In fact, it's really the only thing I've cared about concentrating on as of late. Who knows what the future holds (acting, teaching, law, etc) but I'm holding on tight, keeping my options open and am ready for the ride!

SCOTT REARDON ('06) writes: After graduating, I spent the summer with a 2nd season at the Utah Shakespearean Festival working on the world premiere of Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical. Now, I along with UCI and fellow Musical Theatre Honors Grads are performing in Beach Blanket Babylon in San Francisco. It is the world's longest running musical review currently in its 35th year. Both CAITLIN McGINTY ('06) and SHAWNA FERRIS ('04) are performing in Beach Blanket Babylon as well!

BEVERLEY REDMAN ('05) reports, "I am in my fourth year at Ursinus College, in a new theatre and dance department. I teach a range of classes: Voice and Speech; Theatre history/lit I and II; an upper division series of Latin/Latin American, African/African American and Asian/Asian American Dramas; and senior seminar, which is an acting styles course (I use Cohen, amongst others). I also direct twice per year here, serve on at least two committees at a time and teach the liberal studies (great books) class every other year. My shows this year are Picasso at Lapin Agile and The Crucible. I am completing the Fitzmaurice training. I have also been really active in the Political Performances Working Group of IFTR over the years, so I continue to bounce back and forth between the practical and the theoretical. And finally, I am currently directing a community-based theatre project at Graterford State Prison. It's very much like the piece I made with Cornerstone and the Union Station Homeless Shelter years back.

ASHLEY RENEE RHODES ('07) is Resident Assistant Designer for the Pasadena Playhouse. She is also a professional milliner and craftsperson.

OMAR RICKS ('06) is now a Ph.D. student in performance studies at UC Berkeley. He has recently worked with the Center Theatre Group's education department and San Francisco's Crowded Fire Theater Company.

EMILY ROGGE ('06) is a professor at West Chester University in Pa teaching Acting, Creative Dramatics, and Children's Theatre. She is also directing Love's Fire on the mainstage next season.

ERIN ROUSH ('08) writes: I recently completed my contract with Disney Cruise Line aboard The DisneyWonder. I portrayed both Andy and Sid in Toy Story the Musical, and AnneMarie in Disney Dreams: An Enchanted Classic.

JEFF RUBINO ('03) is appearing in the short film Numb.

JACOB RUSSEL-SNYDER ('01) writes: I'm finishing my 3rd year in Korea. I have been working at a place called The Institute of the Creative Arts (ICA) teaching musical theater to kids. In addition, they are starting a textbook franchise where they
do ESL versions of famous plays, have a script, songs and ESL workbook. I am in charge of writing the songs which has been a great challenge, putting me in the role of Composer and Lyricist. I've been pretty happy with them. Do you know how many times I've shown people “Masking Unmasked”, by ELI SIMON and said "Hey, that's me on the cover" . . .they usually shrug and walk away, but I'm proud.

PATRICK SABONGUI ('05) Appeared in the movie Merlin and the Book of Beasts. He also has appeared in the superhero movie Watchmen starring Kate Beckinsale, and the movie The Good Neighbor Policy. He has also appeared in the TV show “High Noon” and the sci-fi FOX TV show “Fringe”. His films currently in post-production are The Boy Who Cried Wolf starring Brooke Shields, A Dangerous Man starring Steven Seagal, Icarus, and Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief starring Uma Thurman and Pierce Brosnan, to be released in 2010 and The Cabin in the Woods to be released in 2011.

ANDREW SAMONSKY ('03) is performing as Lieutenant Cable in the hit musical revival of South Pacific on Broadway at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre.

RYAN SANDBURG ('07) returned to the Paper Mill Playhouse for On The Town. Says Ryan, “I will be swinging again, and this time I'm getting my equity card! I am looking forward to having appointments, and priority at chorus calls. And of course I am thrilled to be doing the show. The Paper Mill treats their actors wonderfully; and its proximity to Manhattan brings all the bigwigs to come see it. Not to mention the fabulously talented cast and artistic team working on the project. It’s another big step in the right direction.”

YVONNE SAME ('06) writes: While I was at home, I went on Playbill.com just for fun and noticed that there was a call for an immediate replacement for Marcy Park on the non-eq tour of Spelling Bee! They wanted a video audition and I had just got my Mac and so I made a video real quick and sent it on YouTube (which made me nervous as anything!) I put it up last minute so that it wouldn't be up there longer than necessary. A couple days after Christmas I got a call and they told me that I landed the role! Touring again!!!! So I'm so excited and preparing and I quit my job, left my dog at my aunt's house, went to Memphis for literally, LESS than 24 hours (they flew me out to Florida the day after my scheduled return). I've been on tour since Jan 9 but so caught up with rehearsals that it's been hard to sit down and write. I'm so excited and scared and just so happy to be performing again. Just when I needed this "break" to end, it ends and in the best possible way!! The cast has been so supportive and helpful that yes I am nervous, but not completely freaked out. And the baton isn't as hard as it looks, friends. Pick one up, give it a twirl!

NEIL DAVID SEIBEL ('00) reports: I have just started my second year as Director of Performance Studies at Auburn University Montgomery. Transitioning from freelance to academia has been interesting, rewarding, difficult, wonderful, exhausting and well worth the shift! I am loving it! At the moment I'm knee deep directing and choreographing a Lysistrata set in 1969 and teaching acting, voice and movement. Professionally I won't complain: I just did a reading of a new play in Birmingham, I am an associate artist with the Montgomery Ballet having performed Coppelia, Nutcracker and a 9/11 Tribute with them, and perhaps most excitedly, I am collaborating with JOANN YARROW once again as the company ALATetc (A Laboratory for Actor Training Experimental Theatre Company) which we started back in Irvine. I received some grant monies and spent the summer in Israel and Palestine researching a production I'm creating called Daughters of Abraham and we have a workshop series with Roberta Carerri in NYC this January- look for our ad in American Theatre Magazine, November Issue! While I miss Colorado, I am enjoying the heat, southern culture, not having to explain a double first name anymore and renovating a 1909 Craftsman with my partner Mendel. Life is pretty good. As a teacher now I am daily reminded of how friggin' lucky I was to have been taught by all of you at UCIrvine!

TYLER SEIPLE ('09) appeared in a concert version of the musical Bare in Los Angeles. Our latest reports indicate that it will be fully produced at a larger venue in the city of Angels. He is also preparing to play the character, Quinn, in the feature film Separation Anxiety, produced by Glass City Films. Filmed Ghost Magic, and online promotion for CBS’ “The Ghost Whisperer”. Completed 4 weeks of Fitzmaurice Teacher Training in NYC.

LAURA SIMMS ('07) had her television debut on the show “Leverage”. She played a waitress and was featured in two quick scenes—one without dialogue and one where she answered questions for the detectives. Laura writes: I got my first taste of working in television this year; I worked on “ER”, “Criminal Minds”, “Leverage”, and “Castle”. I signed with voiceover agents in Los Angeles and Atlanta, and our VO production company SOUNDAWG is expanding. I participated in a performance event with alumae Sasha Harris ('05) and Negin Singh ('08), and had a great time meeting more alumni at the UCI Mafia networking event in February.

LEAH SPRINGMAN ('05) works for Radiance Lightworks, a lighting design firm in the LA area that specializes in themed environments and attractions, trade shows/exhibits as well as architectural lighting design. LEAH works on projects nationally and internationally. Some recent projects include the lighting design for the entire Universal Studios Park for Halloween Horror Nights (an annual project for us), themed and architectural lighting designs for the Barbie flagship store in Shanghai, China, and many trade show booths coast to coast.

MAT STOVALL ('08) Designed at SeaWorld in Texas for most of 2009, designed three Sesame Street Shows, 1 stunt show, all of their Halloween, Christmas, and New Years products. Matt also designed their re-vamped dolphin show. When he’s not at SeaWorld, Mat continues to free lance design in the corporate sector.

SEAN TARRANT ('06) appeared in the movie The (718).

JASON TEAGUE ('03) formed Jason Byron Teague, LLC, focusing on projects in architectural lighting and theatre. Says JASON, “Most of my architectural work has been high-end residential with a smattering of gallery and retail work.”

TALIA THIESFIELD ('06) appeared in the comedy, short film Jenny Got a Boob Job. Will appear in Placebo, currently in post-production, and The Reapers, currently in pre-production. In February, Talia returned to Carolyne Barry Workshops as
Carolyn’s assistant and an Advanced Commercial Acting student. In March, Talia was cast as “Anna” in the Center Theatre Group workshop of the new musical Venice at the Kirk Douglas Theatre and she also performed with Denis Leary as his backup singer in his “Rescue Me Comedy Tour” performance at the Nokia Theatre. In June, Talia originated the role of “Cydney” in Who’s Your Mommy?, a new musical written by Elin Hampton & Gerald Sternbach, directed by Tony Nominated director and choreographer Lynn Taylor-Corbett. In August, Talia performed with famed Broadway composer, Steven Schwartz and friends at the Ford Amphitheatre as part of Steven Schwartz: Making Good.

**JAMIE THIESSEN** (`08) I immediately moved to New York, and got cast as an apprentice with a Shakespearean Summer Stock company. After that contract ended in September, I returned to New York and after several months of auditioning, I got a contract with the Disney Cruise Line! I am currently up in Toronto, Canada rehearsing for all our shows. I am a character performer during the day, and a dancer in the shows at night.

**MAX SMYTHE** (`08) played Decius and the Soothsayer in Julius Caesar at the Powerhouse Theatre in Santa Monica.

**VINCE TYCER** (`08) is in England teaching scene study classes at the Drama Studio, London.

**GREG UNGAR** (`08) has been teaching adjunct (Theatre History/Dramatic Literature) at Chapman for a year. He directed Expecting Isabel by Lisa Loomer, and has been teaching beginning, intermediate, and advanced acting at South Coast Repertory for four years now. This summer, he acted for Shakespeare Orange County in two shows: As You Like It - Touchstone, & Merchant of Venice - Gratiano. He directed a children’s show at South Coast Repertory and taught Voice and Speech in their Summer Professional Conservatory.

**MELINDA VAGGIONE** (`06) was the female lead in 42nd Street at the El Dorado Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

**QUINN VANANTWERP** (`08) graduated a little over a year ago and since then the movie Four Christmases that he shot his last quarter of school came out. QUINN writes: After doing some regional productions up north I moved to New York were I had a supporting lead in a New York Musical Theatre Festival show called That Other Woman’s Child at 37 Arts, and then the starring role in a workshop off-Broadway called Take Me America at the York Theatre. Right after that I booked Bob Gaudio (one of the Four Seasons) in Jersey Boys. My first audition was right after the Toronto Cast was announced but then a month later I was called in and immediately hired to take over 2 1/2 weeks prior to opening. I learned the whole show over Christmas and New Years in New York, flew up Jan 5th and had my first preview Jan 9th, and then we opened that next week. So I am officially the Original Toronto Bob Gaudio. Anyways, I’m working on getting you a production shot from the show but things move slowly here so it may not happen. Hope all is well there!

**KEN VERDUGO** (`01) In Fall 2009, KEN designed The Misanthrope for director Dr. Andrew Harris. He has been in about a dozen exhibitions in 2009 (video, painting, digital imaging, etc.). He recently exhibited at Los Angeles Center for Digital Art and will be showing video works at the Richland College exhibition Water More or Less in Jan. 2010. KEN also published one article for USITT Sightlines (July 2009); and served as session chair at USITT; and is set to chair a panel at TETA – and co-chair a session on Projections at USITT in Mar 2010. In 2009, he also designed several works for dance – some of which have been performed in Jamaica, most recently in Delaware, and another that is scheduled to be performed with a different company in Utah in January 2010. He recently designed work for the Satellite Dance Company’s premiere of Eclipse, shown at the Dallas Museum of Art December 2009, and designed an environmental dance piece that was performed at the Modern Museum Art / Fort Worth.

**ALEX WALTERS** (`03) appeared in Brilliant Traces by Cindy Lou Johnson at the Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana.

**ERIC WEAVER** (`09) fresh out of school, reports, "When I was in NY I got a couple jobs actually from the Strawhat auditions, and I chose to go with Sunlight Theatre in New Jersey. There are ten of us which is pretty cool since I think around 600 people auditioned. I'm in Gershwin's Lady Be Good and Ragtime and then I'm one of the nicest kids in town in Hairspray. We get housed, paid, and EMC points. I'm excited to perform outside of California for the first time, so we'll see what happens! Then, after I come back, I got cast as Tumblebrutus in CATS down at Moonlight in San Diego! This will be my fourth summer with them, so I'm excited, plus they just built a huge new permanent theater, so that is exciting. Later, ERIC reports, “I'm still living it up in Reno doing 42nd Street. I can't believe I've been living in Reno for almost three months! It's been a great run and a lot of fun with this cast. I got to go on for over a week as Bert Barry during a cast change. It was a great learning experience, and it was fun doing something other than ensemble. Two days after I close in Reno I'm going to start rehearsals at Sierra Rep for Christmas My Way: A Sinatra Holiday Bash! It's a four person show, and I'm doing it with Katherine McLaughlin and directed by Troy Magino! I'll also get to hang out with Deidre because she'll be in their other theatre doing Little Women so that will be super fun. I'm stoked that I've been working solidly since May, all thanks to you guys, so thank you.”

**LIZZIE WEISS** (`05) sends this to us: I graduated in December 2005. After 2 and 1/4 years, I wanted to go to NY. I ended up getting cast in Disney's High School Musical, produced by Atlanta Theater of the Stars, it was the first equity production. It was directed by Jeff Calhoun. But, after Disney saw it they decided to turn our company into the first national tour, and it was produced by Disney Theatricals. I played the role of Martha Cox. The Hip Hopping Brainiac. Currently I am in Los Angeles and just finished taping the pilot episodes of a new myspace/fox interactive web series called “The Conservatory”. Loosely based after kids at Boston Conservatory. So everyone watch out for it! The rest of it should be taped this summer.
JEFFREY WHETSTONE ('08) writes: I'm living in Santa Rosa, CA and I'm the production stage manager for Summer Repertory Theatre. I work year round with the program on planning, development, and recruitment. Also since graduating, I've joined AGMA and Actor's Equity and I've been working as a stage manager in San Francisco and throughout the state.

MATT WILLIAMS ('00) Just made his Broadway and Off-Broadway debut in the past few months. On Broadway, he choreographed for Will Ferrell's one man show, *You're Welcome America*. Off-Broadway, he choreographed a two person rock musical called *Rooms*. *Rooms* is now playing at New World Stages and has enjoyed rave reviews.

SPENCER WILLIAMS ('07) writes: My schedule's been booked in the best of ways. I started working backstage at LA's Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre as an intern, then as a stage manager before crossing into production assistance on an independent film, *Overnight*. That lead to a PA job on a TV show called "Castle" on ABC. The week after we wrapped shooting the first season, I started up on another show for TNT with SONNY PICTURES called *Hawthorne*, which I'm currently working on. It's nothing glamorous, but I'm learning a lot, and happy to be active with the field I want to be involved in.

BENNY WILLS ('09) upon receiving his MFA in acting, toured to China with CLOWNZILLA: Ready, Set, Dead. He was then cast as the young lead, Clindor in *The Illusion* by Corneille at the Open Fist Theatre Company. “I have already put my MFA into action and am currently an adjunct faculty member at a community college. I taught my first Fundamentals of Acting class this summer.” Benny is also starring in the world premiere of *Cousin Bette* by Jeffrey Hatcher at Anteaus Theatre in Los Angeles.

MARIE WONG ('03) appeared on the long-running NBC drama “ER”

JOANN YARROW ('00) writes: I was invited to moderate/lead a congress of international theatre programs that was held in Colombia. I am also working on an exchange with Mexico and just graduated the first class of a two-year program with Othello!! (In Spanish!)

MAGDALENA ZIRA ('06) Here's some news from the Eastern Mediterranean: I have been living in Cyprus since November, after putting on *Lysistrata* in New York, my last gig there--for now. In Cyprus I directed the first Greek-speaking production of *Rabbit Hole* at the national theatre here, the Cyprus Theatre Organization. It opened in January and was a great success, so there's a possibility for another run next Fall. Currently I am directing a piece based on a little-known Roman epic poem, the *Thebaid*. I translated and adapted Book XII of this massive work, and it looks like it's going to be a dance-theatre piece with lots of singing. I think that's the best way to describe it. It's going to be performed this summer at various Greek and Cypriot festivals, including the XIV International Greek Drama meeting in Delphi, in Greece. We're very excited about that. I am also producing this one, so an all around very educational experience...I am also working on a show for next Fall, which is going to be my own adaptation of various myths from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, again for the Cyprus Theatre Organization. After that it looks like I'm going to be in London. But that's for the next year's newsletter.

TROY ZURCHER ('01) writes, "I've just finished writing a short film, called *Happy Birth Dave*, that I will direct this May. I've also completed an "animatic" with my wife; It was based on the children's book, "Growing Up Claus," that was written by Corina (my wife).

Additional News:

ERWIN TUAZON writes, "I've spent numerous seasons with the Independent Shakespeare Company, one with Shakespeare Santa Cruz, I played Romeo in a production of R&J myself, and I just auditioned and got a callback for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (and finally met Bill Rauch, and beatboxed at the audition!). Long story short is that this Shakespeare immersion has come full circle (a wonderful 75 seat proscenium theatre that is actually a converted power station!)

Additional Announcements:

**Office of Information Technology (OIT),** formerly Network and Academic Computing Services (NACS), in close collaboration with the UCI Alumni Association, has deployed a lifetime e-mail forwarding service for students. All UCI graduates have the opportunity to set up a permanent email address that will forward your "UCInetID@alumni.uci.edu" email to an address of your choice. 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. If you have any questions about the new service, please contact OIT at 949-824-2222 or http://www.nacs.uci.edu/email/alumni.html