

UCI DRAMA NEWSLETTER – 2014

Compiled and Edited by the Drama Department Staff

This is not a complete listing. Alums are welcomed and encouraged to submit updates on their current achievements and endeavors.

1960's

BOB GUNTON ('68), who played Warden Norton in the film *Shawshank Redemption*, was the guest of honor at Ohio State Reformatory during the Shawshank Reunion in September. He entertained fans by answering questions, signing autographs and even acting out a small scene. He received a key to OSR, which was presented to him by the Mansfield Reformatory Preservation Society.

1970's

DAVID GREENSPAN ('78) received excellent reviews from The New York Times for his portrayal of Avrush in the rarely performed *Carcass* last October. He also performed in David Adjimi's *Marie Antoinette* at Soho Rep last September.

MARYJO LANG ('74) spoke at a USC panel in February with Foley artists John Roesch and Alyson Dee Moore. They were the Warner Bros. sound team for such blockbuster films as *Inception*, *The Dark Knight* and *The Matrix* trilogy.

1990's

KITTY BALAY ('90) reprised the role she played in 1997 and 1998 when she performed Patsy Cline in *Always... Patsy Cline* at PCPA in September. She said, "Coming back to Patsy's music feels like coming home."

LARRY BIEDERMAN ('92) directed the world premiere of *Assisted Living* in April at Los Angeles' Odyssey Theatre. It is a new play penned by Tony-nominated *Wicked* librettist Winnie Holzman and her husband, actor, Paul Dooley.

MARK BOOHER ('90) directed the wonderfully unpredictable PCPA production of *Clybourne Park* in September.

SETH MICHAELS DONSKY ('97) had his first feature film, *Twisted*, which featured Tony Award Winners Anthony Crivello and Elizabeth Franz, was just introduced into the Museum of Modern Art's permanent film collection.

STEPHEN BURDMAN ('95) directed The New York Classical Theater's production of *The Seagull* in June. He received great reviews for the show, which was presented in roaming format, where the audience is led to different locations during the production.

MARIA COMINIS GLAUDINI ('93) just added author to her lists of accomplishments with her new book, [Rehearsing In The Zone, A Practical Guide To Rehearsing Without A Director.](#)

KIMBERLY FAYE GREENBERG ('98) was seen last year as Fanny in the Off-Broadway solo show *One Night with Fanny Brice* and in *Ghostlight*. In March she created and starred in an intimate new "Fanny Brice" solo show, *Fabulous Fanny: the Songs and Stories of Fanny Brice*, at Stage 72 at The Triad. In November, GREENBERG starred in Beautiful Soup Theater's production of *Lift*.

MICHAEL THOMAS HOLMES ('97) was featured in NYMF's production of *The Awakening of Angel Deluna*. The show was so popular additional shows were added to help accommodate audience demand.

TYLER LAYTON ('95) received rave reviews for her performance in Florida Repertory Theatre's production of *Time Stands Still* by Donald Margulies.

ALAN MINGO, JR ('98) was cast as Sebastian in Paper Mill Playhouse's production of *Disney's The Little Mermaid*. The production featured a revamped script, new songs and a new interpretation of the piece. It also played at partner theaters Kansas City Starlight and Pittsburgh CLO.

ANDREW PHILPOT ('90) starred as the "strong and charismatic" Prospero in PCPA's *The Tempest*. This impressive production enhanced Shakespeare's basic story with dance and music of the Middle East.

KURT ROBBINS ('99) performed in a new musical, *Walden*. The Planet Connections Theatre Festivity put on the musical, which is a story-theatre style adaptation of Thoreau's bestseller.

2000's

MARK BEDARD ('06) brought the character Vladimir to life in Marin Theatre's vibrant new production of *Waiting for Godot*, which was directed by the company artistic director, Jason Minadakis.

MEGAN BYRNE ('01) performed the role of Marylou Baines in Potomac Theatre Project-NYC's revival of Caryl Churchill's *Serious Money*. She performed on Atlantic Stage 2 alongside alum **JEANNE LASALA TAYLOR** ('04).

PATRICK BURNS ('09) brought his one man musical extravaganza, *From Foster Care To Fabulous*, to the New Helvetia Theatre in Sacramento.

ANDREA CABAN ('07) returned to Cape Town to perform her New York Innovative Theater Award-winning solo show, *Questions My Mother Can't*

Answer. This summer she taught at UC Irvine's first US Performing Arts Camp as well as co-taught at the international Knight-Thompson Speechwork conference. In the fall, she was hired as the Head of Voice and Speech at CSU Long Beach Theatre Arts Department.

ALLISON CASE ('05) was "Ms. Broadway" in March. She has moved on from the Tony-winning revival of *Hair* to the new Broadway show, *Hands on a Hardbody*. She also appeared in Playbill.com's LGBT Pride week "Stories of Pride" in June.

CAITLIN CISEK ('11) designed the costumes for Astoria Performing Arts Center's *Blood Brothers*. She described her designs as "Mad Men meets Downtown Abbey."

NATHAN C. CROCKER ('09) performed in The Boomerang Theatre Company's *Richard III*. He also starred in WorkShop Theater Company's production of *Life on the Mississippi*, a musical based on Mark Twain's memoir.

JENIFER FOOTE ('00) performed in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and was chosen as "Gypsy of the Month" in January by BroadwayWorld.com. In an interview with the site, FOOTE describes her journey as a performer. She also appeared in Roundabout Theater Company's new revival of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, which opened in the fall.

DONNETTA LAVINIA GRAYS ('02) appeared in Westport Country Playhouse's script-in-hand reading of Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel*. She was also named a terraNova Collective Groundbreakers Playwright. As a part of terraNova's New Play Series she wrote *The Review*, which was presented at The New Ohio Theatre. In September, she helped announce the nominees for the 2013 Innovative Theatre Awards in September at the Baruch Performing Arts Center.

KARIN HENDRICKS ('09) performed the Lady of the Lake in PCPA's production of Monty Python's *Spamalot* last summer.

DAREN HERBERT ('05) appeared in the title role of *Floyd Collins* by Adam Fuettel and Tina Landau at Vancouver's Patrick Street Productions. The musical is based on the true story of an American cave explorer who trapped himself 100 feet below the earth.

GLENN KALISON ('02) recently became the president of the film and performing arts Relativity School. Relativity Media has partnered with the school. The school hopes to stand out with its unique interdisciplinary approach called "innovation collaboration labs".

BETH MALONE ('00) received the Best Actress L.A. Ovation Award for her portrayal of Millie in the revamped version of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* at La Mirada Theatre. She later starred in the brave new musical *Fun Home* at The Public Theater. *Fun Home* was called one "of the decade's most important new American musicals."

WINDELL MIDDLEBROOKS ('05) continued his role as Curtis Brumfield on ABC's final season of *Body of Proof*. He has an in-depth interview in the fall edition of UC Irvine Magazine

ASHLEY MONIZ ('09) is currently playing the role of Sister Mary Roberts in the North American tour of *Sister Act*. This will be her second tour with *Sister Act* and was last seen in the national tour's ensemble.

BETSY MUGAVERO ('09) brought the character of Molly Aster to life in *Peter and the Starcatcher*'s regional premiere at the Utah Shakespeare Festival. She performed alongside fellow UCI alum **CHRIS KLOPATEK** ('12).

CARLA OGDEN ('09) played Ernestina in the all-Asian American cast of *Hello, Dolly!*, produced by the National Asian Artists Project, at the Pershing Square Signature Theatre.

STEPHANIE PHILO ('09) was named the new theatre director at Umpqua Community College in Oregon. She directed three plays and teaches at the college.

PATRICK SABONGUI ('05) will be starring in *Godzilla*, a new film directed by Gareth Edwards from Legendary Pictures.

ANDREW SAMONSKY ('03) starred as Richard Collier at The Portland Center Stage's premiere of the new musical *Somewhere in Time*. He later joined the Broadway revival of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* as the hot-tempered villain Neville Landless.

NEGIN SINGH ('08) directed her company cARTeL: Collaborative Arts LA's annual interactive ensemble show, *The Happy Summer Project*. The show explored the theme of what makes Angelenos happy.

JASON SPELBRING ('02) was just named artistic director of the newly formed Ojai Valley Shakespeare Festival.

JEANNE LASALA TAYLOR ('04) got a great review in The New York Times for her portrayal of Jacinta Condor in *Serious Money* performed on Atlantic Stage 2. She performed alongside alum **MEGAN BYRNE** ('01)

VINCE TYCER ('08) has been appointed Director of Studies at Drama Studio London. He is responsible for the curriculum for the second year actors and directing four shows a year.

TALIA THIESFIELD ('06) appeared in Michael John LaChiusa's musical *Marie Christine* at the 3LD Art & Technology Center in downtown Manhattan. Later in the year she performed many roles, including Poppi McGregor, in Goodspeed Musicals' *LMNOP*, "an edgy new musical about an island whose citizens begin to lose their freedoms one letter at a time."

MARK VALDEZ ('00) directed Mixed Blood Theatre's *Elemeno Pea*. The comedy about "class, gender and yachting" starred alum **GRACE GEALEY** ('10).

QUINN VAN ANTWERP ('08) left his role as Bob Gaudio in *Jersey Boys* and took on the lead role of Bobby in Palm Beach Dramaworks' production of *Company*.

TEAL WICKS ('05) performed in UnsungMusicals' concert of *Caesar's Wife*. Directed by Ben West, it featured the world premiere of an original score written circa 1969 by Tony Award nominee Carolyn Leigh and Grammy Award nominee Lee Pockriss at Peter Norton Symphony Space.

KYRA ZAGORSKY ('06) can currently be seen on Syfy's *Helix* as Dr. Julia Walker.

2010's

HANNAH BALAGOT ('12) can currently be seen on the *West Side Story* International Tour as Anybods. She has received great reviews for her performance.

GREG BEAM ('12) appeared in *The Hamlet Project: Summer in the City*, directed by alum **BETH GARDINER** ('10) in New York last August.

SONYA COOKE ('13) is the new owner and manager for the Actors Studio of Orange County.

GARRETT DEAGON ('11) performed from *Life Could Be a Dream* at The Duplex Cabaret Theatre during a one-night show *Lyrics of Jordan Beck*. He performed alongside fellow alums **IAN MICHAEL STUART** ('10) and **ZACH REINER-HARRIS** ('12). In the fall, DEAGON could be seen in Three Day Hangover's *R+J: Star-Cross'd Death Match*, a Romeo & Juliet Shakespeare drinking theatrical extravaganza with fellow alums **GRACE**

GEALEY ('10) and **DAVID HUDSON** ('10). The show received rave reviews from critics.

ALAN DRONEK ('10) appeared in *The Hamlet Project: Summer in the City*, directed by alum **BETH GARDINER** ('10) in New York.

CRAIG FOX ('12) starred in *Margarita and Max*, a new play by Manuel Igrijas. Alongside fellow alum **KIM MCKEAN** ('12), the play performed at the Midtown International Theater Festival and was directed by David Hilder.

AMBER FRIENDLY ('12) appeared on an episode of ABC's *Grey's Anatomy* as the Photographer.

BETH GARDINER ('10) directed *The Hamlet Project: Summer in the City* at Harley's Smokeshack in New York last August. Performing in the project were fellow alums **GREG BEAM** ('12), **ALAN DRONEK** ('10), **DAVID HUDSON** ('10), **KIM MCKEAN** ('12), and **ERIKA WEINHEIMER** ('09). **BETH LOPES** ('11) and **JESSE SHARP** ('11) served as executive producers. The run was completely sold out and received rave reviews from critics.

GRACE GEALEY ('10) played Simone in Mixed Blood Theatre's production of *Elemeno Pea*. It was directed by alum **MARK VALDEZ** ('00). GEALEY also received great reviews for her "spitfire bad girl" performance of Celimene in Court Theatre in Chicago's production of *The Misanthrope*. She later appeared in Three Day Hangover's *R+J: Star-Cross'd Death Match* alongside alums **GARRETT DEAGON** ('11) and **DAVID HUDSON** ('10). The show was so popular that it was extended to accommodate audience interest.

SEAN HARRIGAN ('13) was one of the five finalists named for the Samuel Goldwyn Writing Award. Previous winners include: Francis Ford Coppla, Eric Roth and Jonathan Kellerman.

DAVID HUDSON ('10) played Hamlet in *The Hamlet Project: Summer in the City*, directed by fellow alum **BETH GARDINER** ('10), in New York last August. He performed alongside alums **GREG BEAM** ('12), **ALAN DRONEK** ('10), **DAVID HUDSON** ('10), **KIM MCKEAN** ('12), and **ERIKA WEINHEIMER** ('09). Later, he appeared in Three Day Hangover's *R+J: Star-Cross'd Death Match*. Both shows received rave reviews from critics and performed to sold-out audiences.

RYAN IMHOFF ('11) received great reviews in the Wall Street Journal for his portrayal of Rosencrantz in American Players Theatre's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. The show, directed by James Bohenen, performed at Up-the-Hill Theatre.

BEN JACOBY ('12) received great reviews for his portrayal of Lt. Joe Cable in David H. Bell's sublime revival of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, *South Pacific* at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire. Most recently, Jacoby was cast as "Raoul" in *The Phantom of the Opera* National Tour.

EVANS JARNEFELDT ('08) appeared in *The Guessing Game* during Bexar Naked Playwrights' *Black Box-Shorts*, a night of five fully realized one-acts, at the Palmetto Center for the Arts at Northwest Vista College.

CHRIS KLOPATEK ('12) played Romeo in Utah Shakespeare Festival's Shakespeare-in-the-Schools production of Romeo and Juliet. He got great reviews during USF's main season where he played Prentiss in *Peter and the Starcatcher* and Costard in *Love's Labor's Lost*.

JIM KNIPPLE ('09) is now a Resident Artist and Assistant Professor of Directing and Playwriting at West Virginia University. During WVU's season, he directed *The Liar* by David Ives and is also the new director of the Laboratory Theater, a student extension of the School of Theater & Dance. **BETH LOPES** ('11) directed current students and alumni in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the New Swan Shakespeare Festival in Irvine. **BRI MCWHORTER** was recognized as Best Actress in Examiner.com's Best of Orange County Theater for her role as Hermia in LOPES' production.

KIM MCKEAN ('12) starred in *Margarita and Max*, a new play by Manuel Igejas alongside fellow alum **CRAIG FOX** ('12). She also appeared in *The Hamlet Project: Summer in the City* directed by fellow alum **BETH GARDINER** ('10) in New York.

SEPIDAH MOAFI ('13) appeared in an episode of *Blue Bloods* as Aaliya Zaki.

IAN PARMENTER ('11) appeared in the ensemble of Theater Under the Stars' *Camelot*, which was directed by Richard Stafford.

KAGISO ALICIA PAYNTER ('11) appeared in a Boost Mobile commercial.

ZACH REINER-HARRIS ('12) performed from *Spring Awakening* at The Duplex Cabaret Theatre during the one-night show, *Lyrics of Jordan Beck*, in July in NYC.

ROB SALAS ('11), the founder and artistic director of the Davis Shakespeare Ensemble, directed *As You Like It* this summer. Performing by the UC Davis arboretum, the show was well received and starred **HAYLEY PALMER** as Rosalind.

TYLER SEIPLE ('09) produced and starred in the feature film *Man and Machine* through 8 Sided Films.

SOREN SANTOS ('11) gave a hilarious performance in TheatreFirst's production of Sarah Ruhl's *Orlando*.

JESSE SHARP ('11) has been busy playing the kooky patriarch of Gomez Addams. He is receiving great reviews for his performance in the national tour of *The Addams Family Musical*.

ABBEY SMITH ('12) got great reviews for her portrayal of Kate in *Other People's Money* at Theater Wit in Chicago.

TAYLOR STEPHENSON ('09) was awarded L.A.'s biggest theater honor, an Ovation Award, for best Music Direction of *Triassic Park, the Musical* at The Chance Theater.

IAN MICHAEL STUART ('10) is appearing as Captain Scott in *Peter and the Starcatcher's* National Tour. He also performed from *Peter and the Starcatcher* at The Duplex Cabaret Theatre during a one-night show, *Lyrics of Jordan Beck*, in July.

TALIA THEISFIELD ('06) played an FBI agent on *The Following*, which stars Kevin Bacon.

ERIKA WEINHEIMER ('09) appeared in *The Hamlet Project: Summer in the City*, directed by alum **BETH GARDINER** ('10) in New York.

ABBY WILDE ('13) performed with Brian Dennehy at the Mark Taper Forum in *The Steward of Christendom* as Annie Dunne.

PERRY YOUNG ('10) reprised the leading role of Usnavi in Westchester Broadway Theatre's production of *In The Heights*. This production of the Tony-award winning musical featured talent from Broadway and the national tour.