

## UCI DRAMA NEWSLETTER – 2013

Compiled and Edited by the Drama Department Staff

### 1960's

**BOB GUNTON** ('68) brought his show *Walking On Water*, "an evening of musical theater and song," to The Cumberland County Playhouse in May.

### 1970's

**JEFF GREENBERG** ('72) recently won an award for *Art* ("regional theatre West") in the national "Artios Awards," given for casting in live theatre. He also earned his tenth Emmy nomination, this time for his work on the hit ABC sitcom *Modern Family*.

**DAVID GREENSPAN** ('78) received a glowing review from the New York Times for his performance of Sally Silvers's *Bonobo Milkshake* at Roulette in Boerum Hill.

### 1980's

**DENNIS CASTELLANO** ('84) served as musical director/conductor at the Sacramento Music Circus for its production of *The Music Man* starring Oscar-winning actress Shirley Jones. Dennis also served as musical director of the new musical *Cloudlands* at South Coast Repertory and received great reviews in the Los Angeles Times.

**JOSHUA FINKEL** ('84), working with the Academy for New Musical Theatre, directed *A Ring in Brooklyn* at the NoHo Arts Center.

**JOSÉ CRUZ GONZÁLEZ** ('86), well known magical realist playwright (*The Blue House*, *Harvest Moon*, *Salt and Pepper*) and a professor of theater arts at Cal State LA, returned to his UCI alma mater on January 14 to lead a seminar on playwriting as a major part of the Drama Department's World Premiere Weekend! He will also anchor South Coast Repertory's "Dialogue/Dialogos SCR" initiative, which has Santa Ana residents contributing material and performances for a new play.

**RICHARD GOULD** ('80) appeared in *Man of La Mancha* at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center in Long Beach.

**CARRIE MADSEN** ('87) appeared in *The World Goes Round* at Actor's Co-op in Hollywood, along with fellow alum **SELAH VICTOR** ('03).

**JEFFREY MEEK** ('83) and **R. MICHAEL GROS** ('81) are now the co-artistic directors of Playfest Santa Barbara, which had its Inaugural Festival in January, 2013. Drama alum **AMANDA KRAMER** ('10) will also be working with Jeff and Michael as managing director of Playfest.

### 1990's

**COREY ALLEN** ('94) was a member of the Great River Shakespeare Festival's acting company for its ninth season of productions. The company also included fellow UCI Drama alums **GREG BEAM** ('12) and **KIMBERLY MCKEAN** ('12).

**LARRY BIEDERMAN** ('92) directed *Post-Its: Notes On A Marriage*, as part of a collection of three short pieces titled *Fall in Love with Rogue Machine*, exploring love at different times in life. This was a benefit for the award winning Los Angeles theater company Rogue Machine.

**STEPHEN BURDMAN** ('95) directed a free presentation of *Playing Moliere*, three one-act intertwining Molière comedies, February 21 through

March 11, 2012 at the Winter Garden in the World Financial Center presented by The New York Classical Theatre.

**JAMES CALLERI** ('90) led the award list for the national "Artios Awards," given for casting in live theatre, with three first prizes: one for *Venus in Fur* (in the category of "Broadway comedies"), one for *The Cherry Orchard* ("off-Broadway comedies or musicals") and a third for *A Doll's House* ("regional theatre East").

**EUGENE DOUGLAS** ('99) appeared in the acting company for the American Shakespeare Center's 2012 tour titled *Almost Blasphemy*. It consisted of two of Shakespeare's most adored plays, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Winter's Tale* matched with John Ford's *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*. Douglas played no less than five roles between the three productions.

**CRAIG J. GEORGE** ('91) directed Tony Award winner Michael Rupert, Tony nominee Robert Cuccioli and Laila Robins in an invitation-only reading of John MacNicholas' adaptation of Jean-Jacques Bricaire and Maurice Lasaygues' farce *Deja Vu*.

**GEOFFREY GOING** ('99) appeared as Troy on *The Young and the Restless* on CBS in June 2012. He was also nominated for a Broadway World Award for "Best Featured Actor in a local musical" for his performance as "Captain Walker" in *The Who's Tommy* at The MET Theatre in Los Angeles, produced by Doma Theatre Company.

**JOEL GOLDES** ('90) reports the following exciting news: "Here are the deets on that big project I created the accent for: Premiering in June, 2013, it's called *After Earth* and stars Will and Jaden Smith in a sci-fi story about a father and son's journey through a desolate Earth after their spacecraft crashes on the long-barren planet 1,000 years in the future. They asked me to create an accent of American English that sounds like it's been acted upon by the dominant world languages over the thousand years since people left Earth. We shot in Costa Rica, Philadelphia (on soundstages), Eureka, CA and Moab,

UT and had English, Australian and Norwegian actors in addition to several Americans; I coached the whole cast so it was quite a challenge!"

**KIMBERLY FAYE GREENBERG** ('98) appeared as Fanny Brice in *Ghostlight* at the 2011 New York Musical Theatre Festival.

**JASON HEIL** ('93) appeared in Lamb's Players Theatre production of *See How They Run*.

**DAVID HERBELIN** ('98) recently played David Frost in *Frost/Nixon* at the Maverick Theatre in Fullerton. His performance received rave reviews from both Backstage West and the OC Register.

**MICHAEL HOLMES** ('97) was described as "ace young New York City character actor" by Playbill.com after his turn as a film director based on Billy Wilder on NBC's *Smash*.

Novelist **CHARLIE HUSTON** ('95) is set to have his noir mystery thriller *Caught Stealing* adapted for the big screen with Patrick Wilson and Alec Baldwin set to star.

**STEPHANIE T. KEEFER** ('90) debuted her short film in September at the Winifred Smith Hall, before taking it on the festival circuit.

**ERIC KUNZE** ('95) performed in February as part of *Do You Hear the People Sing?* with a collection of Broadway singers at the Angela Peralta Theater, Mazatlan, Mexico, as well as in *An Evening with Eric Kunze* at the Town & County Club in Hartford, CT. He also recently played Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid* at Music Circus, Sacramento CA.

Kunze also took part in *A Very Broadway Christmas*, a new Christmas CD that supports the Dr. Carol Channing-Harry Kulljian Foundation For The Arts. Eric sings two tracks, and is featured on the album alongside Matthew Morrison, Stephanie J. Block, and others.

**DEANNE LORETTE** ('92) played Mrs. Mullins in *Carousel* at Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam CT. She also appeared as Yvonne in *Sunday in the Park with George* at the Repertory Theatre in St. Louis.

**TANGI MILLER** ('97) produced and starred in the movie *Guardian of Eden*, which had its red carpet premiere at Rave Cinemas in Los Angeles in mid-February.

**ALAN MINGO, JR** ('98) appeared as Papa Ge in *Once on This Island*, directed by Tony-nominated director Thomas Kail at New Jersey's Paper Mill Playhouse.

**MARK NASH** ('90) staged and starred in *A Vermont Holiday*, songs and stories of the season, at the Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center in Vermont this past holiday season.

**ROGER SMART** ('99), the artistic director of Chicago's Shattered Globe Theater, opened his new show, *In Her Naked Skin*, by Rebecca Lenkiewicz, on May 3 at the theater's Stage 773 on West Belmont.

## 2000's

**MARK BEDARD** ('06) recently played Groucho Marx in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival production of *Animal Crackers*.

**TREVOR BISHIP** ('06) is being honored as one of the top directors in the Los Angeles area. His staging of the Chance Theater's Southern California premiere of *Jerry Springer: The Opera* is currently tied with the revival of Lorraine Hansberry's *Raisin the Sun* for the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle special award. The two shows are tied with eight nominations each in the competition to receive the top award.

**MEGAN BYRNE** ('01) performed in the New York opening of Caryl Churchill's *Serious Money*, alongside fellow alum **JEANNE LASALA TAYLOR** ('95).

**PAT BURNS** ('09) recently presented his one-man show, *From Foster Care to Fabulous*, in New York, and in attendance were local children in the foster care system. The whole experience was chronicled by The Children's Aid Society.

**ANDREA CABAN** ('07) wrote and performed in the world premiere of her one woman show, *Questions My Mother Can't Answer*, directed by Rachel Eckerling, at the close of Boise Contemporary Theatre's 2011-2012 season.

**LOUIS CARAZO** ('07) recently appeared in the Spanish-language Will Ferrell comedy *Casa de mi Padre* in the role of Young Miguel Ernesto.

**ALLISON CASE** ('05) played Kelli in the Broadway bound musical, *Hands on a Hardbody* at the La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego (May - June 2012).

Directed by **SEAN CAWELTI** ('03) and **JOHN NOBORI** ('05), the award-winning Rogue Artists Ensemble, "using their signature Hyper-theatrical style combining puppetry, music, video projections, and innovative prop design," brought to life John Muth's *Zen Shorts*. Cawelti and Nobori helped to develop the production along with Drama alum **MILES TABER** ('03), with sound design by **NOELLE HOFFMAN** ('11), costume design by current MFA student **GWYNETH CONAWAYBENNISON** and stage managed by current MFA student **DEAN CUROSMITH**.

**JENN COLELLA** ('02) appeared as Hedda Hopper in *Chaplin* on Broadway. She also performed in *Closer than Ever* at the York Theatre Company, Off-Broadway (June - July '12), which received fantastic reviews from both The New York Times and The Epoch Times.

**LAURA D'ANDRE** ('07) recently appeared in *My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra* at the Farmers Alley Theatre in Kalamazoo, MI.

**ERIN CROUCH DENMAN** ('01) appeared as Lola in *Damn Yankees* at the Ogunquit Playhouse in Ogunquit ME.

**MICHAEL DOONAN** ('09) received fantastic reviews for his performance in *The Arsonists*, a clown show that performed in Chicago. The Chicago Tribune described him as 'mesmerizing.' And Chicago Stage Review said 'Standing out in this altogether outstanding cast are the wickedly calculating Michael Doonan and David Steiger as Eisenring and Schmitz. Doonan makes his Trap Door debut with a tremendous performance that is perfect for their stage and not to be missed.'

**JAMIE ELVEY** ('08) appeared as Hanan in the Mixed Blood Theatre production of *Learn to be Latina* in Minneapolis. Her performance as an aspiring singer in this comedy received rave reviews in The Minneapolis Star Tribune.

**JENIFER FOOTE** ('00) performed in the revival of *Follies* that played Washington, D.C., New York, and at the Ahmanson in L.A. She later recreated a number from the show on the 2012 Tony Awards telecast on CBS. She also appeared in Roundabout Theater Company's new revival of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, which opened in the fall.

**JENNIFER MANDALA GRAVEL** ('02) performed as Missy in *The Marvelous Wonderettes* at Theatre Winter Haven in Winter Haven FL.

**ELISHA GRIEGO** ('05) served as associate production designer for country star Keith Urban's *Get Closer* tour.

**KARIN HENDRICKS** ('09) appeared as Vivienne in PCPA's production of *Legally Blond, The Musical*. Also appearing was current MFA Acting student **CONNOR BOND** as Warner, **NATASHA HARRIS** ('08) as Serena, and Drama alum and PCPA veteran **ANDREW PHILPOT** ('90) as the delivery guy who falls for Paulette whose performance was "simply hysterical" according to Santa Ynez Valley News.

Keeping busy, Karin also appeared as Jane Bennet in PCPA's *Pride and Prejudice* at the Marian Theater in Santa Maria.

**DAREN HERBERT** ('05) appeared as George in the Arts Club Theatre Company's production of *Intimate Apparel* in Vancouver, Canada.

**ANDREW DAWSON HERINGER** ('07) and his band, Milo Greene, recently made their network debut on *The David Letterman Show* on CBS.

**JOSEPH H. JOHNSON, JR.** ('09) appeared in the November 14, 2012 episode of the hit CBS drama, *Criminal Minds*.

**GLENN KALISON** ('02) played the playwright, Arthur Miller on NBC's *Smash*. In July, he also hosted a private screening of his short film, *Kindling*, at the New York Film Academy.

**KEVIN KRECZKO** ('08) just began a new position as Director of Business Affairs and Show Development for InMotion Entertainment, which primarily focuses in film/ media work, as well as theme park attractions, museum installations, and entertainment productions. Some of their current projects include: *Verbolten*, a new rollercoaster for Busch Gardens and *One Ocean*, the new Shamu show for SeaWorld.

**NANCY LAM** ('01) and **JASMINE EJAN** ('01), performed in *Miss Saigon* for McCoy/Rigby Entertainment at The La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts.

**BETH MALONE** ('00) appeared in *Christmas My Way* in North Hollywood in December. She was described by Edge Los Angeles as "vivacious and talented ... demonstrat[ing] her stellar abilities in a superb rendition of Judy Garland's famous number, 'The Man That Got Away' while excelling in other solos and duets." She also brought her new solo show, *Beth Malone ... So Far* to New York's 45th Street Theatre. The show was directed by Peter Schneider,

the Tony Award-winning producer of the internationally acclaimed Broadway musical *The Lion King*.

**BENJAMIN MATHES** ('08) starred as Matthew in Theatre Tribe's production of *The Sleeper* written by Catherine Butterfield, and had great reviews in The Los Angeles Times.

**NICK MCGEE** ('00) performed as Brian in Theatre Out's production of *Avenue Q* in Santa Ana CA, along with fellow alum **DANNY MORENO** ('10) and current Drama student **RACHELLE CLARK**.

**CAITLIN MCGINTY** ('06) played Maria in *The Sound of Music* at The TriArts Sharon Playhouse in Sharon CT.

**WINDELL MIDDLEBROOKS** ('05) continued his role as Curtis Brumfield on ABC's *Body of Proof*.

**ASHLEY MONIZ** ('09) is currently appearing in the ensemble of the national tour of *Sister Act*.

**MICHAEL DEAN MORGAN** ('05) appeared in the national tour of *Mary Poppins* playing the role of Mr. Banks.

**BETSY MUGAVERO** ('09) appeared as Suzanne in the production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* at The Complex (East) Theatre in Los Angeles. She was also interviewed by the Boise Weekly promoting Idaho Shakespeare Festival's 36th season opener, *Romeo & Juliet*. She of course played the lead role of Juliet!

**KURT NORBY** ('04) was mentioned in an article on Playbill.com for being a part of the acting company in *Allegiance*, a new musical premiering at The Old Globe featuring choreography by our new drama professor, Andrew Palermo.

**JOE OSHEROFF** ('01) was nominated for a whopping four New York Innovative Theatre Awards (IT Awards) for Outstanding Choreography/Movement, Outstanding Director, Outstanding Innovative Design (Mask Design) and Outstanding Original Short Script for his play *Homunculus: Reloaded*, which was produced by Homunculus Mask Theater.

**STEPHANIE PHILO** ('09) received great reviews for her role as Catherine Givings in the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center production of *In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)*.

**ROBERTO PRESTIGIACOMO** ('03) directed AtticRep's *Virginia Woolf* at the Attic Theater, Trinity University to rave reviews.

**SCOTT REARDON** ('06) appeared as Prince Dauntless in *Once Upon a Mattress* at Cabrillo Music Theatre in Thousand Oaks CA. He also played Frank in *Show Boat* at Fresno Grand Opera, CA.

**JESSICA REINER HARRIS** ('07) appeared as Carrie, alongside ensemble members **ALISON BORESI** (current student), **PETER LEIBOLD** ('12), and **KAYLA HART** ('11) in *Carousel* at Sierra Repertory/Fallon House in Columbia CA. Jessica also performed in *Forbidden Broadway* at The Cosmopolitan Cabaret in Sacramento CA.

**ANDREW SAMONSKY** ('03) recently performed as Kenneth Ormiston in *Scandalous: The Life and Trials of Aimee Semple McPherson* on Broadway. He was also nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Featured Actor in a musical for his performance in *Queen of the Mist*.

**NEGIN SINGH** ('08) was featured on the White House's website in its *Women Working to Do Good* series where she was spotlighted for her artistic pursuits in Los Angeles.

**JEFF TAKACS** ('02) wrote the script for Company XIV's World Premiere production of *La Fête*, directed and choreographed by Austin McCormick. It

showed this past October 31 to December 9, 2012 and was a limited six-week engagement at the 303 Bond Street Theatre in Brooklyn.

**SEAN TARRANT** ('06) performed the titular role in *Cat in the Hat* at the Singapore Repertory Theatre in Singapore.

**QUINN VAN ANTWERP** ('08) continued his role as Bob Gaudio in *Jersey Boys* at the August Wilson Theatre on Broadway.

**SELAH VICTOR** ('03) is currently in the middle of launching of *Trainers* the second comedy webseries that he co-produced, co-wrote, and starred in. She also appeared alongside fellow alum **CARRIE MADSEN** ('87) in *The World Goes Round* at Actor's Co-op in Hollywood.

**ERIC WEAVER** ('09) performed as Robert Martin in *The Drowsy Chaperone* last year at The Gallery Players in Brooklyn NY. He was also recently cast in the upcoming national tour of *Young Frankenstein*.

**TEAL WICKS** played Julie ('05) in *Carousel* at Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam CT. She's also appearing as Emma in a Broadway bound national tour of *Jekyll & Hyde*, which co-stars R&B singer Deborah Cox and *American Idol* alum Constantine Maroulis.

**MATT WILLIAMS** ('00) recently choreographed the Off-Broadway musical, *Carrie* for MCC Theater.

## 2010's

**LITAL ABRAHAMS** ('10) was the principal singer in *A Grand Christmas* at the Deadwood Mountain Grand in Deadwood, SD. She will also be performing as Judy in *9 TO 5* at The Roxy Regional Theatre in Clarksville TN.

**HANNAH BALAGOT** ('12) appeared as Erma in *Anything Goes* at Moonlight Amphitheatre in Vista CA.

**MARISA BARAM** ('10) recently appeared in an episode of *Glee* on Fox Television.

**KATHERINE BRADY** ('11) appeared in The Theatre Group at SBCC's production of *Avenue Q* along with **SEAN JACKSON** ('08). Katherine also appeared in the national tour of the Tony-award winning musical *In the Heights* with UCI Drama grad, **PERRY YOUNG** ('10)

**SKYE BRONFENBRENNER** ('10) appeared as a Townsperson/Enchanted Object in the national tour of *Beauty and the Beast*.

**PAUL CULOS** ('10) appeared in the Antaeus Company's production of *Macbeth*, directed by Jessica Kubzansky at the Deaf West Theater in North Hollywood.

**GARRETT DEAGON** ('11) performed in *Life Could Be a Dream* at The Oregon Cabaret Theatre in Ashland OR (June - August 2012).

**NICOLE ERB** ('10) appeared in Theatre Exile's production of Adam Rapp's *The Edge of our Bodies*, from September 6-23 in conjunction with the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. She also appeared Juliet in the Lantern Theater Company's *Romeo and Juliet* in Philadelphia.

**COURTNEY EVANS FERO** ('10) played Hope Harcourt in *Anything Goes* at Moonlight Amphitheatre in Vista CA.

**CRAIG FOX** ('12) appeared in *Miss Mary Dugan* at the Wild Project as part of the Fresh Fruit Festival in New York City.

**MIKKEI FRITZ** ('11) joined the company at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and recently performed in *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Very Merry Wives of Windsor, IOWA*.

**GRACE GEALEY** ('10) appeared as Mimi in the American Theater Company's production of *Rent* in Chicago. Both Grace and the production received great reviews.

**KAYLA HART** ('11) appeared as Agnes in *Gypsy* at Sierra Repertory Theatre in Sonora CA.

**BLAIR HOLLINGSWORTH** ('10) appeared as Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Candlelight Pavilion Dinner Theatre in Claremont CA

**BEN JACOBY** ('12) recently finished his role as Laertes in *Hamlet* at the Utah Shakespeare Festival, a performance for which he was given a rave review by [utahtheaterbloggers.com](http://utahtheaterbloggers.com). He appeared along with fellow alum **CHRIS KLOPATEK** ('12). Ben was also cast in the world premiere of Marriott Theatre's *Now and Forever*, a theatrical exploration of the lush songs of composer Andrew Lloyd Webber.

**CHRIS KLOPATEK** ('12) performed in Utah Shakespeare Festival's performance of *Hamlet*, directed by Marco Barricelli, alongside fellow alum **BEN JACOBY** ('12).

**PETER LEIBOLD** ('12) just accepted a Resident Lighting Designer and Master Electrician position at Sierra Repertory Theatre in Sonora, CA.

**SHERYL LIU** ('11) recently won a 2012 FringeNYC Overall Excellence Award in the area of design for her work on *Bite the Apple* which showed at the festival.

**JEFFREY LO** ('10), Founding Artistic Director Emeritus of UC Irvine's Pipeline Players Theatre Ensemble, was just named by the Silicon Valley Arts Council as their Emerging Artist Laureate for his work as a playwright/director/producer.

**LAUREN T. MACK** ('10) appeared as Tzeitel, along with current student **BEN GIBSON** in *Fiddler on the Roof* at The Sacramento Music Circus.

**DANNY MORENO** ('10) performed as Princeton in Theatre Out's production of *Avenue Q* in Santa Ana, CA, along with fellow alum **NICK MCGEE** ('00) and current Drama student **RACHELLE CLARK**.

**KAGISO ALICIA PAYNTER** ('11) appeared in May as Bianca in an episode of CBS' *Criminal Minds* directed by Felix Alcalá. She can also recently be seen in a new commercial, which introduces the Apple iPad mini.

**AMY PERKINS** ('11) performed as Monteen in *Parade* at the Cygnet Theatre Company, San Diego CA. She also recently played Emily Benson in *Of Thee I Sing* at Theatre at Monmouth, ME.

**ROB SALAS** ('11), the founder and artistic director of the Davis Shakespeare Ensemble, scored a major hit with his production of Shakespeare's *Henry V*, which played through July 2012 at the UC Davis Arboretum. Critics raved over the re-discovered and freshly revealed intimacy of the classic anti-war drama. "Director Rob Salas handles his cast well and makes savvy use of space," said Jeff Hudson of the Sacramento News & Review. Bev Sykes of the Davis Enterprise, said, "This production, directed by Rob Salas, works because of an amazingly talented cast, each of whom play many parts."

**JESSE SHARP** ('11) was recently cast as Gomez Addams in the national tour of *The Addams Family Musical*, which will be playing all over the US and Asia for 18 months starting in January.

**AMANDA SHAY** ('12) recently appeared in *Tony N' Tina's Wedding* at Bally's in Las Vegas.

**RYAN WELSH** ('10) was recently nominated for Best Male Performance: Comedy for the 3rd Annual Streamy Awards which honors excellence in original online video programming and the creators behind them.

**PERRY YOUNG** ('10) appeared in the leading role of Usnavi De La Vega in the national tour of the Tony-award winning musical *In the Heights* and will reprise his role in 2013.