

DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

YEAR IN REVIEW

2013-14



VISITING ARTISTS

Luis Alfaro

Paul Barnes

M. L. Dogg

Larry Groupe

Sara Guerrero

Jorge Huerta

Mary Jo Lang

Cal Maclean

Bob McCarthy

David Neville

Scott Shaffer

Herbert Sigüenza

Brian Thompson

Jason Thompson

Greg Ungar

A SEASON OF JUSTICE



A Christmas Carol



Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson

UCIRVINE | CLAIRE TREVOR
SCHOOL of the ARTS
DEPARTMENT of DRAMA

with

Office of the Provost, School of Humanities, School of Law, School of Social Ecology,
School of Social Sciences and University Extension

present

THE TRIAL OF DEDAN KIMATHI

by
NGUGI WA THIONG'O AND MICEFE GITHEA-MUGO

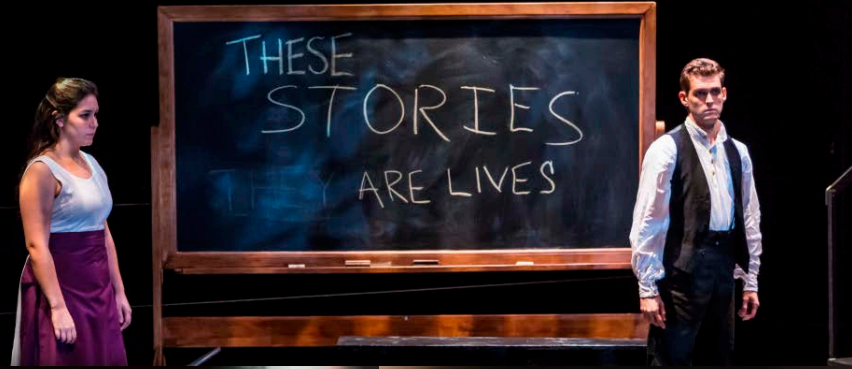
A SEASON OF JUSTICE



Angels in America:
Part 1



As You Like It



Nickel Mines





Karen Morrow



David Emmes



Suzanna Guzman



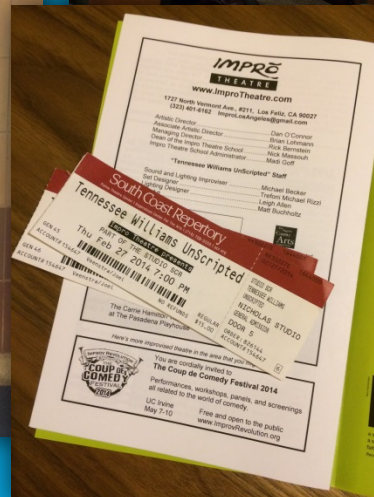
Kirk Douglas Theatre, Marc Warzecha



Michael McGoff



SCR Impro Theatre



Yakov Smirnoff

IMPROV REVOLUTION: COUP DE COMEDY FESTIVAL



Honoring Emmy Winner Tony Hale



UC Irvine improv groups Improv Revolution and Live Nude People With Clothes On have a dance party during their show at last year's Coup de Comedy Festival. The two groups will meet on stage again to kick off this year's festival.

FUNNY FELLOWSHIP

Improv troupes and more highlight the annual Coup de Comedy Festival.

BY JONATHAN WINSLOW
STAFF WRITER

Putting together a school festival is no laughing matter, unless, of course, you're putting together the Coup de Comedy Festival 2014, a celebration of comedy at UCI starting Wednesday and running through May 10 at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

This four-day festival is free and features nightly events including dozens of shows and workshops alongside panels and screenings.

The annual festival is presented by Improv Revolution, a UCI improv comedy group devoted to spreading the art throughout the community. The group has a core ensemble that performs at least

twice a week.

The fun begins with a kickoff show pitting Improv Revolution against fellow UCI improv group Live Nude People With Clothes On. This is the third time these two groups have shared the stage, promising an explosive evening for UCI improv fans.

The first night also will include the Revolutionary Comedy Awards, where Improv Revolution honors comic talents that have inspired them. This year's honoree is actor Tony Hale, most famous for his role as Buster Bluth on "Arrested Development."

A dozen free workshops will be hosted by talent from around the world of comedy, teaching subjects ranging from sharpening improv

skills to creating a successful comedy show.

Details

What: The Coup de Comedy Festival 2014

Where: Claire Trevor School of the Arts, 4000 Mesa Road, Irvine

When: Kickoff show starts at 7 p.m. Wednesday; festival runs through May 10 with events every night.

Price: Free, but workshops are welcome only until the event fills up. RSVP to guarantee a spot: improvrevolution.com



ENTERTAINMENT

"Good comedy doesn't have to be a comedy idea." - Seth Rogen



By Eli Heller
Staff Writer

FREEZE. The music stops. The wild movement on stage comes to a sudden halt. Third-year drama major Vinny Tangherlini quickly

the games, enhanced by constant hilarious suggestions from the audience members, crowned with "Stage Directions," for which four team members acted out a scene with constant obscure directions from Tangherlini, including "Take an Ellen DeGeneres-style selfie" and "Kiss a member of the audience," "Half Life," a repetition of the same scene in shorter and shorter amounts of time, and several others. With excellent timing and hysterical antics, the comedians earned more laughs with each game.

Joel Veenstra, the Claire Trevor's Associate Head of Stage Management and Rev's two team captains, organized the festival, which ran from Wednesday to Saturday and included a series of performances, panels consisting of comedy professionals and workshops for UCI's most spontaneous and fast thinking students and all who appreciate the hilarious and energetic form of physical performance that is improvisation.

Wednesday night's performance also featured a brief stand-up set from local comedian Mark Jackson and Carra Gifford as "Sky and Nancy Collins" — a couple from "Rancho Pico de Gal-

lo" ("if Coto de Caza were nice, you know?") who spoofed Orange County's conservatives and lack of diversity.

"You know what I don't get? Fat homeless people?"

Yet the icing on the cake, one of the highlights of both Wednesday evening's opening event and perhaps the entire festival, was the appearance of a highly successful comedic actor himself. At the end of the night, Tony Hale, who portrays Buster Bluth on "Arrested Development" and Gray Walsh on "Veep," arrived for a brief Q&A session with the audience and performers, moderated by Veenstra, and to share his experiences as a comedy professional.

"Within live theater, anything can happen, so you have to be on your toes," Veenstra explained, noting the importance of improvisation as training for those hoping to act in live theater productions.

Veenstra and the members of Improv Revolution brainstormed earlier this year about who, within the professional comedy community, might be best to learn from and invite to UCI to accept their special Revolutionary Comedy Award. Because "Arrested Development" is set in Newport Beach,

Veenstra and the students felt Hale would be perfect.

"He has a lot of honesty with his characters," added Veenstra, who teaches an improv and sketch class. "That is my hope for my students."

"A bald eagle! This is funny, considering the fact that I play meek, emaciated characters," Hale, who won the 2013 Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series, joked as he entered the stage and accepted the Comedy Revolution Award from Improv Revolution Team Captain Andrea Whipple.

"There is a ton of rejection in this business," Hale went on to explain to the many drama majors in the audience after narrating his path to success.

Hale moved to New York to act in 1995 and worked several odd jobs and a appeared in commercials before his big break on "Arrested Development."

Featuring stand-up, sketch comedy and improvisation, and combining performances from UCI students, local professional comedians and local high school students this year's Coup de Comedy was a success.

ment" in 2003. "I've learned a lot of lessons and made a lot of mistakes. The trait that has helped me along the way is making a support system." He stressed the importance of maintaining close connections with family and friends to get through difficult times as an actor. "If you're not practicing contentment where you are, you're not going to get contentment when you get what you want."

About his comedic technique, Hale explained that he always "dives the honesty and reality of the circumstances."

"Buster is a 35-year-old trapped in a 7-year-old's body. That alone is hilarious. It all goes back to not pushing the circumstances," Hale further explained backstage. "I highly recommend improv at a young age. If you keep things too set in your own ways, you can't explore other things. You have to keep yourself flexible."



2014 Most Outstanding Educational Program

- Anteater Awards

Academic Integrity – Irvine Unified

Convened by Ramya Harishankar (Arpana Dance Company) and Dr. Priya Srinivasan (UCR), this event is co presented by the Ektaa Center, Arpana Dance Company and The Drama and Dance Departments of UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

Dance Conversations: Theatres in Dance

Saturday & Sunday, October 26 & 27, 2013
Colloquium Room (3rd Floor), Contemporary Arts Center

Wrap up session by Dr. Priya Srinivasan and Ramya Harishankar

Registration for the program: www.dctheatresindia.com
Evening performance: www.arts.uci.edu/tic

Ektaa Center
UC IRVINE



Partnerships

The Actors Fund, for everyone in entertainment.

THE ACTORS FUND 18TH ANNUAL TONY AWARDS VIEWING PARTY

HONORING BARBARA COOK
With the Julie Harris Award for Artistic Achievement
Sunday, June 8, 2014

PRESENTED BY

The Laguna Playhouse

Setting: The action takes place in Lubbock, Texas. Includes: Tennessee, Clara, Pam, Marion, New Tall Guy and Char. Like, like.

Productions Staff

Special Thanks

usbank néktor

Buddy
The world's most successful Rock & Roll musical.

The BUDDY HOLLY Story

The Laguna Playhouse



Dramatic Transformations presents...
DIVERSITOPIA!

Transforming the UCI graduate community through the power of DRAMA!



MONDAY
May 5, 2014 at 5PM
 &
 TUESDAY
May 6, 2014 at 4PM

AT THE
Winifred Smith Hall
 IN THE CLAIRE TREVOR
 SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

DIVERSITOPIA is a docudrama addressing diversity issues unique to the UCI community. Based on surveys and interviews, DIVERSITOPIA tells your story with fictional characters in dramatic situations. You'll laugh and sigh, and you might even have a "déjà vu" moment! But above all, you'll understand what diversity really means in the UCI community.

Dramatic Transformations is a project supervised by Daphne Lei, professor of Drama. It is an interdisciplinary project that combines research and creativity and intends to use drama to raise the awareness of issues related to diversity and equity, as well as campus climate in the UCI community.

A post-show discussion panel and a reception will follow each performance.



FREE W/ RSVP
 SCAN THE CODE
 TO RSVP.

• For more information please visit
<http://dramatictransformations.wordpress.com/>.

• FREE with RSVP. Please visit
<http://goo.gl/ZQ6dCs> to RSVP.

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 DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA | SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



The Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience (DECADE) initiative is sponsored by a FIPSE comprehensive grant aimed at increasing the number of women and underrepresented minorities receiving doctoral degrees at UCI.





STEVEN GEORGES, FOR THE REGISTER

PRESIDENT JACKSON GETS ROCK 'N' ROLL TREATMENT

By ANNA ILIFF
GRANDE COUNTY REGISTER

A reimagined former president will take the stage in tight leather pants for UC Irvine Claire Trevor School of the Arts' production of "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson."

The rock musical set in a grun-



CLAIRE EDMONDS PHOTOGRAPHY

Jacob Branson and Whitney Egoert will perform in "The Dwell" on Aug. 21 and Sept. 1 at UC Irvine's Claire Trevor Theatre.

"The horrible sin of love"

By ANNA ILIFF
GRANDE COUNTY REGISTER

Dive into the inner psyche of an Italian Renaissance man in Counter-Balance Theater's production of "The Dwell" at UC Irvine's Claire Trevor Theatre.

Based on Oswald de Andrade's 1934 play "The Dwell," Counter-Balance Theater's production is a dark and visceral exploration of a man's psyche. In this production, the character of the "Dwell" is a man who is torn between his love for a woman and his desire for power. The production is a powerful and moving exploration of the human condition.

The language is far more important part of the film.

There's Something About Nancy



There's something about Nancy's... (text continues)

UC Irvine's 'Christmas Carol' comes to stage at UCI



Rosemary Brownlee as the ghost of Jacob Marley, with a scene from "A Christmas Carol" during rehearsal.

'Christmas Carol' comes to stage at UCI

The Dickens Christmas story "A Christmas Carol" is being brought to the stage by Counter-Balance Theater's production of "A Christmas Carol" at UC Irvine's Claire Trevor Theatre.



PHOTO: GREG ANDERSON, FOR THE REGISTER

Greg Anderson, left, and Claire Edmonds, as Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig, rehearse a ball scene in "A Christmas Carol."

'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' REPLETE WITH MAGIC

By ANNA ILIFF
GRANDE COUNTY REGISTER

An enchanting holiday classic will come to UC Irvine in Counter-Balance Theater's rendition of "A Christmas Carol."

Based on Charles Dickens' 1843 novella, Counter-Balance Theater's production of "A Christmas Carol" is a modern and magical take on the classic story.

Counter-Balance Theater's production of "A Christmas Carol" is a modern and magical take on the classic story. The production features a cast of talented performers and a beautiful set design.

The production is a beautiful and moving exploration of the human condition. It is a must-see for anyone who loves a good holiday story.

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UC Irvine students Matt Koenig, left, and Josh Odessa-Rubin rehearse for "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches."

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William Joe
front of Calt...



PHOTO: JEFF ANTONIONE, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

UC Irvine students Matt Koenig, left, and Josh Odessa-Rubin rehearse for "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches."

'Angels in America' tackles AIDS

By ANNA ILIFF
STAFF WRITER

Set in New York in the midst of the 1980s AIDS crisis, "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" thrills theatergoers into an emotionally-charged drama that asks poignant questions about the visibility of the LGBT community, morality and political agendas.

Directed by Gavin Cameron-Wibb, UC Irvine's production features an ensemble cast of student performers and chronicles the lives of people from all walks of life who have been affected by AIDS.

"It's an epic play told in intimate scenes," Cameron-Wibb said. "The play focuses on Prior Walter, played by Matt Koenig, a gay man who has just been diagnosed with AIDS. As Walter's disease worsens, his boyfriend Louis Ironson, played by Josh Odessa-Rubin, struggles to cope. Ironson eventually finds comfort in the arms of another man, a closeted gay Mormon who is married to a Walden-addicted woman.

While the production features supernatural elements, such as appearances of a ghost and an angel, "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches" also incorporates pieces of reality, including the real-life story of lawyer Roy Cohn, played by Jacob Drelich, who hid his AIDS diagnosis to protect his reputation.

Ironson, played by Josh Odessa-Rubin, struggles to cope. Ironson eventually finds comfort in the arms of another man, a closeted gay Mormon who is married to a Walden-addicted woman.



UC Irvine students Bri McWhorter and Adam Schroeder work through a scene for "Angels in America."

"While the setting is in the AIDS crisis of the mid-1980s, the subject is the state of the country," Cameron-Wibb said. "That is revealed through the portrayal of Roy Cohn, the infamous, notorious lawyer who was (Sen. Joseph) McCarthy's man and the assistant attorney on the Ethel Rosenberg case. Cohn was a big power bro-

ler in his time and a man who was homophobic, yet died of AIDS." The three-hour performance will include two intermissions, and may not be suitable for children due to strong language and adult subject matter, Cameron-Wibb said.

CONTACT THE WRITER: anna@ucirvine.com

sunday
feb. 2

DRAMA

Angels in America Part One - Millennium Approaches

Directed by Gavin Cameron-Wibb

When: 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday

Where: Robert Cohen Theatre, Claire Trevor School of the Arts, UC Irvine

Information: 949-824-2787 or arts@uci.edu

Directed by Tony Kushner: This play focuses on the issues and concerns of the LGBT community's struggle to become more visible. 2 p.m. at Robert Cohen Theatre, UC Irvine campus. Tickets: \$11-\$15.

Information: 949-824-2787 and www.arts.uci.edu

UC IRVINE



Graduate student Kaitlyn Kaufman is particularly proud of a tunic she designed for "Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson." It has a silk screen of the Constitution's preamble, making the rock-star and political quipster of the film character.

DRESSING THE PART

Costume design program allows graduate students to reap from what they sew.



The costume workshop is buzzing with excitement. Just days away from the first dress rehearsal of "Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson," designer Kaitlyn Kaufman and the technicians are finishing up the odds and ends of her eclectic de-its-pose-ri-scribble.

"It's sort of like Occupy Wall Street meets improvisation," Kaufman said of the studio. "The technicians are finishing up the odds and ends of her eclectic de-its-pose-ri-scribble."

The UC Irvine shop looks like something out of "Prestige Theaters." Sketches of visionary designs line the walls, embroidered dresses hang on mannequin bodies held together by pins and needles, and whimsical embellishments are being sewn onto jackets. Everyone is hard at work, focusing on their task to meet deadlines.

For 30-year-old graduate student Kaufman, "Bloody, Bloody" is more than just a musical that turns a former U.S. president into a rock star. It's her thesis.

Directing for Her First

by Lauren Shepherd Staff Writer



Drama students and curious friends walked through the doors of the Little Theater Friday night for the opening of a play directed by Lauren Shepherd, UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts drama student. Each person in the audience received a survey about their most intimate moment of their first time.

As quotes from minds varying from Voltaire to Madonna flashed on the stage screen from the projector center stage, the audience members had the opportunity to fill out whether they are a virgin or not, how they felt when they lost their virginity, where it happened, how old they were, and what they would say to that person now.

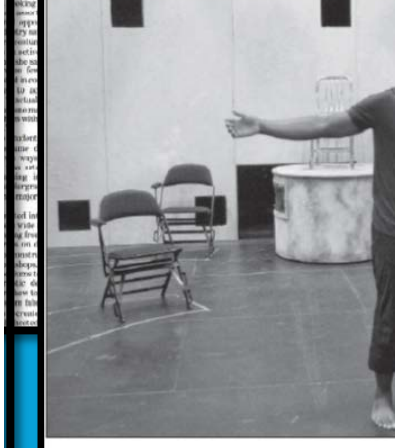
As surveys were turned in, the data was typed into the projected slides and the statistics of sex were adapted to the audience's responses.



At the head of costume design at UC Irvine, Kaufman is "part of building the character," she says.



At last of business so we can negotiate the scope of a job," Dartan said. "Then we have to throw away the bookshelves for a while and delve into the script and characters to figure out the art. Then we want to work with it. It requires a bit of compromise."



UC Irvine graduate student Oge Agulue rehearses a scene from the Claire Trevor School of the Arts' production of "The Trial of Dedan Kimathi," written by UCI professor Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Kenyan writer Micere Githae Mugo.

PLAY PORTRAYS TALE OF KENYAN PATRIOT

BY ANNA ILIFF STAFF WRITER

The Claire Trevor School of the Arts drama department will present the American premiere of the play "The Trial of Dedan Kimathi" on Saturday.

Written by distinguished Kenyan authors and playwrights Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Micere Githae Mugo, "The Trial of Dedan Kimathi" explores the life and death of a Kenyan leader who drove the Mau Mau uprising against British colonization in his native country in the 1950s.

Dedan Kimathi, played by graduate student Oge Agulue, is a brave and a lionhearted, and is a bronze statue honoring his achievements.



Angels in America

What if, instead of a play, you were watching a musical? That's the idea behind the new production of "Angels in America" at the UC Irvine Drama Department. The play, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Best Drama in 1992, is a masterpiece of American theater. It's a story of love, loss, and redemption in a world that's falling apart.

The production is a collaboration between the UC Irvine Drama Department and the UC Irvine Opera House. It's a production that's been in the making for a long time. It's a production that's been in the making for a long time.

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UC Irvine Drama Department

You could choose OC's newest theater company, the Alchemy Theater Co., but it has only done one show to date, so give us time. Instead, what about the UC Irvine Drama Department? Its shows usually last only a couple of weekends, so getting a review in these space-constrained times is problematic at best. But the arsenal of undergrad and graduate talent, plus a ridiculously well-rounded and smartypants faculty (Robert Cohen, who founded the department in 1962, is STILL there as a professor) elevates all its productions.

Best Theater We Never Write About - 2013

Comments (0)



Monday, April 14, 2014 UC Irvine 5

Human Options Book Drive



Directs "As You Like It," which will be staged by 3 at UCI's New Swan Theater.

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." - William Shakespeare, As You Like It

AS YOU LIKE IT

of the ICIT program perform a concert of new works, combining instruments with custom interactive computer systems. 8 p.m. at Winifred Smith Hall. Free and open to the public. Information: www.arts.ucl.edu/calendar

satursday 26th

THEATER

"As You Like It": Jane Page, director. "The good ended happily, the bad unhappily. That is what fiction means." So wrote Oscar Wilde. Shakespeare's story is a wild romp where brothers scheme and plot and young couples fall instantly and hopelessly in love. Set in New Orleans and the outlying Cajun country, as ends as we would like it to... happily ever after. 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays and Sundays, 2 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays through May 3 at New Swan Theater inside the Robert Cohen Theatre. Tickets: \$11-\$15.

