

## The Art of Sound Design in UCI Drama

▼ The sound design program contributed to the success of *Sunday in The Park With George*.

The Drama Department's new graduate program in sound design is a major step in the department's continuing evolution as a premier institution for stagecraft.

Drama Chair Robert Cohen emphasized the need for sound design initiative in 2005 as a way to fill a gap in the department's curriculum. "Sound design—which refers to all audio

generation, resonance, performance and enhancement during theatrical or film production—has now become an absolutely vital component" of any quality production.

generation, resonance, performance and enhancement during theatrical or film production—has now become an absolutely vital component" of any quality production. "Creating a sound design program," he continued, "would propel UCI's Drama program—and the collaborative activities of its faculty—to the highest national distinction."

With the addition of Michael Hooker to the faculty, the department is well on its way to that distinction. Hooker, who became

a professor at the beginning of the year, brings a bounty of experience with him. "Sound design is the art of providing an aural narrative, soundscape, reinforcement or musical score for the performing arts—namely, but not limited to, theater," Hooker explains. "Unlike the recording engineer or film sound editor, we create and control the audio from initial concept right down to the system it is heard on."

He spent seven years with Walt Disney Imagineering, where he designed sound projects for nine of its 11 theme parks. His projects included *Cinemagique*, an interactive film show starring actor Martin Short at Walt Disney Studios Paris; the Mermaid Lagoon, an area featuring several water-themed attractions at Tokyo Disney Sea; and holiday overlays for the Haunted Mansion and It's a Small World attractions at Tokyo Disneyland.



Photo: Paul Kennedy

## Dance Mentor Helps Shape UCI Arts Through Inspiration

Israel "El" Gabriel is an internationally known dance teacher and choreographer as well as an artistic advisor and consultant to some of the world's foremost dance institutions and dance companies. Mention his name to Claire Trevor School of the Arts students and colleagues, and their faces reflect respect and admiration.

He is described as an inspiration. Alan Terricciano, Dance Department Chair, says "Gabriel is indefatigable in his energy and generosity to the program. He has an international reputation as a teacher of ballet, having developed a unique and critically recognized methodology for training dancers. His approach is particularly noteworthy both for its development of stamina and its emphasis on dramatic expression. Beyond their sheer physical development, Mr. Gabriel

has the ability to 'clean' the bad habits of our entering students and prepares them well for their advanced studies."

Joining the UCI Dance Department in 1967, Gabriel taught under Eugene Loring, founding chair of the Department of Dance and noted American choreographer. He left for Israel in 1968 to serve as ballet master, guest artist, dance teacher and assistant to the artistic director of the world famous Bat-Dor Dance Company of Israel. Gabriel returned to UCI in 1973



▲ Dance Visions 2007

Photo: Rose Eichenbaum

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 Claire Trevor School of the Arts  
 300 Arts  
 Irvine, CA 92697-2775  
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# FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Dear friends,



As I begin to write this column for our UCIArts Newsletter, I am mentally reviewing where we have been in the recent past. While it is impressive enough to look at the success of recent shows and presentations, I am always amazed at the buzz of creative activity going on in classrooms, labs, and rehearsal halls, evidence of which surfaces throughout this edition. We have a star-studded faculty lineup and, not surprisingly, top-ranked programs in all disciplines. The enthusiasm with which faculty, staff and students dive into creativity is truly intoxicating.

This past quarter we glowed with pride at the drama alumni event in the Paramount Studios Theatre in Los Angeles. The setting was evocative of old Hollywood, as we were next to the historical Paramount Studios gate, and the gathering of so many generations of alumni was truly breathtaking. If your children or grandchildren have enjoyed the recordings of *Beauty and the Beast* or *The Little Mermaid*, you have heard the producing talents of Ted Kryczko; if you have listened to National Public Radio or watched KOCE, you probably know the talented Kitty Felde and Maria Hall-Brown; if you have enjoyed ABC's *Commander-in-Chief* or NBC's *Cheers*, you have seen the unique casting talents of James Calleri and Jeff Greenberg; and if you enjoyed *The Shawshank Redemption* or WB's *Felicity*, you have experienced the acting talents of Bob Gunton and Tangi Miller. All of these are drama alumni who, with some three hundred other accomplished alumni, gathered in Los Angeles to honor the legendary Robert Cohen, founding drama faculty member.

And that is only part of the story! Our superb graduate MFA program in Studio Art has produced celebrated artists like Chris Burden and Mary Ellen Strom. Our dance graduates populate renowned dance companies like the National Ballet of Canada, Momix, the Joffrey Ballet, and the Nashville Ballet. And our music alumni are singing in Chanticleer, playing in concert and pit orchestras throughout the country, and overseeing the development of content in the U.S. for the Yamaha Motif XS professional synthesizer.

Impressive indeed.

Nohema Fernández

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Faculty

**David Allan**, Director of Ballet and Professor of Dance, presented new choreography for Ballet Pacifica's *The Nutcracker* performed at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, Dec. 9-24, 2006.

◀ **Juli Carson**, Assistant Professor of Studio Art, curated the exhibitions *Exile of the Imaginary: Politics /Aesthetic/ Love* at The Generali Foundation, Vienna, Austria (Jan. 18-April 29, 2007) and *Paradox and Practice: Architecture in the Wake of Conceptualism* at UCI's University Art Gallery (Jan. 9-Feb. 10, 2007). Carson was also editor of the book, *Exile of the Imaginary: Politic/Aesthetics/Love* (Köln: Walther König, Jan. 2007).

In January, **Michael Dessen**, Assistant Professor of Music, released *Lineal*, a CD of his own compositions featuring himself on trombone performing with renowned musical improvisers Mark Dresser, Vijay Iyer,

Susie Ibarra and Terry Jenoure. Dessen performed Nov. 2, 2006 with his electro-acoustic Michael Dessen Trio at The Stone, one of New York City's premier experimental music venues.

Music Professor **Christopher Dobrian's** composition, *Instapene-playtion* for computer-processed flute, was presented in December at the Bellingham Electronic Arts Festival, WA, where he also lectured on *Integrating Video, Sound, and Music with MaxMSP and Jitter*.

Dr. **Jerzy Kosmala**, Lecturer in Music (viola), performed at the 2006 International Summer Music Courses in Lancut, Poland, and conducted master classes. He also taught at the International Summer Music Festival in Zagan, Poland. Last September Dr. Kosmala was a jury member for the International Brahms Viola Competition in Portschach, Austria, and judged the MTNA All State Young Artist Viola Competition in Los Angeles in Oct. 2006.

Studio Art Professor **Antoinette LaFarge's** *Demotic*, a mixed-reality performance work that "offers a wild ride through America's political psychosis," received its East Coast premiere Nov. 2-5, 2006 at the Baltimore Theatre Project.

*continued on page 3*



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Copy Editor & Writer: Mark Chalon Smith

Writers: Scottie Hinkey, Jacquie Sisemore

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## VOICES — ARTS PATRONS SPEAK OUT

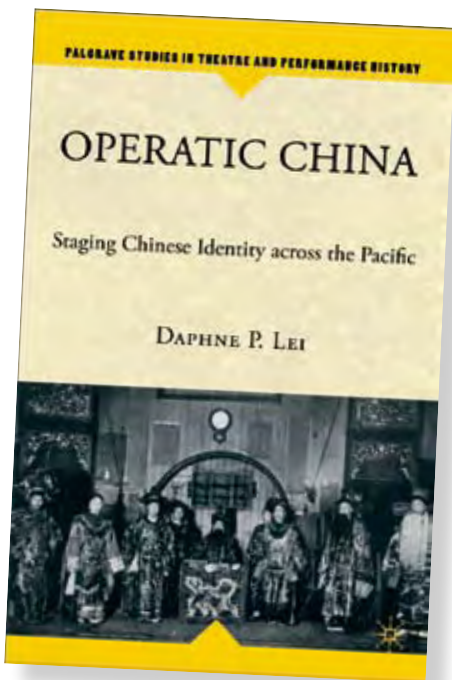
The arts expand our horizons and broaden our minds at whatever stage in life we are in. They expose us to different cultural views, generational views and

themes that allow us to continually expand and enrich who we are and how we view the world around us.

~Simone Chapman  
Dean's Leadership Council

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT continued from page 2

► **Daphne Lei**, Assistant Professor of Drama, published her first book, *Operatic China: Staging Chinese Identity across the Pacific* (Palgrave Macmillan, October 2006). The book is a study of Chinese opera and identity performance. She also lectured for the Shakespeare Forum at the National Taiwan University (Taipei, Taiwan, December 2006) and presented a paper at the American Society for Theatre Research conference (Chicago, November 2006).



**Simon Leung**, Associate Professor of Studio Art, is exhibiting *Transcripts 1991*, a video/sculptural work at Rotunda Gallery in Brooklyn, NY (Jan.-Mar. 2007). The original script of the performance, *Transcripts: Some Notes between Pricks*, was published in *The Invisible Flâneuse, Gender, Public Space and Visual Culture in Nineteenth Century Paris* (Manchester University Press, Sept. 2006).



◀ **Molly Lynch** (top left), Assistant Professor of Dance, staged her piece, *Counterpoint*, with music by Steve Reich at Adelphi University in New York City, Dec. 5-10, 2006.

► **Maggie Parkins**, Lecturer in Music (cello), is a member of Eclipse, an LA-based new music string quartet. The quartet wrote and performed the score for the dance film, *Opium*, in collaboration with the Sudden Dance Theatre based in Victoria, Canada. The film was presented at the 35th Dance on Camera Festival at the Walter Reade Theatre at the Lincoln Center in New York City in Jan. 2007.

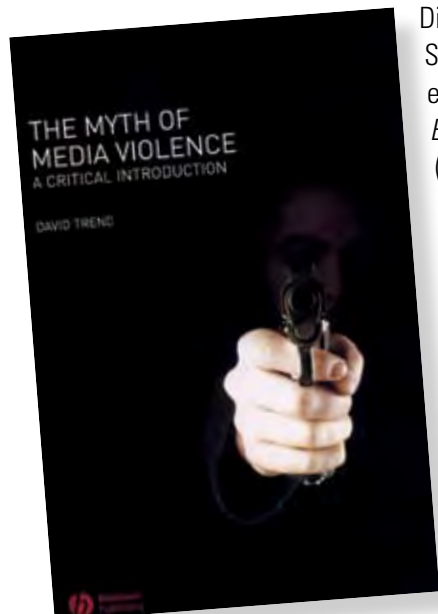


**Bobby Rodriguez**, Lecturer in Music, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Professional Musicians Union, Local #47 in Jan. 2007. He completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at UCLA in 2006.

**Nancy Ruyter**, Professor of Dance, attended and presented a paper at the annual Congress on Research in Dance (CORD) conference in Tempe, Arizona, Nov. 1-5, 2006. Ruyter serves on the CORD Board of Directors.

Tenor **Darryl Taylor**, Assistant Professor of Music, released his CD, *Fields of Wonder: Songs and Spirituals of Robert Hughes* in December 2006 (Albany Records). On Dec. 2, 2006, Taylor sang with jazz legends Kenny Burrell and Hubert Laws at UCLA's Royce Hall in an all-star gala saluting Burrell's 75th Birthday.

▼ **David Trend**, Professor of Studio Art, co-wrote and published an article, "The Digital Divide and Special Education" with Studio Art undergraduate Julia Nyberg. The essay is in *The Praeger Handbook of Special Education*, edited by Alberto M. Burszyn (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2007). Trend's latest book, *The Myth of Media Violence*, was also published in January (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2007).



## Students

**Jae Cho**, second-year graduate student in dance, presented her piece *A Moment Ago* at the American College Dance Festival in San Francisco, Jan. 20, 2007.

In Sept. 2006, second-year dance graduate student **Lauren Thompson** assisted Professors John Crawford and Lisa Naugle during a three week residency at the Beijing Dance Academy in China. While in China, Lauren's dance for the camera work, *Restroom*, was featured in the student showcase at the Beijing International Dance Film Festival.

**Amy Schiffner**, second-year graduate dance student, has accepted a post-graduation position as Assistant Professor of Dance at the University of Hawaii, Manoa.



## Alumni

► **Constantine Arvanitakis** (MFA Drama 1988) was recently appointed head of the Drama School for the Athens Conservatory. The conservatory, founded in 1871, is the oldest and most prestigious drama school in Greece.

**Maria Hall-Brown** (BFA Drama 1984) was awarded a Golden Mike Award by the Radio and Television News Association of Southern California, Jan. 20, 2007. She is the producer of *Real Orange*, the nightly news magazine at KOCE television, as well as the producer/host of *Bookmark*, an acclaimed author interview series on KOCE.

► In Nov. 2006, **Kevin Loucks** (BM Music 2004) performed with the East Coast Composers Ensemble at The Juilliard School, NY, and at St. Botolph Hall, Boston. In December 2006, he performed at the Dundas Center for the Performing Arts, Bahamas, and in Jan. 2007, with the Gotham Contemporary Ensemble at the Riverside Church, New York City.



**Thelma Medina** (BA Drama 2006) is a member of the production staff on the *Dr. Phil* television show.

**Jenn Collela**, (MFA Drama 2002) played the female lead, Laura, in the new romantic musical comedy, *High Fidelity*, at the Imperial Theatre in New York City, Dec. 7-17, 2007.

**Jennifer Foote** (BA Drama/Dance 2000) is in the national tour of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

► **Daren A. Herbert** (MFA Drama 2005) appears as Jimmy's piano player in the movie, *Dreamgirls*.

**Ben Israel** (MFA Music 1999) is the Research and Development Supervisor for Content at Yamaha Corporation of America. His most recent project was overseeing the development of content in the United States for the new Motif XS professional synthesizer.

Two music alumni: **Laura Wallis** (MFA Music 2000) is principal oboe for the new production of *Les Miserables* on Broadway, and former UCI student **Dwight Parry** is principal oboe for the San Diego Symphony.

**Teal Wicks** (BA Drama 2005) is the female lead, Catherine, in the national tour of *Pippin*.



Daren A. Herbert in UCI's *Seven Guitars* (2005)

# A Paramount Celebration

An extraordinary evening was created on February 3, 2007 as special friends and alumni gathered together to honor Robert Cohen, founding chair of UCI's Drama Department.



Robert Cohen



Casting Director, Jeff Greenberg ('72 BA)



One on One star Kelly Perine ('90 BA '98 MFA)



KOCE's Maria Hall-Brown ('84 BA)



Brian Thompson regular on *The X Files* ('84 MFA)



Film Producer Scott Kroopf ('73 BA)



Current Drama Students perform



Mad TV's Crista Flanagan ('01 MFA)



Felicity star Tangi Miller ('98 MFA)



Center: Casting Director James Calleri ('90 MFA)



Robert's wife, Lorna Cohen, and Dean Nohéma Fernandez

Don't worry if you missed it... there is still time to participate!

## PRODUCERS ARE NEEDED

You are needed to help create the dream... a rejuvenated theatre to be named after our beloved Robert Cohen, a man who has educated and inspired generations of students at UCI. We need you to consider

giving generously to help make this dream possible. Naming opportunities are available. Please contact Claire Trevor School of the Arts Dean's Office [artsgiving@uci.edu](mailto:artsgiving@uci.edu) or 949-824-8792 for questions and information.

undergraduate sound design programs at the University of Cincinnati and California Institute of the Arts. He has designed sound for more than 100 productions since 1983 and is a classically trained pianist who has performed many times as a pit musician and conductor for musicals.

Hooker has been busy since joining



Michael Hooker

the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. Besides teaching classes, he was the sound designer for Drama's recent Mainstage production of *Sunday in the Park with George* at the Irvine Barclay

Theatre and is the sound design mentor for Stage 2 student-directed productions.

His enthusiasm and insight have helped illuminate the art of sound design to many of the School's students, professors and production staff. During show production meetings, Hooker has often made it clear how sound can bring dimensions of art and accessibility to many productions, including *Sunday in the Park with George*, which was a success, in no small part, because of his design work.

"UCI provides a very healthy package for its graduate students – one that very few schools can compare with," Hooker notes. "Our sound design program has excellent resources and faculty support, and it is located in Southern California's dynamic theater market. I'm excited to help build a top-notch program."

Nohema Fernández, the School's

Dean, echoes his sentiments, adding that the program is expected to grow in coming years. "With the leadership



of Professor Hooker, we will have the opportunity to build one of the finest sound design programs in the country, and perhaps the world," she says. "His wide range of experience will enhance our high-ranked Drama Department and serve as an important foundation for today and in the future."



Dance Mentor Helps Shape UCLArts Through Inspiration *continued from page 1*

as a Dance lecturer, where he is now teaching ballet, *pointe, pas de deux*, modern, jazz and partnering in contemporary dance and jazz.

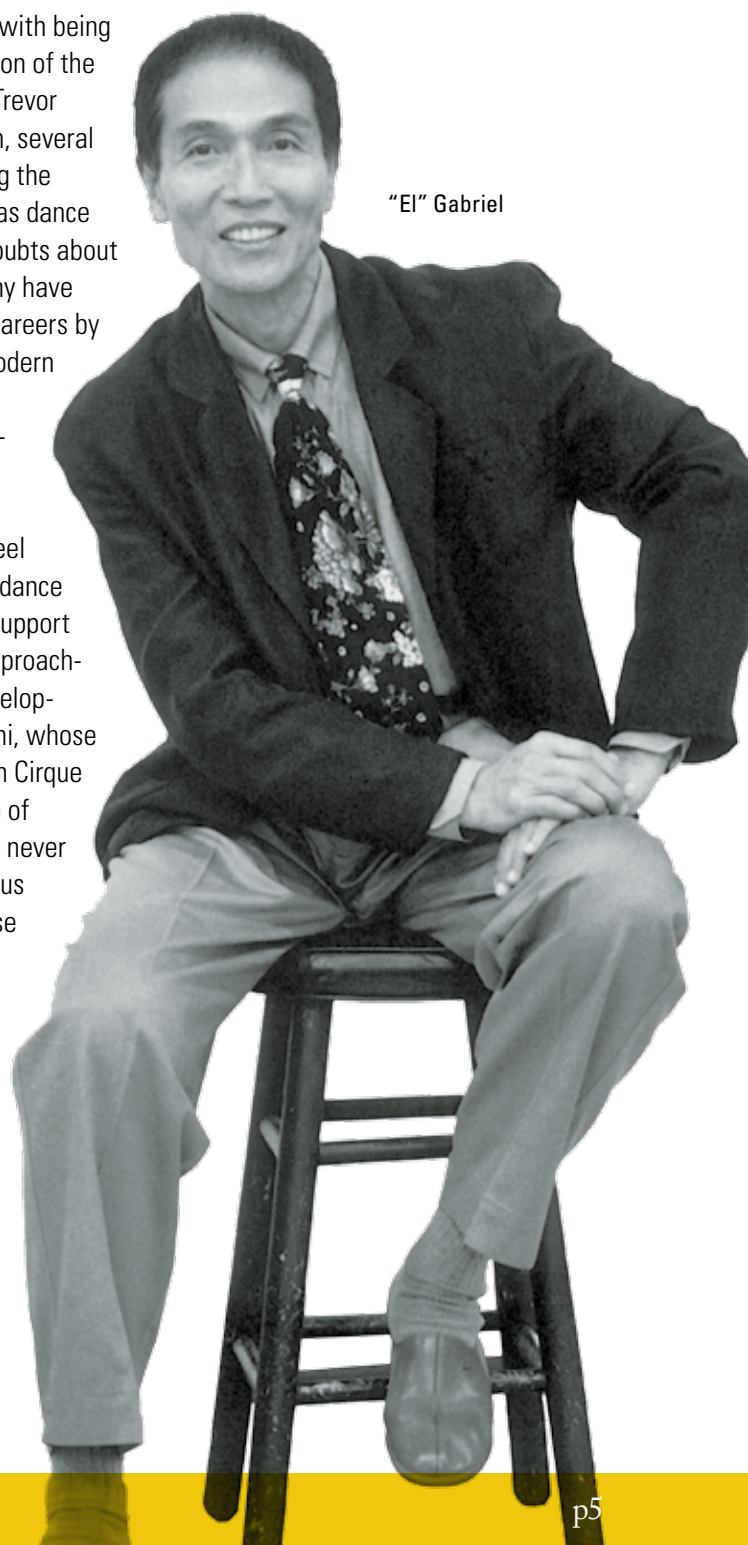
Gabriel has taught master classes throughout Russia, North and South America, Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Australia. He is the artistic consultant for the Quinto Elemento Dance Company, Puebla Mexico, among others worldwide, as well as serving as the ballet master and guest artist for the Dance Theatre Philippine. He appeared as an international performer, on Broadway in *Flower Drum Song* and as a regular performer at the world renowned Hollywood Palace, Hollywood, CA. Gabriel's most recent works were performed in Miami, Florida; Hermosillo, Mexico; Anchorage, Alaska; and Manila, Philippines. In addition, Gabriel has been invited to lead a dance workshop in Tel Aviv, Israel this summer.

Actively continuing his professional career, lecturing in worldwide locations and choreographing new works allow him to bring new ideas to his students and prepare them for careers in professional performing and beyond, Gabriel says. Sheetal Gandhi, a former student, adds: "His experiences in the professional world endow him with a practical wisdom that is incredibly useful to dance students in academia." Serving as a well-loved faculty mentor for students, he is extremely accessible and approachable, as he enthusiastically guides students

through their collegiate experience.

UCI colleagues credit him with being a dynamic force in the evolution of the Dance program at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. In addition, several students credit him with being the reason they remained at UCI as dance students, even as they had doubts about the future. With his help, many have pursued their post-graduate careers by entering ballet companies, modern dance companies, national tours of musicals, and appearing in film and on television.

"To this day, 12 years after graduating from UCI, I feel comfortable walking into the dance department to get advice or support from "El." He remains ever approachable and interested in my development as an artist" says Gandhi, whose resumé includes performing in Cirque du Soleil's *Dralion*. "El" is one of those teachers that a student never forgets. He brings his infectious zest for life and a unique sense of humor to a classical form of dance ... He is truly a distinguished teacher, and even more impressive to me, an inspirational human being with what seems to be a never-ending fountain of positive energy."



"El" Gabriel



## APRIL

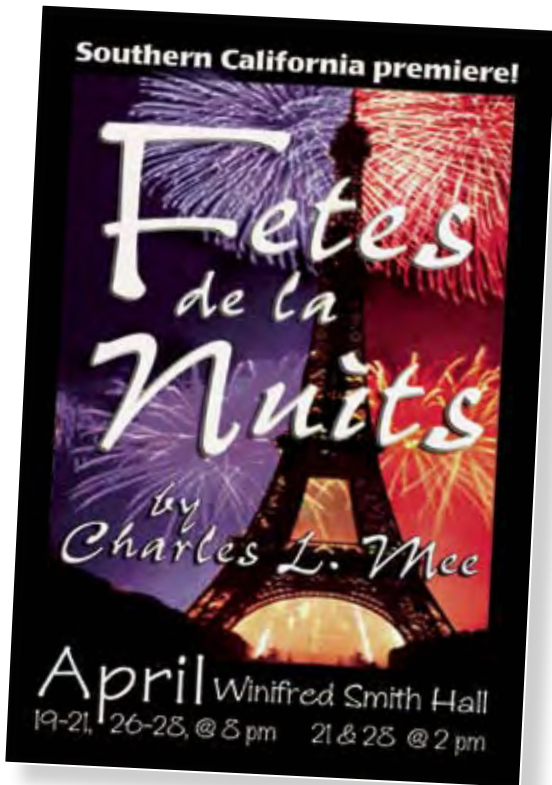
Beall Center for Arts and Technology†  
**ALAVs 2.0 (Autonomous Light Air Vessels)**  
**Jed Berk**

April 3-May 19

The Beall Center's "Emerging Artists" series features Jed Berk. Berk and his collaborator, Nikhil Mitter, have created a unique new species, the ALAV, using sensor technologies and computer algorithms. ALAVs are intelligent, communicating, helium-filled blimps that motor through the gallery in search of companionship and food.

University Art Gallery\*  
**3rd Annual Guest Juried Undergraduate Exhibition**

Room: **Undergraduate Honors Project**  
Thur, April 5-Fri, April 20



▲ **Drama Mainstage**

**Fêtes de la Nuits**

by Charles L. Mee

Annie Loui, director

Thur-Sat, April 19-21 & 26-28, 8 pm

Matinees: Sat, April 21 & 28, 2 pm

Winifred Smith Hall

Fri & Sat eve: \$17/15/9, weeknight & matinee: \$15/14/9

**Southern California premiere!**

Celebrated dramatist Charles Mee's newest work—termed "a naughty Valentine to Paris"—is a hilarious yet thoughtful cultural meditation on the differences between contemporary French and Americans. "Funny, provocative, wildly inventive and highly enjoyable," said the San Francisco Chronicle; "A sensual celebration." —Talkin' Broadway

**Dance Escape**

New works by UCI graduate choreographers

Thur-Sat, April 26-28, 8 pm

Matinee: Sat, April 28, 1 pm

Claire Trevor Theatre, \$11/10/9

University Art Gallery & Room\*

**MFA 3 Thesis, Part I**

Thur, April 26–Fri, May 11

## MAY

**Master Class with**

**Pianist Menahem Pressler**

Tue, May 1, 1-4 pm

Winifred Smith Hall, free

Gassmann Electronic Music Series

**Music for Computerized Piano**

Wed, May 2, 8 pm

Winifred Smith Hall, free

A concert of works for the latest Yamaha Disklavier computerized piano composed by Christopher Dobrian, featuring pianist Kei Akagi and others.

Symphony Orchestra

**Neighboring Tones**

Stephen Tucker, conductor

Fri-Sat, May 4-5, 8 pm

Pre-concert conversation: Fri, May 4, 7 pm

Irvine Barclay Theatre, \$12/10/8

Delius: On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring

Cantaloube: Songs from the Auvergne

Frances Young, soprano

Chausson: Poème for Violin and Orchestra

Andria Chang, violin

Britten: Cantata Misericordium

Darryl Taylor, tenor

Robin Buck, baritone

Combined UCI Choirs



Photo: Rose Eichenbaum

▲ **Physical Graffiti**

Original works by UCI undergraduate choreographers

Thur-Sat, May 10-12, 8 pm

Matinee: Sat, May 12, 2 pm

Claire Trevor Theatre, \$11/10/9

Chamber Series

**Back-to-Back Beethoven**

Selected Cello Sonatas

Maggie Parkins, cello and Lorna Griffitt, piano

Fri, May 11, 8 pm

Selected Violin Sonatas

Haroutune Bedelian, violin and Lorna Griffitt, piano

Sat, May 12, 8 pm

Winifred Smith Hall, \$12/10/8

Jazz Orchestra

**Spring Concert**

Sponsored by Socorro & Ernesto Vasquez

Charles Owens, conductor

Wed, May 16, 8 pm

Claire Trevor Theatre, \$12/10/8

University Art Gallery & Room\*

**MFA 3 Thesis, Part II**

Thur, May 17–Fri, June 1

Town and Gown

**Honors Concert**

Performed by UCI music scholarship winners

Sun, May 20, 2 pm

Winifred Smith Hall, \$12/10/8

Proceeds support music scholarships at UCI

▼ **Wind Ensemble**

Victor Aguilar, conductor

Wed, May 23, 8 pm

Winifred Smith Hall, free



Photo: Paul Kennedy

Chamber Series

**The Romantic Viola**

Jerzy Kosmala, viola and Lorna Griffitt, piano

Sat, May 26, 8 pm

Winifred Smith Hall, \$12/10/8

Works by Franz Schubert, Karol Szymanowski and Ernest Bloch

## MAY-JUNE

Drama All-Undergraduate Production

**Urinetown**

Music and Lyrics by Mark Hollman

Book and Lyrics by Greg Kotis

Myrona Delaney, director

Thur-Sat, May 31-June 2, 8 pm

Wed-Sat, June 6-9, 8 pm

Matinees: Sat, June 2 & 9, 2 pm

Fri-Sat eve: \$17/15/9; weeknight & matinee: \$15/14/9

Claire Trevor Theatre

This "exuberant" and "gloriously sensible" musical (New York Times) portrays a future-time city that responds to a water shortage by outlawing private toilets! What follows is a fantastic tale of greed, corruption, love and revolution. Winner of three Tony awards.

Beall Center for Arts and Technology†

**UCI Arts Computation Engineering**

**(ACE) Graduate Exhibition**

Fri, June 1- Sat, June 9

Opening Reception: Thur, May 31

These culminating research projects from UCI's ACE Masters degree program connect art to the wired world of computing and engineering, and continue the Beall Center's ongoing exploration of technology and its use in artistic production.

Chamber Series

**An Evening of Latin Jazz**

Bobby Rodriguez, trumpet

Sat, June 2, 8 pm

Winifred Smith Hall, \$12/10/8

**Percussion Ensemble**

Theresa Dimond, conductor

Mon, June 4, 8 pm

Winifred Smith Hall, free



Artist: R. Asher ('06 MFA)

▲ **University Art Gallery & Room\***

**Senior Exhibition**

Thur, June 7-Sat, June 16

Symphony Orchestra

**Deep Tones**

Stephen Tucker, conductor

Fri-Sat, June 8-9, 8 pm

Pre-concert conversation: Fri, June 8, 7 pm

Irvine Barclay Theatre, \$12/10/8

Mendelssohn: Fingal's Cave Overture

Weber: Bassoon Concerto

Lori Wike, principal bassoonist of the Utah Symphony

S. Coleridge Taylor: Petite Suite for Orchestra

Strauss: Tod und Verklärung