



UCI Arts Quarterly

Spring 2008

New Media Arts Center Breaks Ground

Nobody can put on a show like the folks at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

People are still talking about the spectacular February 21 groundbreaking ceremony and reception for the New Media Arts Center – a five-story, \$42.4 million, glass-and-brick building that will house the School's programs combining high technology with dance, drama, music and studio art.

From the string quartet to the dancers, singers, jazz pianist, live mannequins of drama characters, art works, even musical plants – guests were treated to a dazzling variety show of talent and a sumptuous menu of catered food. Starting in a tent over the outdoor patio at Claire Trevor Theatre, the crowd moved indoors to the backstage area for food, beverages and more entertainment.

Local media outlets covering the event included The Orange County Register, KOCE-TV, The Daily Pilot, Orange County Business Journal and New U, the UCI student newspaper.

UCI Chancellor Michael V. Drake, M.D., Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Michael R. Gottfredson and Dean Nohema Fernández spoke at the ceremony, along with Kris Elftmann, member of the Dean's Leadership Council.

Dance department Chair Alan Terricciano, a noted musician and composer, was a hit as he played potted plants – a miniature date palm, a cactus and tall grass wired with sensors. The Orange County Register posted an online video interview. "This celebrates the imaginative use of technology as part of the creative process," said Terricciano.

Construction of the 38,564-square-foot facility signals a new era for the arts school, one that celebrates the School's traditions while creating new futures, said Dean Fernández. She honored the past by recogniz-

ing some of the invited guests – a world-class cast of artists, performers, and thinkers who in the 1960s played major roles in the School's foundation.

Key members of the founding faculty include Robert Cohen, professor of drama and former department chair and acting dean; Tony DeLaP, professor of studio art; Clayton Garrison, founding dean and professor of drama; the late Eugene Loring, professor of dance; Mehli Mehta, former conductor of the UCI Symphony; Sid Odegard, professor of music; James Penrod, current associate dean and professor emeritus of dance, and Colin Slim, professor emeritus of music.

These founding faculty members and visiting artists such as Frank Stella, Roy Lichtenstein and Roger Wagner were trailblazers at the newly established University of California, Irvine campus. They changed the face of the arts throughout Orange County, California, and the nation, says Fernández.

"As the Claire Trevor School of the Arts grows and broadens its horizons, we have new programs in traditional areas such as curatorial studies and musical theatre, as well as cutting-edge, technologically dependent areas like sound design and multi-media performance."

The New Media Arts Center will create dynamic public spaces, including a professional exhibition gallery, a multi-media "black



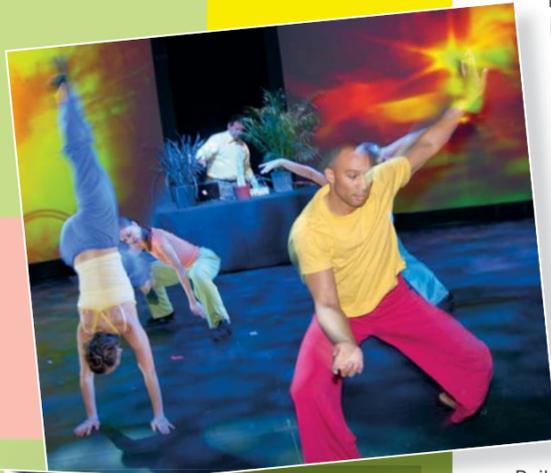
From left, Kris Elftmann of Dean's Leadership Council, UCI Chancellor Michael V. Drake, Dean Nohema Fernández, and Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Michael R. Gottfredson.

box" stage, and a motion capture studio. It will also provide new offices, studios for students earning their master of fine arts degrees, computer labs, and production spaces.

"The integration of technology in the arts has resulted in an increasing emphasis on more collaborative, multidisciplinary work," says Fernández. "For example, studio artists team with dancers to digitize their movements and convert them to animation. Another example is actors, musicians, and dancers sharing the stage with the projected images of colleagues half a world away, via a live internet feed.

"As a result, the School of the Arts has come to rely as heavily on technology as some science disciplines," she says.

A related part of the construction project will be a separate addition to the Production Studio, facing Mesa Road and the Bren Events Center. Steven Erlich Architects designed the center with "green" principles in mind. Construction is expected to be completed in March 2010. ●



Funding Set for Robert Cohen Theatre

Financial commitments made by many alumni and friends have made it possible to proceed on a long-standing plan to rename Studio Theatre the Robert Cohen Theatre, after the School's iconic and illustrious drama professor and internationally-renowned stage director.

Dean Nohema Fernández announced the news in her remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the New Media Arts Center. The total cost of the project is approximately \$1 million, which will go toward remodeling the Studio Theatre and its Mesa Street façade, as well as creating a new entrance plaza to the School.

The remodeling project will coincide with the construction of the New Media Arts Center, scheduled for completion in 2010. Features will consist of a stairway to the Theatre Plaza, large signage above a proscenium, new signage above the theater and a new box office facing Mesa road.

The gifts represent the contributions of many alumni from the earliest days of UCI to the present, friends of the School, and close friends of Cohen, including his childhood friends from Kamp Kewanee in upstate New York.

"Robert Cohen's name is synonymous with the pinnacle of achievement and leadership in the field of drama," says Fernández. "Naming a theater after him is one way of immortalizing his stellar career and contributions to our School and the field of drama in general.

"His textbooks are considered the bibles of drama education and have been translated into 30 languages."

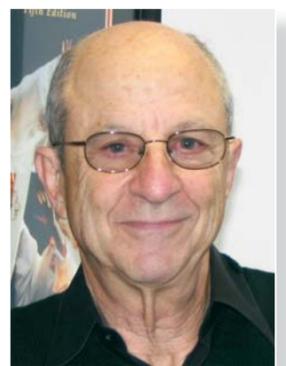
Cohen has spent his entire career at the School, starting as a founding faculty member in the 1960s. He went on to serve as chair of Drama several times and interim dean in the School.

Since arriving in 1965, he has directed

more than 70 productions on campus and 30 on the professional stage, published 12 books on acting and theater, written new plays and translated classic ones.

Cohen is Claire Trevor Professor of Drama at UCI. In 1993 he was awarded the UCI Medal, the campus's highest honor.

His career is the subject of a retrospective exhibit, *Stage to Stage: The Theatrical Work of Robert Cohen* that runs April 29 through October at the UCI Libraries. ●



University of California, Irvine

Claire Trevor School of the Arts

200 Mesa Arts

Irvine, CA 92697-2775

18

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Santa Ana, CA
Permit No. 1106

UCI Arts
Claire Trevor School of the Arts
create • explore • innovate

From the Dean's Desk

To remember is to understand.

Good parents remember what it was like to be a child. Good teachers remember what it was like to be a student. Good artists remember the foundations laid by those who came before.

We remember the amazing people who, in the 1960s, had a vision for a new university in the gentle hills of the Irvine Ranch, south of Los Angeles. In a bucolic setting, surrounded by buffalo and rabbits, the University of California, Irvine arose with a daring vision for the future. One of the initial schools within UCI, Fine Arts was shaped by the enthusiasm and determination of its founding dean, Clayton Garrison. He quickly gathered around him a spectacular roster of artists as the first generation of our faculty: the young and promising theater director Robert Cohen (now holder of a Claire Trevor Endowed Chair), the influential editor of Artforum and artist John Coplans, sculptor Tony DeLap, dancer/choreographer Eugene Loring, orchestral conductor Mehli Mehta, renowned musicologist Colin Slim, scenery and costume designer Richard Triplett, and choral conductor Roger Wagner.



Within the first few years, the excitement and the very persuasive Dean Garrison brought both established luminaries and young, promising additions to the budding school. Musicologists Peter Odegard and William Holmes and performer/conductor Maurice Allard joined Colin Slim in laying the foundation for the Music Department. Dancers James Penrod (now Associate Dean) and Janice Plastino, dance historian Olga Maynard, and legendary choreographer Antony Tudor, with Eugene Loring, created an uncommon legacy for the Dance Department. As Chair of the Studio Art Department, John Coplans' renown and passion brought celebrated artists who had tremendous impact on the world of the visual arts: Frank Stella, Larry Bell, David Hockney, John McCracken, Roy Lichtenstein, and Craig Kaufman.

Our heritage is rich. The vibrant atmosphere of possibility is understandable when we remember our foundations. As I frequently use these lines to celebrate the wonderful talents of our creative faculty, I want to salute those who infused their passion and vision into what would become the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

We remember with gratitude.

Nohema Fernández

Lending a Hand to a Student: The Medici Way

Do you remember your student days? Were you bubbling with creative ideas and ambitions for your future, yet short of the resources needed to fulfill those dreams? You can play a transformative role in students' lives today and give them the opportunity to test their ideas and spread their wings.

The Medici Circle provides students who win this award with \$1,500 to carry out a creative project during the summer. Under the guidance of faculty mentors, winners have recently participated in music festivals in Alaska and Italy and dance festivals in North Carolina and San Francisco, exhibited work in Seoul, Korea, taught youth in Cambodia, and developed online, participatory performances that defied traditions.

Medici patrons are connected with their scholars and share in the unique experiences of these young people. If you are considering becoming a Medici patron for 2008, the time to act is now! Please contact Mia Martinez (miam@uci.edu or 949/824-0085) for more information. ●

Victor Klein, member of the Dean's Leadership Council, sponsored Medici Scholar Gabrielle Strong (MFA Candidate, Studio Art) in Summer 2007 to create "Temporal Investigations Project."



Voices

"Art is a true expression of life. It dances, sings, frolics, paints, sculpts, laughs and cries. It is who we were at the moment of its creation. We find no better means to give birth to new life than supporting the Claire Trevor School of the Arts!" — Elizabeth and Tom Tierney

"We saw our first School of the Arts production more than 25 years ago and if anything, the students and faculty are more talented than ever. The role of the arts has grown during the ensuing years -on campus and throughout the world -as the School brings people from different cultures, age groups and parts of society together in ways that only the arts can do. We are enormously proud to be supporters of UCI's Claire Trevor School of the Arts." — Linda and Kris Elftmann

UCI Arts

Claire Trevor School of the Arts

UCI Arts Quarterly
Spring, 2008, No. 23
Claire Trevor School of the Arts
Dean: Nohema Fernández
Editor: Linda McCreery
Editorial Assistant: Rick Koser
Student Assistant: Grace G. Kim
Photographers: Nikki Jee (p. 1 top), Carlos Puma (p. 1 others), Paul Kennedy, Rick Koser, Rose Eichenbaum, Pamela McFadden
Design: Rob Sexton, Design

UCI Opera Builds Momentum

By Lori Brandt

UCI Opera offers something for everybody—love, lust, jealousy, betrayal and murder.

And those are just the comedies.

The most recent production, *The Medium*, is a thrilling opera noir about loss, human frailty and the paranormal. Its theme reflects the current popular fascination with the supernatural and the desire to connect with loved ones who have passed on.

"Although many people think opera is esoteric, its themes are the stuff of which movies are made," says Robin Buck, opera program artistic director and co-chair of the vocal arts program.

Buck came to UCI in 2001; under his direction, the opera program has been building an audience and attracting a high caliber of students. An associate professor of music, Buck has extensive experience as a professional singer throughout the U.S. and Europe. He has given more than 1,100 performances of 65 opera and music theater roles; been mentored by great operatic artists Placido Domingo, Birgit Nilsson, and Hans Hotter, and worked with acclaimed conductors and stage directors including Sir Simon Rattle, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and James Conlon.

Since 2002, when Buck incorporated opera as part of the regular voice curriculum, UCI Opera has presented six operas and four programs of opera scenes, including Act III of Puccini's *La Bohème*, Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*, and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. UCI Opera has

also produced several world premieres of contemporary works.

"In opera, a person has to perform at a high level of technical ability, as singer and actor, in order to bring the work to life," Buck says. "The Germans describe opera as a *Gesamtkunstwerk*—a total, or complete, artwork—for its integration of music, movement, drama and visual art. It is among the greatest challenges a singer can face."

Buck selects works with audience appeal that suit each year's pool of musical talent. *The Medium* was produced primarily with student talent. Lighting, costume, sound, scenic design, stage management and stage direction were all handled by MFA students, mentored by faculty.

Not only students, but also professional singers can gain from voice training at UCI. For example, graduate student and professional singer Marnie Mosiman came to UCI for a master's degree in music after a significant career as a vocal artist and actor. "Robin Buck is the best voice teacher I've ever had the pleasure of working with," she says. "He has this amazing ability to diagnose problems and then provide clear and creative solutions."

Buck proudly notes that current students and recent graduates are working with such professional companies as Opera Pacific, San Diego Opera, Los Angeles Master Chorale and Pacific Chorale. Some students have gone on to graduate school or



Robin Buck above and below starring as guest artist in UCI's 2003 production of *Sweeney Todd*. Below left, this season's opera, *The Medium*.

apprentice programs, and others are teaching at universities or community colleges.

Buck hopes to continue staging full opera productions in collaboration with other departments in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

"I get considerable help from my exceptional colleagues in the Music Department—Darryl Taylor, Joseph Huszti, Frances Young and Stephen Tucker," he says. "Each of them is essential to the opera and vocal arts program which we passionately hope to expand." ●



Drama Training: Right Rx for the TV Role

By Lori Brandt



Angel Moore appears in NBC's *ER*.

A mere two months after graduating with an MFA in drama, Angel Moore ('06) landed a co-starring role on *ER*, NBC-TV's Emmy award-winning medical drama. Moore plays Nurse Dawn Archer, a sassy, sexy, competent nurse from New Orleans who has relocated to Chicago after Hurricane Katrina.

Originally from Kentucky, Moore came to UCI looking for an established institution, a place where she could make connections. That's just what happened. Moore met *ER*'s casting director at the Santley Showcase, an annual bicoastal event for UCI Drama graduate actors. The casting director introduced her to the show's producers who invited her to audition.

"I read the script and knew I could do it. I understood the character. Two hours later, they called to tell me I got the part," says Moore. Her character was slated for four episodes, but it went so well that she has appeared in two dozen. She is slated

to tape another episode for next season.

"My first day on the set, I had no idea what I was doing. With the exception of my 'Acting for the Camera' class taught by Associate Professor Richard Brestoff, I'd never acted in front of the camera. That class kept me from looking like an idiot."

Moore also relies on the training from her UCI voiceover class to help her decipher and pronounce medical terms. But what she most appreciates about her UCI drama education is how it built her self-confidence. "I learned to be more consistent in my acting, conquer my weaknesses and get rid of my bad habits," Moore says.

Moore's undergraduate experience at University of Kentucky was in musical theater. She arrived at UCI intimidated of classical texts. She left feeling comfortable with Shakespeare. She also strengthened her skill at delivering cold readings. "I can now read a script quickly, find the emotional underpinnings and make good, bold choices that work," she explains.

"Angel showed immediate promise," says Eli Simon, professor and chair of the drama department. "She is striking to watch and has

a huge heart and a beautiful speaking and singing voice. Her energy is palpable. So the combination of extraordinary talent and top-notch training positioned her for success, right out of school. She received a plethora of calls from agents, managers and casting directors."

Moore used the downtime of the recent writer's strike to meet other casting directors, go on auditions, and get her face out there. She expects to continue her second season on *ER* as Nurse Dawn Archer as soon as the TV writers go back to work.

Moore's advice to current acting students is to take advantage of their professors' talents. "I remember being so caught up in casting decisions while at school. I wanted all the good roles," says Moore, who played the title roles in UCI's 2005 productions of *Venus* and *Seven Guitars*. "Now I realize the shows are a perk; the real tools come from the instruction."

Next, Moore hopes to perform in a comedy. She's completed her final audition for a comedic role in a movie, and now she is anxiously waiting to hear if she will get the part. According to Simon, Moore is an actor who won't have to wait around for long: "She's off to the races now." ●



Development Directions

New Media Arts Center Creates More Ways to Give

As we celebrate the accomplishments of our School's past faculty and alumni, we now propel ourselves into a new era of increased creativity, exploration and innovation. The recent groundbreaking of the New Media Arts Center was a historic event that not only celebrated an impressive brick-and-mortar design, but also demonstrated the evolution of excellence in the fine arts!

We now wait with great anticipation for the completion of the New Media Arts Center. In the meantime, we would like to share more exciting elements related to this project that may reflect your affinity for our School.

Naming Opportunities

Perhaps you want to honor someone who has made a significant impact on our School. Or perhaps you wish to identify with our School in a lasting way. How better than with a gift that will never go away?

This is simply a glance of the ways you can make a transformational difference. You can immortalize your family or a loved one, or make a personal expression of allegiance, through your generosity. Visible recognition will be given within this new state-of-the-art facility. Most of all, your benevolent gesture provides much-needed operational support and equipment to sustain the Center's functional excellence for years to come. Your generosity also gives us the leverage to attract the nation's best, brightest, and most talented students to our School.

Whatever your level of interest in the fine arts or level of financial philanthropy, we believe there is an area within this project that you will find attractive and personally meaningful. Support levels for the New Media Arts Center range from \$25,000 to \$4 million. Multiple-year pledges are welcome.

Consider these naming options:

- **Mixed Media Performance Space** – Of the "black box" theater genre, this 3,100-square-foot performance space provides versatile, reconfigurable seating in order to accommodate mixed-media performances, providing audiences with a close-up, intimate experience.
- **Faculty Offices** – Fourteen offices will be incorporated in the building, facilitating close interaction among digital arts faculty and students.
- **Motion Capture Studio** – Research/creative space with an optical motion capture system for digitizing human movement.
- **Acting/Musical Theater Rehearsal Studio** – Ranked among the top drama programs in the U.S., the Claire Trevor School of the Arts offers intensive courses of study in singing, dancing, and acting that require rehearsal studios in which scenes can be set and students are able to explore the spectrum of voice and movement they will perform on stages.
- **MFA Art Studios** – These studio spaces will function as creative laboratories for our graduate students' artistic explorations.
- **Art Gallery** – Anchoring the entrance of the New Media Arts Center, this 4,000-square-foot art gallery will present professional exhibitions and serve as a vital new artistic resource for our community. This naming gift will create an endowment to ensure in perpetuity the support of exhibitions and artist residencies.
- **New Media Arts Lobby** – An open area of more than 1,000 square feet, this epicenter of entertainment will be the primary venue for receptions and other pre-event activities for the School's premiere performances and activities.



- **Scholarships and Fellowships** – Our ability to offset student fees enhances our efforts to recruit and retain our nation's most talented and promising students. You can help us build the highest caliber student body through endowed scholarships for undergraduates and endowed fellowships for graduate students.

We trust that you will find these examples of possible charitable involvement appealing and exciting! Feel free to contact Mia Martinez or me at (949) 824-4339 for more information.

Kerry Neal, Development Director

Student Affairs Office Keeps Them on Track

Helping students complete the long haul to graduation is the mission of UCI Arts Student Affairs Office. The staff is involved in student recruitment, certification of degrees, new student orientation, and academic counseling.

Then there's the job of helping certain students who are on academic probation and in danger of flunking out.

Succeeding in school and graduating is not always automatic, says Student Affairs Director Shau-Wing Cloud Hsueh. "There can be some obstacles. I tell students that college is a difficult transition from high school," says Hsueh. Student Affairs staff is here to guide them to success, not

force them. The staff helps students realize that they may be watching too much TV, taking too heavy a class load, working too much.

"I feel gratified advising students, helping them make decisions and pointing out resources available to them. For example, they can take advantage of faculty office hours, join a study group, take workshops, or get tutoring, she says.

"Sometimes you have to show your concern and a caring attitude. I'm truly interested in their progress and welfare and want them to do well in school."

According to several students, all the staff members – Sharon Silva, Amy Fujitani and Haley Greenwald-Gonella – are helpful, but

Hsueh stands out for going beyond the call of duty to help them get through school. She is the factor that made the difference in their completing their degrees, they say. (Hsueh is quick to credit her staff.)

"I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing if it weren't for Cloud," says Matthew Lin, a '01 Studio Arts. In his first meeting with Hsueh, Lin signed up for arts classes and discovered his life's purpose – photography. Today he owns a thriving wedding photography business, Poetry in Light Studio. A web design class paid off when he designed the web site for his business, which was recently featured in a bridal magazine and on a TV show.

One quarter Hsueh saved Lin from flunking out by helping him explore alternatives for classes to fulfill his course requirements.

"From the beginning, Cloud was completely approachable, like we had known each other forever. She continues to help people. She even refers me people who are getting married and want a wedding photographer," Lin says.

Drama student Donna Longabordi has already earned a UCI degree ('01 Social Ecology with emphasis in criminology). She works nights, weekends and holidays as a 911 dispatcher for Santa Ana Police Department. She has days free to pursue an acting career. But she got discouraged after one quarter at UCI so she dropped out.

A conversation with Hsueh turned her life around and got her back on track.

"Cloud gave me interest in trying again, the feeling that I can do this,"

Longabordi says.

"She made me want to come back and finish. She's very encouraging and informative. Thanks to Cloud, I'll graduate next year."

Travis Hill also will finally earn his degree, ten years after entering UCI's information and computer sciences school, because of Hsueh's encouragement and caring. She told him about Studio Art's new digital arts minor, so he switched majors.

Hsueh put Hill in touch with Sherwin Kim, who was starting a furniture and lighting design company. They perfected the art of researching, designing, and selling furniture on a computer with 3D software. The new business grew rapidly, and Hill quit school to work full-time for Kim.

After a stint in Japan's computer game-design industry, he returned to work with Kim. He also met with Hsueh, who again got him back into the academic groove.

"The great thing about Cloud is that she respects you and your potential," says Hill. "She has high hopes for you that you want not only to live up to, but to surpass. I realize that if Cloud were no longer at UCI, I don't know if I'd have had enough motivation to come back." Soon he will graduate in Studio Art with a digital arts minor. He will have many options for the future.

Says Hsueh: "Seeing them graduate, especially those whom I didn't expect to, is gratifying to witness." ●

From left, former and current students Travis Hill, Donna Longabordi, Matthew Lin.



In the Spotlight

FACULTY

Colleen Reardon (Associate Dean) presented her paper, *Practice and Patronage Make Perfect: Launching an Operatic Career in Late Seventeenth-Century Italy*, at the annual meeting of the American Musicological Society in November in Quebec, Canada.

Robert Cohen (Drama) published the eighth editions of his books, *Theatre* and *Theatre: Brief Edition*. He also signed a new contract for the seventh edition of his book, *Acting Professionally*, which he is co-writing with alumnus **James Calleri** (MFA Drama, 1990), head of Calleri Casting in New York. Cohen toured with **Bryan Reynolds'** (Drama) all-alumni cast of *Blue Shade* to the Romanian National Theatre Festival in Bucharest, where he also launched the Romanian edition of his book, *Acting Power*.



▶ **Daphne Lei** (Drama) organized an international conference in January at UCI, the Multicampus Research Group Colloquium on Asian Performance. She presented her paper, *The Peony Circuit: Privatized Globalization of National Heritage and Academia*, at the American Society for Theatre Research Conference, in November in Phoenix, Arizona. She also was elected to the executive committee of American Society for Theater Research.

Annie Loui (Drama) will premiere the installation of her *Falling Girl*, an inter-media collaboration with Scott Snibbe, at the Berkeley Art Museum in June. She created and directed the intermedia performance, *In the Grace of the World*, for the Orchestra of St. Lukes, New York City, in October. Her *Fetes de la Nuit* was in OC Weekly's "The Best of 2007."

Kei Akagi (Music) released his new jazz CD, *Liquid Blue*, with the Tokyo Trio (including Tomokazu Sugimoto and Tamaya Honda), recorded in August in Tokyo. Seven of the eight compositions are Akagi's originals. *Liquid Blue* is the sixth CD Akagi has recorded on the Video Arts Music label since 1999. They have performed 400-plus concerts.

Amy Bauer (Music) delivered her paper, *The Rule of the Canon in Ligeti's Études pour Piano*, at the November 2007 meeting of the Society for Music Theory in Baltimore, Maryland.

▶ Guitarist and lutenist **John Schneiderman** (Music) edited the first modern edition of *Six Concertante Duos* Op. 17 for two guitars by Francois de Fossa, published in December. It is based on the late eighteenth-century six-string quartets of Spanish composer Enrique Ataide y Portugal.



Cellist **Maggie Parkins** (Music) performed in November with her new music quartet Eclipse at a series of concerts with guitarist Marco Capelli at Ralph Towner's Migration, in Santa Monica's Miles Playhouse, at Columbia University, at Roulette in New York City, and at the Scarlatti Festival in Naples, Italy. In October, Parkins and her quintet, the Robin Cox Ensemble, took part in a set of premieres in Santa Barbara at the Contemporary Arts Forum.

◀ **Mary Corey** (Dance) staged Hanya Holm's modern dance, *Rota*, at the University of New Mexico as part of the American Masterpieces' project of the National Endowment of the Arts.



◀ **Michael Dessen** (Music) performed with his electro-acoustic trio in December at New York's leading experimental music venue, The Stone, and released a new album of his compositions in March on Clean Feed Records. Dessen also collaborated

in February on a telematic concert with seven improvising musicians spread across three different sites (UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, and Stanford University).

Claire Trevor Professor of Dance **Donald McKayle** had three premieres of his choreography in February: "Syncopated Gambol" at UCI Dance Visions 2008 at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, with music by the UCI Etude Ensemble; "Hey, Hay, Going To Kansas City," celebrating the Golden Age of Kansas City Jazz, as the headliner for Kansas City Ballet's 50th anniversary season, and "Reverie," created for **Darryl Taylor's** countertenor recital, "A Fresh Encounter" and performed by dance soloist **Stephanie Powell** (MFA 2004). He is directing and choreographing "Return" for the Festival of New American Musicals at Edgemar Theatre in Santa Monica, California.

Diane Diefenderfer (Dance) taught an eight-week session of Pilates classes at Hoag Hospital for cancer patients and survivors in October. In November she presented *A Dancer's Workout, Beneficial To EveryBody* at the 7th Annual International Educational Conference of the Pilates Method Alliance in Orlando, Florida.



◀ **Simon Leung** (Studio Art) received the 2008 Art Journal Award, given to the author of the most distinguished contribution published in the College Art Association's *Art Journal*.

▶ **Gifford Myers** (Studio Art) presented *Wait a Minute*, a solo exhibition of handmade sculptures using pigmented resins and fiberglass, at the Lora Schlesinger Gallery in Santa Monica, January to February.



Yong Soon Min (Studio Art) curated *transPOP: Korea Vietnam Remix* from Dec. 18 to Feb. 29 at the ARKO Art Center Seoul, Korea.

Ulysses Jenkins (Studio Art) participated in a panel, "Modern Art in Los Angeles: African American Avant-Gardes 1965-1990," Jan. 16 at Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles.

ALUMNI DRAMA

Jenn Colella (MFA 2002) is starring in the title role in the Off Broadway production of *The Beebo Brinker Chronicles*, directed by Leigh Silverman. Colella describes the show as "a combination of several Ann Bannon novels from the late 1950s." **David Greenspan** (BA 1978) is also in the cast.

Alan Mingo (MFA 1998) performs this season on Broadway in the ensemble of Disney's new musical, *Little Mermaid*.

▶ **Ted Kryczko** (MFA 1978) won a 2008 Grammy Award for Best Musical Album for Children for *A Green and Red Christmas: The Muppets*, which he co-produced for Walt Disney Records.

Ashley West Leonard (MFA 1998) received positive reviews in January for her leading performance in the world-premiere production of Bob Clyman's *Tranced* at the Laguna Playhouse.



In January **Josh Finkel** (BA 1984) played Broadway stars Cole Porter, Moss Hart and Billy Rose in the El Portal production of the new musical, *The Kid from Brooklyn: The Danny Kaye Story*, in North Hollywood.

Kitty Felde (BA 1976) continues as a special correspondent for KPCC, Pasadena's NPR station. Felde's newest play, *Journalist of the Year*, was produced this year by the Towne Street Theatre Company at the Stella Adler Theatre in Hollywood.

Last June **Jim Slowiak** (MFA 1985) gave a week-long session with his New World Performance Laboratory partner Jairo Cuesta at the Grotowski Institute in Wroclaw, Poland.

DANCE

Marc Macaranas (BA 2005) landed a job in November with DanceWorks Chicago, a new group organized by Julie Nakagawa, former artistic director of Hubbard Street 2. He previously danced with Lucky Plush Productions and Mordine & Co. Dance Theater while working at Goodman Theatre, teaching at two schools, and side projects.

Elizabeth Farotte (BA 2003) is in her third season with ODC Dance in San Francisco, one of the country's premier contemporary companies. Prior to ODC, she performed with BalletMet in Columbus, Ohio.

STUDENTS

▶ **Bobby Amamizu** (BFA candidate, Dance), pictured here with Israel "El" Gabriel, won third place at the regional semi-finals of the Youth America Grand Prix in March. Amamizu performed "Lankedem Variation" from the ballet, *Le Corsaire*. He will compete at the finals in April in New York City.



Betsy Mugavero (MFA candidate, Drama) is playing the leading female role of Agnès in Molière's *The School for Wives* at the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespearean Festival this summer. The production is directed by Professor Robert Cohen, and UCI alumnus **Kevin Kiler** (BA 2003) is playing her suitor, Horace in the same production.

Six students who auditioned for Walt Disney Records won parts on three new CDs. **Ryan Farnsworth** (BA candidate, Drama), **Zach Reiner-Harris** (BA candidate, Literary Journalism), **Jeffrey Benson Parker** (MFA candidate, Drama) and **Ian Stuart** (BA candidate, Drama) supplied vocal fill for one track of *101 Dalmations and Friends*, released in March in the U.S.A., Canada and Europe. **Katie Horwitch** (BA candidate, Drama) sang on a new Miley Cyrus karaoke CD. **Mazie Wilson** (BFA candidate, Drama) recorded "Dream It" on *Sleeping Beauty and Friends*, to be released in October. The students were among 20 who auditioned for Walt Disney Records exec Ted Kryczko and his producing partner Gary Powell.

Denver Vaughn (BFA candidate, Drama) received the Kris and Linda Elftmann Scholarship (\$3,000) for her initiative and commitment to her fellow students and to her craft. The committee was especially impressed with her part in creating the play, *Fallujah Good*, with **Ben Mathes** (MFA candidate, Drama), based on Mathes' brother's letters from Iraq. Vaughn attends the New York Satellite Program this spring quarter.

Krystal Matsuyama (BFA candidate, Dance) received the Thomas & Elizabeth Tierney Scholarship (\$3,000) for her exceptional passion, talent and drive for dance. Her many involvements include Donald McKayle's Etude Ensemble, Paris Conservatoire exchange program, Bare Bones productions, Medici Scholar program, and choreographic assistant to Professor Jodie Gates on a European trip.

Spring 2008 Events

UCI Arts
Claire Trevor School of the Arts

APRIL

April 3 Chancellor's Distinguished Fellow Series **Meredith Monk and Vocal Ensemble In Concert**

"A composer, singer and theater artist for whom experimentation has led to wondrous discovery, Monk conjures up a spectrum of colorful and evocative sounds from her one-of-a-kind vocal instrument."
—The Plain Dealer

Claire Trevor Theatre, 7pm
\$15/ \$13/ \$9

April 3 - 18 **4th Annual Guest Juried Undergraduate Exhibition** University Art Gallery **An Undergraduate Honors Project** Room Gallery



April 3 - June 7

Beall Center for Art and Technology
Live
Opening Reception: April 3, 6:30 - 9 pm
Family Day: May 3, 11 am - 3 pm
Artists use video, images and text captured from the internet creating artworks that offer a surprisingly diverse array of experience, ranging from social commentary to the unintended beauty of surveillance footage. Curated by David Familian, includes Radical Software Group (Alexander R. Galloway) and MTA (Mike Sarff & Tim Whidden), Natalie Bookchin, Aphid Stern, Michael Dale, and Karen Finley.
Free

April 10 - 19

Drama at UCI
Uncle Vanya
By Anton Chekhov
Keith Fowler, director
Winifred Smith Hall, 8 pm; April 12 & 19, 2 pm
The second of Chekhov's four masterpieces to be produced by the Moscow Art Theater, Uncle Vanya focuses on the fulminating, querulous Vanya, an aging would-be lover at the center of a comic ménage. The contrast of Vanya's world-weariness with his niece Sonya's simple faith endows this cherished drama with immortal and bittersweet poetry.
Fri. - Sat. eve: \$17/ \$15/ \$9
Weeknight & matinee: \$15/ \$14/ \$9

April 24 - 26

Department of Dance
Dance Escape
New works by UCI graduate choreographers
Claire Trevor Theatre, 8pm
April 26, 2 pm
\$11/ \$10/ \$9

April 24 - May 9

**MFA Thesis
Exhibition, Part I**
University Art Gallery
& Room Gallery

April 26

UCI Chamber Series
All Brahms
An Evening of Chamber Music and Song
Winifred Smith Hall, 8 pm; Pre-concert lecture: 7 pm with David Brodbeck, Brahms scholar
Nina Scolnik, piano
Frances Young, soprano
Haroutune Bedelian, violin
Maggie Parkins, violoncello
Daniel Katzen, horn
\$12/ \$10/ \$8

April 30

**Gassman Electronic Music
Series Concert**
Winifred Smith Hall, 8 pm
What Are You Looking At?
A Multimedia Saxophone Performance Event
Featuring Michael Straus
Free

MAY

May 1 - May 10

Drama at UCI
Measure for Measure
By William Shakespeare
Philip Thompson, director
Studio Theatre, 8 pm; May 3 & 10, 2 pm
Deception and truth. Corruption and virtue. Justice and mercy. Shakespeare's classic intrigue has it all. When the Duke of Vienna abandons his city, he places his zealous deputy in charge. Whom will the puritanical Angelo serve, as he delivers his uncompromising application of justice?
\$10/ \$9/ \$8

May 3 (One Night Only!)

UCI Symphony Orchestra
Violin Spectacular!
Stephen Tucker, conductor
Irvine Barclay Theatre, 8 pm
Dimitri Shostakovich – *Festive Overture*
Tan Dun – *Violin Concerto* – Cho-Liang Lin, soloist
Pietro Mascagni – *Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana*
W.A. Mozart – *Concerto No. 4* – Cho-Liang Lin, soloist
\$12/ \$10/ \$8

May 8 - 10

Department of Dance
Physical Graffiti
Original works by UCI undergraduate choreographers
Claire Trevor Theatre, 8 pm,
matinee performance: May 10, 2 pm
\$11/ \$10/ \$9

May 10

UCI Chamber Series
What A Swell Party This Is!
Tunes from the Great American Songbook
Winifred Smith Hall, 8 pm
Jane Rhodes & Robin Buck, vocalists
Guest Jazz Combo
\$12/ \$10/ \$8

May 14

UCI Jazz Orchestra
Spring Jazz Concert
Claire Trevor Theatre, 8 pm
\$12/ \$10/ \$8



May 15 - 30

MFA Thesis Exhibition, Part II
University Art Gallery & Room Gallery

May 20

Small Jazz Groups
Winifred Smith Hall, 8 pm
Free

May 21

Department of Music
UCI Wind Ensemble
Winifred Smith Hall, 8 pm
Free

May 24

Department of Music
**Chamber Singers and
the Men in Blaque**
Joseph Huszti, conductor
Winifred Smith Hall, 8 pm
Presenting competition selections from their tour to The International Musical Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales and the Choral Olympics in Graz, Austria.
\$12/ \$10/ \$8

May 29 - June 7

Drama All-Undergraduate
Production
Reefer Madness
Written by Dan Studney
and Kevin Murphy
Music by Dan Studney,
Lyrics by Kevin Murphy
Vince Tycer, director
Dennis Castellano,
musical director
Claire Trevor
Theatre, 8 pm;
May 31 & June 7, 2 pm
This outrageously funny hit musical follows the budding romance of high school sweethearts Jimmy Harper and Mary Lane. Everything seems to be going swell until Jimmy is lured into the evils of a reefer den and tries his first hit of the "demon weed."
Fri. - Sat. eve: \$17/ \$15/ \$9
Weeknight & matinee: \$15/ \$14/ \$9



May 31

UCI Chamber Series
**An Evening of Jazz and
Improvised Music**
Featuring the Cosmologic quartet
Winifred Smith Hall, 8 pm
Michael Dessen, trombone
Jason Robinson, saxophone
Scott Walton, bass
Nathan Hubbard, drums
\$12 / \$10/ \$8

JUNE

June 2

Department of Music
UCI Percussion Ensemble
Winifred Smith Hall, 8 pm
Free

June 5 - 13

Senior Exhibition
University Art Gallery & Room Gallery

June 6 & 7

UCI Symphony Orchestra
The Old and the New
Stephen Tucker, conductor
Irvine Barclay Theatre, 8 pm
Pre-concert conversation: June 6, 7 pm
Richard Strauss – *Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche*
Ralph Vaughan Williams' – *Tuba Concerto*, with
Fred Greene, soloist
Manuel de Falla, *El Amor Brujo* with
the UCI Dance Department
\$12/ \$10/ \$8

Exhibition Hours:
Beall Center for Art and Technology
Tue. & Wed., 12 - 5 pm, Thur. - Sat., 12 - 8 pm
Free
Information: (949) 824- 4339; beallcenter.uci.edu

**The University Art Gallery
& Room Gallery**
Tue. - Sat., 12 - 5 pm
Free
Information: (949) 824- 9854; gallery@uci.edu

