A Fine August Play at UCI

UCI AUDIENCES WILL EXPERIENCE THE VISION of one of the country’s most celebrated playwrights when the Drama Department stages August Wilson’s *Seven Guitars.* Directed by Eli Simon, associate professor of drama, the Mainstage production runs from Jan. 28-Feb. 5 at the Claire Trevor Theatre.

“This is the first Wilson play to be produced by UCI and the premiere of *Seven Guitars* in Orange County,” says Simon, who notes that “many consider Wilson to be the greatest living American playwright.”

Wilson’s acclaimed drama, set in 1948 in Pittsburgh’s Hill District, follows a small group of friends who gather after the death of Floyd “Schoolboy” Barton, a local blues guitarist on the edge of stardom. *Guitars* is the sixth chapter in Wilson’s revelatory theatrical series (including *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson,* both Pulitzer Prize-winners) exploring the African-American experience.

*Seven Guitars* is told in flashbacks as we uncover the life of Barton, a ladies’ man who is broke and in jail when a blues recording he made months before becomes an unexpected hit. Barton’s journey involves trying to get back with the woman he loves and finding a place among Chicago’s blues greats. Those that circle around Barton — including the mysterious Hedley and provocative Ruby — complete the puzzle.

The play has charmed many critics, including Vincent Canby of the New York Times. “Here’s a play whose epic proportions and abundant spirit remind us of what the American theater once was and is still when the muses can be heard through the din,” he wrote when the drama premiered on Broadway in 1996.

Wilson’s writing often draws on his own days growing up in Pittsburgh’s inner-city during the ’50s. While soaking up the black culture around him, Wilson began to build the foundation for the insightful dramas that would come much later. He also studied black writers, spending much of his time in the public library. Wilson credits the works of Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright and Langston Hughes, among others, as helping to form his literary vision.

He worked at various odd jobs during his teens and twenties, but always found time to write. His breakthrough came in 1982 when *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom* was accepted for a workshop production at the Eugene O’Neill Playwrights Conference in Waterford, CT and went on to be produced at playhouses across the country. Wilson was soon recognized as one of the leading theatrical voices of his generation.

MAYA LIN JOINS CELEBRATION for the new high-tech UCI Arts Plaza drew almost 150 guests, among them the project’s celebrated designer, Maya Lin.

“Imagine entering a garden of perception, where all the senses are tapped, from sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing,” Lin told the crowd that gathered at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts for the mid-November event.

UCI Chancellor Ralph J. Cicerone noted that “the plaza will be a tribute to all the traditional art forms. At the same time, it unites technology at the Beall Center, and opens the door for new creative art forms that stimulate and stretch the imagination” in the ways that reflect the talents of our students and faculty.

Lin, creator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., was commissioned in 2000 to transform the School’s bland concrete courtyard. Her collaborator on the 30,000 square-foot project is Pamela Burton, a Santa Monica landscape architect.

The plaza will have a 200-seat outdoor amphitheater, special effects lighting along pathways, and an area for study and reflection highlighted by one of Lin’s signature “water table” fountains flanked by “whispering” benches playing music, poetry and other sounds. There will also be Internet-linked video screens displaying images from around the world.

University of California, Irvine
Claire Trevor School of the Arts
300 Arts
Irvine, CA 92697-2775
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Dear Friends,

Did you know that globalization and new technologies have a profound effect on the creative professions? Transportation and ease of global communication dramatically facilitate the exchange of ideas and foster cultural transformations. Immigration and travel do change artistic sensibilities and cultural practice. In addition, the boundaries separating the traditional domains of artistic activity have changed dramatically and artists are frequently involved in multimedia shows and performances. As a result, artists need to develop new skills, particularly those related to new technologies. For example, musicians frequently use software to produce works in their home studios and new technologies to distribute their work through DVDs and CDs. Furthermore, today’s career realities demand that artists acquire skills in areas such as writing, speaking, fund raising and art project marketing.

What are we doing at The Claire Trevor School of the Arts to adequately prepare the artists of the future for these challenges? Programs focused on technology include the Digital Arts Minor and the Arts Computation Engineering (ACE) graduate program, as well as specific programs in electronic music, computer gaming studies, digital lighting techniques and videodance/motion capture.

Mainstreamed technological training can be found in website development classes, dance and acting for the camera, and computer art, among others. We also place a high value on practical experience, global dialogue and community engagement. Students participate annually in Drama’s Music Theatre New York Satellite Program or Dance’s exchange program with the National Conservatory in Paris. During the academic year, we host approximately forty visiting artists and master teachers from around the world. Many of our students participate in summer professional development programs across the country and abroad. Closer to home, we have partnerships with the Orange County High School for the Arts and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Also, Studio Art joins with the Pasadena Art Center, Cal Arts and other distinguished art programs to present group student shows; and ArtsBridge gives our students opportunities for community service in area K-12 classrooms while receiving training in their disciplines.

The future is now...and our students are ready!
CONNIE SAMARAS, professor of studio art, was awarded a 2004-05 National Science Foundation Artists and Writers Polar Grant. In November, she traveled to Antarctica to photograph the new station being built at the South Pole as well as pre-existing structures. Samaras will lecture on her South Pole project and other recent photographic series at the UCLA Hammer Museum in April 2005.

In August, pianist NINA SCOLNIK, lecturer in music, joined the faculty of the Ameropa International Chamber Music Festival and performed at the Rudolfinum in Prague, Czech Republic, with principals of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam.

Students

Studio Art graduate student DAVE BURNS produced Patriotic, a performance video shot at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. Described as "a meditation on intimacy, dependency and control," the video premiered at the Alt/Sit exhibit at the Silver Lake Film Festival (Sept. 2004) and will be screened at the Log Cabin group show at New York City's Artists Space (Jan. 2005).

JASON KELLER, graduate student in Studio Art, is among the artists selected to show their work in the Laguna Art Museum's The DeGene: Contemporary Art and Culture in OC, a survey exhibition of Orange County artists working in all media (Nov. 7, 2004-Feb. 27, 2005). Keller's work, titled Rubber Realism, was funded by a SOTA Graduate Research Award.

Alumni

SHEETAL NAREN GHANDI (BA Dance/Psychology 1995) is an ensemble member and understudy to the lead in the hit Broadway musical, Bombay Dreams. Sheetal was formerly a lead performer in Cirque du Soleil's Dralion.

Recent Studio Art alumni exhibitions include DAVID KHANG (MFA 2004) and CARRIE PATTERSON (MFA 2001) in a two-person show at the Pasico Gallery (Los Angeles, Oct. 2-31); SUSAN CHOI (MFA 2001) in a solo exhibition at the Fredericks Freiser Gallery (New York City, Sept. 10-Oct. 9); and RHEIM ALKADI (MFA 1999) in a solo exhibition at the Worth Ryder Gallery (UC Berkeley, Oct 19-Nov. 5). Also, GLENN KAINO (BA 1994), KORI NEWKIRK (BA 1997) and RUBEN OCHOA (BA 2003) had pieces in the 2004 California Biennial Exhibition at the Orange County Museum of Art (Oct. 12, 2004-Jan. 9, 2005).

CHRISTOPHER SOUSA-WYNN (MFA Drama 2004) is the new resident designer for the Pacific States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT) to be displayed in the World Design Exhibit's annual convention to be held in Spring 2005 in Toronto, Canada. The exhibit features the top scenic designs by students from around the world.

The Chilingirian Quartet was formed in 1971 and still features two of its founding members, violinist Levon Chilingirian and cellist Philip De Groote. Charles Saxon became second violin in 1992, and violist Susie Meszaros joined in 2001. With tours to nearly fifty countries on six continents and myriad recordings to its credit, the quartet is one of the world's most celebrated ensembles. It is the quartet-in-residence at the Royal College of Music, London.

The quartet will be in residence in the Department of Music, April 4-10, 2005. Master classes and lectures are free and open to the public. For a complete schedule, visit Events Calendar at www.arts.uci.edu.

Highlights

Mon., Apr 4
7-9 pm: Master Class with UCI Rawlins String Quartet: Beethoven and Debussy. Winifred Smith Hall (WSH)

Tues., Apr 5
7-9 pm: Seminar: Beethoven's Late String Quartets. WSH

Wed., Apr 6
1-5 pm: Chamber Master Class: UCI Student Ensembles. WSH

Thur., Apr 7
7-9 pm: Open rehearsal discussing rehearsal techniques using a Haydn or Mozart quartet as a model and progressing through Romantic to 20th-Century works. WSH

Sun., Apr 10
UCI Chamber and Chancellor's Distinguished Fellows Series present the Chilingirian String Quartet in Concert. Irvine Barclay Theatre

3 pm: Pre-concert discussion with composer Gerard Schurmann

4 pm: Concert
Beethoven: String Quartet, Op. 18, No. 1 in F Major
Gerard Schurmann: String Quartet (U.S. premiere)
Robert Schumann: Piano Quintet, Op. 44 in E-flat Major
(Lorna Griffitt, piano)

Concert Tickets:
$12 general audiences
$10 UCI faculty, staff, seniors (62+)
$ 9 UCI students and children under 18
UCI/Arts Box Office (949) 824-2787
Irvine Barclay Theatre (949) 854-4646
Ticketmaster (714) 740-2000

www.arts.uci.edu
**Development Directions**

We in Orange County are fortunate to have a wide selection of visual and performing arts readily available. The arts challenge us, give us pleasure and help us think and see in new ways.

One of the essential building blocks for a healthy arts community is arts education. The Claire Trevor School of the Arts gives its students the tools they need to succeed in their chosen discipline. Many of our alumni are the talented people you see on local stages and in exhibitions throughout southern California. Other alumni are arts leaders in communities throughout the U.S. and the world.

None of the artists you enjoy come to a professional career without help from others. Becoming an artist means working closely with master teachers and mentors, participating in special training opportunities, such as summer arts festivals, and relying on the support and encouragement of family, friends and patrons.

Here at the School, we call this network the Circle for the Arts. These generous friends help support many of the important educational programs, events and capital projects that could not take place without their assistance. Other Circle members support scholarships and fellowships, which open the doors to a university education for highly deserving students and those with financial need. Without their assistance, many special performances and exhibitions, master classes and guest lectures could not take place.

I hope you will consider becoming a part of the Circle. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated, and a donation of $100 or more will be included in the Circle for the Arts listing, which is printed in all university publications. For more information, please call the Development Office at (949) 824-8792 or give online at www.uci.edu. Go to Alumni and Friends and click the “e-giving” button.

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UCI Chancellor Ralph J. Cicerone speaking at Arts Plaza event

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**Winifred & Robert Smith Receive UCI Medal**

WINIFRED AND ROBERT SMITH were among those honored at the 20th annual UCI Medal ceremony and dinner. The UCI Medal, the campus’ highest honor, recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the mission, spirit and vision of UCI through their leadership, dedication and generosity.

“UCI is honored to recognize the dedication and public service of these exceptional individuals. Their extraordinary generosity and support reflects the spirit of the university’s vital partnership with the community,” said Chancellor Ralph J. Cicerone at the event in late October. “It is efforts such as these that give UCI a competitive edge as we continue to rise in the ranks of public research universities.”

The Smiths from Newport Beach have supported music at UCI since the campus’ inception in 1965, with Winifred playing the cello as a community volunteer in the first UCI Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Mehli Mehta. As supporters of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, the Smith’s generosity enabled the complete renovation of the school’s 29-year-old Concert Hall.

The hall was renamed Winifred Smith Hall in her honor. The 200-seat facility is one of UCI’s two leading theaters, and serves as a popular venue for the performing arts, visiting artists programs and lectures in the arts. It is known for its outstanding acoustics.

In 1985, the Smiths established an endowment through the Philharmonic Society of Orange County to fund a cello scholarship at UCI. In 1995, the couple established another endowed fund that provides an annual scholarship for undergraduate students studying cello, violin or piano. The Smiths are also members of the Chancellor’s Club Scholar’s Circle and Town and Gown.

Hall named after Winifred Smith

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**Maya Lin Joins Celebration for Arts Plaza**

FRAGRANT AND COLORFUL PLANTS, including native flowers and orange trees, will distinguish the landscaping. The centerpiece “water table,” Lin noted, will feature a delicate line drawing carved into the sculpture’s surface. “In the end,” she said, “the heart of this piece is made up of the simple act that an artist makes — a sketch upon a piece of paper.”

Dean Nohema Fernández stressed the renovation’s importance. “The courtyard — a vital part of the School’s infrastructure — needs to better meet the needs of a progressive arts school. The new Arts Plaza will expand our venues for performing and exhibiting art.”

Maya’s design blends art and technology to offer an outside learning and gathering place for students, faculty and the community. It will serve as a focal point for the university and a major public work of art for the region.”

The project’s design and construction are expected to cost $3.6 million, with completion planned for summer 2005.

UCI Arts Box Office (949) 824-2787     www.arts.uci.edu

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Lisa Roetzel, Director of Development

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From Page 1
Artful Images are on the House at CyberA Café

Yong Soon Min, the chair of the Studio Art Department, says the CyberA is a valuable part of the campus’ aesthetic experience.

“It’s a smart way to extend the ‘life’ or visibility of these artworks by students, and an opportunity to reach new viewers,” she says. “It’s always a pleasant surprise whenever I’m at the register to pay for some munchies to look up and see a familiar image from an exhibition I’ve seen in one of our galleries.”

Loy Zimmerman, curator for the Claire Trevor School of the Arts’ Visual Resources Collection, is responsible for organizing the computer-based shows at the café. He draws from the School’s vast archive of art and photos from gallery shows and more, including drama productions and dance and music concerts. Zimmerman is also in the process of making it easier for artists, designers and others with a digital bent to submit their new work for consideration in upcoming shows.

“We display a fairly wide range of visual material, some of it analog, some digital, some documentary artwork,” he notes. “I hope, in fact, to expand the shows by reaching out more broadly to faculty and students working in [all] digital media.”

Zimmerman explains that the CyberA’s mission is two-fold, to “promote discussion about the arts and provide visibility for the creative works produced within the School.” It gives students, faculty, staff and visitors a ready opportunity to experience, albeit indirectly, the many sides of the School’s artistry.

Sarah Limon, an 18-year-old sophomore, likes what she’s seen. Limon, who often has lunch at the CyberA with a friend, says she enjoys taking it easy between classes while watching Zimmerman’s rotating shows on the 42-inch screen. She visits the café a few times a week and is rarely disappointed.

“The photos are interesting, especially those of the theatre productions, which I like because my girlfriend is in the Drama Department,” she says. “I can’t say [the imagery] is the main reason I come, but I do notice it. I don’t know of another place that does this.”

A Fine August Play at UCI From Page 1

Although some of UCI’s regular audience may not be familiar with Wilson’s work, Simon is confident that everyone will find it affecting. “Seven Guitars is often described as a ‘slice of life’ play,” he says. “But if most such slices afford a narrow view through a tiny peephole, Wilson offers up a triple layer cake, inviting us to the feast with open arms. The characters are rich, the language melts in your mouth, and the action is sumptuous.”

Simon added that the drama presents powerful opportunities for the student cast as well. “This is a quintessential ensemble piece – each of the seven actors plays a leading role,” he explains. “Therefore, we must engender a pervading sense of collaborative spirit. My hope is that by digging deeply into the hearts of these characters, we will access the places where hope, anger and jubilation live.”

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CyberA Café hours

Regular hours for the CyberA Café, now managed by the Aramark Corporation, are Mon.-Thur., 7:30 am-7 pm, and Fri, 7:30 am-2 pm. The café also plans to be open for light refreshments during scheduled performances at venues in the Arts Plaza.

But it all started with the CyberA. The digital element has always made it different from most coffee shops, but the café has become something of a landmark for another reason: it’s an ideal place for students gabbing about their art, music or dancing.

Carl Lee, a 20-year-old junior, is studying engineering but still enjoys visiting the CyberA because of the positive energy. “It’s fun when you’re there having coffee or whatever and someone nearby is really getting into a play reading. It’s like a little performance.”

Costume rendering for Seven Guitars created by student designer Nicole Kozienik.
Winter 2005 Calendar

January
University Art Gallery
Selected Undergraduate Exhibition
Room*
Emerging Artists
Jan 13-Feb 4

Beall Center for Art and Technology/LEMUR: League of Electronic Musical Urban Robots
Jan 14-Mar 19
Opening Reception: Jan 13, 6-9 pm
The LEMUR orchestra, a quintet of diverse musical robots, is presented in an interactive installation.

UCI Chamber Series
American Giants: Paul Laurence Dunbar and Langston Hughes
Sat., Jan 22, 8 pm
Winifred Smith Hall, $12/10/8
Darryl Taylor, tenor; Lorna Griffitt and Richard Thompson, piano; Margaret Parkins, violoncello
Drama at UCI Mainstage
Seven Guitars
By August Wilson
Eli Simon, director
Fri-Sat, Jan 28-29, 8 pm
Thur-Sat, Feb 3-5, 8 pm
Matinées: Sat, Feb 5, 2 pm
Claire Trevor Theatre
Fri & Sat eve: $17/15/9
Weeknight & matinée: $15/14/9
(see story page 1)

February
Drama at UCI Stage 2
The Arabian Nights
by Mary Zimmerman
Annie Loui, director
Thur-Sat, Feb 3-5, 8 pm
Thur-Sat, Feb 10-12, 8 pm
Matinées: Sat, Feb 5 & 12, 2 pm
Studio Theatre, $10/9/8
This music- and movement-rich adaptation reacquaints us with Scheherezade's tales of love, lust, humor and dreams.

University Art Gallery
and Room*
MFA 1 Exhibition
Feb 10-18

UCI Symphony Orchestra
String Serenades
Stephen Tucker, conductor
Fri-Sat, Feb 11-12, 8 pm
Pre-concert conversation: Fri, Feb 11, 7 pm
Claire Trevor Theatre, $12/10/8
Neilsen: Little Suite for Strings
Elgar: Serenade for Strings
Bartók: Romanian Folk Dances
Tchaikovsky: String Serenade

Valentine's Concert
Joseph Husszi, conductor
Sun, Feb 13, 7 pm
Mon, Feb 14, 8 pm
Winifred Smith Hall, $12/10/8

UCI Chamber Series
UCI Faculty Showcase
Sat, Feb 19, 8 pm
Winifred Smith Hall, $12/10/8
Beethoven: Sonata for Horn & Piano, op. 17
Brahms: Trio for Violin, Horn & Piano, op. 39
Haroutune Bedelian, violin; Margaret Parkins, violoncello; Daniel Katzen, horn; Alan Terricciano, piano

UCI Jazz Orchestra
Winter Jazz Concert
Charles Owens, conductor
Sat, March 5, 8 pm
Claire Trevor Theatre, $12/10/8

UCI Chamber Series
Hausmusik, an Evening of Song and Chamber Music by Schumann and Schubert
Robin Buck, baritone
Nina Scolnik, piano
Sun, March 6, 8 pm
Winifred Smith Hall, $12/10/8

UCI Gospel Choir
Mickeal McCool, conductor
Mon, March 7, 8 pm
Claire Trevor Theatre, $5 all seats

Dance Visions 2005
UCI's annual dance extravaganza offers premieres and restagings of great dance works in three mixed repertoire programs.
Irving Barclay Theatre
Fri & Sat eve: $15/13/9
Thur & matinée: $12/10/8
Program A: Thur, Feb 24 & Sat, Feb 26, 8 pm
Program B: Fri, Feb 25, 8 pm & Sat, Feb 26, 2 pm
Program C: Sun, Feb 27, 2 pm

UCI Chamber Series
Mad Forest
By Caryl Churchill
Krista Cowan, director
Mon, March 7, 8 pm
Claire Trevor Theatre, $5 all seats

Studio Theatre, $10/9/8
The Romanian revolution of 1989, which toppled Nicolae Ceausescu's dictatorship, is brilliantly recalled.

A Night at the Opera
Two Comedies Performed in English
Ben Makino, music director
Fri-Sat, March 11-12, 8 pm
Winifred Smith Hall, $12/10/8
The Telephone (or L'Amour a Trois) by Gian-Carlo Menotti. A witty menage a trois for soprano, baritone and telephone.
Signor Deluso by Thomas Pasatieri. A hilarious Commedia dell' Arte comedy of errors involving mistaken identities, scandal and wrong conclusions. Based on Molieres play Scagnarelle.

UCI Percussion Ensemble
Dimond, conductor
Mon, March 14, 8 pm
Winifred Smith Hall, Free, tickets required

University Art Gallery and Room*
Senior Exhibition
March 17-24

UCI Symphony Orchestra
The British Are Coming!
Stephen Tucker, conductor
 Thur, March 17, & Sat, March 19, 8 pm
Pre-concert conversation: Thur, March 17, 7 pm
Claire Trevor Theatre
Quilter: Children's Overture
Weber: Clarinet Concerto No. 2
Solist: Amanda Walker, clarinet
Elgar: Enigma Variations

UCI Gospel Choir
March 24

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