Curtain Rises on the New Claire Trevor Theatre

On Nov. 15, Claire Trevor School of the Arts raises the curtain in its elegant, new state-of-the-art theatre for opening night of America’s premier musical, My Fair Lady.

Thanks to generous support from the late award-winning actress Claire Trevor, the school’s 32-year-old performance venue has a completely remodeled interior with cutting-edge technology.

“My Fair Lady was Claire’s favorite musical and an appropriate choice for the new theatre’s first presentation,” said Jill Beck, the school’s dean. “This musical is the epitome of beauty, elegance and style, and it was Claire’s view that our theatre needed to reflect these qualities in order for the audience to experience fully the vitality and excitement of our performances.

“Claire visited the old Village Theatre many times to watch rehearsals and talk with students,” Dean Beck continued. “She liked the theatre, calling it a “place with good bones,” but she was really unhappy with its cavernous, worn-out interior. Our major performance venue was cold and institutional, devoid of elegance and intimacy. She felt the theatre should be a place that deals with the beautiful and that something could be done to make it better. I know Claire would be pleased. The beautiful theatre she envisioned has become a reality.”

In January 1999, Claire Trevor contributed $500,000 to support the renovation of the Village Theatre, and the theatre was renamed in her honor. In June 2000 the theatre closed to undergo a full interior remodel that would take two years to complete, and to which the school and campus would allocate substantial additional funds.

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School of the Arts electrics and audio supervisor, assisted Harvey with technical advice and supervision. Architects from The Blurock Partnership directed the theatre’s renovation, working in concert with UCI’s Design and Construction project managers and Soltek Pacific, the general contractor for the project.

“The goal for the theatre interior was to combine intimacy and warmth with a visual high-tech edge,” said Harvey. “We achieved our objective beautifully. UCI now has a theatre for the 21st century that can serve and accommodate current and future technologies.”

Leading features of the renovation include a technical gallery around the seating area, which enables the use of projections, video, and other multimedia equipment. The ceiling has been lowered and the side walls narrowed to increase intimacy and improve acoustics. Two hundred eighty-five new seats have been installed (reduced from the 420 originals) to improve sight lines, and the concave proscenium has been straightened. The theatre also boasts state-of-the-art rigging, sound and lighting systems, as well as Ethernet terminals throughout the building to facilitate the integration of current and future production technologies.

“The Claire Trevor Theatre renovation was a major undertaking which entailed gutting the old theatre and putting in an entirely new interior with new technologies,” said Harvey. “We’re particularly indebted to our electrics and audio supervisor Ron Cargile and audio designer Scott Collins for their technical advice and for facilitating the installations of the new equipment. Everyone involved in the project deserves a big round of applause, and as a thank you for a job well done, we have invited Soltek’s construction crew to a special preview performance of My Fair Lady.”

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On Nov. 16, as part of UCI's annual ArtsWeek celebration, the school will honor Claire Trevor and commemorate the reopening of the theatre with a gala benefit performance of *My Fair Lady.* During the dedication ceremony, Claire Trevor's stepson Donald Bren, chairman of the Irvine Company, will present her Academy and Emmy awards to the school. Claire Trevor won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her 1948 performance in *Key Largo,* with Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall and Edward G. Robinson. In 1956, she received an Emmy for Best Live Television Performance by an Actress for *Dodsworth,* with Fredric March, on NBC's *Producer's Showcase.* These awards will be housed permanently in two window cases in the theatre lobby. There will also be a lobby display of Claire Trevor's paintings. “Claire was not only a consummate performer, she also had a great love for the visual arts and was an extremely gifted artist,” said Dean Beck. “Her work is very interesting, and while most of her subjects are people, she painted in a surprising range of styles. We are delighted to have fourteen of her works to share with our *My Fair Lady* audiences.”

**UCI Symphony Orchestra**

*An Evening of Majestic Music*

Stephen Tucker, conductor

Sat., Nov. 9, 8 pm

Irvine Barclay Theatre

Wagner: Overture to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg

Mahler: Symphony No. 1 in D “Titan”

$12/10/8. To purchase tickets, call (949) 824-2787

**UCI Faculty Exhibition**

Works by UCI's Internationally Noted Faculty in Studio Art

Special ArtsWeek Event: Sun., Nov. 10, 3-6 pm

4:30 pm: Gallery talk by curator Jenelle Porter and selected artists

Beall Center for Art and Technology and University Art Gallery

Admission is free.

**Claire Trevor Movie Classics**

Tues., Nov. 12

6:30 pm: *Key Largo*

8:45 pm: *Stagecoach*

Wedned Smith Hall

Admission is free. Reservations are required.

Call (949) 824-2787

**My Fair Lady**

*Gala Benefit Performance*

Reopening and Dedication of the Claire Trevor Theatre

Sat., Nov. 16, 5 pm, followed by a dinner reception

Claire Trevor Theatre

$500 and $250

A sparkling Hollywood-style evening to raise funds for scholarships and performance opportunities. For more information and to purchase benefit tickets, call (949) 824-2011.

(See Calendar for other *My Fair Lady* performance dates)

**Curtain Rises** continued from page 7

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The reopening of the Claire Trevor Theatre caps seven years of major new construction and renovations to upgrade the school's performance venues, instructional facilities and exterior appearance. “It brings us to a place that is new and exciting, but not quite finished,” said Dean Beck. “The arts plaza designed by artist and architect Maya Lin is the final unifying design element for the entire School of the Arts complex. It will be the school's 'heart and soul,' connecting the major performance and exhibition venues. Fundraising for the plaza slowed as a result of the downturn in the national economy, but we are getting closer to the target. We hope to plan a timeline that will start the project in late spring 2003 and complete it by the end of that year. It's my fond hope that we will celebrate with a New Year's eve party in the Maya Lin plaza.”
Research Supports ArtsBridge’s Impact

Since early January, researchers at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts have engaged in an intensive effort to document the various cognitive, personal, and professional impacts of ArtsBridge on university scholars, K-12 pupils, classroom teachers and others involved in this unique arts education partnership between universities and schools. ArtsBridge scholars have delivered instruction in the visual, digital, and performing arts to over 100,000 pupils across the State of California since the mid-1990s.

Using test data, surveys, interviews, and classroom observations, researchers are building a framework capable of capturing the multiple impacts of the program statewide. Preliminary analyses confirm findings from similar studies, highlighting numerous positive effects on pupils, such as increased self-esteem, enhanced proficiency in other subject areas such as mathematics and language arts, ability to work individually and in groups, and the development of higher-order thinking skills, such as evaluation and synthesis.

Equipped with new ideas and skills, inspiring greater interest in the arts and an understanding of its role in our lives.

For example, UCI ArtsBridge scholar Patrick Xavier’s integration of geometry into the study of art boosts pupils’ abilities in mathematics because the process is made enjoyable. Sixth grade pupils at Woodbridge Elementary School worked with Patrick to create beautiful mosaics based on geometric forms. As one pupil comments, “We understand math a lot better, because we like art, and we pay more attention to [math].” The classroom teacher concurs, “Art definitely connects to the curriculum, and we plan together, especially with math, because it is one of Patrick’s specialties.” Projects of this nature confirm the importance of ArtsBridge in celebrating the intrinsic and cross-curricular benefits of the arts in the K-12 setting.

Data suggest that ArtsBridge has also profoundly impacted university students through scholarship monies and opportunities for service. Over 50 percent of scholars report that they plan to go on to careers in teaching. As one UCI Santa Barbara ArtsBridge scholar reports, “The most rewarding college experience I’ve had in an elementary school!” Scholars are also keenly aware of the importance of their efforts. As UCI ArtsBridge scholar Tahara Stacy discloses, “I leave with tears in my eyes, sometimes, because I am touching [the pupils’ lives]. When I leave, and they all come and hug me, that’s when I know it is working.”

Standing Ovations for Claire Trevor Academy

I cannot express in words how much you have taught me over the past weeks in the [Claire Trevor Academy] program. As far as acting goes, my whole perspective is now much more centered and focused.... Honestly, what we did in class has done more for my acting abilities than a whole three years of high school drama. — a Trevor Artist

Twenty-seven actors, dancers, singers and musicians from Orange County high schools participated in the first Claire Trevor Academy summer training program in the arts, June 29 – July 21. The Academy is an ArtsBridge project, founded by UCI ArtsBridge director Keith Fowler. Selected through auditions to become the Academy’s first “Trevor Artists,” these talented students spent three weeks in advanced classes in their respective disciplines, and in rehearsals for a showcase presentation in Winfred Smith Hall of Stephen Vincent Benet’s “Standing Ovations.”

The performances featured dramatic readings, dance, song, but also deepened understanding of America’s Civil War history. “This was an incredibly rewarding experience for the students and the faculty,” said Fowler. “Starting with so much raw talent and watching the students grow and stretch as artists in such a short time, amazed and thrilled all of us. The showcase was presented twice to packed houses and standing ovations.”

UCI arts faculty teaching the summer season included Keith Fowler in drama, Janice Gudde Plastino in dance, Stephen Tucker and Dennis Castellano in music. They were assisted by veteran ArtsBridge scholars Jarrell, Amber McCall, Barbara Noren and Jacob Russell-Snyder. Fowler directed John Brown’s Body, with Plastino and Tucker as choreographer and music director.

Orange County high schools represented in the Academy’s first program were Edison, El Modena, Esperanza, Fountain Valley, Fullerton Union, Huntington Beach Academy for Performing Arts, La Habra, La Quinta, Laguna Beach, Mission Viejo, Orange County High School of the Arts, Santa Ana, Santa Ana College, University of California, Irvine, and Woodbridge.

The Claire Trevor Arts Academy is funded by ArtsBridge and by the Bren Family Foundation, which supports students attending schools in the Irvine Ranch area.

Find out more about ArtsBridge: www.arts.edu/ucartsbridge

IN THE NEWS

In Music

Stephen Tucker has been appointed tenure-track conductor of the UCI Symphony Orchestra after serving as interim conductor for two years. Tucker has enjoyed a distinguished career as a pianist, arranger, producer and conductor. In addition to pursuing a D.M.A degree at UCLA, he holds diplomas in conducting from the Vienna Conservatory and the International Institute of Symphonic Conducting. His credits include Artistic Director of the Neumark Ensemble, a professional Southern California chamber orchestra, Music Director and Conductor of the Southern California Young Artists Symphony; and many international guest conductor appearances. Before coming to UCI, he held conducting appointments at Atlantic Union College (South Lancaster, MA), the Thayer Conservatory of Music in Boston, and at UCI Riverside.

New Faculty in Dance

Eloise Barragan, assistant professor of dance, trained at the Escuela Nacional de Danza Classica in Mexico City and with the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City. She has performed with leading ballet companies around the world. The Boise Arts Commission and Idaho Commission for the Arts both awarded Barragan grants to choreograph new ballets for Ballet Idaho/Eugene Ballet and Idaho Dance Theater. In 2000 she received the Idaho Commission for the Arts’ Fellowship Award.

Leslie Peck, assistant professor of dance, is a former dancer with the New York City Ballet, a soloist with the Pennsylvania Ballet, and a principal dancer with the Pacific Northwest Ballet, Houston Ballet and Ballet International of London. She also served as Ballet Mistress for the Richmond Ballet in Virginia. Before coming to UCI, Peck was a professor of music at Indiana University where she taught classical ballet. She is a recognized stage of George Balanchine’s works, and has mounted his great ballets for professional companies throughout the United States.

In Memoriam

Carol Teresa Stefanik Caniglia, 1943-2002. Carol Caniglia was a dancer and a 30-year member of the dance faculty at Golden West College. As a long-time friend and benefactor to the UCI Department of Dance, Carol established a scholarship at UCI in 1998 to assist community college transfer students majoring in dance. “Carol had a great love of dance, both as an artist and as a teacher,” said Janice Plastino, professor of dance. “She was a wonderful and generous woman, who was dedicated to helping dancers continue their training. We will miss her.” The School of the Arts acknowledges with respect and affection the long-lasting contributions of Carol to our dance programs. Donations may be made to the Carol Stefanik Caniglia Dance Scholarship by calling (949) 824-6929.

From left: UCI dance professor Janice Plastino with Trevor Artists lettuce Cruzan (Santa Ana H.S.) and Jessica Holle (San Clemente H.S.).
UCI CHOIRS
Joseph Huazti, conductor
Sat., Nov. 2, 8 pm
Winifred Smith Hall, free

UCI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
AN EVENING OF MAJESTIC MUSIC
Stephen Tucker, conductor
Sat., Nov. 9, 8 pm
Irvin Bryce Theatre, $12/10/8
Wagner: Overture to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg
Mahler: Symphony No. 1 in D “Titan”

UCI FACULTY EXHIBITION
Works by UCI’s Internationally Noted Faculty in Studio Art
Janelle Porter, guest curator
Oct. 23-Nov. 20. Reception: Tues., Oct. 22, 4-8 pm
Beall Center for Art and Technology and University Art Gallery
Admission is free. Hours: Mon-Sun., 12 noon-5 pm; Thurs. open until 8 pm.
Information: (949) 824-3508

CLAUDE TREVOR MOVIE CLASSICS
Tues., Nov. 12/10/8
Winifred Smith Hall
Admission is free; reservations are required. Call the UCI Arts Box Office (949) 824-2787 or email Kay Largo
3:30 pm: Stagecoach
My Fair Lady
Book and Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner
Music by Frederick Loewe
Robert Cairns, director
Fri., Nov. 15, 8 pm
Wed-Sat., Nov. 20, 21, 22, 23, 8 pm
Matinees: Sun., Nov. 17 & Sat., Nov. 23, 2 pm
Claire Trevor Theatre
Fri. & Sat. aces: $27/24/12
Weeknights & matinees: $25/22/12
This epicomime of taste, elegance and style, My Fair Lady is the jewel in the American musical-comedy crown. Based on George Bernard Shaw’s Pygmalion, the plot hinges on a bet that the famous linguist Henry Higgins can pass off the cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle as a duchess at an embassy ball. Eliza’s transformation from a guttersnipe into a proper-speaking lady succeeds beyond everyone’s wildest dreams. The collaborative genius of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe has given us “a show so perfect in concept and execution that neither changing times nor changing tastes have dimmed its lustre.” — music critic Robert Harris, CBC Radio.

NEW SLEEVE
New Works by UCI Graduate Choreographers
Thur.-Sat., Dec. 5-7, 8 pm
Matinees: Sat., Dec. 7, 7 pm
Winifred Smith Hall, $11/10/9
Drama at UCI Stage 2
GOD’S COUNTRY
by Steven Dietz
Eli Simon, director
Wed.-Sat., Dec. 4-7, 8 pm
Matinees: Sat.-Sun., Dec. 7-8, 2 pm
Studio Theatre, $10/9/8
Based on actual court records, news archives and witness interviews, Steven Dietz’s chilling and timely docudrama chronicles the hate crimes of white supremacists operating in the Pacific Northwest in the 1980s (adult themes, language)

UCI JAZZ ORCHESTRA
A NIGHT AT THE COTTON CLUB
Charles Owens, conductor
Guest Artists: Spanky Wilson and the Chester Whitmore Dancers
Sat., Dec. 7, 8 pm
Claire Trevor Theatre, $12/10/8

UCI Arts Quarterly
October 2002, No. 6
UCI Arts Marketing
Chester Trevor School of the Arts
University of California, Irvine
Dean: Jill Beck
Marketing: Wendy Day-Brown
Editor: Scottie Hinkey
Writers: Scottie Hinkey, Morgan Appel
Designer: Rob Sexton, S2 Design
Production Photographer: Philip O’Brien
Feature Photographer: Harry Difurocco

TICKET PRICE LEGEND
Prices are listed in this order: General, UCI Association Members, senior citizens/UCI students & children under 18
UCI Arts Box Office: (949) 824-2787
Box Office:
Claire Trevor Theatre
Winifred Smith Hall
UCI JAZZ ORCHESTRA
UCI Arts Box Office: (949) 824-2787
WINIFRED SMITH HALL
STUDIO THEATRE
IRVINE BARCLAY THEATRE
CLAIRE TREvor THEATRE

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UCI Arts Box Office: (949) 824-2787

UCI CHAMBER SERIES
AN EVENING OF JAZZ
With Pianist Kei Akagi
Sat., Oct. 26, 8 pm
Winifred Smith Hall, $12/10/8
Program includes jazz standards and original compositions by acclaimed jazz artist Kei Akagi.