



DLC  
DEAN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

SPRING 2014

## RECENT EVENTS

Third Annual Claire Trevor Commemorative Star Event  
The Trial of Dedan Kimathi  
CTSA named Top Arts Organization in OC  
The Beall Center for Art + Technology's Family Day  
Nickel Mines  
UCI Symphony Orchestra

## IN THE COMMUNITY

Summer Academies in the Arts  
The Rose Project of Jewish Federation and Family Services  
Salon Ecco in Newport Beach  
Department of Outreach  
JazzXchange

## FACULTY ACCOLADES

Chad Michael Hall  
Jaque Lenhard  
Daniel Tran  
Landyn Endo  
Kelsey Gerber  
Don Hill  
Colleen Reardon  
Daniel Joseph Martinez  
Juli Carson  
Robin Buck  
Ketu Katrak  
Molly Lynch  
Richard Brestoff  
Miles Coolidge  
Dennis Castellano  
Michael Hooker  
Phillip Thompson  
Jamie Tucker  
Nicole Mitchell  
Yong Soon Min  
Monica Majoli  
Daphne Lei  
Jesse Colin Jackson  
Sheron Wray  
Kevin Appel  
Simon Penny  
Amy Bauer  
Joe Lewis  
Jennifer Fisher

## ON STAGE/ GROUP

Stefan Miller  
Melissa McCann  
UC Irvine's New York Satellite Program  
G. Thomas Allen  
Jesse Sharp  
Shabnam Kalbasi  
Bryan Pollock  
Ben Jacoby  
Flora Kao  
Jonas N.T. Becker  
Samira Yamin  
Allyson Unzicker

## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Jennifer Lott  
Alison O'Daniel  
Nick Aguayo  
McCree O'Kelley  
Mo About Zelo  
Kumiyo Kai  
Noritaka Minami  
Grace Gealey  
Deanna Erdmann  
Rodger Blum  
Kathleen Compton Sherrerd  
Kyra Zagorsky  
David Burns  
Glenn Kaino  
Andy Fedak  
Viet Le  
James Luna  
Victoria Fu  
Vincent Hardy  
Michael Moshe Dahan  
Juli Carson  
Alison O'Daniel  
Paul Pescador

## UPCOMING EVENTS

New Swan Shakespeare Festival

# SEASON - AT - A - GLANCE

## OCTOBER

- Oct. 3 – Nov. 27\* The Symbolic Landscape: Pictures Beyond Picturesque
- Oct. 3 – Nov. 27\* A Twice Lived Fragment of Time
- Oct. 3 – Jan. 25\* Sight & Sound
- Oct. 8\* Lecture /Motherwell's Mother: An Iconography in Abstraction
- Oct. 9\* Lecture /The Ineffable, the Unspeakable, and the Inspirational: A Grammar
- Oct. 10-12 Far-Flung follows function
- Oct. 15\* Lecture / The Nature Theatre: Art and Politics
- Oct. 16\* Lecture / Desire Lines in the Mind
- Oct. 17\* Gassmann Electronic Music Series /Juicy
- Oct. 19 Malcolm Bilson and Cecilia Sun in Concert
- Oct. 21\*, 28\* Asian Horror Film Festival
- Oct. 25-27\* Dance Conversations II: Theatres in Dance

## NOVEMBER

- Nov. 2\* Beall Center Family Day
- Nov. 2 Alan Terricciano and André Gribou in Concert
- Nov. 7\* CTSA Campus Open House
- Nov. 9 UCI Symphony Orchestra Concert
- Nov. 9, 10, 14-17 Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson
- Nov. 13\* Noon Showcase Concert
- Nov. 19\* Wind Ensemble Concert
- Nov. 20\* UCI Small Groups Concert
- Nov. 22, 23 Mandoria Awakening: 2
- Nov. 23-26, 30, Dec. 1 A Christmas Carol

## DECEMBER

- Dec. 4\* UCI Guitar Ensemble Noon Concert
- Dec. 4 Trio Céleste Concert
- Dec. 5-7 New Slate
- Dec. 6\* Art Song and Artistry Series / Wagner at 200

## JANUARY 2014

- Jan. 9 – Feb. 8\* Critical Curatorial Series
- Jan. 9 – Mar. 15\* A Solo Exhibition by Yoshua Okón
- Jan. 9 – Mar. 15\* A Solo Exhibition of Work by Victoria Fu
- Jan. 15\* Gassmann Electronic Music Series / Synthesizers Live!
- Jan. 25, 26, 30, 31, Feb. 1, 2 Angels In America

## FEBRUARY

- Feb. 6 – May 1\* Wall of Sound: New Work by Zimoun
- Feb. 7, 8 Kei Akagi & Friends in Concert
- Feb. 12-16 Dance Visions 2014
- Feb. 14 20th Annual Valentine's Day Celebration
- Feb. 19\* Noon Showcase Concert
- Feb. 21\* Art Song and Artistry Series / ABCs of Song
- Feb. 21 – Mar. 16\* Second Year MFA Review
- Feb. 25\* Wind Ensemble Concert
- Feb. 26\* UCI Small Groups Concert

## MARCH

- Mar. 1 UCI Symphony Orchestra Concert
- Mar. 8\* Bernard Gilmore Memorial Concert
- Mar. 8, 9, 11-16 The Trial Of Dedan Kimathi
- Mar. 9 UCI Choir Concert
- Mar. 10 Claire Trevor Star Celebration Honoring Joan and Don Beall
- Mar. 13\* Drama, Law and Justice: The Making of The Trial of Dedan Kimathi
- Mar. 15 Mari Akagi & Kei Akagi in Concert

## APRIL

- Apr. 3-19\* Tenth Annual Guest Juried Undergraduate Exhibition
- Apr. 3-19\* Undergraduate Honors Project Spatia
- Apr. 4\* Bach's Lunch
- Apr. 9\* Hossein Omoumi in Concert
- Apr. 12 Dance Escape
- Apr. 17-19 Beall Center Family Day
- Apr. 19\* Virtual Venues: The Distributed Body
- Apr. 22-25\* MFA Thesis Exhibition, Part I
- Apr. 24 – May 2\* Gassmann Electronic Music Series /Interactive Instrumentation
- Apr. 25\* As You Like It
- Apr. 26 , 27, 29, 30, May 1-4 UCI Guitar Ensemble Noon Concert
- Apr. 30\*

## MAY

- May 1-3 Physical Graffiti
- May 3 Lorna Griffitt & Friends in Concert
- May 8-16\* MFA Thesis Exhibition, Part II
- May 14\* Noon Showcase Concert
- May 14\* Gassmann Electronic Music Series / ICIT Concert
- May 18 Annual Honors Music Concert
- May 20\* Wind Ensemble Concert
- May 21\* UCI Small Groups Concert
- May 22-30\* MFA Thesis Exhibition, Part III
- May 23\* Art Song and Artistry Series / A Celebration of Women in Song
- May 24 Sing of Spring
- May 31, Jun. 1, 3-7 Nickel Mines

## JUNE

- June 2 Trio Céleste Concert
- June 6 UCI Symphony Orchestra Concert
- June 4 UCI Jazz Orchestra
- June 5 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Exhibition
- June 5 – July 2 Origins of Life: Experiment #1.x

## JULY

- July 10 – Aug. 30 New Swan Shakespeare Festival
- July 12 – 26 Artist in Residence Exhibition



## RECENT EVENTS



The Claire Trevor School of the Arts was named **Top Arts Organization in Orange County** at the Coast Community Awards held on February 3. The awards, hosted by Coast Magazine, honored 48 finalists for their contributions to the Orange County community and local economy; nominees were comprised of community-minded individuals, businesses, and nonprofit institutions.

Over 200 supporters gathered at UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts on March 10 to recognize the many contributions of community leaders **Joan and Don Beall** with the third annual Claire Trevor Commemorative Star. The evening began with a lavish reception, followed by a multi-faceted performance in the School's flagship theatre. **Dean Joe Lewis** and **EVC and Provost Howard Gillman** kicked off the show, which featured performances by **Trio Celeste**, **Men in Blaque**, the **UC Irvine Symphony Orchestra**, **Nicole Mitchell**, and **The Wooden Floor**, among others. Many distinguished members of the Orange County area were



in attendance to show their appreciation for a couple whose impact on the county is vast, diverse, and insightful. Joan and Don have touched countless lives with their generosity, and many friendships were strengthened and revisited on this evening of celebration. Among those present were members of Don's tenure at Rockwell Collins, colleagues of Joan's from The Wooden Floor and other organizations she is involved with, and many community and business leaders.



Hundreds of kids and their families turned out to enjoy free, hands-on art and science activities at **The Beall Center for Art + Technology's Family Day**. The event offered a "kid-friendly" introduction to new media art relating to Zimoun's "Wall of Sound," as well as presentations and hands-on activities such as expressive robotics, P3d modeling with lasers, science of light demonstrations, and more. Congratulations also to the Beall Center for recently receiving the prestigious Andy Warhol Foundation grant!

# RECENT EVENTS



As part of their Season of Justice/Exploration of Citizenship, **CTSA's Department of Drama** sold out the American premiere of **Ngugi wa Thiong'o** and **Micere Githae Mugo's** *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi*. Directed by veteran **guest director Jaye Austin Williams** and choreographed by **faculty member Sheron Wray**, the Nobel Prize-nominated Ngugi wa Thiong'o – recently named a 2014 fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences – personally oversaw the production, and luminaries from CTSA and the Department of Humanities came together for a reception on March 8 to open the run. There is also a documentary film being produced by celebrated director Carla Wilson, focusing on the creative process required to stage the show. *The Making of the Trial of Dedan Kimathi* will be offered next year as part of UCI's 50th anniversary celebration.



CTSA was recently awarded a grant from the Getty Foundation for the purpose of curating a retrospective of **School of the Arts alumnus Gilbert (Magu) Luján** (1940-2011). Lujan was one of the founding members and the major force behind the Chicano artists collective Los Four, and is known for his colorful large-scale paintings and drawings, outrageous lowrider art, and Día de los Muertos altars. The retrospective will focus on two concepts central to Magu's work: Aztlán, the mythic northern ancestral home of the indigenous Mexican Aztecs that became a charged symbol of Chicano activism; and Magulandia, the term Luján used for the space in which he lived and produced his work, and for his work as a whole.

## ABOUT THE DLC

### *Mission:*

The Dean's Leadership Council creates awareness, builds relationships and generates support for the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

### *Members:*

Gianna Drake-Kerrison, Co-Chair	
Demetrio "Dee" Kerrison, Co-Chair	
Joan Beall	Timothy J. Molnar, CFP
Madonna Billauer	Sheila Peterson
Kalyani Gopal	Jonathan Pink
Tinnie Grewal	Nambi Seshadri
Mahtab Jafari	Janice Smith
Vivian McCluney	Rick Stein
Darrellyn Melilli	Dr. Ken Tokita
	Sandy Tokita



# CLAIRE TREVOR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

## IN THE COMMUNITY

Registration is now open for our **Summer Academies in the Arts!** The Academies offer college and career preparatory intensives for high school and middle school students through focused workshops in Art, Dance, Drama and Music. The workshops offer conservatory-style instruction in small classes taught by graduate instructors, professionals in the field and, in some cases, CTSA faculty. Coursework is intended to be rigorous and as close to college level as possible, and to enhance students' marketable skills and support career goals, self-confidence and leadership. In addition, college credit is available to high school juniors and seniors. For more information or to register, visit: <http://outreach.arts.uci.edu/summer-academies>

**The Rose Project of Jewish Federation and Family Services, the Israel Institute and UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts (CTSA)** presented *Swan Lake Fusion Project*. This exciting new endeavor celebrated the partnership between CTSA, Israeli artists and the Orange County Jewish community through a creative collaboration that united Israeli and locally-based choreographers for a unique performance by **CTSA Dance students**. *Swan Lake Fusion Project* featured the work of three choreographers: **UC Irvine Schusterman Artist-in-Residence from Israel Idan Cohen**, and **CTSA Department of Dance faculty members Diane Diefenderfer and Tong Wang**. The juxtaposition between the choreographers' classical and modern interpretations of the legendary work was a dynamic evening of dance.



Robert Helgeson at **Salon Ecco in Newport Beach** has partnered with CTSA's **Department of Drama** to create hair designs for past productions *Tinseltown Christmas*, *Angels in America* and *As You Like It*. The creation of these hair designs is part of a university/business partnership created by **Drama Chair, Daniel Gary Busby**. Production posters are up in the Salon for each show in which they work with designers, actors and directors to contribute to the life of the campus.



The Claire Trevor School of the Arts **Department of Outreach** is engaged in cultivating a partnership between the **UCI**

**Symphony Orchestra** under **Maestro Stephen Tucker**, and the orchestra and students of Santa Ana High School (SAHS). The two schools have partnered to build awareness of the university experience, in hopes of making it a tangible goal for SAHS students, increasing access to the arts resources available at CTSA, and cultivating young artists – our students – to become engaged citizens in the community.



**Assistant Professor of Dance Sheron Wray** and **Dean Joe Lewis** recently organized a "friend-raiser" event at the home of **Dean's Leadership Council members Ken and Sandy Tokita** to benefit Wray's non-profit group JazzXchange. Wynton Marsalis, who is on the Board of Directors of JazzXchange, and several members of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, came to play with a select group of CTSA jazz students who are mentored by **Chancellor's Professor of Music Kei Akagi**.

# FACULTY ACCOLADES



**Assistant Professor of Dance Chad Michael Hall** has been hard at work with his company Multiplex Dance (MXD), the Los Angeles-based dance company he founded in 2013. MXD's aesthetic is consistently edgy and highly athletic, and often integrates live dancing with digital media. Four CTSA alumni are currently dancing with the company, as well: **Jaque Lenhard** (BFA Dance '12), **Daniel Tran** (BFA Dance '13), **Landyn Endo** (BFA Dance '13) and **Kelsey Gerber** (BFA Dance '14). In January MXD premiered its first new work, *substrata*, by invitation at the 2014 Breaking Ground International Dance and Film Festival in Tempe, AZ, where they were hailed in the press as "the standout of the evening." They also performed their signature work, *Multiplex*, by invitation at the OC SoCal Dance Invitational in Huntington Beach, CA and received their first grant to produce a new work as part of the One City, One Pride Festival in West Hollywood next June. Their debut repertory show, *We Are Multiplex*, premiered in March at the Diavolo Dance Space in Los Angeles, CA.

Congratulations to **Vice Chair of Drama Don Hill**, for being voted CTSA's Outstanding Professor of the Year by the senior class for the third time!

**Professor of Music Colleen Reardon** delivered a paper in March entitled "The Pastoral and its Discontents: The Chigi and an 'operina sacra' at S.Girolamo in Campansi, Siena" in Rome, Italy. The conference, sponsored by the Swedish Institute of Classical Studies, Rome, brought together scholars from Belgium, England, France, Italy, Sweden, and the United States.



**Professor of Art Daniel Joseph Martinez** was recently awarded the Alpert Award in the Arts, which honors and supports artists respected for their creativity, ingenuity, and bodies of work. The award is an unrestricted prize given to five risk-taking mid-career artists working in the fields of dance, film/video, music, theatre and the visual arts. In addition, Roberts and Tilton Gallery recently featured their second solo exhibition by Professor Martinez, called *The Report of My Death is an Exaggeration; Memoirs: Of Becoming Narrenschiff*. To accompany the exhibition, Roberts & Tilton published a catalogue which includes

an essay by **Professor of Art Juli Carson** entitled "*The Politics of Falling*," *Exhibition Catalogue, Daniel Joseph Martinez's The Report of My Death is an Exaggeration; Memoirs: Of Becoming Narrenschiff*, (Los Angeles: Roberts and Tilton Gallery, 2014).



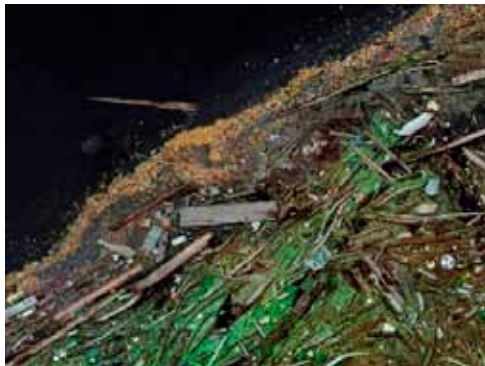
**Professor of Music Robin Buck** recently portrayed Leon Klinghoffer in Long Beach Opera's production of *The Death of Klinghoffer*. LBO is considered one of the nation's most adventurous opera companies, embracing new, unusual, or neglected repertoire that blurs the lines between traditional opera and theatre. *Klinghoffer* premiered in Brussels in 1991 and is considered by many to be the most controversial opera of our time, depicting the hijacking of Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro* off the coast of Egypt in 1985. Professor Buck's involvement in this project also facilitated a connection with UCI's "Olive Tree Initiative," as students from that group participated in a public discussion following the final performance of the opera. <http://www.olivetreeinitiative.org/>



## FACULTY ACCOLADES

**Professor of Drama and Humanities Ketu Katrak** recently published "Stripping Women of their Wombs: Active Witnessing of Performances of Violence," in *Theatre Research International* 39: 1 (March 2014), 31-46. Professor Katrak also presented her paper "Re-imagining Cartographies of Belonging: Jay Pather's Site Specific Artistic Creations" at the 40th Annual African Literature Association Conference at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa in April. In addition, she organized and chaired a panel entitled "Drama, Law and Justice: The Making of *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi* at UCI," an International Studies Public Forum at the School of Social Sciences.

**Assistant Professor of Dance Molly Lynch** received one of this year's awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. Recipients were competitively selected by the Academic Senate Council on Student Experience based on nominations made by faculty and students. Congratulations, Molly!



**Professor of Art Miles Coolidge** had a Solo Exhibition in January at ACME Gallery, Los Angeles. He presented two new projects, the large-scale photographic installations *Francis*

*Gate*, and *Coal Seam, Bergwerk Prosper-Haniel*, as well as a continuation of the ongoing photographic series, *Mock-Ups*. Notices include reviews in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Artillery Magazine* and forthcoming review in *X-tra*, a contemporary art quarterly, and other outcomes include the sale of one of the exhibition's works to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art for its permanent collection.

**Professor of Drama Richard Brestoff** was the featured interview in the 3.27.14 issue of *Backstage Magazine*.



**The CTSA Department of Drama** was well represented in South Coast Repertory's February production of *The Light in the Piazza*. Faculty members **Dennis Castellano** (Musical Director), **Michael Hooker** (Sound Designer) and **Phillip Thompson** (Dialect Coach) contributed, and alumna **Jamie Tucker** (MFA Stage Management '94) was Stage Manager for the show.

**Professor of Music Nicole Mitchell** has again been named Flutist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association, her *Intergalactic Beings* was reviewed in London's *The Wire* magazine in May, and she was featured in

France's *Jazzmagazine* in March. Professor Mitchell also received a DECADE Mentor Graduate Diversity Award for her Community Commissioning project, which will involve ICIT composers in musical outreach projects with diverse communities in Orange County.

**Professor of Art Yong Soon Min** was recently featured with two other diasporic artists in an exhibition at Seoul Museum of Art entitled "Sema Gold: Nobody." Pictured is her piece "Moving Target," a multimedia room installation, 2004-2014.



**Associate Professor of Art Monica Majoli** recently had a solo exhibition at Air De Paris in France.

**Professor of Drama Daphne Lei** has received the DECADE Mentor Graduate Diversity Award for her research-performance project *Dramatic Transformations*. In this project, under Professor Lei's supervision, Drama graduate students interview other graduate students on issues related to equity and

# FACULTY ACCOLADES

diversity and use the material to develop *Diversitopia*, a docudrama about diversity on the UCI campus. Professor Lei also presented the paper "Playing with Visibility and Invisibility, Named and Unnamed: the Relationship between Chinese Opera and Dance under the Global Gaze" at the Joint Conference by the Congress on the Research in Dance and the Society of Dance History Scholars (CORD/SDHS), Riverside, CA.

Last winter **faculty member Jesse Colin Jackson** was featured in a group exhibition



and panel at Ethnographic Terminalia, Arts Incubator in Washington Park, Chicago, IL.

**Professor of Art Simon Penny** is currently the occupant of the 'Labex International Chair,' jointly at Université Paris 8 - the university of Michel Foucault, Gille Deleuze, Jean Francois Lyotard and many other luminaries - and ENSAD, the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, established in 1766.

**Professor of Art Kevin Appel** recently had a solo exhibition at Ameringer|McEnergy|Yohe in New York City, which included the pictured work "Kissing Cousins" (2014).



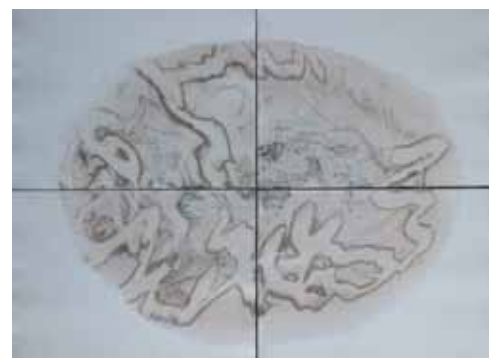
**Assistant Professor of Dance Sheron Wray** participated in the TEDx OC Salon in March, leading a jazz-focused conversation that used improvisation to reframe how we impact relationships to build support for innovation. Wray's company JazzXchange also performed at the American India Foundation's OC Inaugural Gala at The Bowers Museum.



**Associate Professor of Music Amy Bauer** published "Singing Wolves and Dreaming Apples: The Cosmopolitan Imagination in Ligeti's *Weöres Songs*" in *Ars Lyrica*, vol. 21 (2012).

**Professor of Art Juli Carson** published a review of Suzanne Hudson's work at the UAG entitled "From Landscape to Lacan. On 'Symbolic Landscape: Pictures Beyond

the Picturesque,' at UC Irvine University Art Galleries," *Texte Zur Kunst*, March 2014, no 93.



**Dean Joe Lewis** is currently featured in the group show *No City is an Island* at The Lodge Gallery in New York. With a range of works transverse 35 years, *No City is an Island* revisits the zeitgeist of a New York City long bygone, compares and contrasts the artists and urban realities of then with now, and honors one of the most influential arts organizations in New York City's history. He was also featured last October in a group show at The Cooper Union called *Emissions: Images from the Mixing Layer*. Other participating artists were Colleen Fitzgibbon, Ruth Hardinger, Christy Rupp and Rebecca Smith.

**Associate Professor of Dance Jennifer Fisher** was a guest of the San Francisco Ballet to conduct an Official Inquest into the Death of Giselle on February 1. Dancers from the cast of the ballet testified, and patrons voted to decide cause of death and who was to blame. Results indicate "stress cardiomyopathy" and that either society or her faithless fiancé were to blame.



## ON STAGE

**Stefan Miller** (MFA Music '15) will sing the title role in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* for the prestigious Academy of Vocal Arts summer program. He and fellow graduate student **Melissa McCann** (MFA Music '14) have been invited to participate in the AVA Russian Music Study program this summer. Stefan also made his professional debut last March in Riverside Opera's production of *Gianni Schicchi* by Puccini.

**Bryan Pollock** (MFA Music '13) will sing the title role in Handel's *Giulio Cesare* for the Hawaii Arts Festival this summer. He also sang the role of Endimione in Cavalli's *La Calisto* the first two weekends of May in Los Angeles as part of the Pacific Opera Project.

**G. Thomas Allen** (MFA Music '15) will make his professional debut with L.A. Opera in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* this fall. He was a

featured soloist with Opera Buffs, Inc. this year, and was invited to sing at the national memorial service for Nelson Mandela. Thomas has also been invited to perform at Wolf Trap Opera this summer.



**Ben Jacoby** (MFA Acting '12) is currently appearing as Raoul in the national tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*, and was recently featured in a great article in Chicago's *Daily Herald*.

Music Theatre actors from **UC Irvine's New York Satellite Program** just participated in *4@15: Four New Fifteen-Minute Musicals* at the Playroom Theater in New York. Now in its eighth year, *4@15* commissions musical theatre writing teams to write original mini-musicals tailored specifically for the talents of participating actors.

**Jesse Sharp** (MFA Acting '11) is currently starring as Gomez Addams in the national tour of *The Addams Family: A New Musical Comedy*. Both Jesse and the production received a glowing review from BroadwayWorld.com.

**Shabnam Kalbasi** (BM Music '10) will make her professional debut at Santa Fe Opera this summer, in their production of Bizet's *Carmen*.



## IN THE GALLERY



Shulamit Gallery in Venice, CA recently presented the solo exhibition *Zol Zayn // What If?* by new media artist **Jonas N.T. Becker** (MFA Studio Art '10). Jonas is also a recipient of the Six Points Fellowship for emerging Jewish artists, and teaches photography at Scripps College and the Art Institute of California.

In January, alumna **Samira Yamin** (MFA Studio Art '11) had a two-person show at the Craft



and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles entitled *Displacements: The Craft Practices of Golnar Adili and Samira Yamin*. She was also featured on KCET's Artbound.

Current student **Allyson Unzicker** (MFA Art) curated a recent show at the Vincent Price Art Museum. *Corporeal Impulse* was a group exhibition featuring five West Coast artists

who work primarily in clay, including Julia Haft-Candell, Matt Merkel Hess, Jeffrey Mitchell, Kathleen Ryan and Bari Ziperstein. The exhibition focused on the implications between clay and the body as both a cognitive and intuitive process.



**Alumna Flora Kao** (MFA Art '12) just concluded her solo exhibition *Homestead* at Pasadena Museum of California Art

# ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

**Jennifer Lott** (MFA Dance '13) is now a company member with Gibney Dance Company in New York City, and is the Co-Artistic Director of the Traverse City, MI Dance Project 2014.

The Rema Hort Mann Foundation announced its grant recipients at the Art Los Angeles Contemporary 2014 opening night at Barker Hanger. Alumni **Alison O'Daniel** (MFA Studio Art '10) and **Nick Aguayo** (MFA Art '12) were among the eight recipients who received the "unrestricted grants, by nomination only, to promising artists who demonstrate an ability and commitment to making substantial contributions to the arts."

**McCree O'Kelley** (MFA Dance '13) is completing his first year as Assistant Professor of Dance at Converse College in South Carolina.



Congratulations to **Mo About Zelof** (BA Drama '10), who recently landed the role of Ian in the film *Grandma* starring Lily Tomlin. *Grandma* is written and will be directed

by Paul Weitz, whose past films include *About a Boy* and *American Pie*. As a CTSA student Mo was part of the New York Satellite program, and enjoyed success in musical theatre as well as straight acting.

**Kumiyo Kai** (MFA Dance '12) is now an Assistant Professor at Nagoya Women's University in Japan. Kumiyo was a Fulbright scholar during her graduate work at CTSA.



*New Delta Review* announced alumnus **Noritaka Minami** (MFA Studio Art '11) as the winner of its inaugural Ryan R. Gibbs Photography Prize. Nori currently works as a Teaching Assistant in Photography at the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University.



**Grace Gealey** (MFA Acting '10) was recently cast in the new hip-hop family drama *Empire*, also featuring Gabourey Sidibe and Trai Byers. The program will air on the Fox Network and is executive produced by Brian Glazer and Lee Daniels.

Alumna **Deanna Erdmann** (BA Studio Art '02) was named a California Community Foundation (CCF) Fellow for 2013 as an Emerging Artist. She was recently in the show *Reverb*, a group exhibition at the Torrance Art Museum, and is featured in *Transmission*, a traveling group video exhibition and artist talk Curated by Catlin Moore and Matthew Gardocki.

**Rodger Blum** (MFA Dance '93) has been awarded Smith College's 2014 Kathleen Compton Sherrerd '54 and John J. F. Sherrerd Prize for Distinguished Teaching. Rodger joined the Smith faculty in 1993 and is now Professor and Chair of Dance.



**Kyra Zagorsky** (MFA Acting '06) currently stars in the new Syfy Channel drama *Helix*, which has proven to be a ratings success for the network.

The Art Matters Foundation has awarded 35 grants (ranging from \$3,000 - \$10,000 each) to artists who are working on socially engaged projects with a local, national and/or global focus. Of the 35 grant recipients, five are UCI alumni: **David Burns** (MFA Studio Art '05), **Glenn Kaino** (BA Studio Art '93), **Andy Fedak** (MFA Studio Art '08), **Viet Le** (MFA Studio Art '01), and **James Luna** (BA Studio Art '77). **Victoria Fu**, whose work was recently on exhibit in the University Art Gallery, also received a grant.



# CLAIRE TREVOR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

**Michael Moshe Dahan's** (MFA Art '14) film *Two Points of Failure* (2013) was officially selected to have its International Premiere in competition at the Rotterdam International Film Festival (RIFF), and was featured on artforum.com. The film was previously screened at the MAK Center for Art and Architecture in Los Angeles as part of "Specters of Godard," where the artist spoke alongside Kerry Tribe and Constanze Ruhm in a panel discussion moderated by **Professor of Art Juli Carson**.

**Vincent Hardy** (MFA Dance '13) is Director of Dance Productions at Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi.



Last November alumna **Alison O'Daniel** (MFA Studio Art '10) was featured on KCET's *Artbound* in the piece *Alison O'Daniel: A New Sensibility of Blended Senses* by Shana Nys Dambrot. In December, *Artbound* featured **Paul Pescador** (MFA Art '12) in a piece by Nikki Darling called *Paul Pescador and the Dark Side of Intimacy*.

## SUBMIT ACHIEVEMENTS

We welcome alumni news including performances, exhibits, promotions, awards, volunteer work and other news. Alumni Achievements are printed on a space-available basis. For publication purposes, photos must be high resolution (300 dpi is ideal). In general, a larger file is better than a smaller file.

How to submit information and photos:  
Email: [artsinfo@uci.edu](mailto:artsinfo@uci.edu)

US Mail: Alumni Achievements, Claire Trevor School of the Arts, 200 Mesa Arts Building,  
Irvine, CA 92697

# CLAIRE TREVOR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

## UPCOMING EVENT

## RECENTLY CLOSED



Tickets are now on sale for the third season of **New Swan Shakespeare Festival (NSSF)**, a professional theatre festival that innovatively presents the works of William Shakespeare under the stars on the UC Irvine campus. With the construction of this 129 seat outdoor mini-Elizabethan theatre in 2012, **Professor of Drama and the festival's Artistic Director Eli Simon** and **Technical Director/ Production Manager Keith Bangs** realized a vision that had been a dream of UCI's Department of Drama since its inception. This year NSSF presents an action-based interpretation of *Romeo and Juliet* as directed by Calvin MacLean, Artistic Director and Head of Directing at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In addition, Professor Simon will direct the comedy *Twelfth Night*, as set in the early days of Hollywood talkies. Each production is developed by current graduate and undergraduate students in CTSA's Department of Drama, as well as professional actors and crew. Performances begin at 8:00 p.m., and run from July 10 – August 28. Come join us for Shakespeare under the stars! For tickets and more information, visit: <http://www.newswanshakespeare.com/>

As its final offering in a season that has focused on Justice/Explorations of Citizenship, CTSA's Department of Drama presented *Nickel Mines*, an original work by **Creator/Director/Choreographer** and **faculty member Andrew Palermo**. A non-traditional musical combining spoken dialogue with interpretive movement and a powerful original score by composer Dan Dyer, *Nickel Mines* tells the story of a school shooting in the show's namesake Amish town, and investigates the ramifications of that event and the various responses it evoked.



On June 6 the UCI Symphony Orchestra, conducted by **Professor of Music Stephen Tucker**, performed a medley of classic works including Claude Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* and Nicolay Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*. Guest artist Marion Kuszyk, Associate Principal Oboe for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, joined the Orchestra for Jean Francaix's *L'Horloge de Flore (Flower Clock)*. The performance was held at the Irvine Barclay Theatre.

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