

Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts Newsletter Newsletter

MFA Students and Alumni Participate in Hollywood “PitchFest”

Current M.F.A. students and alumni participated in a “pitchfest” held at Raleigh Studios in Hollywood, CA earlier this week. This event allowed participants to “pitch” their ideas to producers and executives from various studios. According to V. Lazaro Zamora, a recent graduate and event organizer, “The event was a smashing success, and many of our attendees were given the opportunity to continue developing their work with the pros.” Zamora is hoping to hold an annual “PitchFest” based on the overwhelming reception and success of this event.

Zamora is grateful to the students, alumni, and faculty for their participation and hard work. He is excited that the event provided an invaluable opportunity to, “. . . showcase the great talent of the Creative

Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts Program.”

Zamora also expressed his true appreciation to Professor Kreiger for seeing this event through from its infancy to its full develop-



Recent graduates David Lopez and Eva Konstantopoulos prepare.

ment. Professor Kreiger’s dedication is what Zamora credits as, “. . . a cornerstone to the development of our students.” He also would like to acknowledge Professors, Barr, Evered, Hinds, and Russin for their tremendous contributions as well.

If you would like more information or would like

to participate in future pitchfests, contact V. Lazaro Zamora by e-mail at aikidevil@gmail.com.



Faculty observe and offer advice to students as they prepare.

Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts

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Adrienne’s Corner:

*Face the sublime
the with courage
and grace.*

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Playworks

In May, the Theatre Department featured the work of 12 MFA students in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts as part of Playworks, the festival of original student work. Among the students were: Bonnie Bolling, Bret Callahan, Melissa Harkness, Abbe Loomer, Michael Carnick, Ching-In Chen, Evangeline Ganaden, Sara Green, Eva

Konstantopoulos, Aviva Kasowski, SR Mishler and Joe Powers. The writers worked with a team of directors and actors from the Theatre Department as well as a number of faculty members and professional directors to create readings and performances of their original works. Playworks is being adjudicated by the Kennedy Center American Col-

lege Theatre Festival and each of the writers, as well as the university community, are invited to submit work for consideration towards the upcoming theatre festival of KCACTF in LA in February of 2011. For more information, contact Prof. Erith Jaffe-Berg, the coordinator of Playworks (erithj@ucr.edu).

MFA Students and Alumni Featured in Connotationpress.com

Several of our current M.F.A. students and alumni were featured in the June issue of the online magazine ConnotationPress.com. Please enjoy their exploration of the different aspects of *noir* by clicking the links to their essays and short stories.

[“So Appealing, So Dangerous, So Lovely to Look”](#) — Jessi Sundell Cramer

[“Novel to Film, A Comparison of Double Indemnity and the Maltese Falcon”](#) — Sara Green”

[“Nowhere Darker Than Space”](#) —Leonid Leonov

[“The Dreamers: A Modern Day Noir”](#)

— David Lopez

[“Framing and Framed in Les Diaboliques and Laura”](#)

[“Wall Street Winner”](#)

— Alison Minami



[“We All Go A Little Mad Sometimes”](#)

[“THE JUICE”](#)

— SR Mishler

[“Femme/s, Film/s, Noir/e: Revisions”](#) — Val Stulman

[“Term Life”](#) — Chris Perry

[Mirror as a Fragmentation of Self](#)

[“Shall We Gather at the River”](#)

— Vicki Barras Tulacro

[“Invisible Noir: Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man as Noir”](#)

— Eric Montgomery

[“Dane Noir”](#)

[“Some Dark, Crawling Thing”](#)

— Adam Pelavin

[“The Voyage of Femme Fatale to India”](#)

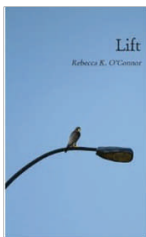
— Bala Rajasekharuni

[“A Darker Shade of Blues: Cowboy Bebop and the Fatalism of Film Noir”](#)

[“Rural Tendencies”](#)

— Eric Shonkwiler

Student and Alumni Achievements



Rebecca O’Connor’s book [Lift](#) (Red Hen Press) was released in November 2009 and has recently been reviewed in the online version of the [Rain Taxi. Review of Books](#). It was also awarded best book other than a guidebook by [The Outdoor Writers Association of California](#).

Victoria Tulacro read at the Ghost Town Reading/Burrito Fest held at Tio’s Tacos earlier this month

Eva Konstantopoulos published “Atlantic City” in *322 Review*, and “Fig” in January of this year.

Alison Minami was awarded a CHASS Humanities Research Grant to travel to Japan and will be a Gluck Fellow this summer for the Theater Department.

Angela Thomson-Brenchley has had three poems accepted for publication in the literary journal *Badlands*: “After Ex-

pansion, Collapse”, “At Last”, and “Upon Waking”.

Joe Powers performed at the first annual Bear Arts Foundation’s ColorFest at San Diego State University this June. The ColorFest is a festival of one-act plays written, rehearsed, and performed in 24 hours.

This summer’s [Barnyard Theatre Mainstage](#) production will be an evening featuring three short plays written by UCR MFA playwrights.

“Unusual Epitaphs”

— Rob Rinow

“Fly Me To The Moon”

— Eva Konstantopoulos

“Things That Fall From The Sky”

—Brenda Varda

The show runs July 16 through July 31 in Davis, CA.

Kate Durbin’s latest book [The Ravenous Audience](#) was reviewed this month in online magazine [ConnotationPress.com](#).

Bonnie Bolling received a scholarship and will attend the [Prague Summer Writing Program](#) and also Breadloaf. Her work is forthcoming in [The Southern Review](#). She invites you to submit your writing/art to *Verdad*, a literary and fine art magazine. verdadmaga.zine.org.

Several of our MFA students and alumni read at the Writing the Desert Literary Reading this month which was held at the UCR Culver Center of the Arts. Although the center was not “officially” open, they were gracious enough to provide a space in which all could freely express themselves and share their passion with an eagerly awaiting audience. Eric Shonkwiler, Jie Tian, Kaitlin Manry, Scott (McNaul) Hernandez, Evangeline Ganaden, Nichelle Davis, Ching-In Chen, and Jackie Bang all read selections of from their works.



Faculty Achievements



Professor Charles Evered has been tenured to associate professor. Charles Evered recently directed his first feature film, "Adopt a Sailor," which garnered several awards, was screened at more than 20 national and international film festivals, starred Emmy winners Bebe Neuwirth and Peter Coyote and was distributed by Echo Bridge Entertainment. In addition, his short film "Visiting" premiered at the Palm Springs International Film Festival. His new play "Class" recently premiered at Cape May Stage starring Independent Spirit Award winner Heather Matarazzo. Currently, he is writing a new play and screenplay.



Professor Erith Jaffe-Berg has been tenured to Associate Professor. Erith Jaffe-Berg is a theatre scholar who researches language and performance, commedia dell'arte, and the staging of the Middle East. Among her recent publications are: *The Multilingual Art of Commedia dell'Arte* (Legas, 2009), "Deterritorializing Voices: Staging the Middle East in American Theatre" in *Performance, Exile and 'America'* (Palgrave Macmillan 2009), and several articles and translations from Italian and Hebrew. At UCR she convened an international conference on the subject of "staging the Middle East in theatre and through performance" (UCR, April 2009), and currently Co-Chairs the Minor in Peace and Conflict Studies. She is working on cartographical presentations of the Mediterranean in Commedia dell'Arte and has a forthcoming article on the subject in *Scripta Mediterranea* in addition to upcoming presentations at the Renaissance Society of America.



Professor Stu Krieger has been tenured to Professor. Stu Krieger is a screen and television writer with more than thirty produced credits. He wrote the animated feature film "The Land Before Time" for producers Steven Spielberg and George Lucas and the Emmy-winning miniseries "A Year in the Life." He also wrote or co-wrote a dozen Disney Channel Original movies including the Humanitas-nominated "Going to the Mat." Last year he was the head writer and story editor of the animated series "Toot & Puddle" which is now running on the Nick Jr. He is currently at work on his first novel.

