

Fall 2015 News and Events

FALL DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

DAYBREAK

By Joyce Van Dyke
 Directed by Barbara Wallace Grossman
 Choreography by Daniel McCusker
 October 29-30, November 5-7, 2015 at 8:00 pm
 October 31, 2015 at 2:00 pm
 Balch Arena Theater
Tickets available at the Box Office (617) 627-3493

A haunting depiction of trauma and its aftermath, Joyce Van Dyke's *Daybreak* is based on the true story of two survivors of the Armenian Genocide: one of them, the playwright's maternal grandmother; the other, a woman with strong ties to Massachusetts and to Tufts. As shards of the past intersect with scenes in the present and prescient glimpses of the future, the play offers the possibility of reconciliation and healing. Without minimizing the pain and suffering of those who endured the horrors of 1915 and beyond, *Daybreak's* focus is on courage, resilience, transformation, and hope.

DEFYING GRAVITY

Presented by 3Ps
 By Jane Anderson, Directed by Emma Wold
 November 19-21 at 8:00pm – Balch Arena Theater
\$8 Tickets available at the Box Office (617) 627-3493

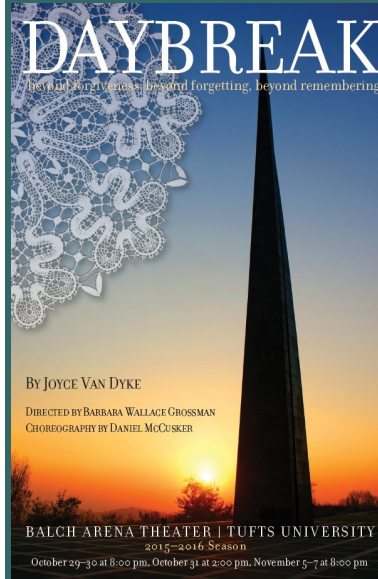
Defying Gravity is an impressionist's look at the Challenger explosion of 1986. Claude Monet acts as a magician, painting participants and bystanders into a world where the way one perceives dictates the way one represents. At times playful and at times intense, the piece challenges the notions of tragedy and limit as absolute forces, daring actors and audiences alike to think beyond themselves and to look up.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Presented by Torn Ticket II
 Book and Lyrics by Howard Ashman, Music by Alan Menken
 Based on the film by Roger Corman,
 Screenplay by Charles Griffith
 Directed by Peter Secrest, Music Direction by Simone Allen
 November 5-6 at 8:00 pm
 Cohen Auditorium
FREE tickets available in the Box Office (617) 627-3493

A dark comedy set in a failing flower shop named after its proprietor, Mushnik. The wilting business employs Audrey, a young, sincere, woman with low self-esteem, and Seymour, a clumsy, awkward romantic. Business turns around one day when Seymour finds an unidentifiable plant that is somewhere between a Venus flytrap and an avocado. The plant named Audrey II makes business bloom, but soon begins to wither. In vain, Seymour nurtures it, until he accidentally discovers the plant's thirst for blood. Seymour nourishes the plant off his own blood and eventually the blood of the citizens of Skid Row. Torn Ticket II innovates this popular musical with shadow puppetry, drag performance and more!

Tufts Department of Drama and Dance
BOX OFFICE (617) 627-3493



Daybreak's director, Professor Barbara Wallace Grossman, will host post-show discussions about the play and the issues it raises with distinguished scholars, historians, physicians, artists, and humanists.

Guest speakers include playwright Joyce Van Dyke (10/29); Marc A. Mamigonian and Adam Strom, (10/30); Dr. H. Martin Deranian, Katchig Mouradian, and Joyce Van Dyke (10/31); Asya Darbinyan and Dr. John Sargent (11/5); Bridget Conley-Zilkic and Dr. Paul Summergrad (11/6); Aram Arkun and Lerna Ekmekcioglu (11/7)

For more information, please visit the Performance page on Tufts' Department of Drama and Dance's website: <http://dramadance.tufts.edu/performances/drama.htm>

FALL DANCE EVENTS

Parents Weekend Showcase

October 17 at 3:10pm & 6:00pm
 Cohen Auditorium
Open to the Public, FREE

Fall Dance Concert

November 20-21 at 7:00pm
 Jackson Dance Lab
 Original dances by members of the Studies in Dance Composition Workshop, under the direction of Daniel McCusker.
\$5 Tickets available the Box Office (617) 627-3493

Dance Class Mashup

December 3 at 7:00 pm
 Jackson Dance Lab
Current Students Only!

And don't miss **Dances at Noon!!!**

October 21 at 12:00 pm
 Jackson Dance Lab
 Featuring Brian Crabtree, Michael Figueroa, and Audra Carabetta
Open to the Public, FREE



FACULTY NEWS

Congratulations to our new dance lecturer, **Cristina Rosa**, on her book, *Brazilian Bodies and their Choreographies of Identification*. In it she discusses the geo-political significance of non-verbal discourses within colonial and post-colonial contexts in Brazil.

In the Spring of 2015, the Department collaborated with Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies to hire **Kareem Khubchandani** as a Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor. He will join the faculty in the Fall of 2016. His book project, *Ishtyle: Labor, Intimacy, and Dance in Gay South Asian Nightlife*, complements his other writings on transgender theatre, Bollywood film, performance as research, and drag.

Daniel McCusker is the Project Manager/Rehearsal Director for the Cunningham Project which will culminate in performances by students from the Boston Conservatory at the ICA in October, November, December and January. Performances will take place in the exhibition gallery, in the context of an exhibit devoted to Black Mountain College, curated by Helen Molesworth.

Noe Montez was elected to the American Society for Theatre Research's Executive Committee and as Conference Planner for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education's Latina/o Focus Group.

Laurence Senelick was visiting fellow at the Center for Advanced Study at the Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, this past summer; he attended the ATHE conference in Montreal, and published the second, enlarged and revised edition of *The Historical Dictionary of Russian Theatre*.

Sheriden Thomas will be playing Ethel Banks, Corie's mother in Moonbox's production of Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park*. The show plays at the Boston Center for the Arts, from November 20 - December 12.

New Undergraduate Course for Spring 2016!

Black Theatre Workshop: The August Wilson Experience on MW 10:30am to 11:45am

Using legendary playwright August Wilson's ten-play cycle of African Americans' experiences throughout American history as our inspiration, this course provides hands-on, experiential learning of acting, script analysis, and theatrical production. With no previous performance, design or production experience required, students will read Wilson's plays and related commentary with opportunities to perform selected scenes from the Wilson cycle while exploring possibilities for design and technical elements. The course will be taught by Associate Professor **Monica White Ndounou** who teaches courses in theatre, film, and cultural studies and recently published *Shaping the Future of African American Film: Color-coded Economics and the Story Behind the Numbers* (Rutgers University Press)



AN INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF 3Ps

3Ps, Tufts' student-run theater group, would love to have you join us! As a community built on peers teaching and learning from each other, we welcome anyone with an interest in theater, be it acting, directing, writing, painting, working with lights and sound, building, and oh so much more - no matter your skill level or experience! Please join us on Mondays at noon in Balch Arena Theater to learn more about how to get involved! - Thanks, Artoun Festekjian
<http://www.tufts3ps.com/>



CAST OF RICHARD III IN SOUTH AFRICA

This past July, the nine-member student cast of Shakespeare's *Richard III*, the Department of Drama and Dance's spring 2015 production, traveled to Grahamstown, South Africa to perform in and experience its annual arts festival. Grahamstown's National Arts Festival is an eleven-day celebration of both indigenous and imported talents, including traditional theatre and spoken word performances, dance, music, and visual arts exhibits.

Read more about this exciting theatrical and academic trip in Alexandra Erath's article on Tufts' A&S Online Newsletter:
<http://as.tufts.edu/news/2015RichardIII.htm>

TUFTS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA AND DANCE

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