

## ABOUT THE STUDENT BOARD

The Student Board includes 26 high school members from 16 different schools in San Diego County and three schools outside of San Diego.

Three members of the Student Board live outside of San Diego and make up our “national” board presence. The “national” board currently extends to Boston, Las Vegas, and Idyllwild.

This year’s Co-Presidents of the Board are Arielle Pardes from the School of Creative and Performing Arts and Carmen Quiñones from La Jolla High School.

The Student Board has met with Playhouse staff members including Director of Play Development **Shirley Fishman**, Assistant Production Manager **Sarah Danford**, and Associate General Manager **Jenny Case**. Most recently, the Board met with Artistic Director **Christopher Ashley** and Managing Director **Michael Rosenberg**.

To learn more about the Student Board, visit [lajollaplayhouse.org](http://lajollaplayhouse.org) and search under the Education and Outreach section.

## Up & Coming at the Playhouse

Every year, La Jolla Playhouse is faced with the difficult task of picking a new season of shows that will continue to excite their audiences. The Playhouse strives to provide an eclectic season of new works as well as innovative re-workings. This year, Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and his team have selected a diverse season with something onstage for everyone.

The 2010-2011 season brings two world premiere shows to San Diego. The first, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, written by Robert L. Freedman and Steven Lutvak, is a musical quest to dukedom which includes love, murder, comedy and more. The second, *Surf Report*, written by San Diego local Annie Weisman, reunites a failing family to reveal the shadows of the past and uncover the future which could ruin

this family. This show asks what sacrifices are worth making or avoiding for family. You’d be sorry to miss out on either of these new shows.

Christopher Ashley's long awaited vision of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will also come to life during this season. The innovative reworking of the classic show will be set in Edwardian England and underscored by composer Felix Mendelssohn, creating a unique production that will turn your world upside down—literally.

The fourth show, *Notes from Underground*, was authored over a century ago by author Fyodor Dostoevsky. The Playhouse will incorporate an exciting stage adaptation in order to bring to life the thrilling story of one man's vengeance. Exciting, funny, and honest, this production promises

to be an unforgettable experience.

The last show of the season is no less thrilling than the rest. *Ruined*, by Lynn Nottage is a Pulitzer Prize winning drama set in brothels during the Civil War in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Beautiful women give any soldier a break from the blood but what lies behind the make-up of the women is another story. This beautiful drama shows the courage, the humor and the hope needed to survive.

I invite you all to come join the Student Board to witness another exciting season at the La Jolla Playhouse. Please stay alert for our discounted “student” tickets and come enjoy live theater!

- Jacob Sampson, Senior from the School of Creative & Performing

## Board of Trustees Visits Student Board

There are many fundamental elements of theatre that go on behind the curtain. Within La Jolla Playhouse, the Board of Trustees is one of these unseen yet vital pieces. The Student Board was lucky enough to meet with Mr. Dolgen, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, at their February meeting. The Board of Trustees has the imperative job of hiring employees (Michael Rosenberg and Christopher Ashley to name a few), raising and maintaining funds (mostly through philanthropy), and housing the actors for the shows. They work within a series of committees including housing,

investment, fundraising, financing, and nominating. As the Chairman, Mr. Dolgen basically leads all of the committees; however, he is only allowed one vote.

Mr. Dolgen's background includes an interesting and unusual mix of business and theatre. He has an extensive background in politics and business, yet he has always had a passion for the theatre. He founded a charter school for arts, both his children are active in the theatre, and he is deeply involved in many arts organizations around San Diego. Mr. Dolgen and the Board support and help make the Playhouse's mission to be constantly

cutting edge with new, exciting, and risky material possible! Mr. Dolgen believes good theatre aims to provoke questions and stimulates a community to come together and take notice. At our interview, he said, “Theatre and free expression is critical to a democracy.” The Student Board was fascinated by their meeting with Mr. Dolgen and looks forward to continued cooperation between the Student Board and the Board of Trustees.

- Lila Gavares, Sophomore from the Coronado School of the Arts

# Post-Performance Parties at the Playhouse

The only thing better than seeing a great show is getting to meet the performers. The Student Board was able to do just that last November at a Student Board hosted get-together with the cast of *Bonnie & Clyde*. Each cast member gushed about how happy they were to meet with us and said that we were the kind of energetic audience they wanted to perform to every night—which means high schoolers should fill the

audience of Playhouse shows each night. In addition to the Board members, there were many other high school students who had taken advantage of the reduced prices of the tickets for *Bonnie & Clyde*.

Recently, the Board offered the next-to-nothing ticket prices for *Aurelia's Oratorio* on February 20. You can look forward to more discounted tickets for the upcoming plays, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love*

and *Murder and Surf Report*. The Board plans on hosting more post play parties for these shows with opportunities to meet with the cast. Contact the board to find out how to get tickets, or check out our Facebook group by searching for "La Jolla Playhouse Student Board" and clicking "Join."

- Brent Roach, Junior from Carlsbad High School



**The purpose of the Board is to introduce a young audience to the innovative spirit of La Jolla Playhouse and the imaginative and surprising work it produces.**

It's the "Seventies Generation" and a "groovy celebration" over at the Valencia Park Center, an arts magnet elementary, where a group of 78 students ranging from kindergarten to grade five with drama teachers Teri Ang and Patrick Garcia, are reliving the disco era in their upcoming musical *Friday Night Fever*.

With music and lyrics by Bill Francoeur, *Friday Night Fever* is a musical tribute to disco and begins as the local hangout for the students of Culpepper High, Rita's Roller Skating Rink, is closing for temporary remodeling. However, as the multi-dimensional plot unfolds, the audience learns of the dilemma back at Culpepper High and the mass chaos that erupts when the principal Mrs. Flint begins to meddle in activity at the roller rink.

Performances like this highlight

the Student Board's commitment to community outreach and interacting with various theatre programs in the area. As a board member, I had the opportunity to fulfill the Board's objective as I worked with Valencia Park's aspiring actors and actresses last week. We worked on memorizing lines, building sets, and teaching the stage managers how to figure out light cues. I did not think it was a big deal, I was just spending some time helping inner-city students discover a passion that I had. However, after talking with these kids and listening to my new friend China tell me how she hoped to be "just like me when she got older," I realized just how far a six hour volunteer commitment went. Even the teachers were appreciative, stating that they were under impressed with the lack of community support. "I just wish that the com-

## Shannon Says...

munity would become more involved with these kids' performances because the shows they put are truly remarkable," Ang said.

Valencia Park Center's play will be performed on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at their school on Skyline Road and I strongly encourage this community to go. These kids have been working really hard and I know you will have an experience as enlightening as mine was. "Can you dig it?"

- Shannon Murray, Senior at Poway High School

### Meet the Student



Student Board members with Nilaja Sun after seeing *No Child... last*

#### Members

- Erica Dawson *La Jolla Country Day*
- Lila Gavares *Coronado School of the Arts*
- Matt Friedman *La Jolla Country Day*
- Nora King *Canyon Crest Academy*
- Carissa Lowe *La Costa Canyon High School*
- Kimberly Marron *Scripps Ranch High School*
- Shannon Murray *Poway High School*
- Daniel Myers *High Tech High*
- Juan-Carlos Ortega *Coronado School of the Arts*
- Arielle Pardes *SCPA*
- Olivia Peck *Santa Fe Christian School*
- Sara Phelps *La Jolla High School*
- Carmen Quiñones *La Jolla High School*
- Brent Roach *Carlsbad High School*
- Jacob Sampson *SCPA*
- Rachel Sather *Eastlake High School*
- Kenneth Sexauer *Clairemont High School*
- Marie Shelton *University City High School*
- Michael Silberblatt *Coronado School of the Arts*

#### Associate Members

- Morgan Hollingsworth *Grossmont Middle College*
- Renee Keven *Patrick Henry High School*
- Tori Maches *Patrick Henry High School*

#### National Members

- Rebecca Carrol *Las Vegas Academy of International Studies*
- Devon Gilpatrick *Idyllwild Arts Academy Boarding School*
- Joshua Marcus-Blank *Sharon High School*

#### Staff Advisers

- Stephen McCormick *Director of Education and Outreach*
- Jennifer Stoessner *Education Programs Associate*
- Belinda Brown *University City High School Teacher*