

THE USC SCHOOL OF THEATRE  
presents

# IS HE? DEAD★

*By Mark Twain Adapted by David Ives*  
*Directed by Michael Keenan*



*October 21-24, 2010 · McClintock Theatre*

# FALL 2010 SCHEDULE

## **RABBIT HOLE**

By David Lindsay-Abaire  
Directed by Robert Bailey  
Sept. 30 – Oct. 3 / Scene Dock Theatre

## **DRACULA**

By Mac Wellman  
Directed by Paul Backer  
Sept. 30 – Oct. 3 / McClintock Theatre

## **VENUS**

By Suzan-Lori Parks  
Directed by Anita Dashiell-Sparks  
Oct. 7 – 10 / Bing Theatre

## **BE AGGRESSIVE**

By Annie Weisman  
Directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera  
Oct. 14 – 17 / Scene Dock Theatre

## **IS HE DEAD?**

By Mark Twain  
Adapted by David Ives  
Directed by Michael Keenan  
Oct. 21 – 24 / McClintock Theatre

## **THE COLORED MUSEUM**

By George C. Wolfe  
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel  
Oct. 28 – 31 / Scene Dock Theatre

## **TOO CLEVER BY HALF**

By Alexander Ostrovsky  
Directed by Brian Parsons  
Nov. 4 – 7 / Bing Theatre

## **CABARET**

Music by John Kander  
Lyrics by Fred Ebb  
Book by Joe Masteroff  
Directed by L. Zane  
Nov. 18 – 21 / Scene Dock Theatre

Fall Dance Concert:  
**AROUND THE WORLD  
IN 80 MINUTES\***  
Directed by Rafael Garcia  
Dec. 2 & 3 / Bing Theatre



## **Ticket Information**

### **SHOWTIMES**

(except where noted otherwise)  
Thursday & Friday at 7pm • Saturday at 2:30 & 8pm • Sunday at 2:30pm  
\*Thursday & Friday at 7pm

### **TICKET PRICES**

General Admission \$10 • Seniors or USC Faculty/Staff with ID \$8 • USC Students with ID \$5



For tickets and information: [www.usc.edu/spectrum](http://www.usc.edu/spectrum) • [arts@usc.edu](mailto:arts@usc.edu) • 213-740-2167

**THE USC SCHOOL OF THEATRE**

presents

# IS HE DEAD?

By Mark Twain

Adapted by David Ives

with

Trevor Adams • Ariel Barber • Andy Bean

Joe DeSoto • Tommy Fleming • Annie Jankowski

Chelsea Maidhof • John Redlinger • Andrew Scott

Skylar Stewart • Sarah Thermond

SCENIC DESIGN

Esther Lee

COSTUME DESIGN

Howard Schmitt

LIGHTING DESIGN

Will Sammons

SOUND DESIGN

Sean Foote

STAGE MANAGER

Rebecca Suzuki

DIRECTED BY

Michael Keenan

**October 21 – 24, 2010**

**McClintock Theatre**

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

**The USC School of Theatre dedicates this production to the late  
Suzanne Grossmann Scales (1937 – 2010), wife of former Dean Robert Scales.**

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

(In Order of Appearance)

Agamemnon “Chicago” Buckner .....	Skylar Stewart
Hans “Dutchy” Von Bismarck.....	Tommy Fleming
Papa Leroux .....	Andrew Scott
Marie Leroux.....	Chelsea Maidhof
Cecile Leroux.....	Ariel Barber
Jean-François Millet .....	John Redlinger
Bastien André .....	Andy Bean
Madame Bathilde / Emperor of Russia.....	Sarah Thermond
Madame Caron / The Sultan of Turkey.....	Annie Jankowski
Phelim O’Shaughnessy .....	Trevor Adams
Basil Thorpe / Claude Rivière / Charlie / The King of France.....	Joe DeSoto

### **ACT I**

The studio of Jean-François Millet in Barbizon, near Paris.

Scene 1: An afternoon in spring, 1846.

Scene 2: The next afternoon.

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

### **ACT II**

The Widow’s drawing-room in Paris.

An afternoon, three months later.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Dialect/Vocal Coach .....	Anne Burk
Fight Choreography .....	Edgar Landa
Movement Coach.....	Lili Fuller
Scenic Artist.....	Vika Teplinskaya
Specialty Paintings .....	Alice Li Madison Orgill
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Serena Anis
Assistant Scenic Design .....	Berfin Ataman
Assistant Costume Design.....	Jordan Schames
Assistant Sound Design.....	Victoria Hoyt-Heydon
Assistant Properties Coordinator.....	Kelly Ridder
Crew .....	Kat Belinfante Samantha Chaffin Elisabeth Farmer Elizabeth Folie Zachary Kaufer Kaitlin Kelly Kelly Paul Danielle Price Christina Rodriguez Elise Tullius

## **DIRECTOR'S BIO**

Michael Keenan directed his first play at USC in 1986 and has been averaging one a year since then. He made his directing debut at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego and has worked in regional theatre across the United States. As an actor, he has appeared in dozens of television shows with recurring roles in *Dallas*, *Star Trek* and *Picket Fences*. Extensive stage credits include Center Theatre Group, South Coast Repertory, Seattle Repertory, San Diego Shakespeare Festival, and Sir Peter Hall's revival of *Amadeus* with David Suchet and Michael Sheen. He has been an adjunct professor of acting and directing at USC since 1997.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

*The London Times* reported in 1898 that *Is He Dead?*, the high-spirited romp of a play that Mark Twain composed while living in Vienna, would be produced simultaneously in London and New York. But a combination of bad timing, bad luck, and, perhaps, the irreverence of placing one of France's greatest painters at the center of a zany, cross-dressing farce conspired to foil Twain's plans. The play was never produced...

Twain believed in his play – but, discouraged by his failure to get it produced in London or New York, he filed it away with his papers and for the most part forgot about it. Nearly a hundred years after Twain's death, *Is He Dead?* came to life gloriously on Broadway – leading the world to conclude that reports of its death had been, indeed, greatly exaggerated.

– Shelley Fisher Fishkin  
Stanford University

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Shaul Havivy – The Art-Wave Int'l Inc., The Art Warehouse.

## **DEAN**

Madeline Puzo

## **ASSOCIATE DEANS**

Professor Sharon Marie Carnicke

Professor Velina Hasu Houston (Director Of Dramatic Writing)

Associate Professor Of Theatre Practice Jack Rowe (Artistic Director)

## **ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**

Margo Apostolos (Director Of Dance)

Meiling Cheng (Director Of Critical Studies)

Don Llewellyn (Director Of Scenic Design)

Oliver Mayer

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Angus Fletcher

Christina Haatainen-Jones (Director Of Design)

Tom Ontiveros

Sibyl Wickersheimer

## **PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE**

Andrei Belgrader

Charlotte Cornwell

Natsuko Ohama

Brian Parsons (Director Of Undergraduate Acting)

Andrew J. Robinson (Director Of MFA in Acting)

## **ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE**

Paul Backer (Director Of Undergraduate Voice and Movement)

Brent Blair (Director Of MA in Applied Theatre Arts)

David Bridel (Associate Director Of MFA in Acting)

Joseph Hacker

Duncan Mahoney

Stephanie Shroyer

Eric Trules

L. Zane

## **ASSISTANT PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE**

Elsbeth M. Collins

Anita Dashiell-Sparks

Mary-Joan Negro

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Courtesy Joint Appointments: Thomas G. Cummings, Larry E. Greiner (Emeritus), Bruce Smith

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\* on leave of absence

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We hope that you will consider becoming a member as well. For more information about giving to the School of Theatre, please contact Chris Cook at 213.821.4047 or [cc.cook@usc.edu](mailto:cc.cook@usc.edu).

## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Director Of Production: Elsbeth M. Collins  
Technical Director: Duncan Mahoney  
Assistant Technical Directors: Michael Etzrodt, Michael Wiskow  
Theatre Manager: CB Borger  
Assistant Theatre Managers: Fionnegan Justus Murphy, Christopher Paci  
Costume Shop Manager: Howard Schmitt  
Costume Technicians: Susan Hubler, Charlotte Stratton  
Properties Supervisor: Shannon Dedman

## **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

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Information Technology Manager: Prakash Shirke  
Internship & Visiting Artist Coordinator: Meghan Laughlin

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Director of Academic & Student Services: Sergio Ramirez  
Academic Advisors: Enrica Hodder, Leon Strayer  
Admissions Counselor: Phyllis Lemons  
Scheduler: Helga Matthews  
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Administrative Coordinator: Nathan Morrison

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