



# 12 O P H E L I A S

WRITTEN BY CARIDAD SVICH

DIRECTED BY PAUL BACKER

OCTOBER 4-7, 2012

McCLINTOCK THEATRE

USC School  
of Dramatic Arts

# FALL 2012 SCHEDULE

## THE COUNTRY CLUB

By Douglas Carter Beane  
Directed by Cameron Watson  
Oct. 4 - 7 / Scene Dock Theatre

## 12 OPHELIAS

By Caridad Svich  
Directed by Paul Backer  
Oct. 4 - 7 / McClintock Theatre

## THE RIMERS OF ELDRITCH

By Lanford Wilson  
Directed by Jack Rowe  
Oct. 11 -14 / Bing Theatre

## CRIMES OF THE HEART

By Beth Henley  
Directed by Robert Bailey  
Oct 25 - 28 / Scene Dock Theatre

## TOP GIRLS

By Caryl Churchill  
Directed by Larissa Kokernot  
Nov. 1 - 4 / McClintock Theatre

## AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY

By Georges Feydeau  
Translated by Nicki Frei and Peter Hall  
Directed by Michael Keenan  
Nov. 1 - 4 / Bing Theatre

## 27 WAGONS FULL OF COTTON AND OTHER SHORT PLAYS

By Tennessee Williams  
Directed by John DeMita  
Nov. 15 - 18 / Scene Dock Theatre

## FLYIN' WEST

By Pearl Cleage  
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel  
Nov. 15 - 18 / McClintock Theatre

## FALL DANCE CONCERT A WONDERLAND OF DANCE

Directed by Angeliki Papadakis  
Dec. 6 & 7 / Bing Theatre



## Ticket Information

### SHOWTIMES (except where noted otherwise)

Thu. & Fri. at 7pm • Sat. at 2:30 & 8pm • Sun. at 2:30pm

\*Please see website below for performance schedule

### TICKET PRICES

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

MUSICALS: General Admission \$15 • Seniors or USC Faculty/Staff with ID \$10 • USC Students with ID \$6

NEW WORKS FESTIVAL YEAR TWO: All tickets \$5

NEW WORKS FESTIVAL YEAR THREE: Admission is free and will be available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis.

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 DRAMATIC ARTS

presents

# 12 O P H E L I A S

BY CARIDAD SVICH

Music and Lyrics by Caridad Svich  
Arrangements by Madeline Myers

with

Alex Diehl • Monet Hendricks • Natalie Johnson

Sarah Kaidanow • Kaitlin Kelly • Whitney Lyons • Jake McNulty III • Maggie Nolting

Jesse Pilchen • Michelle Reese • Molly Sharpe • Caroline Spinola

SCENIC DESIGN  
Victoria Tam

COSTUME DESIGN  
Chloe Oh

LIGHTING DESIGN  
Ryan Liu

SOUND DESIGN  
Kelsi Halverson

STAGE MANAGER  
Alice Pollitt

DIRECTED BY  
Paul Backer

October 4 - 7, 2012  
McClintock Theatre

Produced by special arrangement with NoPassport Press.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Ophelia.....	Kaitlin Kelly
Chorus of Ophelias.....	Monet Hendricks Natalie Johnson Maggie Nolting Michelle Reese Molly Sharpe
R .....	Caroline Spinola
G .....	Jesse Pilchen
Rude Boy.....	Jake McNulty III
Gertrude .....	Whitney Lyons
H .....	Alex Diehl
Mina.....	Sarah Kaidanow

### TIME

Present Day.

### PLACE

Water. Road. Time.

There will be no intermission.

### WARNING

Please be advised that this production contains mature language and themes.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Musical Direction.....	Madeline Myers
Hair & Make-up Design.....	Caitlin Gannon
Voice & Dialect Coach.....	Andrea Odinov Fuller
Movement Coach.....	Anastasia Coon
Fight Choreography.....	Edgar Landa
Scenic Artist.....	Jamie McElrath
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Kelly Merritt
Assistant Scenic Design.....	Dreem Qin
Assistant Costume Design.....	Esther Cheong
Properties Coordinator.....	Hannah Burnham
Crew.....	Eric Blodgett, Cassandra Casino, Lucy Condolora, Alexandra Dasilva, Ian Elmaleh, Kelly Merritt, Coral Palmon, Michael Sturgis
Musicians.....	Alex Fink (banjo & guitar), Peter Lee Johnson (fiddle), Jimmy Villafor (mandolin)

## PLAYWRIGHT'S BIO

Caridad Svich's key works include *Alchemy of Desire/Dead-Man's Blues*, *Iphigenia...a rave fable*, *Guapa*, *The House of the Spirits* (from Isabel Allende's novel). She was awarded the 2012 Obie for Lifetime Achievement and the 2011 American Theatre Critics Association Primus Prize. She is alumna playwright of New Dramatists, founder of NoPassport theatre alliance & press, Drama Editor of Asymptote literary journal, associate editor of Contemporary Theatre Review (Routledge/UK), and contributing editor of TheatreForum. Her works are published by Eyecorner Press, TCG, Smith & Kraus, Playscripts, Manchester University Press and more. She holds an M.F.A. from UCSD. Visit [www.caridadsvich.com](http://www.caridadsvich.com).

## PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

Heartbreak and the fragmented psyche are at the core of *12 Ophelias* (a play with broken songs). Structured in short elliptical scenes, the play charts Ophelia's awakening into a world that is a negative mirror of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Released from the waters of time and the drowning waters of forgetting, Ophelia cuts a new path for herself, as she traverses through shards of memory. In this play, the shadowy and watery world of Ophelia's fractured self gives way to increasingly concrete images of an emerging identity. *12 Ophelias* re-imagines and reconfigures Shakespeare's heroine for a contemporary yet ageless time.

## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Dr. Paul Backer is an Associate Professor of Theatre Practice and Director of Undergraduate Voice and Movement at the USC School of Dramatic Arts. He has worked as an actor, director and in production on stage, television and film, and was the Artistic Director of the Ojai Shakespeare Festival for many years. At USC, he last directed *Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"This is the very ecstasy of love, whose violent property fordoes itself..."  
(Polonius to Ophelia, 2.1, Hamlet)

"...There's a special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come: the readiness is all...Let be."  
(Hamlet to Horatio, 5.2, Hamlet)

## SPECIAL THANKS

Professor Nick Stoubis, Assistant Professor of Practice of Studio/Jazz Guitar and Popular Music (Thornton); Erin Giesenhagen, Division Manager, Popular Music and Industry Studies (Thornton); Kenneth Lopez, Associate Professor of Practice of Music Industry; Darryl Tanikawa; Steve Rankin; Fred Saunders; Cindy Melby Phaneuf, University of Nebraska, Omaha

## **DEAN**

Madeline Puzo

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Associate Professor Of Theatre Practice Jack Rowe (Artistic Director)

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Oliver Mayer

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Tom Ontiveros  
Takeshi Kata  
Sibyl Wickersheimer

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Natsuko Ohama  
Andrew J. Robinson (Director Of M.F.A. in Acting)

## **ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE**

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Brent Blair (Director Of M.A. in Applied Theatre Arts)  
David Bridel (Associate Director Of M.F.A. in Acting & Director Of Global Initiatives)  
Elsbeth M. Collins (Director Of Production)  
Joseph Hacker  
Takeshi Kata  
Duncan Mahoney (Technical Director)  
Mary-Joan Negro (Director Of B.A. Acting Courses)  
Stephanie Shroyer (Associate Artistic Director)  
Eric Trules

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Emeriti Faculty: Eve Roberts, Robert R. Scales, James Wilson

Visiting Professor of Theatre Practice & George Burns Visiting Artist: Gordon Davidson

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## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

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Costume Shop Manager: Howard Schmitt

Costume Technicians: Charlotte Stratton, JoEllen Skinner

Scenic Charge Artist: Vika Teplinskaya

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