

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 • 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 Elizabeth 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.

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Madeline Puzo

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Professor Velina Hasu Houston (Director Of Dramatic Writing)
Associate Professor Of Theatre Practice Jack Rowe (Artistic Director)

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Meiling Cheng (Director Of Critical Studies)
Don Llewellyn (Director Of Scenic Design)
Oliver Mayer

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Christina Haatainen-Jones (Director Of Design)
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Sibyl Wickersheimer

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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

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Elsbeth M. Collins
Anita Dashiell-Sparks
Mary-Joan Negro

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Takeshi Kata, Michael Keenan, Mary K Klinger, Shishir Kurup, Edgar Landa, Rachael Lawrence,
Joey Letteri, Vicki Lewis, Victoria Looseleaf, Helene Lorenz, Kevin McCorkle, Gates McFadden,
Babette Markus, Loral Meade, Randy Mell, Jon Monastero, Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine,
Jacqueline Pavlich, Leah Piehl, Debra Piver, Valerie Rachelle, Jon Lawrence Rivera,
John Rubinstein, Mady Schutzman, Doug Tompos, Matt Walker, Julie Welch, Kenji Yamaguchi

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

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We are grateful to those who have given wisdom, talent, time and financial resources to the benefit of the School's Annual Fund, the Robert Redford Award for Engaged Artists and the School's other scholarship funds. The following members have made pledges of \$1,000 or more over the past year:

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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.

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Assistant Theatre Managers: Fionnegan Justus Murphy, Christopher Paci
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