

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE

BY SARAH RUHL

DIRECTED BY PAUL BACKER

SEPT. 29 - OCT. 2

MCGCLINTOCK THEATRE



USC SCHOOL OF Theatre

FALL 2011 SCHEDULE

Moonchildren

By Michael Weller
Directed by Robert Bailey
Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 / Scene Dock Theatre

Dead Man's Cell Phone

By Sarah Ruhl
Directed by Paul Backer
Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 / McClintock Theatre

Mansfield Park

By Willis Hall
Adapted from the novel by Jane Austen
Directed by Jack Rowe
Oct. 6 - 9 / Bing Theatre

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

By Christopher Hampton
Adapted from the novel by
Choderlos de Laclos
Oct. 20 - 23 / Scene Dock Theatre

Wedding Band

By Alice Childress
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel
Oct. 26 - 30 / McClintock Theatre

The American Clock: A Vaudeville

By Arthur Miller
Directed by Dan Bonnell
Nov. 3 - 6 / Bing Theatre

A Month in the Country

By Ivan Turgenev
Translated by Brian Friel
Directed by Stephanie Shroyer
Nov. 10 - 13 / Scene Dock Theatre

Smash

An Adaption of
George Bernard Shaw's Novel
An Unsocial Socialist
By Jeffrey Hatcher
Directed by Michael Keenan
Nov. 17 - 20 / McClintock Theatre

Fall Dance Concert Dancing Through an Arabian Night

Directed by Angeliki Papadakis
Dec. 1 & 2 / 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 • arts@usc.edu • 213-740-2167

THE USC SCHOOL OF THEATRE
presents

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE

By Sarah Ruhl

with

Sarah Bedo • B.J. Grip • Elise Gologowski
Miles du Mosch • Morgan Pavey • Jamie Slovon

SCENIC DESIGN
Erin Anderson

COSTUME DESIGN
Berfin Ataman

LIGHTING DESIGN
Jeffery Flowers

SOUND DESIGN
Alma Reyes-Thomas

STAGE MANAGER
Rebecca Esquivel

DIRECTED BY
Paul Backer

September 29–October 2, 2011
McClintock Theatre

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(In Order of Appearance)

JeanMorgan Pavey

Gordon.....Miles du Mosch

Other Woman/StrangerSarah Bedo

Mrs. Gottlieb.....Elise Golgowski

DwightB.J. Grip

HermiaJamie Slovon

There will be one ten-minute intermission.

WARNING
Please be advised that this production contains mature language.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Vocal CoachAndrea Odinov Fuller

Movement CoachAnastasia Coon

Fight ChoreographyEdgar Landa

Scenic ArtistScott Gordon

Assistant Stage ManagerAmber Espinosa-Jones

Assistant Scenic DesignEsther Cheong

Assistant Lighting DesignDavid Hernandez

Hair & Make-up Design.....Sarah Bedo

Properties CoordinatorKelly Ridder

CrewSuleyman Firat Bilen
Katie Buenneke
Nick Farmer
Meghan Hemelt
Nikita Lamba
Charlie O’Connor
Anna Pazderski
Ty Sheedlo

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Paul Backer is an Associate Professor of Theatre Practice and Director of Undergraduate Voice and Movement at the USC School of Theatre. 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 Mac Wellman's *Dracula*.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the past few years, Sarah Ruhl has emerged as one of the freshest new voices in American theatre, employing poetic language, non-linear narratives and striking stage imagery. She is the recipient of many awards, including nominations for both Pulitzer and Tony awards for playwrighting. Ruhl draws from influences as diverse as Shakespeare, Ovid, and medieval mystery plays to contemporary writers such as Paula Vogel, Mac Wellman, Milan Kundera and Italo Calvino. Although the subject matter of each of her plays is very diverse, she consistently explores the thin line between life and death, intimacy and alienation, sound and silence. She handles these weighty subjects, however, with lightness and humor. One critic describes her work as a paradoxical combination of "grief and whimsy." *Dead Man's Cell Phone* was inspired by two things: the emergence of the new communication technology and the paintings of the American artist Edward Hopper. In both Hopper's paintings and cell phones, Ruhl sees isolation and loneliness, and at the same time the potential for profound metaphysical connection. As the character Jean says in the play, Ruhl gives sympathetic voice to the ways in which we all "navigate complicated labyrinths of emotional retreats."

Original music and song "Darling, You Don't Call" by Natalie Angiuli

SPECIAL THANKS

Nicole Knudsen, Jacquee Bell, Kristin Avila, Claire Pires, Berfin Ataman, Jeffery Flowers, Mark Ferber and Lauren Larken

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Madeline Puzo

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Associate Professor Of Theatre Practice Jack Rowe (Artistic Director)

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Don Llewellyn (Director Of Scenic Design)
Oliver Mayer

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Natsuko Ohama
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Anita Dashiell-Sparks

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