



DEPARTMENT OF WORLD ARTS AND CULTURES/DANCE
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE

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September 23, 2016

Dear WAC/D Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni and Friends,

Welcome back to Kaufman Hall. We missed you!!! To our in-coming students, the bathrooms are to the left when you walk in the front door and upstairs to the left after those big stairs in the back of the building. To those returning, you already know your way around. Help someone who doesn't.

With nearly 50 courses in WACD this fall there will be a lot of activity going on in our building. There have been some changes and a few additions to note. First of all, there is a big monitor in the front hallway that will be scrolling upcoming events, noteworthy happenings and the occasional shout out. This mode of communicating adds to our Facebook and Instagram accounts and joins the Weekly Newsletter (the missive formerly known as the e-blast) and Graduate CCLE in the multitude of ways we are communicating with you. There are lots of ways to find out about WACD events, please be on the lookout!

There will be some new and some returning faces this fall:

It is with great joy that we announce [Kyle Abraham](#) is joining our faculty. Many of you may remember Kyle's stunning lecture/demonstration last spring or his company's riveting performance at Royce a few seasons ago. Kyle is an award-winning choreographer and will be with us in an on-going faculty position. In the Winter he will be teaching technique and a special topics class. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with Kyle.

[Chris Waterman](#) returns to us after over a decade at the top of the hill in Broad Hall as the Dean of our school. Chris has told me how excited he is to be back in the classroom and I for one wish I could take his class on African Popular Arts this fall. Many WAC Seniors will get to know Chris especially well as he leads the WAC section of Senior Projects in the Winter and Spring quarters.

Also, [Courtney Newman](#) joins us in the Student Affairs office. Courtney arrives in Los Angeles from Massachusetts and will be focused primarily on assisting graduate students navigate the university. Her office will be next to Hayley's, so feel free to say hello and welcome her to WACD and LA.

We will be having a host of visiting lectures, workshops and guest artists this year. Here is a sampling that is by no means comprehensive:

- In the Spring, [Movement Research](#) Exchange Artist, [Jeanine Durning](#) will be joining us. We will get to see Jeanine perform this Fall at CAP UCLA as part of the [Deborah Hay](#) residency on October 15, 16 and will welcome her back to teach composition, improvisation and make a work for the spring First Hand evenings.
- On Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 2 pm at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) there will be a conversation with the Sundance Film Festival programmer Hussain Currimbhoy and Theo Eshetu, one of Africa's leading contemporary artists whose remarkable interactive video work is on view in LACMA's exhibition, [Senses of Time: Video and Film-Based Works of Africa](#), co-curated by UCLA Professor of World Arts and Cultures/Dance, Dr. Polly Nooter Roberts.
- Joining us in the Winter will be [Shahar Biniamini](#), a former member of the Batsheva Dance Company. Shahar will be at UCLA all Winter quarter teaching technique and a repertory class for the Winter Culture Crossing Event.
- Also in Winter, the internationally acclaimed film director [Margaret Williams](#) will be coming from London to teach the Dance for Camera course.
- [The Art and Global Health Center](#) will collaborate with the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation to produce a #GenEndIt, a World AIDS Day event, on 12/1 from 10AM-12PM in Kaufman Hall. Kwaku Mandela, the grandson of Nelson Mandela, will give a featured talk.
- And look out for more information on the 'Documentary At Work' series of film screenings and master-classes with select documentary-makers who are devising innovative and creative approaches to documentary making and exhibition. The series focuses on practitioners whose films surround questions of work and labor in contemporary society.

HOLD THE DATE: Friday April 21, 2017. In 1962 Elsie Dunin, Pia Gilbert, Alma Hawkins, Carol Scothorn, Doris Siegal and Allegra Snyder founded the Dance Department here at UCLA as the first independent dance department at a public institution. There have been many iterations and forms of our department over the years, but 55 years on, the time has come to pay tribute to these powerhouse women. When I was growing up, the national speed limit was 55 mph. I am guessing nothing as silly as a road sign would ever stop this group. Their fortitude and forward thinking deserves our gratitude and on Friday April 21st, we will honor their legacy in our building with a tribute. Details are forthcoming. Please plan on joining us for what promises to be an extraordinary evening looking back on how we became who we are and forward to where we are going.

Finally, this is our final ride on the academic calendar with Angelia Leung and Peter Nabokov, both of whom are retiring at the end of this year. We look forward to an energized year with them and hope everyone takes the opportunity to thank them for their time at UCLA. Both have changed me for the better and while I know I will miss their sage council. I plan to spend this year enjoying their presence and asking them every question I can think of.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. I hope you have a great year and please let us know what you are up to so we can help spread the news of the WACD family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lionel Popkin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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