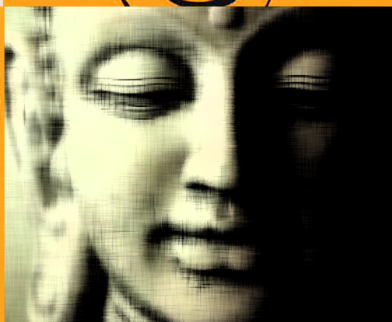
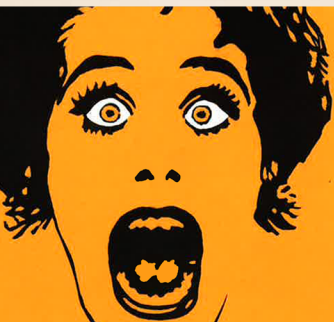
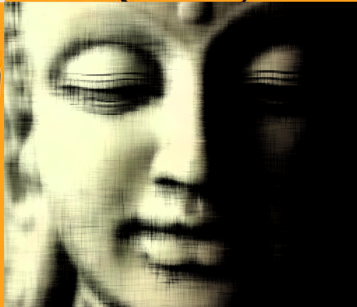


CAL POLY  
SAN LUIS OBISPO

Theatre & Dance  
Department  
College of Liberal Arts

2014 - 2015

# Theatre Program Mainstage Season



Betty's  
Summer  
Vacation

by Christopher Durang

The  
Other  
Shore

by Gao Xingjian

Spike  
Heels

by Theresa Rebeck

**Many thanks to the following donors who, since 2011, have given  
their financial and in-kind support to the BA Theatre Arts  
Program**

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Mrs. Linda R. Zeuschner

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

The College of Liberal Arts  
and  
The Theatre and Dance Department  
Present



**Director**

Heidi L. Nees

**Costume Designer**

Thomas John Bernard

**Assistant Costume Designer**

Kimberlee Vandenburg

**Set & Lighting Designer**

Pegi Marshall-Amundsen

**Sound Designer**

Eric Hill

**Technical Director**

Clint Bryson

**Costume Shop Manager**

Sarah Bryan

**Stage Manager**

Kelly Musgrove

**Assistant Stage Manager**

Christa Johnson

**Dramaturg**

Emily Brehm

The play is performed through arrangement with Samuel French Play Service.  
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## Cast

<b>Georgie</b> .....	Christina Garcia
<b>Andrew</b> .....	Jacob Cosaro
<b>Edward</b> .....	Chris Judge
<b>Lydia</b> .....	Libby Wahlmeier

### **Act I, scene i: Evening**

### **Act I, scene ii: The next evening**

### **Act II, scene i: Later that evening**

### **Act II, scene ii: The next morning**

There will be one (1) 10-minute intermission  
between Act I and Act II.

### **Dramaturg's Note**

A great pair of heels can do wonders. It can boost confidence in one's self, make a pair of legs look amazingly attractive and allure an affectionate gaze. But it can also mutilate the feet of whoever wears them and can attract unwanted attention. It's a compromise many women choose for work each day or for a night on the town. The wearer might radiate confidence while simultaneously enduring excruciating pain. Set in modern day Boston, *Spike Heels*, by Theresa Rebeck, steps into the passionate life of quick-witted Georgie: a tough young woman who loves an eye-catching high heel. The play has an atmosphere of imbalance in which four adults struggle to establish their relationships with one another. Rebeck, creator of NBC's *Smash* and the winner of the National Theatre Conference Award, was influenced by Pygmalion, the story of a man who falls in love with his creation. The Greek myth also inspired George Bernard Shaw to write his 1913 play *Pygmalion* that was later adapted into *My Fair Lady*. Informed by the myth and Shaw's play, Rebeck created a comedic commentary that brings to light what problems may arise from the common trope of a man thinking it's his duty to help a woman. Twenty-five years after it was first staged in 1990, the play still touches upon topics close to our society's heart. *Spike Heels* explores ideas regarding self-identity, modern expectations of gender roles, and how much control we seem to have or lack in our relationships. Each character deals with the power struggles that arise when love and sex are involved. In less than forty-eight hours each character reevaluates what he or she means to one another and goes through the process of self-discovery. As the show suggests, a sexy pair of heels can boost a person's sense of self worth but it can just as easily harm the wearer. In this way heels are parallel to relationships, both can significantly affect how we perceive ourselves and how we relate to others.

Emily Brehm



## Director's Note

Why does one wear heels? If you wear heels, when did you first wear heels and why? I feel I should disclose that I love wearing heels. I love the sense of power that I feel when I put them on; I feel as though I can take on any challenge (except for maybe a foot race). But the feeling of strength that I get from wearing heels comes at a cost, and I currently have the blisters to prove it.

I realize that, within our culture, high heels hold a contentious place and there are many (good) reasons why heels are viewed as problematic. What I find interesting about this play, however, is that Theresa Rebeck has presented them to us as a visual metaphor for relationships. There are relationships in which we compromise – we simultaneously feel on top of the world and endure pain. Like the first time one walks in a new pair of heels, we often feel unbalanced in our relationships when we feel vulnerable, exposed, insecure or overwhelmed in relation to another person. We may say or behave in ways that are unsettling to others and ourselves. We sometimes find ourselves in broken relationships, and like walking in a broken pair of heels, we struggle. I believe the characters in this play are on a journey in which they are seeking a sense of balance – within themselves and in their relationships with each other. The type of balance that characterizes strong, positive relationships takes work and begins within one's self.

While not everyone has experience wearing heels, most have experience negotiating relationships, whether with significant others, friends, family, co-workers, etc. I hope that tonight's show will encourage you to reflect upon the balance (or imbalance) in your own relationships.

Heidi L. Nees

## **Costume Shop Assistants**

Emily Brehm  
Kimberlee Vandenburg

## **Costume Crew**

Alyssa Compania	Brigitte Losey
Rotem Drori	Jenny McClinton
Sarah Gamblin	Chelsea Obrochta
Mary Kerrigan	Stephanny Suarez

## **Scenic Shop Student Aides**

Nathan Norris   Brianna Zamora   Reid Vizcarra

## **Light Board Operator**

Jess Bernal

## **Sound Board Operator**

Kelly Jackson

## **Set Construction, Backstage Crew and Paint: students of TH 230/330 – Stagecraft I & II**

Micah Anthes	Garrett Cheng	Daphne Lei
Alexis Arens	Bradley Chin	Rachel Murphy
Kenny Bakken	Nicolas Cocores	Amara Villasenor
Justin Bauer	Dan Cook	Heather Voorhis
Jess Bernal	Rigo Guzman	Mollie Zechlin
Antonia Buell	Thomas Holt	
Matthew Catalano	Kelly Jackson	

## **Publicity Crew**

Christa Johnson (Lead)  
Antonio Mata

## **Special Thanks & Acknowledgments**

Lezlie Labhard  
Josh Machamer  
SLO Little Theatre  
Avanti  
Coverings  
Charles Shoes  
Crazy Jays  
LuLu Luxe  
Romp

**About the Author:**  
**(from <http://theresarebeck.com/bio/>)**



Theresa Rebeck is a contemporary playwright whose works are produced both nationally and internationally. While her plays, including *Dead Accounts*, *Bad Dates*, and *Mauritius* are widely known among theatregoers, many audience members may recognize her as the creator of the NBC series, *Smash*. Originally from Cincinnati, Rebeck is a widely produced playwright throughout the United States and abroad. The play *Omnium*

*Gatherum*, which she co-wrote with Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros, was a 2003 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Rebeck has also published two novels and a collection of essays about writing and show business called *Free Fire Zone*. Additional writing and producing credits in television include *Canterbury's Law*, *Smith, Law and Order: Criminal Intent* and *NYPD Blue*. She also produced the feature films *Harriet the Spy* and *Gossip*.

Rebeck holds an MFA in Playwriting and a PhD in Victorian Melodrama, both from Brandeis University. She serves as a board member of the Dramatists Guild, a Contributing Editor to the *Harvard Review*, an Associate Artist of the Roundabout Theatre Company, a Playwright Adviser and Board Member of the LARK and has taught at Brandeis University and Columbia University. Rebeck is currently the Distinguished Visiting Professor of Playwriting at the University of Houston.

# Cal Poly Theatre & Dance Department Faculty and Staff 2014 – 2015

Thomas John Bernard  
Sarah Bryan  
Clint Bryson  
Lauren Chertudi  
Lisa Deyo (Fall)  
Dr. Susan Duffy (FERP)

Karin Hendricks  
Valerie Kline (Fall, Winter)  
Josh Machamer (Chair)  
Pegi Marshall-Amundsen  
Christy McNeil  
Dr. Heidi Nees

Diane Salmon  
Dr. Al Schnupp  
Diana Stanton  
Philip Valle  
Michelle Walter (Winter,  
Spring)



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## more to come this Spring 2015

### Student Dance Concert

May 21 – 22

### Annual One-Act Play Festival

June 6 – 7

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## Coming Soon in 2015/2016

### *The Little Prince*

from the novella by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

### Transcend

46<sup>th</sup> Annual Orchesis Dance Concert

### *The Crucible*

written by Arthur Miller

### *Black Comedy*

written by Peter Shaffer

## Cal Poly Theatre & Dance Department

### About us...

The courses offered by the Theatre and Dance Department provide students with well-balanced programs of study, integrating practical production work with classes that examine the principles, theoretical aspects, and historical development of theatre and dance. A full range of studio dance courses are offered that include ballet, modern, jazz, and ballroom. Composition and dance production are available, as well as courses designed for future teachers of dance. The department also provides general education and breadth courses in the areas of dance history and dance appreciation. The department also acts as a cultural focus for the campus and community. An annual dance concert is presented under the auspices of the Orchesis Dance Company. Every spring a student-directed dance concert is also produced. Each quarter the department presents three main-stage theatre productions. Recent titles include: *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Smash*, *Falsettos*, *Betty's Summer Vacation*, *The Bald Soprano*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *Blood Wedding (Bodas de sangre)*, *The Arabian Nights*, *Animal Farm*, and *As You Like It*. The department also produces original works; sponsors guest lecturers and specialized workshops; and manages a program of student-directed works, field trips, and internships.

#### **BA Theatre Arts**

Students who major in Theatre at Cal Poly participate in a comprehensive, hands-on training program that gives them a balanced and enriched knowledge of theatre arts: acting, directing, design, playwriting, technical theatre, script analysis, and theatre history. Participation in main-stage productions, as actors and members of the artistic/production crew, is a key component of each student's education. As a small program, the Theatre Arts B.A. allows for faculty to get to know students' abilities and needs as individuals; promoting the selection of special projects, electives, and interests that mesh with their career ambitions. The Department's curriculum also offers courses as part of the University's General Education Program: Introduction to Theatre, Theatre History I & II, Theatre in the United States, Global Theatre and Performance, and Topics in Diversity on the American Stage.

#### **Dance Minor**

The Dance Minor consists of 26 units designed to provide the student with a well-balanced program in the art and education of dance. Admission to the minor is contingent upon a departmental interview and review. Students must have more than a 2.0 GPA.

#### **Theatre Minor**

The Theatre Minor is designed to provide a foundation of 12 required units in three major aspects of theatre: introduction/appreciation, design/production, and diversity. On top of that, the inclusion of 16 additional elective units allows for a degree of specialization in an area of the student's choice. Students should discuss their interests with department faculty. Admission to the minor is contingent upon a departmental interview and review. Students must have more than a 2.0 GPA.

# CAL POLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO

## Theatre & Dance Department

**Private support for the Department is crucial to recruiting and retaining top students and faculty in our competitive and increasingly global world. In order to continue providing the outstanding educational experiences Cal Poly is known for, we need your support.**

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**Contributions allow the department to provide opportunities for faculty and students, such as:**

- Support for faculty-led field trips to major urban areas
- Updated equipment/material for our scenic and costume facilities
- Research and development projects to enhance Teacher-Scholar Model
- Workshops & specialized classes with guest artists & alumni

*Please deposit this form and your donation in the box in the lobby or mail to:*

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*For more information, please contact:*

**Theatre and Dance Department office at  
(805) 756-1465**

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## **Comprehensive Training**

*Our program gives students a very balanced and enriched knowledge of all aspects of theatre arts: design, directing, playwriting, acting, dramatic history and literature, and stagecraft.*

## **Student Opportunities**

*The small program size allows for faculty to get to know students' abilities and needs. As a result, students are encouraged to select projects, electives, and interests that mesh with their individual career ambitions.*

## **Liberal Arts Foundation**

*The BA Theatre Arts Major is committed to exploration of other disciplines, encouraging students to pursue a minor or double major where possible as part of their undergraduate studies.*

## **Hands-On “Learn By Doing” Experience**

*In addition to three faculty-directed mainstage shows each year, the program's production calendar also includes an annual student-directed one-act festival, club sponsored performances, as well as independently approved projects.*

**For more information about our program, please contact us  
(805) 756-1465 or [cla.calpoly.edu/thtrdanc.html](http://cla.calpoly.edu/thtrdanc.html)**

