Welcome to TGS Newsletter, October edition.

Here you will find information regarding TGS’s projects, events and news.

Our hope is to utilize this as a means of sharing our work with each other and with the faculty.

“I’m not real. I’m theatre.”

-Lady Gaga
News: What are the grad students up to?

**Jenifer Cooper** (MFA '17) served as production coordinator this summer for Prof. John Gronbeck-Tedesco and Prof. Emeritus Stanley Lombardo's collaboration, "Dante Alighieri's The Inferno" for the Kansas City Fringe Festival. Various aspects of the job included Stage Manager, Assistant Director, Fringe Administrative Liaison, Graphic Designer, Costume & Prop Wrangler, Sound Designer, and Lightning Designer. She is currently exploring a subversive, risqué opera project for KC Fringe 2016.

**Gina Sandi-Diaz** recently passed her comp exams and prospectus defense with a distinction. She is very happy to join the ABD team and is looking forward to her dissertation research. Also, this past August she started working as Assistant Editor for the Latin American Theatre Review. This prestigious journal is housed in the Spanish and Portuguese Department here at KU. Gina will be attending ASTR next week. She will be a part of the Theorizing for the South group. Her paper is entitled "Testimony, Trauma and Post-memory in Central American Theatre: The collaborative effort of Las Voces del Tiempo, a la sombra de los almendros." Additionally, Gina was awarded a Tinker Foundation travel grant to conduct research in Nicaragua this winter break. She will attend the traditional celebrations in honor of Saint Sebastian in the community of Diriamba. There, she will witness a performance of El Gueguense, a music theatre dance performance that was initiated in the 17th century and today is recognized as “Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

**Amanda Boyle** just completed her performance in The Telling Project: Kansas City at the National World War I Museum and Memorial with local veterans and other family members of veterans. Amanda also served as Dramaturg for the Unicorn Theatre’s production of The Brothers Size, which runs through November 8th.

**Rachel Blackburn** recently served as sound designer for Detroit ’67, indulging her love for Motown. Next week, she looks forward to presenting her paper “I Stand Naked Before You: New Aesthetics for the F-word on the Comic Stage,” at this year’s ASTR conference in Portland, OR as part of the Feminist Activism as Performance working group. Additionally, she recently created a piece titled, “In Defense of the New Muppets Show: A Meditation on Self-Aware Comedy,” which was published by Humor In America, a well-respected blog associated with the Humor in America Project out of the University of Texas, Austin. It can be read here: [https://humorinamerica.wordpress.com/2015/10/14/in-defense-of-the-new-muppets-show-a-meditation-on-self-aware-comedy/](https://humorinamerica.wordpress.com/2015/10/14/in-defense-of-the-new-muppets-show-a-meditation-on-self-aware-comedy/)
Upcoming events

Sunday, Nov. 1
Neurasthenia: A Staged Reading
7:30 p.m.
235 Murphy

Monday, Nov. 9
Shutz Award lecture and reception for Nicole Hodges
Persley
3:30 p.m.
The Commons at Spooner Hall

TGS Reps: Zach Sudbury and Blair Lawrence Yates
UTC Rep: Jenifer Cooper
Allocations Rep: Jeanne Tiehen
TGS Newsletter: Rachel Blackburn

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