



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

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

What an unexpected year. The election, the inauguration, the marches and the sudden desperation to learn Russian all revealed a myriad of emotions and fears that still resonate. Closer to campus change held sway on a daily basis as well. This summer the School of Arts and Architecture welcomes a new Dean, **Brett Steele**. Dean Steele comes from London's Architectural Association School of Architecture (AA), one of the world's oldest and most influential schools of architecture, where he had been its director. As a result, we in WACD get to welcome **David Rousséve** back to Kaufman Hall after his stint as Interim Dean. Just to keep things lively, **Victoria Marks** will take on the new role of Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in SoAA. She gets a new office up in Broad, but we will do everything in our power to coax her back down the hill to see us!

This summer also welcomes two new Vice Chairs in our department. **Aparna Sharma** will become the new Vice Chair of Undergraduate Studies and **Janet O'Shea** takes on the Vice Chair of Graduate Studies position. Many thanks to **Victoria Marks** and **David Shorter** for fulfilling those roles with grace and care for so many years. **Courtney Newman** came and went as the Graduate Student Affairs Officer this year. We completely understand her need to spend more time with her family and wish her a shorter commute in her next adventure. A special thanks to WAC major **Isabella D'Agnenica** for being a helpful and steady presence at the front desk.

And speaking of issues, how many of you noticed that the lights in 200 and 208 no longer work properly? **Arsenio Apillanes** has craftily hidden it from us by setting up a makeshift system, but that just ain't sustainable. This summer we are redoing the whole lighting system, bringing it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and making it so that when you press a button lights will come on! My apologies for the highly technical jargon.

We had nearly 60 official events in the building this year. With three ten week quarters that is, well – you do the math. Some highlights include:

- On April 21<sup>st</sup> we celebrated the **55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the founding of the Dance Department welcoming back to campus many of the founders, including World Arts and Cultures IDP founder **Allegra Fuller Snyder**.
- WACD helped to host portions of the **Disability as Spectacle Conference**, a conference on the **Quality in Arts Education** in the LAUSD system, and Design for Sharing events with CAP/UCLA featuring **Versa-Style**.
- **AGHC and Bobby Gordon** will be directing the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the UCLA WAC/D Summer Travel Study program at the Center of Theater of the Oppressed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

- **Shahar Binyamini** was a guest in winter quarter teaching and showing work in Culture Crossing and the Powell Library atrium.
- **Dan Froot** led a class dedicated to decreasing the stigma of food insecurity on campus. Together they performed a culminating event, a slam-style evening of storytelling.

Our faculty and graduate students have, as always, been astonishingly busy. Here is a sampler:

- **Polly Roberts** had two exhibits at LACMA this past year, “Senses of Time: Video and Film-based Works from Africa” and “The Inner Eye: Vision and Transcendence in African Arts.” In March she organized a panel on “Art and Social Justice” at LACMA that included WACD’s own **David Gere**.
- While in Berlin, **Susan Leigh Foster** and Rosalind Crisp showed their duet at Tanz Fabrik in which they use their sharp wit and decaying bodies to unravel their dancing histories. The collaboration began in Australia in 1997.
- **Al Roberts’s** 2016-2017 publications include seven book chapters (gulp!) as well as his co-curation of the UCLA Fowler Museum’s “Striking Iron: The Art of African Blacksmiths” that opens in June 2018.
- Our second Movement Research Exchange Artist **Jeanine Durning** joined us in the spring and performed her solo *inging* through the Los Angeles Performance Project.
- **Francesca Albrezzi** will be working with Lisa Synder on a NEH grant, funding the creation of a repository and archive in conjunction with UCLA’s Digital Library Program.
- The Winter and Spring had an abundance of choreographic premieres with CAP/UCLA presenting **David Rousseve’s** choreography as part of the SITI Company’s opera version of *Lost in the Stars*, The Skirball Cultural Center presenting yours truly with an inflatable chair (get it, chair...) and **Kyle Abraham’s** new work premiering at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco. Look for it next year on CAP/UCLA’s season.
- **Aparna Sharma** began 2017 with a keynote address at the conference *Mapping Twenty-first Century Indian Documentary Films: Formal and Discursive Trajectories* at the Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod.
- **Shamell Bell, Ellen Gerdes,** and alumn **Sarah Wilbur** are all attending the Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research, held June 5-16, 2017 at Harvard University.
- And the legendary **Lynn Dally** returned to WACD, bringing her long history with our department to its full glory at the *First Hand* performance last week.

Change is inevitable. It can be scary, it can be a wake up call and it can be inspiring. In the scary category, we must acknowledge the retirement of **Angelia Leung** who joined the Faculty at UCLA in 1981. To be clear, this event is glorious for Angelia, but scary for us. How will we survive without her? The wake up call is the incredible art making and scholarship happening by the WACD community in response to our turbulent times. Dedication, passion and fierce determination fill the halls of Kaufman. We will not rest! Finally, under inspiring, **Will O’Loughlen**, our Video Lab Supervisor is a father. He and his wife adopted a beautiful baby named Paolo. Get a look at this cutie:



To all our graduating students: Congratulations!!!! You did it. Your PhD, MFA, MA or BA will never prepare you to hold something as cute as the baby in the picture above, but we do hope it sends you into the world prepared to make it a better place for Paolo's high school class of 2035. Ponder that for a bit!

Have a great summer and see you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lionel Popkin'.

Lionel Popkin, Professor and Chair  
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