

DEAD GIRL'S QUINCEAÑERA

WRITTEN BY PHANÉSIA PHAREL
DIRECTED BY LAMAR PERRY

THEODORE AND ADELE
SHANK THEATRE

MAY 10, 11, 15, 18 @ 7:30PM
MAY 18 @ 10:30AM

UC San Diego
THEATRE & DANCE

WAGNER
NEW PLAY
FESTIVAL
2024



Dead Girl's Quinceañera

Written by Phanésia Pharel

Directed by Lamar Perry

THE CAST

Salma	Kat Peña
Este	Gabriela D'Amico
Phoebe	Colby Muhammad
Maria, Phoebe U/S	Gabriella Marie Johnson
Salma U/S, Este U/S	Olivia Picazo
Maria U/S	Jacqueline Perez

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright	Phanésia Pharel
Director	Lamar Perry
Production Stage Manager	Katie Davis
Scenic Designer	Tzu Yu Su
Costume Designer	Anabel Olguin
Lighting Designer	Vida Huang
Sound Designer	Harper Justus
Assistant Director	Aiden McCormick
Assistant Stage Manager	Sydney "Squyd" Enthoven
Assistant Stage Manager	Madison Emi Novitski
Dramaturg	Rumi Petersen
Dramaturg	Mackenzey Tolliver
Assistant Costume Design	Kieran Padgett
Assistant Scenic Design	Bria Woods-Kirk
Assistant Sound Design	Lula Britos

Cultural Consultant
Cultural Consultant

Mysia Anderson
Jade Power-Sotomayor

Note From The Director

Hey y'all! Much love to everyone for coming to see DEAD GIRLS QUINCEAÑERA!! I come to theater through the tradition of Black Church, which means this is a participatory event. If something moves you in this piece please feel the freedom to exclaim, affirm, laugh, cry, vocalize, or whatever expression comes to you. I only ask that your expression keep both you and the actors safe at all times. This play is about something universal, the moments in adolescence when adulthood finds us. Namely, how those moments happen long before we're socialized into "adulthood." These girls are unique and universal. They're your sisters, bestfriends, tias, college roommate, etc and in every iteration of their lives know that they are deserving of love, compassion, and protection. I hope this play makes you call up your friends, your tribe, and hold them dear. PERIOD!!!!

Dramaturgy Note

The process of growing up is a painful one. Young girls and people of color especially are expected to behave like adults before they are treated like one.

Dead Girl's Quinceañera is a play steeped in both the agony and wild joy of being a teenage girl. There is a beautiful, relieving sense of play in the procedural drama-esque moments threaded throughout the play, but they exist alongside difficult realities. The reality of a missing friend hangs over their heads, creating a dread that stems from the very real epidemic of kidnapped black and brown girls.

The girls in *Dead Girl's Quinceañera* balance the gravity of their circumstances by leaning on a lifeline they don't always appreciate: each other. The tale of sisterhood we've spent these last weeks crafting is an important reminder to us all; I hope you enjoy.

— Rumi Petersen

Content Warning

This play contains themes and dialogue related to childhood sexual assault.

The Director

Lamar Perry is a Queer Black director, producer, and educator hailing from Connecticut by way of NYC. He previously served as Associate Producer at the Tony-award winning Old Globe, and prior to his tenure in San Diego was the Producing Associate at the Classical Theatre of Harlem. He is a member of the Roundabout's Leon Levy Foundations Directors Group Cohort 2 and a two-time finalist for the National Black Theatre: Soul Directing Residency. Up next, Perry will direct a workshop and presentation of *Rise & Beings* by Rudi Goblen at The Vineyard, and this summer will serve as Associate Director on *What Ever Happened to All That Beauty* by Donja R. Love at the Contemporary American Theater Festival. Recent credits: *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (The Old Globe/USD MFA Acting Program), *Thicker Than* (WNP '23), *Animals Out of Paper* (Chautauqua Theatre Company), and *Mud Row* (Detroit Public Theatre). A nationally renowned new play director, Perry has developed work at the Old Globe, Penumbra Theatre, National Black Theater, Diversionary Theatre/Spark Festival, UCSD/Wagner New Play Festival, the O'Neill Theater Center, Chautauqua Theatre Company, San Diego Repertory Theater, Cygnet Theater, NAMT, and the Classical Theatre of Harlem. He is an alum of St. John's University and the American Academy for Dramatic Arts. www.lamarperry.com

The Playwright

Phanésia Pharel is a Haitian-American playwright from a Dragon Fruit farm in Miami. Daughter of an immigrant teacher and farmer, she writes to honor people. Full lengths: *The Waterfall* (Workshop, the Old Globe, EST Bloodworks reading), *R&B* (Bay Area Playwrights Festival Finalist/Honorable Mention, Playwrights Realm Finalist), *Lucky* (New York Stage and Film, Kennedy Center Latinx Playwriting Award, Kennedy Center Rosa Parks Playwriting Award, Kennedy Center Lorraine Hansberry Distinguished Achievement), *Black Girl Joy* (Kilroys 2023, Bay Area Playwrights Festival Finalist/Honorable Mention, Jane Chambers Finalist, Frank Moffett Mosier Fellowship for Works in Heightened Finalist Prize). Other honors include New Harmony 2023 Finalist and City Theatre National Short Playwriting Finalist. Phanésia is a member of the Obie award-winning EST/Youngblood group. Commissions include City Theatre Miami, the Latinx Playwrights Circle & Pregones/PRTT Greater Good Commission, and Thrown Stone Theatre. Her work has been developed

with the Old Globe, New York Stage and Film, Shattered Globe, Echo Theater Company of Los Angeles, and the Playwrights Center. Publishing: Concord Theatricals, Smith and Kraus Best Plays of 2020, Reset Coalition 2020 Anthology and the City Theatre Anthology.

The Cast

Gabriela D'Amico (Este) is a fourth-year theatre major and a transfer student from San Diego City College. UC San Diego Acting Credits: I Found a Zipper, Dance Nation. Other UC San Diego Credits: Romeo and Juliet (AD), Once Daily (Director), The Winter's Tale (AD), Heathers (Dramaturg).

Gabriella Marie Johnson (Maria, Phoebe U/S) is an undergraduate theatre major. Previous UCSD credits: Blu, Thicker Than (WNPF '23), Machinal, The Promise, Peerless, and Rot. She has enjoyed everyday with this amazing cast & crew and working on her last show at UCSD ever! She thanks her amazing family and friends for supporting her no matter the distance or size of the role. She loves you all with all her heart!

Colby Muhammad (Phoebe) is a recent graduate of UC San Diego's MFA Acting program. Colby graduated cum laude from Howard University with a BFA in Musical Theatre and is an alumna of the Chautauqua Theatre Company's Acting Conservatory. UC San Diego: Romeo and Juliet, The Promise, Just the Two of Us, Bunny, Bunny, Dance Nation, Nonna Kills the President, Everybody, In The Red and Brown Water. Regional: Pride and Prejudice (Chautauqua Theatre Company), Love All (La Jolla Playhouse). Select theatre credits: Anything Goes, Spunk!, and Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine (Howard University). @colbynatasha | colbymuhammad.com

The Cast *cont.*

Kat Peña (Salma) is a recent graduate of UC San Diego's MFA Acting Program. She's a Dominican plant mom from the Bronx. Her UC San Diego credits include: X, The Promise, Flea in Her Ear, Dance Nation, Nonna Kills The President, and Everybody. Other credits include: Sharon (Cygnet Theatre, Dracula (Actors Theatre of Louisville), Are You There? (Humana Festival), Water By The Spoonful (Cahill Theatre), Eight Tales of Pedro (The Secret Theatre), and award winning short, Reina. Katpena.com

Jacqueline Perez (Maria U/S) is an undergraduate double majoring in Theatre and Urban Studies and Planning. This is her very first UCSD production and she is so honored to go on this journey with the most amazing cast and crew!

Olivia Picazo (Salma U/S, Este U/S) is a second-year theatre major in Sixth College. Her previous UCSD experience includes Cara in Ups & Downs, Marcy & Chip Understudy in Spelling Bee, Maria in Blinded, and Martha in Heathers. Olivia is so grateful for the amazing DGQ team for making her first show with the department so magical. She would also like to thank her family and her friends for their never ending love and support!

The Creative Team

Katie Davis (Production Stage Manager) is a second-year MFA Stage Management student originally from La Crescenta, CA. She earned her BFA from University of Miami in Stage Management. UCSD credits include: Dance Nation, A Flea in Her Rear, नेहा & Neel, and X. Select credits include: The Glass Menagerie (Diversionary Theatre), Disney's The Little Mermaid, The Circuit (PCPA - Pacific Conservatory Theatre), Disney's Beauty and the Beast, A.D. 16, and The Music Man (Olney Theatre Center).

Tzu Yu Su (Scenic Designer) is a second-year MFA student. UC San Diego credits: Orlando, I Found a Zipper, A Flea in Her Rear. Taiwan credits: Hedwig and The Angry Inch (Prop Design), 57th Golden Bell Awards, Afterlife Passport, Uncle Vanya is _____, Old Saybrook. She received her BFA in Theatrical Design & Technology from Taipei National University of the Arts. @tzuyusudesign www.tzuyusu.com

Anabel Olguin (Costume Designer) is a second-year MFA costume design student from Phoenix, AZ. UC San Diego credits: WinterWorks '24 "Open Your Eyes", The Promise, नेहा & Neel (WNPF '23), blu (Assistant Costume Designer), and Dance Nation (ACD).

Vida Huang (Lighting Designer) is a second year MFA lighting design student at University of California San Diego. UC San Diego credits: Dead Girl's Quinceanera (LD/WNPF24), The Half Sibling(LD/WNPF24), Winterwork24 (LD), X (ALD), The Promise (LD), 900 Years (LD/WNPF23), Blu (ALD), Dance Nation (ALD), Late: A Cowboy Play (LD) Other credits: The Glass Menagerie(LD, Diversionary Theatre), Trade/ Mary Motorhead (ALD, REDCAT), 2022 Mini Organ Concert: The Golden Age of the Organ (LD, National Theatre and Concert Hall).

Harper Justus (Sound Designer) is a second year MFA sound designer. UC San Diego: The Promise, नेहा and Neel, The Winter's Tale, Dance Nation. Other Selected Design Works: CLYDES's (Moxie Theatre), Head Over Heels (Diversionary), The Ferryman (New Village Arts), Great Comet of 1812 (Tantrum Theatre), An Iliad (Brick Monkey Collective), Pluto (Ohio University).

Rumi Petersen (he/she) (Dramaturg) is a fourth year double majoring in Theatre & Literature: Writing. He is honored to have had the opportunity to work on such a fulfilling project with this amazing team. Past credits include: Commandment 7 (Company 157 Night of Tens, Playwright), By the Throat (Playwright/Co-Director), Fables Unfold (Co-Playwright/Director); UCSD Department credits: Orlando (Assistant Dramaturg), Comedy of Errors (Dramaturg); La Jolla Playhouse WoW Festival Credits: Fallen Star(s) (Lana).

The Creative Team *cont.*

Mackenzey Tolliver (Dramaturg) is a fourth year theater major. She would like to thank her Mom, Dad, the rest of her family, and her friends for their support. She is excited to have this be the first Wagner and department show she has been a part of.

Sydney "Squyd" Enthoven (Assistant Stage Manager) is a fourth year theatre major, and this is their last show with the UCSD theater department. Previous UCSD credits include: The Promise (AD), 900 Years (ASM), A Flea in her Rear (PA). Other select credits: Something Rotten! (PSM, Muir Musical), The Rocky Horror Show (PSM, Muir Musical), Richard II (ASM, Theater at Monmouth), Twelfth Night (PA, Santa Cruz Shakespeare).

Madison Emi Novitski (Assistant Stage Manager) is a second year theatre major and film studies minor from San Francisco, California. UC San Diego credits: The Promise (ASD), I Found A Zipper (ASM). Selected credits include: Something Rotten! (PA, Muir Musical), Ups and Downs (PSM, Company 157), Two Kids That Blow Shit Up (ASM, Ever Summer Productions), Colors Eve (ASM, Company 157).

Aiden McCormick (Assistant Director) is a second-year theatre major from Central California. UC San Diego credits: The Comedy of Errors (Associate Dramaturgy). Selected credits include: A Cactus and An Elevator (Playwright, Company157), 2022 Showcase (Performer, Muir Musical)

The Creative Team *cont.*

Bria Woods-Kirk (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a second-year Urban Studies and Planning Major with a Minor in Theatre. UC San Diego credits: X (run crew).

Kieran Padgett (Assistant Costume Designer) is a third-year Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience major and Human Developmental Sciences minor. UC San Diego credits: The Promise, Winter Works '24.

Lula Britos (Assistant Sound Designer) is a fourth-year Theatre major and Dance minor from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Selected credits: Letters to Home (Co-Director, WOW Festival: La Jolla Playhouse), Feywild (Director, Company 157), Little Amal - Reflexiones Compartidas (Dancer, UCSD), Thicker Than... (ASM, UCSD), blu (Assistant Director, UCSD), Rhinoceros (Daisy, CCSF).

Special Thanks

Alina Novotny

Mysia Anderson

Jade Power-Sotomayor

Bella Bloom Quinceañera Boutique

Tessa Twomey

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