

UC SANDIEGO THEATRE & DANCE

Week 6

February 13th, 2017

In This Issue

[Department News](#)

[Alumni News](#)

Department News

Jessica Chastain Praises Marco Barricelli on Inside the Actors Studio

Check out the video of Jessica Chastain on Inside the Actor's Studio praising **Acting Faculty Professor Marco Barricelli's** performance as Richard III at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. She states that it was because of that performance that she became obsessed with Shakespeare.



To view the interview, [click here](#).

Looking Ahead to the Theatre & Dance Winter Season



Streamers

By David Rabe

Directed by Kim Rubinstein

in the Mandell Weiss Forum

graduate theatre production

Show dates: February 21-March 4



The Taming of the Shrew(d)

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Kyle Donnelly

in the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre

graduate theatre production

Show dates: February 28-March 11



Waiting for Godot

By Samuel Beckett

Directed by Gabor Tompa

in the Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre

graduate theatre production

Show dates: March 7-18



Anansi, the Story King

Adapted and Directed by Nadine George-Graves
in the Arthur Wagner Theatre
undergraduate theatre production
Show dates: March 15-18



winterWORKS

Directed by Pat Rincon
In the Mandell Weiss Forum
undergraduate dance production
Show dates: March 16-18

For tickets and more information, [click here](#).

Alumni News

Lauren Yee's New Play "Cambodian Rock" at South Coast Rep



The lineup for South Coast Repertory's 20th Pacific Playwrights Festival (PPF), April 21-23, includes works from playwrights Amy Freed, Lucas Hnath, Donald Margulies and **MFA Playwriting alum Lauren Yee**. This year's festival offers three full productions and four staged readings.

The reading series will conclude with the SCR commission of Lauren Yee's "Cambodian Rock Band" (April 23), about a man who escaped the murderous Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia in 1978, and returns thirty years later to find his wayward daughter. The reading will feature music by Dengue Fever. Andy Knight will serve as dramaturg, and May Adrales will direct.

For tickets and more information, [click here](#).

Kim Fisk Production Stage Manages National Tour of Hamilton



MFA Stage Management alum Kim Fisk is the production stage manager on the National Tour of Hamilton. They are into week 4 of 6 weeks of rehearsals in New York. They head to San Francisco the end of February to tech, with first preview March 10 and open March 23.

To view the full list of tour dates, [click here](#).

Mat Smart's New Play "Kill Local" at La Jolla Playhouse

La Jolla Playhouse has just announced the fifth production in its 2017-18 season, and it's a piece that not only has "local" in its title but is local in its origins.

The play is "Kill Local," and its writer is **MFA Playwriting alum Mat Smart**, an alumnus of the University of California San Diego's graduate playwriting program.

The play was developed through, and received a public reading in, the most recent edition of the theater's DNA New Work Series late last year.

Its full world-premiere production will go up in the Playhouse's Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre this August. It will be the second new piece by a UC San Diego playwriting MFA grad to join a Playhouse season in two years, following the 2016 premiere of Jeff Augustin's "The Last Tiger in Haiti."



About the Play

Sheila and her sister Abigail work for their mother's small family business. Sheila's job used to be a source of joy and exhilaration; now she's questioning everything. But when you're an assassin, being uninspired means getting sloppy, and getting sloppy means getting killed. "Kill Local" is a pitch-black comedy about blood ties, revenge and trying to get unstuck - especially when your life is dedicated to ending others'.

For more information, [click here](#).

Gaeun Kim Appointed as Full-Time Faculty Member at Sangmyung University



MFA Scene Design alum Gaeun Kim has been doing various design work in Korea and recently was appointed as a full-time faculty member at Sangmyung University, a renowned theatre arts school.

Gaeun has been a part-time professor at Sangmyung University the past 4 years.

To see what else Gaeun Kim has been up to, [click here](#).

Stephanie Celustka Works Comms for NBA All-Star Games



This will be **UG alum Stephanie Celustka's** 2nd year doing comms for the NBA All-Star game and draft. Stephanie mixed audio for the Finals (games 5-7). Her group was responsible for allowing anyone involved in the massive three-day event to easily communicate with one another.

The major advance this year was tying in the Turner Sports intercoms, allowing anyone involved with a portion of the massive three-day event to easily communicate with anyone else. The Firehouse system basically pulled together communications from the TV-production team, the live-entertainment team, and even the in-house production team.

To read the full article about the Comm System, [click here](#).

Kate Jopson Directs David Johann Kim's "Pang Spa" at Ensemble Studio Theatre



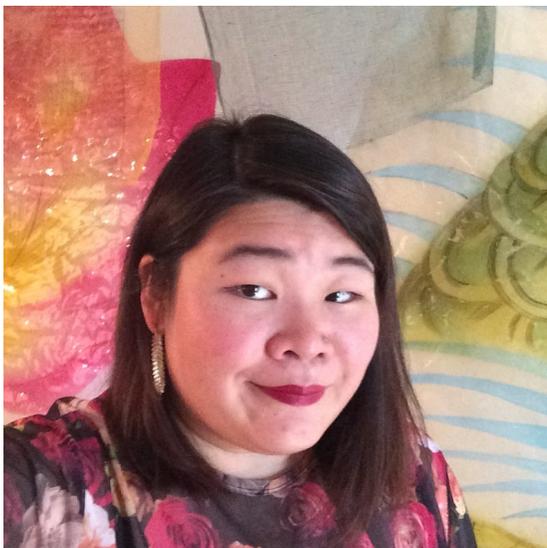
MFA Directing alum Kate Jopson directed a staged reading of **MFA Acting alum David Johann Kim's** new play "PANG SPA" at Ensemble Studio Theatre in Los Angeles. The Reading was Sunday, February 12th at Atwater Village Theatre.

About the Play

On the outskirts of Los Angeles' Koreatown, the Pang family, who were ruined by the '92 LA riots, are now dealing with dementia, depression and loss when a mysterious young veteran, Dora, arrives and paradigms begin to shift. This contemporary dramedy celebrates family, memory and identity... and the fact that a spa is anywhere that healing can at least begin...

For more information, [click here](#).

Melissa Ng Costume Designs Picnic at the American Theater Company



American Theater Company's new artistic director Will Davis announced his first season of programming last spring, William Inge's 1953 drama "Picnic." But Davis promised a "loving reimagining" that would center Inge's own closeted homosexuality and "a life lived at the periphery of one's own desire."

We now know what that will look like, casting-wise at least. ATC announced this morning that Jeff Award winner Molly Brennan will play Hal, the handsome drifter who disrupts a small town on the day of the Labor Day picnic; Malic White will play Madge Owens, who finds herself attracted to Hal despite the fact that she's dating Hal's old friend Alan, to be played by Jose Nateras. Madge's younger sister, Millie, will be played by Alexia Jasmene, with Patricia Kane as their mother, Flo.

"My number one goal here is to not have a conversation about what kind of body is playing the role of what kind of body," Davis said in a press release. "I cast this show to reflect the queer longing I feel emanating from the heart of Inge's play." The design team for Picnic

includes Evvie Allison (choreography), Joe Schermoly (set), **MFA Costume Design alum Melissa Ng** (costumes), Rachel Levy (lights), Miles Polaski (sound) and Abigail Cain (props). Picnic runs March 17 to April 23 at American Theater Company.

For more information, [click here](#).

Krista Knight Wins 2016 Heideman Award for "Home Invasion"



MFA Playwriting alum Krista Knight was named the winner of the 2016 Heideman Award for "Home Invasion", which was produced as part of the Professional Training Company's The Tens at Actors Theatre of Louisville this January. Her work has been produced or developed at numerous theatres, including New Georges, Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, Vineyard Theatre, Page 73, Ars Nova, and the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis.

Knight has also been commissioned by Youth Musical Theater Company and the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, among others. She is a member of the New Georges Jam and a current Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Fellow at Juilliard.

For more information, [click here](#).

Stephen Sakowski Designs for the NBA All-Star Games



MFA Lighting Design alum Stephen Sakowski, assistant Professor of Lighting and Sound Design at the University of Toledo, is heading to New Orleans to work as part of the lighting design team with Lighting Designer Otis Howard for the NBA All-Star Game halftime show and the All-Star Weekend as a whole.

Stephen is the Lighting Director and Spot Light Caller for all events over the weekend from 2/18-2/20.

Tom Patterson Nominated for Helen Hayes Award



A Helen Hayes Award is a theater award named for the famed actress Helen Hayes to recognize excellence in professional theater in the Washington D.C. area since 1983. The awards are named in tribute to Helen Hayes, known as the "First Lady of American theatre."

The organization - led by Amy Austin - works full-time to promote, represent and support all segments of Washington's professional theatre community as well as strengthen Washington theatre's powerful economic engine and world class brand.

MFA Acting alum Tom Patterson was nominated for the Robert Prosky Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play for "Constellations."

For the full list of nominees, [click here](#).

Larissa Kokernot Directs "Anna In the Tropics" at the Jungle Theatre



MFA Directing alum Larissa Kokernot's production of "Anna in the Tropics" is opening at the Jungle Theatre in Minneapolis, where **MFA Directing alum Sarah Rasmussen** is artistic director.

About the Play
Florida, 1929: a Cuban-American family eagerly awaits the arrival of a new lector to read aloud to their cigar factory workers. When he introduces them to "Anna Karenina", a hot and humid Tampa factory starts to mirror the scandalous Russian aristocracy of Tolstoy's classic. Love, revenge, passion, and tragedy abound in this award-winning drama.

For tickets and more information, [click here](#).



UC San Diego

ARTS AND HUMANITIES Theatre and Dance

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Have news to share? Send it to us at TandDNews@ucsd.edu and we'll pass it along for you. Photos are encouraged. Please be sure to let us know what year you graduated, if you're an alum. If you've changed your name, be sure to tell us what it was when you attended UC. Miss a back edition? Visit the [Newsletter Archives](#).

Sincerely,

[UC San Diego Theatre & Dance](#)