



SPRING QUARTER: WEEK 6

DEPARTMENT NEWS

WAGNER
NEW PLAY
FESTIVAL
2017

MAY 9 - 20
JACOBS THEATRE DISTRICT

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STRANGE MEN
By Will Snider
Directed by Will Detlefsen



BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA
By Anna Moench
Directed by Jennifer Chang



(W)HOLENESS
By Lily Padilla
Directed by Dylan Key



BABY TEETH
By Ava Geyer
Directed by Jon Reimer



ARE YOU THERE?
By Steph Del Rosso
Directed by Zora Howard

2017 WAGNER NEW PLAY FESTIVAL OPENS THIS WEEK

The 2017 Wagner New Play Festival begins performances this week. This year's festival features five plays written by the MFA playwriting students.

STRANGE MEN by Will Snider, directed by Will Detlefsen

In the Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre from May 11th - 20th

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA by Anna Moench, directed by Jennifer Chang

In the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre from May 10th - May 19th

(w)holeness by Lily Padilla, directed by Dylan Key

In the Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre from May 9th - 19th

BABY TEETH by Ava Geyer, directed by Jon Reimer

in the Arthur Wagner Theatre from May 12th - 20th

ARE YOU THERE? by Steph Del Rosso, directed by Zora Howard

In the Arthur Wagner Theatre from May 12th - 20th

To learn more and to purchase tickets, [click here](http://theatre.ucsd.edu/season/WNPF2017/index.htm)
(<http://theatre.ucsd.edu/season/WNPF2017/index.htm>).

MFA Playwright Will Snider and **MFA Director Will Detlefsen** discussed their production of *Strange Men* and this year's Wagner New Play Festival as a whole in this video which can be [viewed here](https://youtu.be/_9gFEmBATnU) (https://youtu.be/_9gFEmBATnU).



KIM RUBINSTEIN TO LEAD WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH COLLABORATION

This month, UC San Diego's Divisions of Biological and Physical Sciences will launch a Research Communications program designed to improve the ability of faculty members, postdoctoral fellows and other researchers on campus to communicate their work to the public. Drawing on expertise across many disciplines, the first year of the program will teach researchers to become more effective communicators inside as well as outside the classroom.

Acting and Directing Faculty Professor Kim Rubinstein will lead a three-day, hands-on workshop, "Talking Research: Improving Science Dialogue," to strengthen the ability of faculty members to vividly articulate their research to a variety of different audiences.

TRANSFER TRITON DAY AT UCSD

Saturday was **Transfer Triton Day** (<http://transfertritonday.ucsd.edu>) for all prospective transfer students to visit campus. The department presented a talk from Yolande Snaith and Mark Guirguis. The prospectives then toured Galbraith Hall and the theatre district and sat in on a *Gruesome Playground Injuries* rehearsals and the tech of *Birds of North America*.



ALUMNI NEWS

RACHEL AXLER PENS EPISODE OF *VEEP*

MFA Playwriting alumna Rachel Axler wrote last evening's episode of HBO's hit series *Veep*. *Veep* is currently in its sixth season and the acclaimed series airs on Sunday nights on HBO at 10:30pm.

You can stream last night's episode of *Veep* [here](https://play.hbogo.com/series/urn:hbo:series:GVU2fLgkp0IFvjSoJAT_&camp=GoS7) (https://play.hbogo.com/series/urn:hbo:series:GVU2fLgkp0IFvjSoJAT_&camp=GoS7).



JERRY RUIZ TO DIRECT *TWELFTH NIGHT* FOR THE OLD GLOBE

The Old Globe announced their 2017-2018 season last week. Their "Globe for All" annual touring production this year will be Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* which will be directed by **MFA Directing alumnus Jerry Ruiz** and will perform October 31st - November 18th. The production will play for free to diverse, multigenerational audiences in San Diego County who do not have regular access to the performing arts over 20 different locations before culminating in performances at the Old Globe.

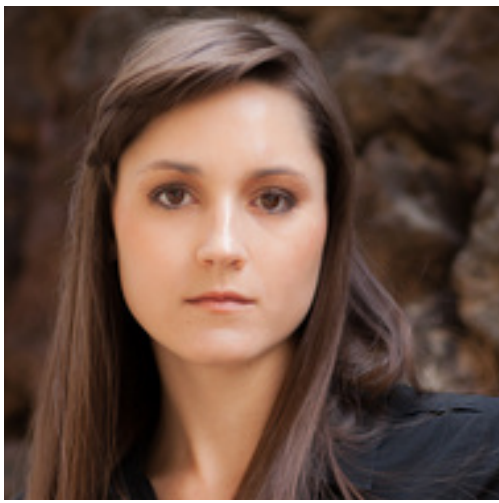
To read more about the Old Globe's new season, [click here](http://www.americantheatre.org/2017/05/05/old-globe-announces-3-world-premieres-for-2017-18-season/) (<http://www.americantheatre.org/2017/05/05/old-globe-announces-3-world-premieres-for-2017-18-season/>).

TOM PATTERSON APPEARS IN *1984* ON BROADWAY

MFA Acting alumnus Tom Patterson is performing as part of the ensemble and as an understudy in the new Broadway production of *1984* adapted by Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan. The production stars Tom Sturridge, Olivia Wilde, and Reed Birney and begins previews for a limited run on Broadway on May 18th following an acclaimed run in London.

For tickets and more information, [click here](http://teatrodelasamericas.org/men-on-the-verge-of-a-his-panic-breakdown/) (<http://teatrodelasamericas.org/men-on-the-verge-of-a-his-panic-breakdown/>).





JANET O'NEILL DESIGNS FOR NEW YORK CITY OPERA

MFA Costume Design alumna Janet O'Neill has designed the New York City Opera's production of *Los Elementos* by Antonio de Literes at Harlem Stage Gatehouse. The production is part of New York City Opera's "Ópera en Español" series and is its American Premiere. The opera is modeled upon a debate between the elements Earth, Air, Fire and Water as they await the dawn, with interventions from Time and the Dawn itself.

To read more, [click](#)

([https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/05/05/arts/music/review-is-los-elementos-opera-thats-beside-the-point.html?](https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/05/05/arts/music/review-is-los-elementos-opera-thats-beside-the-point.html?mwrs=Facebook&referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fm.facebook.com)

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([https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/05/05/arts/music/review-is-los-elementos-opera-thats-beside-the-point.html?](https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/05/05/arts/music/review-is-los-elementos-opera-thats-beside-the-point.html?mwrs=Facebook&referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fm.facebook.com)

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HILARY WARD TO JOIN NEW HBO DRAMA

MFA Acting alumna Hilary Ward has joined the cast of HBO's upcoming series *Sharp Objects*, starring alongside Amy Adams. *Sharp Objects* centers on a crime reporter, Camille Preaker, who, fresh from a brief stay at a psychiatric hospital, must return to her tiny hometown to cover the murders of two preteen girls. Trying to put together a psychological puzzle from her past, Camille finds herself identifying with the young victims a bit too closely. Ward will portray Becca, an ex-classmate and former cheerleading teammate of Camille. She is the only one among her peers who knows Camille's darkest secret.

To learn more, [click](http://deadline.com/2017/05/sharp-objects-david-sullivan-reagan-pasternak-recur-amy-adams-hbo-series-1202085587/) (<http://deadline.com/2017/05/sharp-objects-david-sullivan-reagan-pasternak-recur-amy-adams-hbo-series-1202085587/>) [here](http://deadline.com/2017/05/sharp-objects-david-sullivan-reagan-pasternak-recur-amy-adams-hbo-series-1202085587/) (<http://deadline.com/2017/05/sharp-objects-david-sullivan-reagan-pasternak-recur-amy-adams-hbo-series-1202085587/>).





2017 TONY AWARD NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED

This year's Tony Award nominations were announced last week and three UCSD alumni were nominated for their work on Broadway the past season. **MFA Directing alumnus Michael Greif** was nominated for Best Director of a Musical for his direction of *Dear Evan Hansen*. **MFA Acting alumnus Jefferson Mays** was nominated for Best Actor in a Leading Role in a Play for his performance in *Oslo*. **MFA Costume Design alumna Paloma Young** was nominated for Best Costume Design of a Musical for her design of *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812*. Several other shows with many UCSD ties were also nominated, particularly *Come From Away* and *Indecent*, both of which were developed at the La Jolla Playhouse. The Tony Awards will be presented on June 11th.

To read more, [click here \(http://www.tonyawards.com/en_US/nominees/index.html\)](http://www.tonyawards.com/en_US/nominees/index.html).



PALOMA YOUNG PROFILED BY PLAYBILL

MFA Costume Design alumna Paloma H. Young was featured in a video from Playbill where she discussed her design for *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812*. The show features one of the largest ensembles currently on Broadway, for which Young created 1,427 different costume pieces. Young leaned into the Russian roots of the story. "Russia is represented by the bear, so there are a lot bears in the costumes for Great Comet," she says. Everything from a bear pin from 1980's Olympics in Russia to a faux tattoo of a bear playing an accordion based on a Russian prison tattoo is included in Young's design. "I've actually never counted all the bears in the show."

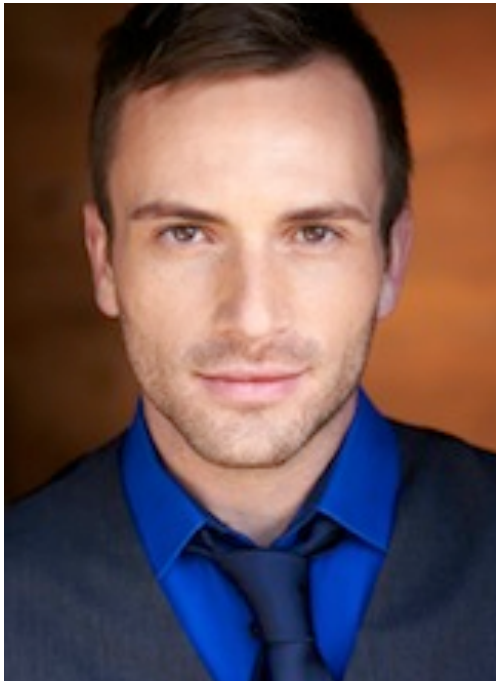
To read the full article and watch the video, [click here \(http://www.playbill.com/article/watch-inside-the-tony-nominated-costume-design-of-the-great-comet\)](http://www.playbill.com/article/watch-inside-the-tony-nominated-costume-design-of-the-great-comet).

PHILLIP CURRY STARRING IN *THE GARY PLAYS*

MFA Acting alumnus Phillip Curry is currently starring in Murray Mednick's *The Gary Plays* at Open Fist Theatre Company in Los Angeles. The production runs through June 4th at the Atwater Village Theatre. *The Gary Plays* follows Gary, an unemployed actor struggling with grief and self-recrimination after his son's murder and is an iconic L.A. story which collides vaudeville, Beckett, and classical tragedy in a portrait of L.A. noir.



For tickets and more information, [click here](http://openfist.org/the-gary-plays/) (<http://openfist.org/the-gary-plays/>).



ZACH MARTENS DEVELOPS NEW IMMERSIVE SHOW

MFA Acting alumnus Zach Martens has been working on a brand new immersive show alongside original cast members of the popular *Sleep No More*. The new production, called *Here*, is a multi-episodic endeavour, where the audience gets a 90-minute experience and is launched out the other side, only to put the pieces together on the street. New episodes will be released over time —it's like experiencing a TV show, but in live theatre. Tickets went on sale this week, and they open the first episode of their long-term immersive series May 18th. To read more and purchase tickets, [click here](https://www.hereny.com) (<https://www.hereny.com>).

Zach will also be starring on NBC's *Shades of Blue* this Sunday, May 7 and next Sunday, May 14th.

ANNE KAUFFMAN TO DIRECT IN NYTW SEASON

New York Theatre Workshop announced its 2017-2018 season last week and **MFA Directing alumna Anne Kauffman** is set to direct the first two productions of the season. The season will open with the New York premiere of Amy Herzog's *Mary Jane*, about a single mother in New York struggling to care for her chronically sick child. Anne originated the play at Yale Rep this spring. Next up will be *Hundred Days*, with a book by Shaun and Abigail Bengson and Sarah Gancher and music and lyrics by the Bengsons. The folk-punk musical explores what would happen if you only had 100 days to live. Anne will direct and Sonya Tayeh will movement-direct.



For tickets and more information, [click here](http://openfist.org/the-gary-plays/) (<http://openfist.org/the-gary-plays/>).

ATLANTIC THEATER COMPANY TO PREMIERE TWO ALUMNAE WRITERS



The Atlantic Theater Company announced their 2017-2018 Season and the new season will feature two plays by UCSD alumnae. In January **MFA Acting alumna Ngozi Anyanwu's** new play *The Homecoming Queen* will receive its world premiere. The new play follows a novelist who returns to Nigeria to care for her ailing father, while at the same time learning to re-familiarize herself with the culture she'd left behind. The season will close with **MFA Playwriting alumna Lauren Yee's**, *The Great Leap*. The story follows a college basketball team's journey from San Francisco in 1989, to Beijing at the height of its post-cultural revolution and will begin performances in May.



To read more, [click here](http://www.playbill.com/article/atlantic-theater-company-announces-20172018-season) (<http://www.playbill.com/article/atlantic-theater-company-announces-20172018-season>).



2017 O'NEILL FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The 2017 National Playwrights Conference announced this year's O'Neill finalists. Among the finalists were several **MFA Playwriting alumni**, **Caridad Svich**, **Ken Weitzman**, **Jennifer Barclay Newsham**, **Ben Fisher**, **Will Snider** and incoming playwright student **Dave Harris**.

To read more, [click here \(https://sites.google.com/a/theoneill.org/2017/npc-finalist-list\)](https://sites.google.com/a/theoneill.org/2017/npc-finalist-list).

CLAIRE KAPLAN AND SAMUEL STEWART HUNTER TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN BERLIN

BA alumna Claire Kaplan has been accepted into a new collaboration between Columbia College and the London International School of Performing Arts to pursue an MFA in European Devised Performance which will take her to Berlin for her research. **BA alumnus Samuel Stewart Hunter** was awarded a German Chancellor Fellowship to research ensemble theatre in Berlin where he'll be sponsored by the Hochschule Ernst Busch, the premier drama school in Germany, and will be writing for Howlround about his findings.



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