



**SPRING QUARTER: WEEK 8**

**DEPARTMENT NEWS**

## 2017 WAGNER NEW PLAY FESTIVAL COMES TO A CLOSE

The Wagner New Play Festival concluded this weekend to rapturous applause after two weeks of performances. The final weekend was capped with visits by ten industry VIPs who attended all of the shows and met with the students to discuss their work and talk shop.

The ten VIPs for this year's festival were the following:

**Michael Finkle**, Agent, William Morris Endeavor, NYC

**Adam Greenfield**, Associate Artistic Director, Playwrights Horizons, NYC

**Adrien-Alice Hansel**, Literary Director, Studio Theatre, Washington, DC

**Philip Himberg**, Producing Artistic Director, Sundance Institute Theatre Program, NYC

**Lisa McNulty**, Producing Artistic Director, Women's Project Theater, NYC

**Joy Meads**, Literary Manager and Artistic Engagement Strategist, Center Theatre Group, LA

**Jeanie O'Hare**, Director of New Work Development, The Public Theater, NYC

**Tanya Palmer**, Director of New Play Development, Goodman Theatre, Chicago

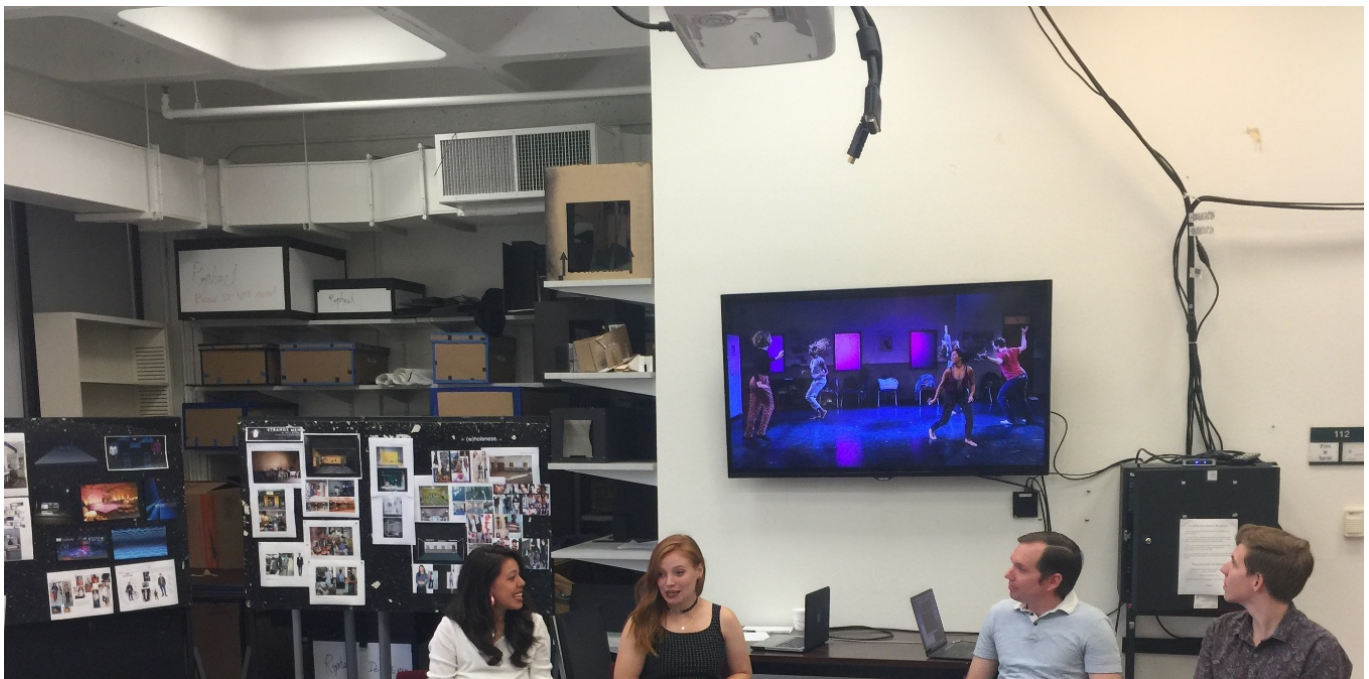
**Jack Reuler**, Artistic Director, Mixed Blood Theatre Company, Minneapolis, MN

**Les Waters**, Artistic Director, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Louisville, KY

Thanks to all of those who attended and worked incredibly hard to pull off a sterling festival this year. See some of the highlights of the weekend below.



*The weekend began with a dinner for the VIPs, playwrights, and faculty on Thursday evening. From Left to Right, Ava Geyer, Naomi Iizuka, Joy Meads, Adrien-Alice Hansel, Allan Havis, Gabe Greene, and Jack Reuler.*



*Robert Brill and the Design MFAs led a discussion about their ongoing work on the Wagner's and throughout the program. From Left to Right, Annie Le, Anna Robinson, Joel Britt, and Justin Livengood*



*The Wagner Theatre hosted a panel discussion on professional life after graduate school and a staged reading by Zora Howard's new play "Stew". From Left to Right: Deborah Stein, Jack Reuler, Lisa McNulty, Jeanie O'Hare, Les Waters, Adam Greenfield, Janet Fiki, Kimberly Monks, Yolanda Franklin, Keiana Richard, and Yonatan Gebeyehu.*





*The weekend concluded with a closing performance of "Strange Men" by Will Snider. The performance was introduced by UCSD Chancellor Pradeep Khosla and Theatre and Dance Chair Charles Means.*

*~Photo by Farshid Bazmandegan*



*The cast and crew of Strange Men joined by guests UCSD Chancellor Pradeep Khosla, Molli Wagner, Associate of the Chancellor Thespine Kavoulakis, Rick & Lillian Wallace, and Professor Eva Barnes. ~Photo by Farshid Bazmandegan*



*The evening wrapped up with drinks and celebrations out across the Theatre District and the Potiker Lobby. From Left to Right, Professor Naomi Iizuka, Associate of the Chancellor Thespian Kavoulakis, Chair Charles Means, and Chancellor Pradeep Khosla.*

*~Photo by Farshid Bazmandegan*

## ALUMNI NEWS

### LAUREN YEE PLAY TO PREMIERE AT SOUTH COAST REP

South Coast Repertory has announced their 2017-2018 season and **MFA Playwriting alumna Lauren Yee's** new play *Cambodian Rock Band* will be given a world premiere production.. The script was given a staged reading as part of the Rep's Pacific Playwright's Festival a few weeks ago and will debut in the spring of 2018. The play uses the music of real-life rock band Dengue Fever to tell the story of the fallout from the Khmer Rouge.

You can read more about South Coast Rep's season [here](http://www.americantheatre.org/2017/05/15/south-coast-reps-2017-18-season-to-feature-5-world-premieres/) (<http://www.americantheatre.org/2017/05/15/south-coast-reps-2017-18-season-to-feature-5-world-premieres/>).





## JHAE PARK'S *PEERLESS* PROFILED FOR EXCEPTIONAL LIGHTING DESIGN

**MFA Acting alumna Jihae Park's** new play *Peerless* is currently running at Company One in Boston. The play tells the tale of a pair of high school siblings who are determined to get into their dream university, staged in the Rabb Lecture Hall at the Boston Public Library. The production and lighting design was featured in American Theater magazine where the lighting designer Emmett Buhmann discussed his transformative work on the project.

A photo is shown below and the full article can be [read here](http://www.americantheatre.org/2017/05/19/peerless-turns-a-library-into-a-theatre/) (<http://www.americantheatre.org/2017/05/19/peerless-turns-a-library-into-a-theatre/>).



## TOM PATTERSON RECEIVES HELEN HAYES AWARD

**MFA Acting alumnus Tom Patterson** has been awarded **the** Robert Prosky Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play by the Helen Hayes Awards for his work in Nick Payne's *Constellations* at Washington D.C.'s Studio Theatre. Congratulations Tom!

## JENNIFER SETLOW NAMED ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE UF COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

**MFA Lighting Design alumna Jennifer Setlow** has been appointed the Associate Dean of the UF College of the Arts. As associate dean, Setlow will oversee all undergraduate and graduate curricular matters for the college's schools and centers including the School of Art + Art History, School of Music, School of Theatre + Dance, Digital Worlds Institute, Center for Arts in Medicine, Center for World Arts, and Center for Arts and Public Policy. She will also oversee student advising and all other student services. Setlow will also direct the college's work with the affiliate New World School of the Arts in Miami.



To read more about her appointment, [click \(http://arts.ufl.edu/in-the-loop/news/jennifer-setlow-named-associate-dean-of-the-uf-college-of-the-arts/\)](http://arts.ufl.edu/in-the-loop/news/jennifer-setlow-named-associate-dean-of-the-uf-college-of-the-arts/) here (<http://arts.ufl.edu/in-the-loop/news/jennifer-setlow-named-associate-dean-of-the-uf-college-of-the-arts/>).

## MONICA BILL BARNES & COMPANY TO PERFORM AT SAN DIEGO DANCE THEATRE

**BA alumna Monica Bill Barnes** and her company, Monica Bill Barnes & Company, will return to San Diego for on May 26th with their new show *One Night Only* at the San Diego Dance Theatre. **MFA Scenic Design alumnus Kelly Hanson** is the scenic designer. In the performance long time performing partners Monica Bill Barnes and Anna Bass push themselves to new extremes. The clock is running and so are they, racing forward in a desperate attempt to do absolutely everything there is to do in one night. *One Night Only* continues the company's mission to bring dance where it doesn't belong by turning the theater's polite, program holding audience into a crowd ready to jump to their feet, cheer for each other, and give a little bit more of themselves than they planned on giving. *One Night Only* is a meditation on the ephemeral nature of everything, including our own abilities. Plus, it's funny.

For tickets and more information, [click here \(http://sandiegodancetheater.org/MonicaBillBarnes.html\)](http://sandiegodancetheater.org/MonicaBillBarnes.html).

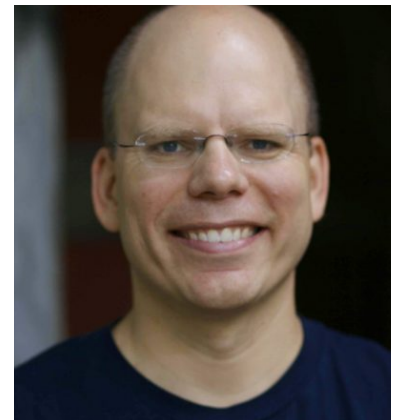


## **RACHEL AXLER TO BE RECOGNIZED AT ALUMNI WEEKEND**

**MFA Playwriting alumna Rachel Axler** will be one of five distinguished Tritons recognized during UC San Diego's annual summer Alumni Weekend June 9-11. Rachel's writing for many TV comedies is well acclaimed and has netted her three Emmy Awards. Rachel was recently interviewed in the TritonMag as part of this recognition and the full article can be [read here \(http://tritonmag.com/axler/\)](http://tritonmag.com/axler/).

## **MATT HOVERMAN PENS NEW DISNEY EPISODE**

**MFA acting alumnus Matt Hoverman** wrote his first episode for the Disney television show, Sofia the First. His new episode: "Pin the Blame on the Genie" premiered last Friday on the Disney Channel.





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