

UC SANDIEGO
THEATRE & DANCE

SPRING NEWSLETTER: WEEK 7
DEPARTMENT NEWS



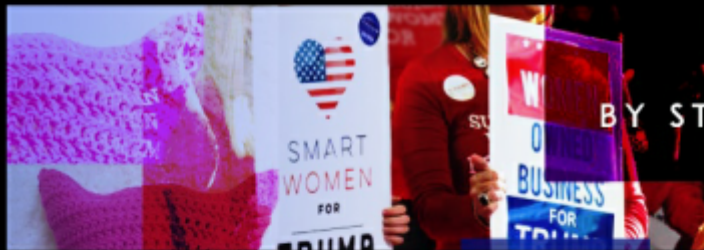
**HOW TO
DEFEND
YOURSELF**
BY LILY PADILLA



MOTHERS
BY ANNA MOENCH



SERE
BY AVA GEYER



53% OF
BY STEPH DEL ROSSO



**THE
CLITORISH**
BY MARA
NELSON-GREENBERG

MFA ONE ACTS



JOSHUA
BY ALI VITERBI



**TAMBO
AND BONES**
BY DAVE HARRIS

2018 WAGNER NEW PLAY FESTIVAL OPENS

The annual Wagner New Play Festival began performances this past week and runs May 9th - 19th. The festival features full-length and one-act plays written by the current MFA playwrights. Tickets are selling fast so reserve yours soon!

This year's festival lineup is:

How to Defend Yourself by Lily Padilla

directed by Kim Rubinstein

in the Potiker Theatre, Friday, May 11th @ 7:30pm, Saturday, May 12th @ 2pm, Monday, May 14th @ 7:30pm, Wednesday, May 16th @ 7:30pm, Thursday, May 17th @ 7:30pm .

Seven college students gather for a DIY self-defense workshop after a sorority sister is raped. They learn to use their bodies as weapons. They learn to fend off attackers. They learn “not to be a victim.” Learning self-defense becomes a channel for their rage, anxiety, confusion, trauma and desire – lots of desire. *How to Defend Yourself* explores what you want, how to ask for it, and the insidious ways rape culture steals one's body and sense of belonging.

Mothers by Anna Moench

directed by Bea Basso

in the Potiker Theatre, Wednesday, May 9th @ 7:30pm, Saturday, May 12th @ 7:30pm, Tuesday, May 15th @ 7:30pm, Friday, May 18th @ 7:30pm, Saturday, May 19th @ 7pm

Three moms, a stay-at-home dad, and a nanny watch their kids play at Mommy-Baby Meetup. One mom is the queen bee and one is here to shake things up. The dad just wants to fit in, and the nanny doesn't say a word. When catastrophe comes, the five of them have to figure out how to survive a war and each other. *Mothers* examines the primal heartache of raising children in a disintegrating world.

53% Of by Steph Del Rosso

directed by Jennifer Chang

in the Shank Theatre, Tuesday, May 8th @ 7:30pm, Friday, May 11th @ 7:30pm, Tuesday, May 15th @ 7:30pm, Wednesday, May 16th @ 7:30pm, Friday, May 18th @ 7:30pm

The president is coming to town, and the ladies of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania are beside themselves planning for the big event. Later, their husbands drink beer and talk smack. Much later, a group of 20-somethings gather in Brooklyn to plan a fundraiser...or is it a march? Or is it a ritual to absolve their own guilt? A play about complicity and the violence of the status quo, *53% Of* asks what happens when we stop equating white womanhood with goodness, and ignorance with innocence.

SERE by Ava Geyer

directed by Dylan Key

in the Shank Theatre, Thursday, May 10th @ 7:30pm, Saturday, May 12th @ 2pm, Saturday, May 12th @ 7:30pm, Thursday, May 17th @ 7:30pm, Saturday, May 19th @ 2pm

When you're on SEAL Team 5 and a new guy joins your fire team, you invite him over for dinner. That's just what you do. But what if his wife shows up splattered in artichoke dip and doesn't seem to know when to shut up? It's T-minus 2 months to deployment, so you better hope this dude's chaos will clear itself up once real shit hits the fan. *SERE* (a.k.a. Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape) asks what it means to be a soldier in today's America and what it means to love one.

MFA One Acts

Tambo & Bones by Dave Harris, directed by Joseph Hendel

The Clitorish by Mara Nelson-Greenberg, directed by Nicholas Rapp

Joshua by Ali Viterbi, directed by Vanessa Stalling

in the Wagner Theatre, Saturday, May 12th @ 7:30pm, Wednesday, May 16th @ 7:30pm, Thursday, May 17th @ 7:30pm, Friday, May 18th @ 7:30pm, Saturday, May 19th @ 10:30am

Tambo and Bones are two characters in a minstrel show. They soon come to realize that they are, in fact, just two characters in a minstrel show. This realization brings them great distress. All they want is some quarters and a nap. They decide that there is only one solution: they must find and kill the source of all their troubles. *Tambo & Bones* interrogates the intersection of race and capitalism, and the connection between pain, profit, and audience.

Ted and his wife hire a vagina tutor to teach their son Marty about the vagina after they discover Marty has confused a diagram of the vagina for a map of the Middle East. Marty isn't home yet when the vagina tutor arrives, but Ted is and it soon becomes clear that Ted is just as clueless as his son is about all things vagina-related. *The Clitorish* explores "truthiness," vaginas, and how certain people manage to dictate the rules of the world.

Anya's boyfriend was Caleb's best friend. To commemorate the one-year anniversary of his death, Anya and Caleb ditch school to go to the desert. And maybe fall in love. And maybe conjure a ghost. *Joshua* looks at that moment in time where life moves us from a place of youth and innocence into the place that will shape our adult selves. As we look back, how do we reconcile the missed opportunities, the things we didn't say, the paths we didn't take? And will they even matter to our older selves?

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



Dave Harris and Ngozi Anyanwu named to Space at Ryder Farm

DAVE HARRIS AND NGOZI ANYANWU NAMED TO SPACE AT RYDER FARM

MFA Playwriting student Dave Harris and **MFA Acting alumna Ngozi Anyanwu** have been selected as members of SPACE on Ryder Farm's resident playwrights group: The Working Farm. The non-profit residency program is housed on a 222-year-old working farm in Brewster, New York, and will run June through October. After their five-week residency, Working Farm playwrights are offered a public reading of their new play the following spring in partnership with Playwrights Horizons in New York.

The 2018 Working Farm will be made up of Ngozi Anyanwu, whose play *The Homecoming Queen* received an acclaimed world premiere at Atlantic Theater Company earlier this year; Dave Harris (*White History*); Will Arbery; Donnetta Lavinia Grays; A. Rey Pamatmat; Michael Thurber; Anne Washburn; and Stefanie Zdravec.

To read more about the finalists, [click here](#).

LILY PADILLA AND WNPf PROFILED BY SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

The San Diego Union-Tribune interviewed **MFA Playwriting student Lily Padilla** to discuss her work and the Wagner New Play Festival. Lily discussed her play *How To Defend Yourself* and the collaborations created through the Wagner New Play Festival.

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



ELIANA PIPES RECEIVES 2018 DR. FLOYD GAFFNEY NATIONAL PLAYWRITING COMPETITION AWARD

The UC San Diego Department of Theatre and Dance held a reading for this year's Gaffney competition winner, *Stand and Wait* by Eliana Pipes this past Saturday. Eliana was awarded a \$1000 prize by **Playwriting Faculty Professor Allan Havis** and the staged reading was directed by Directing Faculty Professor Robert Castro and stage managed by BA student Bryan P. Clements. The cast will feature MFA Acting students Janet Fiki (Carla), Mary Rose Branick (Tracy), Brandon O'Sullivan (Mel), Assata Hefner (Yvonne), Amara Granderson (Lisa), Xavier Clark (Damian).

Sparked by Paula Deen's perverse remarks of an Antebellum South themed wedding with "historically appropriate" staff, *Stand and Wait* follows a seasoned black actress Carla, and a naïve white actress Tracy, who make friends in an audition, only to be handed a script that caters to America's worst racial instincts. The event transcends to a plantation outside of space and time as Carla encounters ghosts of slaves and the legacy that's been haunting her.

ALUMNI NEWS



MIKEAH ERNEST JENNINGS OPENS LIGHT SHINING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

BA alumnus Mikeah Ernest Jennings is currently appearing in New York Theatre Workshop's production of *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* by Caryl Churchill. The production runs through June 3rd.

In 1647 England, power is shifting and, amid the chaos and confusion, revolutionaries across the country are dreaming of a new future.

ANDREA STOLOWITZ PLAY RECEIVES READING AT THE BARROW GROUP

MFA Playwriting alumna Andrea M Stolowitz's new play *Antarktikos* will receive a reading at the Barrow Group tonight as part of their MainStage Reading Series.

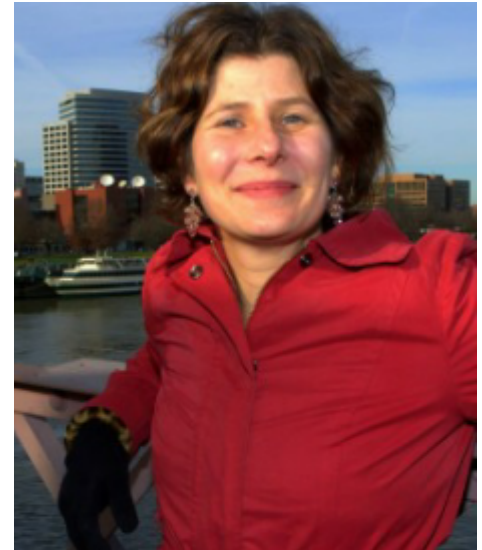
Monday, May 14, 2018 at 7:00PM

The Barrow Group Theatre

[312 West 36th Street 3rd Floor](#)

[New York, NY 10018](#)

Somewhere between Oregon and Antarctica lie several points on a continuum: Susan, a writer at an artists residency at the South Pole; Captain Robert Falcon Scott, leader of the British Antarctic expedition of 1912; and Hilary, Susan's 21-year-old daughter. When an insomniac EMT named Alex becomes the hapless link among them, time collapses, geographies blend and destinies emerge.



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