

UC SAN DIEGO THEATRE & DANCE

WINTER NEWSLETTER: WEEK 4 DEPARTMENT NEWS



HILTON ALS TO SPEAK ON CAMPUS

UC San Diego Department of Theatre and Dance is hosting a free public event **Issues of Identity: In Conversation with Hilton Als**. **Special Guest and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and critic Hilton Als** will be in conversation with **Neurobiology Faculty Professor Dr. Gentry Patrick**. The event will be held on Monday, February 5th, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Mandell Weiss Theatre of the Jacobs Theatre District, UC San Diego. Preregistration is requested and can be [done here](#).

The conversation will be framed by the Department of Theatre and Dance's new production of Lorraine Hansberry's classic *A Raisin in the Sun*. Produced on Broadway in 1959, the play explores issues of identity that still resonate. The conversation will focus on issues of racial identity, gender and access to the American dream.



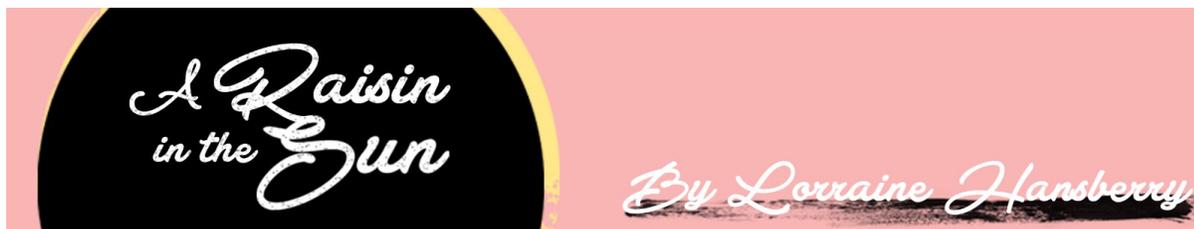
UC SAN DIEGO PLAYWRIGHTS FEATURED FOR WORK AT HUMANA

Playwriting Faculty Professor Deborah Stein and **MFA Playwriting student Mara Nelson-Greenberg** will both have plays produced at this year's Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville. They were both interviewed for a long piece about the festival that touches on Deborah's play, *Marginal Loss*, and Mara's play, *Do You Feel Anger?* They both spoke eloquently about the craft of playwriting and the role of mentorship between writers, especially the mentorship found here at UC San Diego.

STEPH DEL ROSSO'S NEW PLAY PREMIERES AT FLEA

MFA Playwriting student **Steph Del Rosso's** new play *Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill* is now running at the Flea Theatre as the first production of their 2018 "Season of Womyn" slate of productions. Steph developed the play at the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab and it received a reading at UC San Diego Theatre & Dance in 2016. The play follows Joni, a women who begins physically feeling holes all over her body after a breakup. From acupuncture to threesomes, *Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill* asks how do we live fully in our own skin?

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



RAISIN IN THE SUN NEARS PREVIEWS

The UC San Diego Theatre Department of Theatre and Dance begins its Winter quarter with a production of Lorraine Hansberry's classic *A Raisin In The Sun* which begins performances on February 7th in the Weiss Theatre.

A classic of the American stage, *A Raisin in the Sun* follows Walter Younger and his family in Chicago, each feeling confined by their physical home space and the social roles they've been assigned. When an insurance payout after the death of the family's patriarch offers an opportunity to improve their lives, individual priorities and how they affect others come into question.

The Creative Team

Director – Kim Rubinstein

Scenic Designer – Anna Robinson

Costume Designer – Evan Kwong

Assistant Scenic Designer – Samuel Keamy-Minor

Production Stage Manager – Bryan Runion

Assistant Stage Manager – Amber Dettmers

The Cast

Walter Lee Younger – Michael Rishawn

Beneatha Younger – Amara Granderson

Lena Younger – Kimberly Monks

Ruth Younger – Janet Fiki

Joseph Asagai – Xavier Clark

George Murchison / Bobo – Sidney Hill

Mr. Karl Lindner – Andrew Gallop

Travis Younger – TBD

ALUMNI GATHERING IN NEW YORK CITY

Thank to all who were able to attend last Monday's Alumni gathering in New York City on January 22nd. It was great to share a drink or two with so many alums and catch up on new projects and foster new collaborations and relationships.

Alumni, faculty, and staff in attendance included Agatha Adilem Ventura, Tim Becker, Quincy Tyler Bernstine, Kim Blanck, R.a. Chavira, Hannah Corrigan, Russell Ewing, Brad Fleischer, Jenny Grober, Michael Hammond, Walker Hare, David Jacobi, Steven Kemp, Michael Keyloun, Caleb Levensgood, Chris Luessmann, Mark Maltby, Sean McIntyre, Ursula Meyer, Jack Mikesell, John-Andrew Morrison, Tom Patterson, Christopher Randolph, Pearl Rhein, Richard Robichaux, Caroline Siewert, Brian Smolin, Megan Sprowls, Marybeth Ward, Ron Washington, Jess Watkins, Anne Whitaker, and Paloma H Young.

ALUMNI NEWS

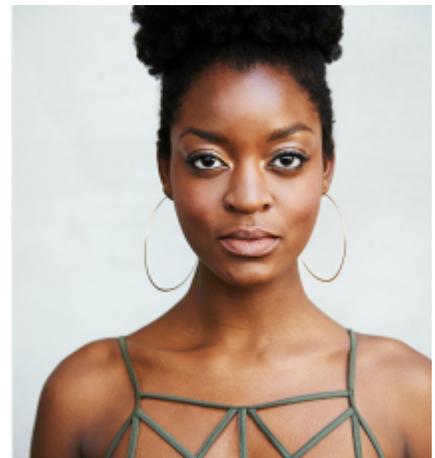


PAM MACKINNON NAMED NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF ACT

Pam MacKinnon has been named the new artistic director of American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. Pam will take over from Carey Perloff who is stepping down after 25 years leading the institution. A Tony Award winner, Pam has directed on Broadway the past few years including the currently-performing *The Parisian Woman* with Uma Thurman. She has also been part of the leadership of New York's Clubbed Thumb Theatre and directed cabaret projects around UC San Diego Theatre and Dance in the 90's.

ZAKIYA IMAN MARKLAND STARS IN TENNIS PLAY

MFA Acting alumna Zakiya Iman Markland is currently playing the girlfriend of Billie Jean King in the new play *Balls* at 59E59. The play chronicles the famous "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match between King and Bobby Riggs. The show runs through February 25th.





NGOZI ANYANWU PROFILED IN NYTIMES

MFA Acting alumna Ngozi Anyanwu was featured in the New York Times this week for a story on the daughters of African immigrants who are innovating new work to express and explore their identity. The full story can be [read here](#).

Ngozi has a new play which is receiving its world premiere at Atlantic Theater Company, *The Homecoming Queen*. A NY Times critics pick, *The Homecoming Queen* follows a bestselling novelist who returns to Nigeria to care for her ailing father, but before she can bury him, she must relearn the traditions she's long forgotten. Having been absent for over a decade, she collides with her culture, traumatic past, painful regrets, and the deep, deep love she thought she could never have. The production has been extended to run through February 18th.

LAUREN YEE NAMED KENNEDY PRIZE FINALIST

Columbia University has announced the 2018 finalists for the Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History. **MFA Playwriting alumna Lauren Yee's** play *King of the Yees* was named as one of the four finalists. Chosen from a pool of nominations, the author of the winning work will receive a cash prize of \$100,000 at a ceremony this spring at Columbia University. Ayad Akhtar's *Junk*, which was produced at La Jolla Playhouse, is also a finalist.



DILEEP RAO TO REPRISEROLE IN AVATAR FILMS

BA alumnus Dileep Rao will return to the world of *Avatar* playing Dr. Max Patel in the sequels to James Cameron's record-breaking film. Dileep will appear in the next three *Avatar* films which will begin appearing in theaters in 2020.



PAUL PAPE PROFILED FOR THE TONIGHT SHOW

MFA Scenic Design alumnus Paul Pape was profiled by his hometown newspaper in Omaha to discuss his work as designer for *The Tonight Show*. He discusses his collaboration with **MFA Scenic Design alumna Kelly Hanson**, art director of The Tonight Show, and his theatrical work, including the production of *I Am My Own Wife* at La Jolla Playhouse.



JESCA PRUDENCIO OPENS VIETGONE AT SD REP

MFA Directing alumna Jesca Prudencio is directing a production of Qui Nguyen's *Vietgone* at San Diego Repertory. The production features **MFA Acting alumna Katherine Ko** in the lead role and design from **MFA Sound Design alumna Melanie Chen Cole**, **MFA Scenic Design alumnus Justin Humphres**, and **MFA Lighting Design alumnus Bo Tindell**. A Love story of two Vietnamese refugees who fall in love across 1970s America told through a mash-up of comic books, hip-hop, martial arts and Hollywood action movies. The show runs through February 18th.



ALUMNI RECEIVE LA DRAMA CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD NOMINATIONS

The LA Drama Critics Circle Award nominations were announced this week and **BA alumna Miranda Machele Wynne** was nominated for Lead Performance for her performance in *Rotterdam* at Skylight Theatre. **MFA Lighting Design alumnus Tom Ontiveros** was also nominated for his CGI/Video design in *The House of Scarsdale: A Memoir for the Stage* at Boston Court.

UC San Diego

ARTS AND HUMANITIES Theatre and Dance

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