



END OF SUMMER NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT NEWS

UC San Diego Theatre & Dance starts Fall Quarter



Incoming graduate class, photo: Jim Carmody

This newsletter is a recap of various projects department alumni, students and staff were involved with this past summer. We plan to put out a newsletters in weeks 1 - 3 of highlight faculty, staff and students work and research from this past summer. If you have info you would like to share please send it to us at [tanddnews@ucsd.edu](mailto:tanddnews@ucsd.edu) and we will post in the nex couple weeks.

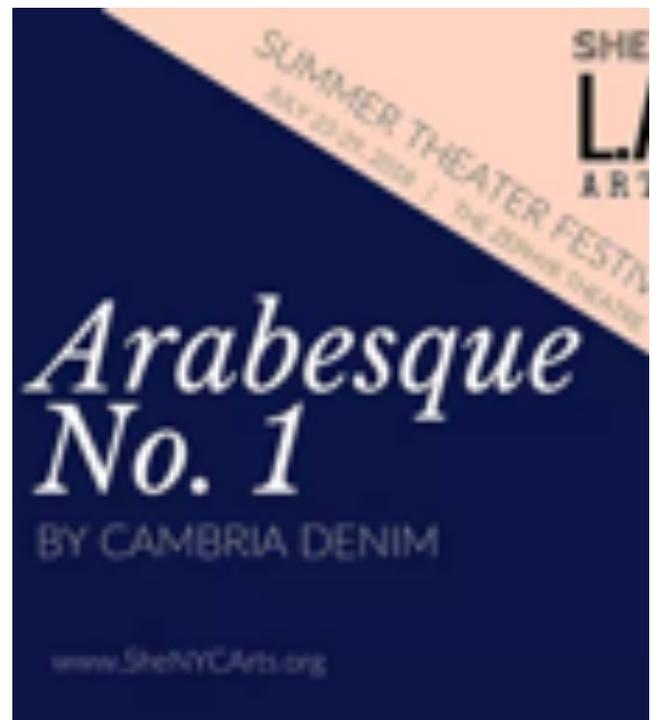
## ALUMNI NEWS

This summer professor Natalie Griffith Robichaux directed *Arabesque No. 1* at the She L.A. Summer Theater Festival at the Zephyr Theatre in Hollywood.

MFA II actor Garrett Schulte was cast in this two person play. The production won as Best Production and Garrett won as Best Lead Actor at the Festival!

You can read their show spotlight and hear from them [here](https://www.shenycarts.org/single-post/2018/07/19/Show-Spotlight-Arabesque-no-1-by-Cambria-Denim) (<https://www.shenycarts.org/single-post/2018/07/19/Show-Spotlight-Arabesque-no-1-by-Cambria-Denim>). You can read about the SheNYCArts [here](https://www.shenycarts.org/) (<https://www.shenycarts.org/>).

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# The Heart of Rock & Roll

Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage  
Old Globe Theatre  
Conrad Prebys Theatre Center

September 6 - October 21, 2018



*The Heart of Rock & Roll*, featuring music from Huey Lewis and the News is playing at the O Globe through October 21, 2018. Many alumni were involved in this production.

Costume designer: Paloma H Young, MFA

Assistant costume designers: Danae Iris McQueen, MFA & Junior Bergman, MFA

Asst Lighting designer: Brandon Rosen, MFA (assisted Howell Binkley)

PSM: Anjee Nero, MFA

1st ASM: Amanda Salmons, BA

2nd ASM: Mandisa Reed, MFA

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The skit-based queer web series Matt & Dan (Matt Wilkas and Daniel Vincent Gordh, BA, on left) is set to return for a brand new, 8-episode season. Click the image to learn about their plans.

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These beautiful costume design renderings are by MFA alumna Raquel Barreto for a production of *FRANKENSTEIN - PLAYING WITH FIRE* (<https://www.guthrietheater.org/shows-and-tickets/2018-2019-season/frankenstein/>) at the Guthrie Theatre playing through the end of October.



First dress photo of "*Frankenstein - Playing with Fire.*" at the Guthrie Theatre.  
Scenic design: Michael Locher, BA  
Costume design: Raquel Barreto, MFA

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MFA acting alumna Kim Blanck (2nd from the right, bottom) is cast as Viola in *Twelfth Night* at the Alley Theatre in Houston. Performances run through October. Kim had understudied the role (along with other roles, and went on as Viola) at the Public's Shakespeare in the Park in NYC this summer.

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Stephanie Diaz, BA, was at Creede Repertory Theatre this past summer where she played the title role in *Guadalupe in the Guest Room*. Stephanie also played multiple roles in *Miss Holi*

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INSTINCTCULTURE.COM

**Actor Ty Granderson Jones Gives a New Meaning to  
"Keeping up with the Jones's."**

Here (<https://instinctculture.com/2018/09/06/actor-ty-granderson-jones-gives-a-new-meaning-to-keeping-up-with-the-jones/>) is a nice article about MFA acting alumnus Ty Granderson Jones.

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NYTIMES.COM

## Lauren Yee and Jaclyn Backhaus Win Horton Foote Prize for Plays

MFA playwriting alumna Lauren Yee won the Horton Foote Prize for Plays, a biennial award recognizes new American plays, for her play *Cambodian Rock Band*.

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## 2018-19 SEASON

Presenting Synchronicity Theatre's 2018-2019 Season of Great Plays, Shows

Subscribe and Save! Purchase a season subscription and save 20% on every ticket including our exclusive subscriber benefit!

**Golden Rule Pass** \$100 - 10 tickets (20% off)

**Blue House Pass** \$80 - 10 tickets (20% off)

**Family Show Pass** \$40 - 4 tickets (20% off)

**10 Free Pass** \$0 - 10 tickets to one show through our 10th Anniversary Celebration!

\*Season Subscriptions Available Through Website

44 W. 20th - Oct. 20, 2018

Synchronicity Theatre  
at Peachtree Plaza  
1500 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, GA 30309

## BOLD VOICES SERIES

**Well Gwynn** by Jessica Swale

September 27 - October 21, 2018

From budding at the playhouse, to succeeding as Britain's most celebrated actress, Well Gwynn charts the rise of an unlikely heroine. But at a time when women are second-class citizens, can her charm and spirit protect her from the dangers of the court?

**The Hero's Wife: A New Play** by Alvin Laffery

April 11 - May 5, 2018

Carnegie doesn't remember what he does at night, and Karyssa doesn't tell him. Haunted by experiences as a Navy SEAL, he tries to rebuild his life and hide his secrets, but his young wife will stop at nothing to unravel them.

**Hands of Color** a New Play by Kimberly Monks

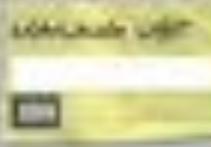
June 8 - 16, 2018

Thomas is an unapologetic cad. An unexpected encounter lands him in a new family... and a new pin tone. This funny and powerful new play examines what it's like what your worth is found upside down and you are forced to look at life through a different lens. Hands of Color boldly asks the question, is redemption possible for the unrepentant?



Shop at Amazon.com with Amazon Prime

Synchronicity Theatre  
amazon



Acting MFA alumna Kimberly Monks new play *Hands Of Color* will have its premiere at Synchronicity Theatre in Atlanta as part of their upcoming season.



Congratulations to Professor Vanessa Stalling and MFA acting alumnus Ian Bedford (picture the foreground above) for their nominations for a Jeff Award in Chicago this past August.

DIRECTOR - PLAY - LARGE, Vanessa Stalling - "*The Wolves*" - Goodman Theatre

PERFORMER IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE - PLAY Ian Bedford (Eddie) - "*A View from the Bridge*" - Goodman Theatre

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TTF.SDSU.EDU

School of Theatre, Television and Film, San Diego State University

A couple alumni transitions happened over at SDSU School of Theatre, Television, and Film summer.

MFA & PhD alumnus D.J. Hopkins has chosen to step down, after six years, as the Director of the Program and return to the faculty of the department. Congratulations on your years of administrative service for your department D.J.!

MFA alumna Jesca Prudencio has been appointed as a new Assistant Professor of Directing Theatre at the Department. Congratulations Jesca, welcome back to San Diego.

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BWAY.LY

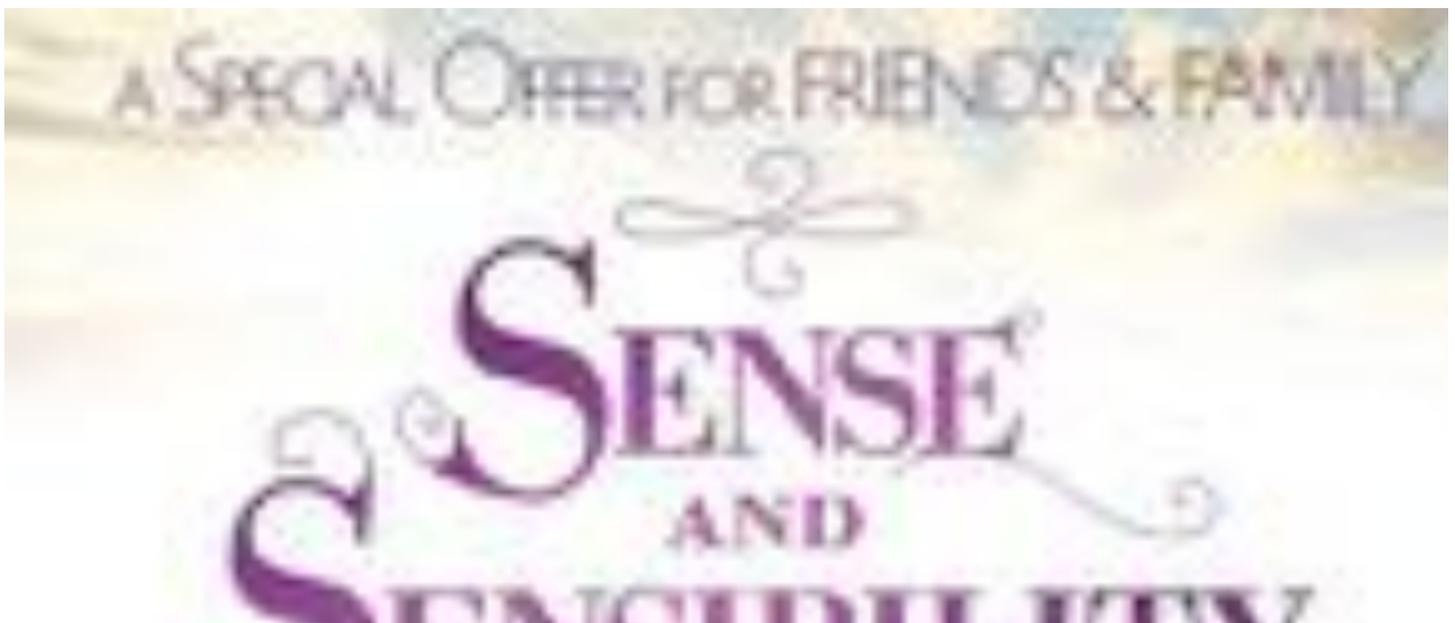
## Anne Kauffman Is New Artistic Director of Encores! Off-Center

The acclaimed director will take the helm of the summer musical-theatre revival series, which she co-led this past year.

MFA directing alumna Anne Kauffman has been named the Artistic Director of Encore! Off-Center.

“We were so fortunate to welcome back Jeanine Tesori and Anne Kauffman as the leaders of this summer’s Encores! Off-Center series,” said Arlene Shuler, New York City Center president and CEO, in a statement. “And we couldn’t be more thrilled that Anne, in collaboration with Jeanine, will carry on the mission of the series by continuing to bring new voices and artists to City Center audiences.”

Also, Anne is directing the last two shows of 2018 at the La Jolla Playhouse - *Hundred Days* and *The Year to Come*.







THE  
**UNTRANSLATABLE SECRETS  
OF NIKKI CORONA**

WRITTEN BY  
**JOSÉ RIVERA**

DIRECTED BY  
**JO BONNEY**

FEATURING



**CAMILLE MEYER**



**RICARDO IZQUIERDO**



**DIAN MEDINA**



**CHYNNA HULSE**



**JUAN FRANCISCO VILLA**

310.208.5454 | [geffenplayhouse.org/nikki](http://geffenplayhouse.org/nikki)

MFA acting alumni R.A. Chavira and Cate Scott Campbell are in *The Untranslatable Secrets of Nikki Corona*, by José Rivera, at the Geffen Playhouse starting through October 7, 2018.

FYI in June of '19 Theatre & Dance's undergrad production is *Sonnets for an Old Century* by Rivera.



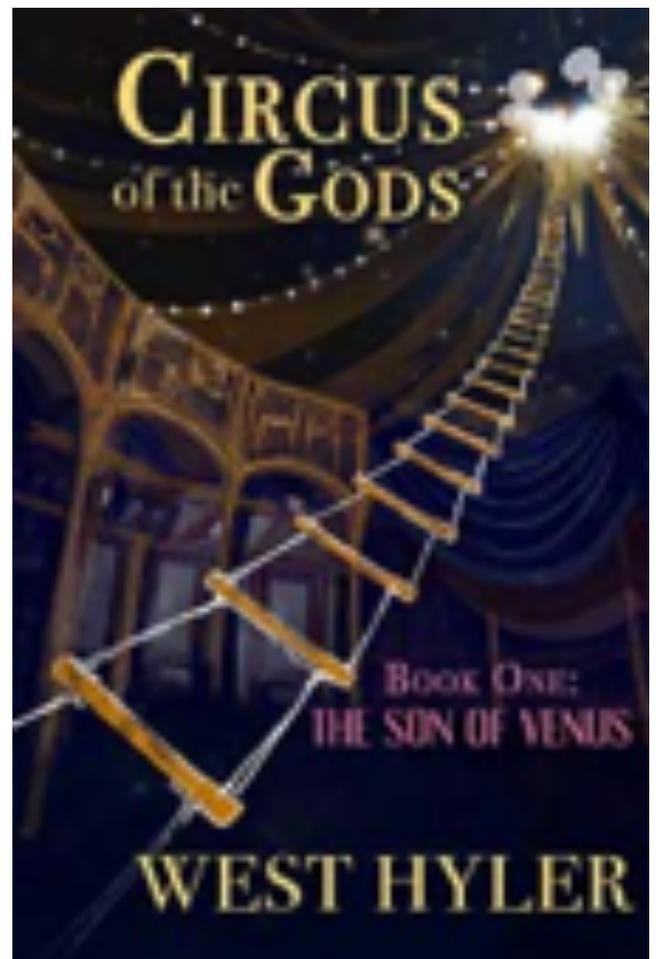
MFA acting alumnus Josh Wade is executive producer of *Dude Perfect* on Nickelodeon. *Dude Perfect* is a Comedy Sports show starring four guys who are huge YouTube stars as well. He over to Nickelodeon and check it out.

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MFA directing alumnus West Hyler has a debut novel. It's a fantasy novel with scenes in rehearsal halls and theatre's.

"From the storywriter of Cirque Du Soleil Paramour comes this thrilling new fantasy series. Circus of the Gods is an explosive adventure of Gods and Sapiens that takes place inside big rigs and underneath big tops."

It's now available [now](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07GRP9DZD)  
(<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07GRP9DZD>).



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The prestigious annual Ojai Playwrights Conference was well represented by current student and alumni of Theatre & Dance:

Playwrights Jeff Augustin, Lily Padilla and Steph Del Rosso.

Actors- Garrett Schulte, Xavier Clark, Ariana Mahallati, Jasmine St. Clair and Adam J. Smith.

Stage Mgmt/production- Peggy Ryan

You can read about the conference [here](https://www.ojaiplays.org/playwrights-index/) (<https://www.ojaiplays.org/playwrights-index/>).

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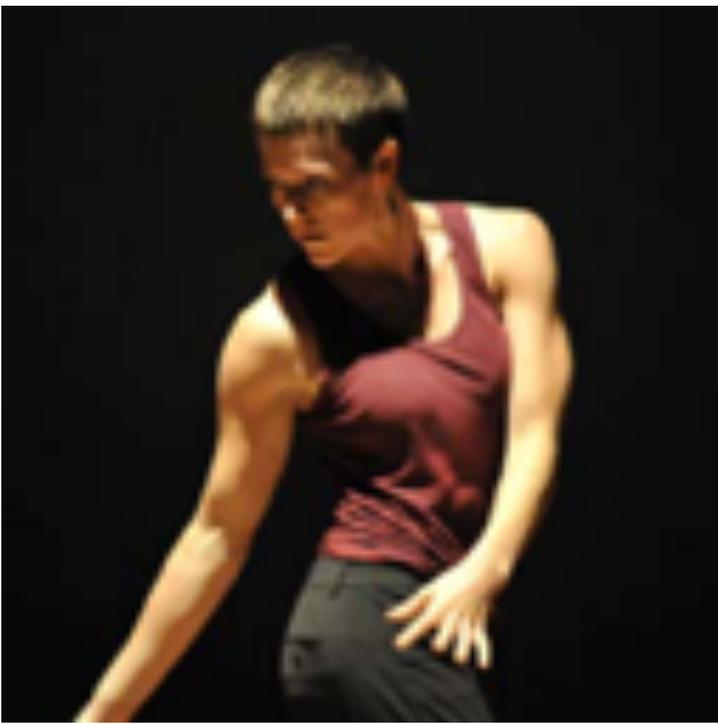
MFA acting alumna Gloria Mann starred in this new independent short, *The Cassie Confession*, directed by fellow alum Robert Mann for Mannatee Films.

The film is officially submitted to film festivals around the world with some amazing feedback.

MFA acting alumnus David Johann Kim's play *Pang Spa* was part of the Garry Marshall Theater 18-19 season. You can read the show description [here](https://www.garrymarshalltheatre.org/mains) (<https://www.garrymarshalltheatre.org/mains>)

Many of you know the Garry Marshall, formerly The Falcon Theater, as the LA location of the MFA Actors Showcase over the past many years.





MFA dance alumna Anya Cloud was in Missoula, MT this summer as part of the Mountain Dance Festival. Anya went to the University of Montana as an undergraduate so it was a bit of a homecoming for her.

Anya was a guest artist there this past August. Anya's bio can be read [here](#).



Before and after photos from the movement audition section for *Harry Potter and The Cursed Child* this summer.

MFA alumni actors Ryan McCarthy, Lisa Velten Smith & Alex Cranmer. They felt a bit like they were back in the basement at Galbraith Hall: sweaty, physically tired and mentally spent.

MFA Actors Angela Reed & Scott Drummond are currently cast in the show.

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MFA acting alumna Mary Glen Fredrick is in *Love's Labour's Lost* off-broadway in NYC opening in October.

You can enjoy the [show](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/13/dining/labours-lost-shakespeare-shake-and-bake.html?ref=collection%2Fbyline%2Fflorence-fabricant&action=click&contentCollection=un) (https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/13/dining/labours-lost-shakespeare-shake-and-bake.html?ref=collection%2Fbyline%2Fflorence-fabricant&action=click&contentCollection=un) and an 8 course feast. Mary Glen is in blue in the photo.



The 13th-annual [SCENIES](http://www.stagescenela.com/scenies-2017-2018/) (http://www.stagescenela.com/scenies-2017-2018/) celebrated the past year's outstanding achievements in Southern California theater (based on the 225 productions reviewed between August 1, 2017 & July 31, 2018).

The following alumni were all honored with Scenies -  
Corey Brill, Adam Burch, Jennifer Chang, Matthew Patrick Davis  
Matthew Henerson, Shishir Kurup, Gabriel Lawrence,  
Tracey A. Leigh, Christopher Scott Murillo, Halei Parker,  
Dileep Rao, Adam J. Smith & Lauren Yee .

Congratulations to MFA SM alumna Carmelita Becnel.

Carmelita was selected to be part of this 2018 artEquity cohort comprised of 34 individuals representing 31 organizations across the U.S. and Canada.

artEquity offers training and consulting services to individuals and organizations on creating and sustaining a culture of equity and inclusion through the arts and culture.

You can read about artEquity [here](https://www.artequity.org/about) (<https://www.artequity.org/about>).



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MFA alumni Meredith McDonough & Brian Slaten are part of *The Curious Incident of The Dog in The Night-Time* at Actors Theatre in Louisville.

Meredith is directing and Brian is performing in the play.

Performances run through October 10th.

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MFA II playwright Ali Viterbi's play *Period Sisters* was presented at HERE in New York in late August.

*Period Sisters* was an O'Neill finalist. To read more about the play please go to this [link](https://www.broadwayworld.com/article/SISTERS-A-New-Play-By-Ali-Viterbi-Come-to-HERE-Arts-Center-20180811) (https://www.broadwayworld.com/article/SISTERS-A-New-Play-By-Ali-Viterbi-Come-to-HERE-Arts-Center-20180811).

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## THE NEXT SEVEN POSTS ARE - ALUMNI ON THE ROAD -



Where in the World are alumni on Tour, 1 of 7 -

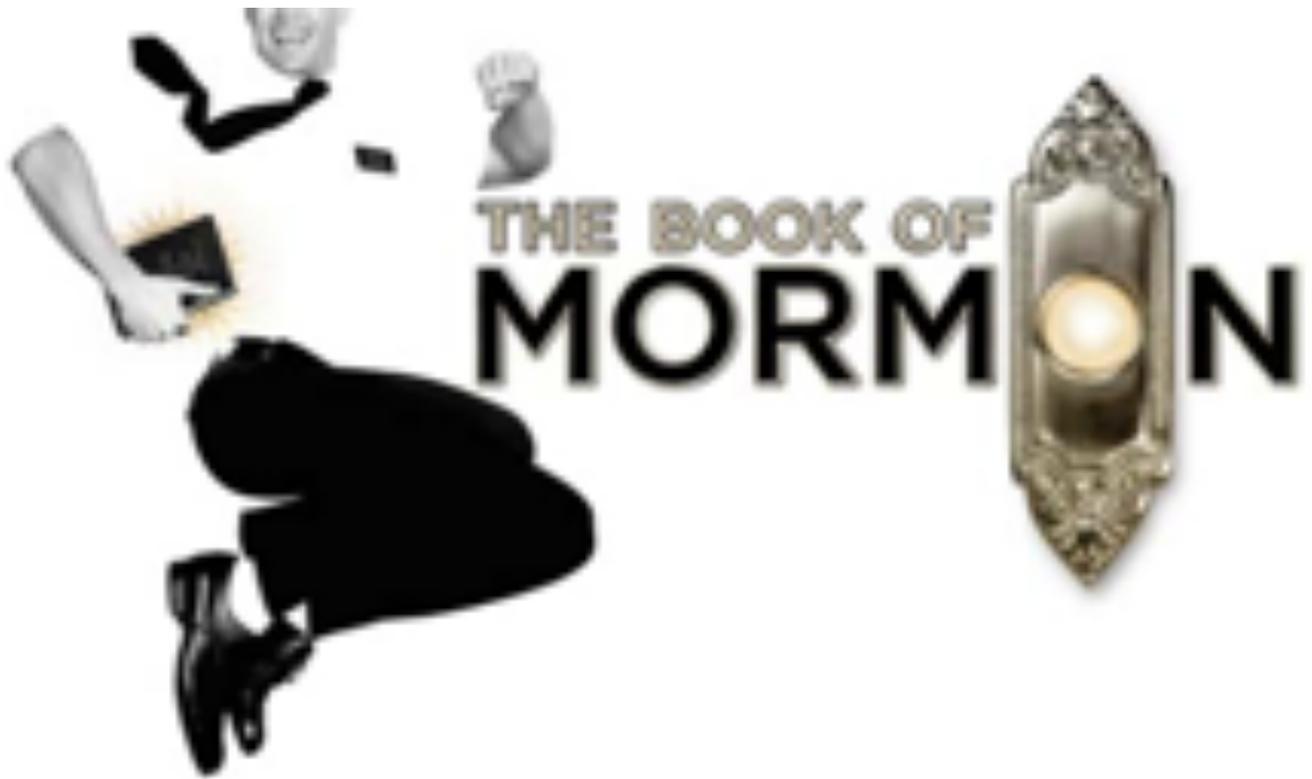
Emily Powell, BA, is associate company manager on the *Wicked* national tour. Emily will be in San Diego with the show for 4 weeks in November. Hope some of you will be able to catch a show. Emily has been out on tour as a company manager for many years since graduating.



Where in the World are alumni on Tour, 2 of 7 -

Kevin Katan, BA alumnus, is the production stage manager on the current tour of *Toruk: the first flight* by Cirque du Soleil. Yen-Chun Yang (Splash), MFA, is also on the tour running audio. They recently wrapped up 2 weeks in Beijing moving on to Shanghai for 2 more week Touring Europe will start in the fall. <https://www.cirquedusoleil.com/toruk>  
(<https://www.cirquedusoleil.com/toruk>)

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Where in the World are alumni on Tour, 3 of 7 -

Jacques C. Smith, MFA alumnus, is touring with *The Book of Mormon*. Currently they are in Durham and do a lot of jumping around with an intense schedule that takes them all over. itinerary is listed at <https://bookofmormonbroadway.com/tour> (<https://bookofmormonbroadway.com/tour>) Jacques probably out at least til the spring.

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Where in the World are alumni on Tour, 4 of 7 -

Matthew Shiner, MFA alumnus, is currently in Hartford with *The Lion King*. Matthew has been associated with Disney shows for some years now. Their tour route is at <https://www.lionking.com/tour> (<https://www.lionking.com/tour>). The itinerary shows a year though the tour is open ended. *The Lion King* has been touring for 16 years and very well might tour another 16. This Lion King tour stops anywhere from 2 to 7 weeks depending on the venue and market.

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Where in the World are alumni on Tour, 5 of 7 -

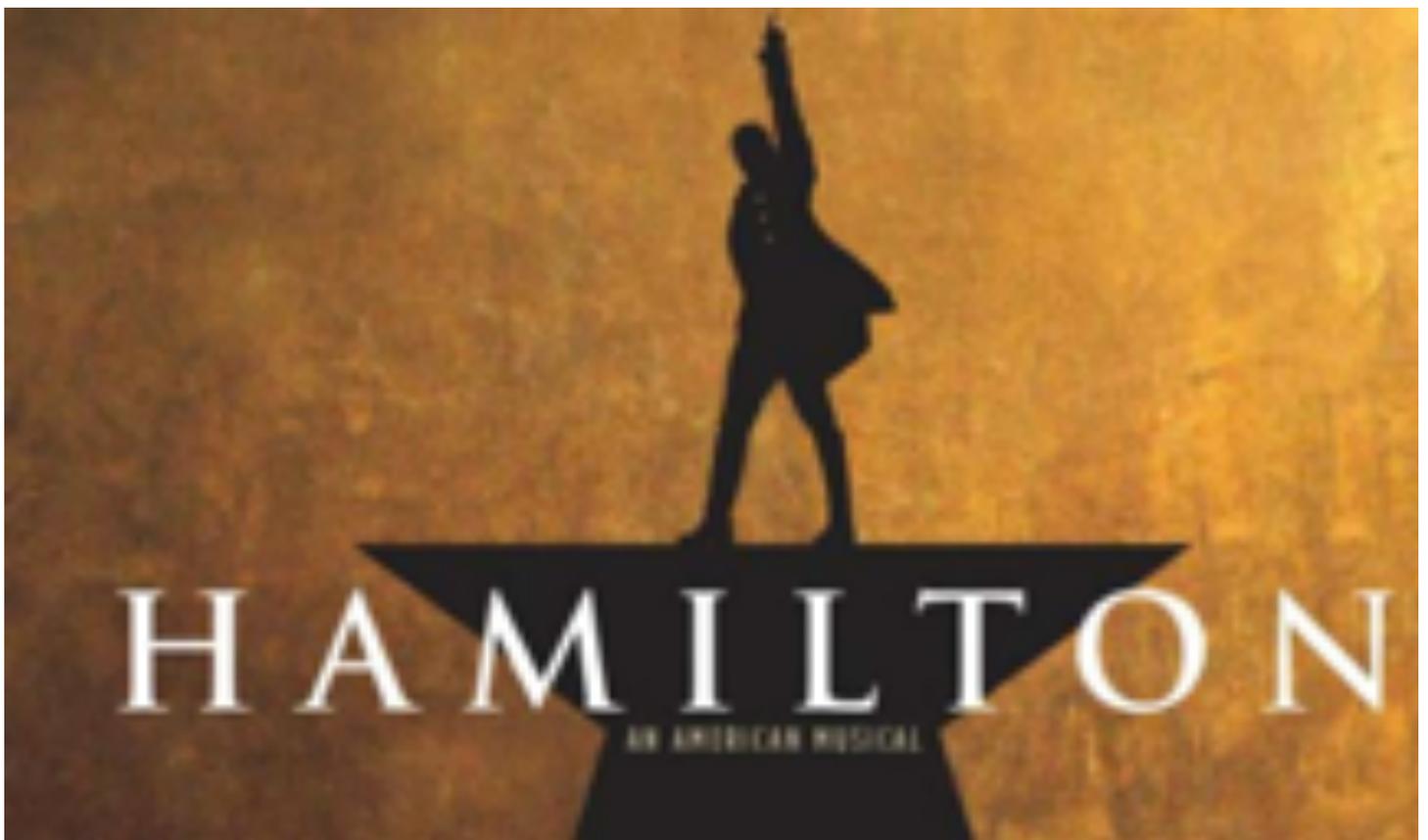
Mark Emerson Smith, MFA alumnus, is on tour with *The Phantom of the Opera* and they recently had their 1,900th performance. They wrapped up in Portland and have moved on to Seattle, where Mark & his husband live, and they are there until August 18. Then they came to San Diego from August 23 - September 2! Here's a [link](https://ustour.thephantomoftheopera.com/tour-dates/) (<https://ustour.thephantomoftheopera.com/tour-dates/>) to their schedule:

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Where in the World are alumni on Tour, 6 of 7 -

Joyce Davidson, BA alumna, had been touring with *Book of Mormon* for the last 5 years, but Joyce left back in February to help them mount their Sydney production. Since April Joyce has been home and is planning her wedding! Joyce subs for Mormon every once in a while. Best luck, Joyce!

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Where in the World are alumni on Tour, 7 of 7 -

Kim Fisk, MFA alumna, is on the first national tour of *Hamilton* as the production stage manager. Currently they are in DC for 14 weeks. This tour has stayed in each city for long durations and it helps that Kim's husband and dog have toured with her for some years now ) <https://hamiltonmusical.com/us-tour/tickets> (<https://hamiltonmusical.com/us-tour/tickets>)

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THE END OF THE ROAD . . . LIST

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MFA playwriting alumna Caridad Svich is this year's recipient of the Ellen Stewart Career Achievement Award. The honor is given annually to recognize superlative contributions to the field of theatre.

The award was presented to Caridad at ATHE in Boston this summer

Caridad has also received a 2012 OBIE Award for Lifetime Achievement in the theatre, a 2012 Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, the 2011 American Theatre Critics Association Primus Prize, the National Latino Playwriting Award and has been short-listed for the PEN Award in Drama four times.



MFA acting alumna Marsha Stephanie Blake is cast in Ava Duvernay's '*Central Park Five*' (<https://deadline.com/2018/08/ava-duvernays-central-park-drama-adds-nie-nash-aunjanue-ellis-kylie-bunbury-mars-stephanie-blake-and-storm-reid-to-cast-1202439877/>)' Netflix drama series.

Based on a true story that gripped the country, the limited series will chronicle notorious case of five teenagers of color who were convicted of a rape they did not commit.

Marsha Stephanie will play Linda McCray mother of Antron McCray.



Lots of alumni support given MFA acting alumna Kim Blanck as she went on as Viola in *Two Night* at Shakespeare in the Park in central park this summer. They were also showing their support for MFA Stage Management alumna Kamra Jacobs, an assistant SM on the show. In the left picture - Left to right Kamra Jacobs, Yonatan Gebeyehu, Caroline Siewert, Emily Feldman, Will Snider, Megan Sprowls, Jessie Medofer, Kim Blanck, Michael Hammond, Manu Nussbaum & Sean McIntyre. All MFA colleagues of Kim's. In the right picture - Left to right top Hannah Corrigan, Walker Hare, Kyle Donnelly, and bottom Tom Patterson and Emily Shain, Kim Blanck is holding the flowers.



MFA acting alumnus John Wesley stars in this film [The Midnighters](http://www.themidnightersmovie.com/) (<http://www.themidnightersmovie.com/>).

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MFA acting alumna Zoe Chao stars in a Facebook series STRANGERS . MFA acting alumna M Dizzia is a guest star on this [episode](https://www.facebook.com/StrangersSeries/videos/208387646519977/?fref=gs&dti=153061764733276&hc_location=group&fb_dtsg_ag=Adz_iWdiyTUrvBXPZCBWRi)

([https://www.facebook.com/StrangersSeries/videos/208387646519977/?fref=gs&dti=153061764733276&hc\\_location=group&fb\\_dtsg\\_ag=Adz\\_iWdiyTUrvBXPZCBWRi](https://www.facebook.com/StrangersSeries/videos/208387646519977/?fref=gs&dti=153061764733276&hc_location=group&fb_dtsg_ag=Adz_iWdiyTUrvBXPZCBWRi))

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This [article \(https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/24/theater/playwrights-control-over-other-productions.html\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/24/theater/playwrights-control-over-other-productions.html) featured MFA acting alumna Chaz Shermil Hodges in the Guthrie Theater production of "The Legend of Georgia McBride". with a nice picture of her with Jayson Spete

Also this article had a great shout out to MFA acting alumnus Brad Fleischer. "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo" playwright Rajiv Joseph who worked with director Moisés Kaufman on the early productions, called "the character of Kev, an "extremely immature and not very bright soldier" who later becomes "introspective and intelligent as a ghost,". Joseph goes on to say character was developed with the actor Brad Fleischer in mind. Mr. Joseph left Brad room to interpret the writing."But later productions revealed that other actors could not provide the same nuance and texture "so the character comes across underwritten and as a stereotype that might be offensive to soldiers," Mr. Joseph said."*That started me thinking that I can't be writing just for the brilliant actors you are developing the roles for,*" he added. "You can't always proof your script, but I'd have written that character slightly differently to prevent those problems."

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MFA acting alumnus David Barrera has a recurring role on Bravo True Crime Anthology, *Dirty John*, based on the articles and true-crime podcast from Los Angeles Times reporter Christopher Goffard.

David has recently appeared in recurring roles on Bosch and Chance and guest roles on Animal Kingdom and Criminal Minds .

You can read more about the show [here \(https://deadline.com/2018/07/dirty-john-jake-abel-david-barrera-recur-bravo-true-crime-anthology-1202437188/\)](https://deadline.com/2018/07/dirty-john-jake-abel-david-barrera-recur-bravo-true-crime-anthology-1202437188/).

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The TRIP, a theater company started by alumni, presented THIS MIGHT BE THE END at TheatreLab in NYC in August.

Alumni involved in this production: Joshua Kahan Brody & Tom Dugdale - MFA Directing, Em Feldman - MFA Playwriting, Matt MacNelly & Jenni Putney - MFA Acting, Thomas Miller, BA Theater and Nicholas Dean Drashner - MFA Sound Design

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MFA directing alumna Val Day, artistic director of 59E59, presented a talk back with Ruth Bader Ginsburg after a performance of *The Originalists*, a play about her former colleague and friend Antonin Scalia, who died in 2016 .

PhD alumni Naysan Mojgani wrote the questions for the interview. Interesting productions and talkbacks happening. Read more [here \(https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jul/29/flaming-feminist-ruth-bader-ginsburg-five-more-years-supreme-court?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other\)](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jul/29/flaming-feminist-ruth-bader-ginsburg-five-more-years-supreme-court?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other).



TCG asked four theatre leaders the question: How does the role of artistic director need to change for today's world?

Their "vision statements" are written [here \(https://www.americantheatre.org/2018/07/30/artistic-directors-lets-do-better/\)](https://www.americantheatre.org/2018/07/30/artistic-directors-lets-do-better/), taken from their speeches to an assembled artistic directors summit on Friday, June 14

Lisa Portes, MFA directing alumna, freelance director & head of directing at the Theatre School at DePaul University

Howard Shalwitz, artistic director, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, D.C.

Jack Reuler, artistic director, frequent WNPF attendee and advocate of all our alums, Mix Blood Theatre and

Mica Cole, repertory producer, Oregon Shakespeare Festival

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National New Play Network is an alliance of professional theaters that collaborate in innovative ways to develop, produce, and extend the life of new plays.

Three current or alumni playwrights were selected as the 2018 MFA Playwrights. Anna Moench, Dave Harris & Tim J. Lord were three of the eight total that were selected. This partnership between the Kennedy Center Education Department and Stanfords' Workshop provides six to eight graduate students with an eight-day workshop for their plays and a un professional development opportunity that links them to network theaters.

Since this MFA Playwrights Program started in 2006 MFA playwriting alumni participants include Ben Fisher, David Jacobi, Jennifer Barclay Newsham, Lila Rose Kaplan, Ronald McCar Stephanie Timm & Will Snider.

Current alumni with Rolling World Premieres are Caridad Svich, David Jacobi & Ken Weitzman. Other alumni who have had Rolling World Premieres include Andrew Case, Jenni Barclay Newsham, Lauren Yee, Will Snider and Zina Camblin.

MFA directing alumna Larissa Lury is a Directing Fellow. PhD alumna Sonia Fernandez, Associate Artistic Director, Magic Theatre Company, is on the Board of Directors. Info on the NNPN can be found [here \(http://nnpn.org/\)](http://nnpn.org/).

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MFA directing alumna Larissa Lury & MFA playwriting alumna Emily Feldman were at the Portland Center Stage 2018 JAW Festival.

Emily's play '*Pick a Color*' is having a staged reading and Larissa directed the staged reading '*three girls never learnt the way home*' by Matthew Paul Olmos. More info can be found [here](#)





MFA acting alumnus Luis Vega was back in the Theatre district along with MFA stage management alumna Rachael Danielle Albert & Ashley Martin. They all worked on SEIZE TH KING at LJP. Luis was in the cast, Rachael was the PSM and Ashley was the ASM. Photo: Jim Carmody

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Three MFA design alumni worked on projects that were selected to be part of the Professional/Transformation exhibit of the 2019 Prague Quadrennial. They are detailed in the next three posts.

Also, MFA costume design alumna Dominique Fawn Hill was selected for the Featured Design section for her work on VENUS and lighting design alumnus Chao-Yu Tsai was selected for his work on RHINOCEROS, both department shows.

Current MFA students Yi-Chien Lee's Scenic Design Silent/Song (Winterwork) & Moondrunk (Winterwork) and Minjoo Kim's Lighting Design for Othello were also selected.

Great recognition for some truly stunning design work!



MFA scene design alumnus Christopher Acebo's show- 'MOJADA: A Medea in Los Angeles' has been selected to REPRESENT U.S. as part of the Professional/Transformation exhibit of the 2019 Prague Quadrennial.

Play by Luis Alfaro  
Directed by Juliette Alexandra Carrillo  
Scenic and Costume Design by Christopher Acebo  
Projection Design by Kaitlyn Pietras  
Lighting Design by Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz  
Sound Design by David R Molina | Scenic Painting by Gabriel Barrera Jose Rivera  
Hair & Wigs by Micheal Leon  
Photography by Jenny Graham

With: Sabina Zuniga Varela, Vivisvivi Colombetti. Vilma Silva Otro SolJahnangel Jimenez. Na Rodriguez. Produced at Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Portland Center Stage

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MFA scene design alumna Mellie Katalalos' show, 'YOU FOR ME FOR YOU' has been selected to represent the U.S. as part of the Professional/Transformation exhibit of the 2019 Prague Quadrennial.

Mia Chung, playwright - Rick Shiomi, director -

Junwoong Kim, choreographer - Seth Rozin, artistic director

Mellie Katalalos, scenic designer - Peter Whinnery, lighting designer

Susan Smythe, costume designer - Shannon Zura, sound designer

Avista Custom Theatrical Services, LLC, prop design

Tom Helmer, stage manager - Erin Washburn and Paige Zubel, dramaturgy Jason Lindner  
press

Cast: Bi Jean Ngo, Justin Jain, Hillary Parker, Mina Kawahara, Dwayne Thomas InterAct/Drak  
gang: Lauren Tracy, Dany Xenophon Guy, Kittson O'Neill

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The Industry's production of Hopscotch will be part of the Professional/Transformation Exh from the USA for the 2019 Prague Quadrennial. MFA lighting design alumnus was the Production Designer for this enormous experimental opera that took over the streets of LA

Directed by the one and only Yuval Sharon!

You can experience the full opera at this [website \(http://hopscotchopera.comFull\)](http://hopscotchopera.comFull):

Produced by The IndustryConcept and

Direction by: Yuval Sharon

Music by: Veronika Krausas, Marc Lowenstein, Andrew McIntosh, Andrew Norman, Ellen Rei David Rosenboom

Additional Music by: Phillip King, Odeya Nini, Lewis Pesacov, Michelle Shocked

Libretto by: Tom Jacobson, Mandy Kahn, Sarah LaBrie, Jane Stephens Rosenthal, Janine Salir Schoenberg, Erin Young

Production Designer: Jason H. Thompson

Costume Designer: Ann Closs-Farley, Kate Bergh

Choreographer: Danielle Agami, Artistic Director, Ate9 dANCE cOMPANY

Dramaturg: Josh Raab

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MFA acting alumnus Toby Onwumere has a recurring role on EMPIRE on Fox this season.

Read about it [here](https://deadline.com/2018/07/empire-toby-onwumere-recur-season-fox-drama-terrence-howard-taraji-p-henson-1202435285/) (https://deadline.com/2018/07/empire-toby-onwumere-recur-season-fox-drama-terrence-howard-taraji-p-henson-1202435285/).

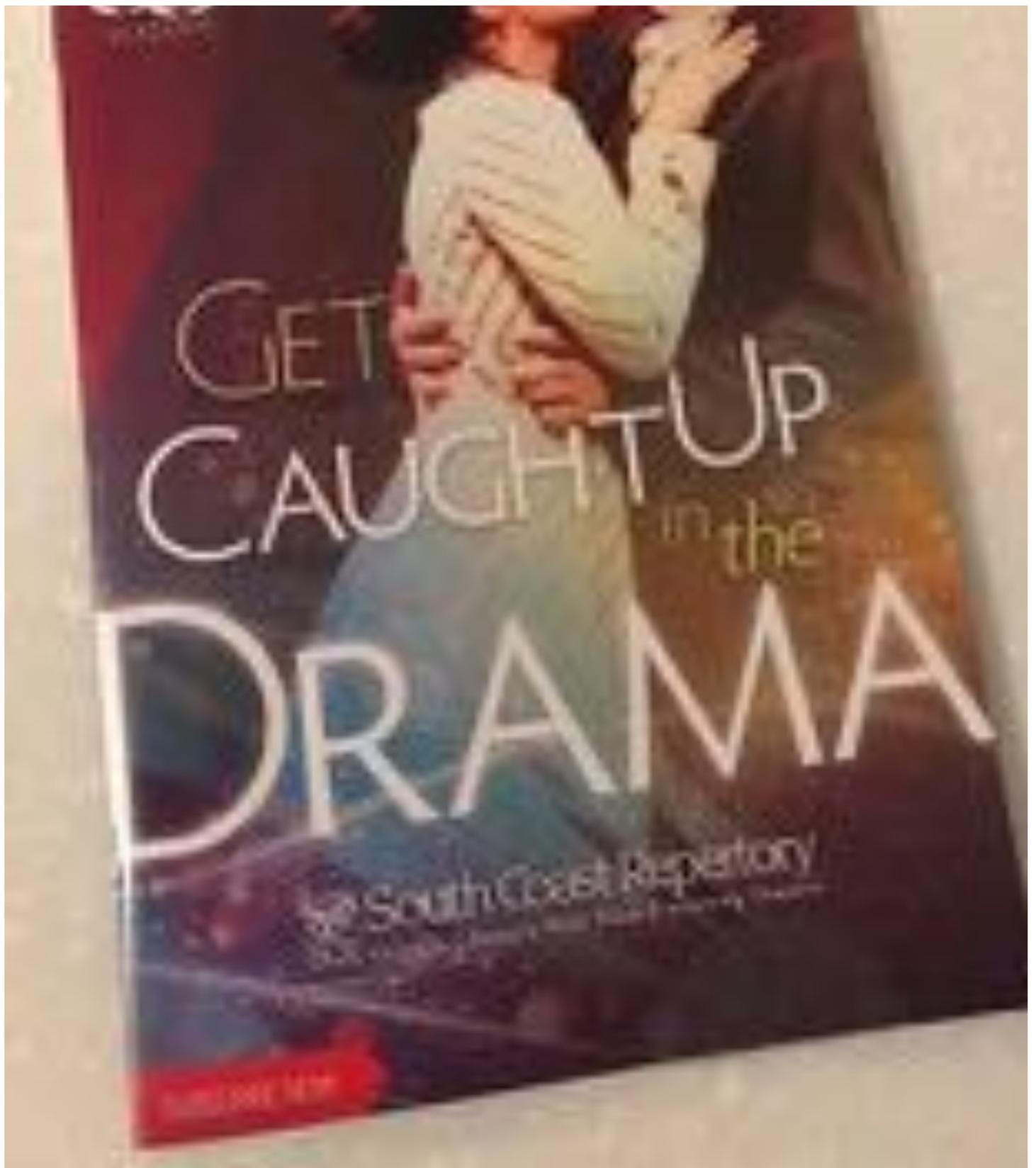


MFA alumni Emily Shain, Lauren Yee & S McIntyre were at the Sewanee Writers Conference this summer.

Lauren Yee led the playwriting workshop and Emily and Sean were the actors for playwrights. Les Waters also attended.

You can read about the conference [here](http://www.sewaneewriters.org/visitors) (http://www.sewaneewriters.org/visitors).





Take a look at the cover of the South Coast Rep season brochure with MFA acting alumni Co  
Brill.

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A mini MFA alumni gathering occurred in NYC in mid July.  
Colin McGurk, Halei Parker, Krista Knight, Orli Nativ, Larissa Lury, Kathryn Lieber and Lauren Yee.

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MFA acting alumna Kiersten Van Horne is co-executive producer on the SyFy channel series [Krypton](http://www.syfy.com/krypton/abouta) (<http://www.syfy.com/krypton/abouta>) which is going into its second season.

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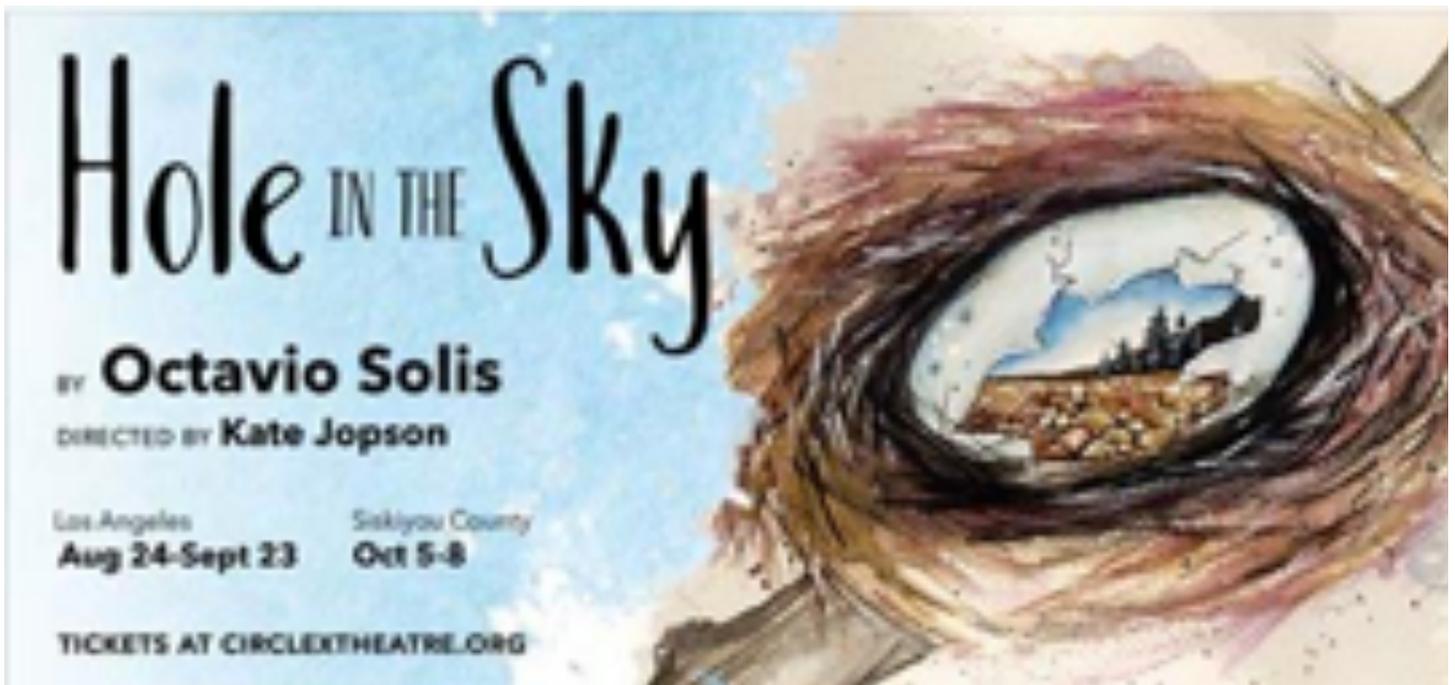


Lisa Portes, MFA directing alumna is the Head of MFA Directing at The Theatre School at DePaul University.

The Theatre School hosted the 2018 LTC Carnival of New Latinx Work July 19 - 21. MFA scene design alumnus Christopher Acebo was the curator of the design area. Current MFA lighting designer Mextly Almeda, MFA costume design alumna Raquel Barreto and Tom Ontiveros, MFA lighting design alumni were all involved.



MFA acting alumna Liz Jenkins was on Ravens Home Tonight on the Disney channel in July. Fellow alumni Kevin Berntson worked as a dialogue coach on the series when Liz was shooting this episode.



MFA directing alumna Kate Jopson is directing HOLE IN THE SKY, by Octavio Solis. Performances in late August through September in north LA. Kate is the artistic director of Circle X Theatre (<http://circlextheatre.org>).

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Carlos Angel Barajas, BA and a student in the University of San Diego Shiley Graduate Theatre Program, was Claudio and James Newcomb was Antonio in The Old Globe's production of MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. Ursula Meyer was the voice & text coach. Performances started on August 12th. Info about the production is [here](https://www.broadwayworld.com/san-diego/article/Cast-Announced-for-Kathleen-Marshall-Directed-MUCH-ADO-ABOUT-NOTHING-at-The-Old-Globe-20180713) (<https://www.broadwayworld.com/san-diego/article/Cast-Announced-for-Kathleen-Marshall-Directed-MUCH-ADO-ABOUT-NOTHING-at-The-Old-Globe-20180713>).

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Broadway Play Publishing has recently released "William Shakespeare's Long L First Play (abridged)" by MFA Acting Alur Reed Martin and co-author Austin Tiche both of the Reduced Shakespeare Company.

The long-lost first play written by none other than seventeen-year-old William Shakespeare from Stratford

"Something wickedly funny this way cor  
New York Times

You can get the script [here](https://www.broadwayplaypub.com/the-plays/william-shakespeares-long-lost-first-play-abridged/) (<https://www.broadwayplaypub.com/the-plays/william-shakespeares-long-lost-first-play-abridged/>).

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The Vineyard Theatre announced their 2018-19 season. Of three plays in the season, two are Theatre & Dance connected. One play, DO YOU FEEL ANGER, is written by playwriting grad student, Mara Nelson-Greenberg and the other, GOOD GRIEF, is written by acting alumna Ngozichukwuka Anyanwu.

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MFA playwright alumna Julia Edwards won the 2018 Sue Alexander Grant for her manuscript Anno Catti.

Julia won free tuition to the 2018 Working Writers Retreat where she can continue her revision efforts with feedback from fellow writers and industry professionals.



<https://scbwikitetales.wordpress.com/2018/07/winners-of-the-2018-sue-alexander-grant-are-announced/#more-4428>  
(<https://scbwikitetales.wordpress.com/2018/07/winners-of-the-2018-sue-alexander-grant-are-announced/#more-4428>)



This summer MFA II director Joseph Hendel wrote and directed KATZELMACHER, U.S.A. in New York City.

Jeffery Sims, BA, was the associate director, and Alex Galan, BA and Heather O'Sullivan, previously a transfer student here, were cast in the show. KATZELMACHER, U.S.A performed July 25 - 27.

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/153061764733276/?multi\\_permalinks=1942220932484008-if\\_id=1536271399810478-if\\_t=feedback\\_reaction\\_g](https://www.facebook.com/groups/153061764733276/?multi_permalinks=1942220932484008-if_id=1536271399810478-if_t=feedback_reaction_g)  
([https://www.facebook.com/groups/153061764733276/?multi\\_permalinks=1942220932484008&notif\\_id=1536271399810478&notif\\_t=feedback\\_rea](https://www.facebook.com/groups/153061764733276/?multi_permalinks=1942220932484008&notif_id=1536271399810478&notif_t=feedback_rea))



Congratulations to Miranda Machel Wynne, BA & Tom Ontiverous, MFA, for their Stage Raw nominations.

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/los-angeles/article/Stage-Raw-Announces-Nominees-For-2017-2018-LOS-ANGELES-THEATRICAL-EXCELLENCE-20180711>

(<https://www.broadwayworld.com/los-angeles/article/Stage-Raw-Announces-Nominees-For-2017-2018-LOS-ANGELES-THEATRICAL-EXCELLENCE-20180711>)

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Theatre & Dance was well represented at the Ignition Festival of New Plays with three of the Festival playwrights alumni or current student. MFA playwriting alumna Lauren Yee, MFA II playwright Dave Harris, MFA playwriting alumna Lily Padilla.

A group shot was taken, below, of some Alumni at Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago. Victory Gardens presents the festival and long time Theatre & Dance supporter Chay Yew is Artistic Director.

Ben Fisher, Melissa Ng, Dave Harris, Lily Padilla, Dylan Key & Volen Iliev are in the photos below.



MFA design alumna Kelly Hanson, a designer on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon received the inaugural USITT Rising Star Award in 2005. Here is a nice interview with her in Live Design Online who sponsor this the Rising Star Award which honors excellence and artistic achievement in the areas of scenic, lighting, sound, and projection design.



Read the interview [here](https://www.livedesignonline.com/theatre/5qs-kelly-hanson-production-designer?NL=LIVE-04&Issue=LIVE-04_20180710_LIVE-04_223&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_1&utm_rid=CPLSM000001622881&utm_campaign=1190) (https://www.livedesignonline.com/theatre/5qs-kelly-hanson-production-designer?NL=LIVE-04&Issue=LIVE-04\_20180710\_LIVE-04\_223&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article\_1&utm\_rid=CPLSM000001622881&utm\_campaign=1190)



MFA acting alumna Kim Blanck was cast the Public Theatre's Shakespeare in the production of Twelfth Night. Kim was understudy for Viola, Olivia, Maria and Feste. MFA stage management alumna Kamra Jacobs is the ASM on this production. TWELFTH NIGHT opens July :

MFA alumna KJ Sanchez directed "Quixote Nuevo" by Octavio Solis at California Shakes.

Alumna Michele Apriña Leavy was cast in the show.





East West Players announced their 18-19 season. MFA acting alumna & head of undergraduate acting Jennifer Chang is directing VIETGONE. October 18 – November 11, 2018. Next up is the world premiere of MAN of GOD, written by recent MFA playwriting alumna Anna Moench and directed by MFA directing alumna Jesca Prudencio. MAN of GOD performs January 31 – February 24, 2019. East West Players' David Henry Hwang Theater at the Union Center for the Arts at 120 Judge John Aiso Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.



Robert Brill, BA and professor of scene design is the set designer of AIN'T TOO PROUD, The Life and Times of the Temptations played at the Kennedy Center and is currently playing at the Ahmanson Theatre at Center Theatre Group.

MFA scene design alumni Justin Humphreys and Anna Robinson assisted Robert on production which started at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and is heading to Broadway. AIN'T TOO PROUD is directed by Des McAnuff.

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MFA playwriting alumna Kristin Idaszak is part of the Goodman Theatre Playwrights Unit with her play THREE ANTARCTICAS.

The Playwrights Unit is a program in which Chicago writers meet twice per month to discuss their plays-in-process. For 10 months the playwrights meet and then the five plays written are showcased in staged readings July 14-18.



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### Pick a Color @ Dixon Place in NYC

Many alumni were involved in this production this summer-

Playwright: Emily Feldman, (MFA playwriting)

Director: Will Garrett Detlefsen (MFA directing)

Asst. Director: Jenny Grober (BA)

Production Stage Manager: Plato Seto (BA)

The Cast included

EVA BARNES (Acting faculty & MFA acting)

Yonatan Gebeyehu (MFA acting)

TERRANCE WHITE (MFA acting)

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### Jessica Chastain praises Professor of Acting Marco Barricelli

Earlier this summer Jessica Chastain said some very nice things to say about Professor of Acting Marco Barricelli regarding his role as Richard III at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. You can watch the video, the comment about Marco starts at 5:10. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDkcS4XLqac> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDkcS4XLqac>),

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Many alumni involved with Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center

Mikeah Ernest Jennings, BA, David Wilson Barnes, BA, and MFA acting alumni Jiehae Park, Makela Spielman, & Scott Drummond were all cast and MFA lighting alumnus Christian DeAngelis was lighting designer in this summers National Playwrights Conference which is presented 8 different plays at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.

<http://www.playbill.com/article/marin-ireland-m> (<http://www.playbill.com/article/marin-ireland-m>)...



**MFA alumnus Trevor Norton was the lighting designer for Henry IV**

**MFA acting alumnus Trevor Norton was the lighting designer for The Shakespeare Center Los Angeles production of *Henry IV* starring Hanks.**

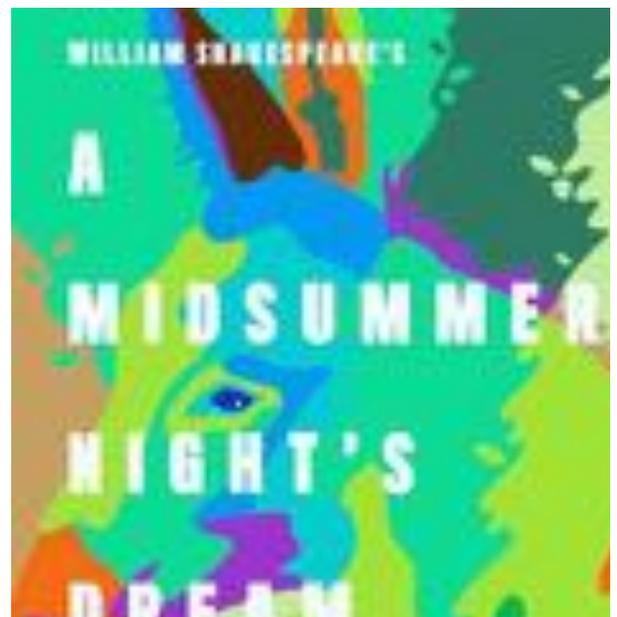
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### **MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM @ SHAKESPEARE ON THE SOUND**

Anne Whitaker, BA performed in *Midsummer Night's Dream* at Shakespeare on the Sound. If you are in the Norwalk area anytime this month I hope you can check it out.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/204101576862007/>

(<https://www.facebook.com/events/204101576862007/>)



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