

FALL NEWSLETTER: WEEK 10

DEPARTMENT NEWS



HAPPY CLOSING TO UNDERGRAD PRODUCTION OF *OUR TOWN*

This quarter's undergrad theatre production, Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, closed this weekend. Directed by Kim Walsh, the production followed the people of Grover's Corners, a small New Hampshire town, who are intimately and profoundly presented in this deep classic of the American theatre. Performed on a mostly bare stage, actors mimed most of the actions of the characters' lives, only later just how full their lives actually were. At times deeply emotional and poetic, this play also showcased the talents of a large undergraduate cast through creative staging, down-home nostalgia and sly humor.

Cast:

Stage Manager - Elijah Douglas

Frank Gibbs - Ryan Martinez

Julia Gibbs - Farah Dinga

George Gibbs - Roberto Perez Kempton

Rebecca Gibbs - Rosie McConnell

Emily Webb - Micaela Martinez

Wally Webb - Liam Walsh

Myrtle Webb - Kirstiana Rosas

Charles Webb - August Robinson

Joe/Si Crowell - Charlie Sale

Howie Newsome - Trevor Rinzler

Professor Willard - Sebastian Clark

Simon Stimson - Teagan Rutkowski

Louella Soames - Tiffany Raditch

Constable Warren - Sophia Harris

Sam Craig - Matthew Klimper

Joe Stoddard - Simon Martin

Ensemble: Sophia Ehrlich, Hannah Folk, Joshua Kim, Alexa Mark, Ben McLaren, Blake Ramirez, Jamie Scangarella, Jake Sutton, Cer

Creative Team:

Director – Kim Walsh

Scenic Designer – Michael Wogulis

Costume Designer – Samantha Englander

Lighting Designer – Eunice Kim

Sound Designer – Justin Livengood

Production Stage Manager – Nicholas Lambros Smith

Asst. Stage Manager – Rebekah Fegan

WAGNER NEW PLAY WORKSHOPS SHOWING NEXT WEEK

Next week features a series of readings of new work by the MFA Playwrights that will be produced in the spring quarter. All show the public and performed in the Wagner Theatre.

Thursday 12/13 @ 5pm:

MONSTER by Ava Geyer

Directed by Joe Hendel, Stage Managed by Rebekah Fegan, Dramaturged by Will Jones, With Hannah Finn, Rebecca Futterman, Er Max Singer, Emily Stout, and more TBD

TV self-help guru Drew Capuano was America's favorite uncle -- until he wasn't. A kaleidoscopic, sometimes brutal romp through media machine and the humans at its core.

Thursday 12/13 @ 7pm:

Shame Spiral by Ali Viterbi

Directed by Natalie Robichaux, Stage Managed by Topaz Cooks, Dramaturged by Kristin Leadbetter, With Nicole Javier, Savanna P Christine Penn, Michael Rishawn, Lee Vignes, and more TBD

The Bachelor franchise - it's everything we love, everything that shames us, and everything we are ashamed of loving. SHAME SPI us in the alternate reality of reality TV, when a shocking revelation about fan favorite Lauren S causes massive internet retaliation

Friday 12/14 @ 3pm:

Exception to the Rule by Dave Harris

Directed by Maddie Williams, Stage Managed by Bryan Runion, With Anthony Adu, Vivian Barnes, Xavier Clark, Janet Fiki, Corneliu and Amara Granderson

Five high school students are stuck in detention when Erika, the college bound all-star of the worst high school in the city, shows very first sentence. EXCEPTION TO THE RULE attacks the issue of surviving in an institution that was not built for you.

Friday 12/14 @ 5pm:

The Gradient by Steph Del Rosso

Directed by Steph Del Rosso, Associate Directed by Vanessa Stalling, Stage Managed by Jacob Halpern Weitzman, Dramaturged b Tregar, With Mary Rose Branick, India Gurley, Garrett Schulte, and Cody Sloan

In a not-so-distant future, men accused of sexual misconduct are sent to The Gradient to reckon with their mistakes and get reha New employee Tess is eager to hold men accountable and enact change - but it might not be as simple as it seems.

Friday 12/14 @ 7pm:

The Sanford Middle School Monthly by Mara Nelson-Greenberg

Directed by Carla Harting, Stage Managed by Andrew Gutierrez, Dramaturged by Jim Short, With Allyn Morion, David Price, Daniel and more TBD.

Five eighth graders try to edit their peers' work, adjust to their new faculty advisor, and possibly solve a murder—all before the n their school paper is due.



MFA II DANCERS SHOW SITE SPECIFIC PIECES

MFA Dance Students Marcos Duran and Paulina Colmenares will be presenting a site specific dance score / practice / happening, on Thursday December 6 from 2pm to 3pm, outside the front of the dance building. Viewers can move around, view or outside. We invite you come and witness for all or some of the time!



A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN NOVEMBER ON THE BANKS OF THE GREATEST OF THE GREAT LAKES CONTINUES PERFORMANCES

Our second graduate production of the year continues performances this week, Kate Benson's *A Beautiful Day in November on the Greatest of the Great Lakes* in the Shank theatre. The performances are selling out but we've added an additional show on D to suit demand and we have a waitlist form you can fill out! To date everyone has gotten in off the waitlist to each of the performances. You can apply to be added to the waitlist by [clicking here](#)

(<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUioRqa5Qne5QiiMMYqOK6Is9odqFoe6b370UgCvELvf9J-Q/viewform>).

A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes

by Kate Benson

directed by Vanessa Stalling

Preview: Nov. 28 @ 7pm Show dates: Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 6, 7, 8 @ 7:30pm, Dec. 1 & 8 @ 2pm

Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre

At the heart of *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes* is the idea that even in the face of conflicting points of view, and the ultimate divider, death, ritual still has the power to gather us together. The urge to be together is more powerful than what divides us.

The Cast

Cheesecake - Assata Hefner

Cherry Pie - Danielle E. B. Wineman

Trifle - Christine Penn Snap

Dragon - Nicole Javier

Gumbo - Amara Granderson

@ - Allyn Moriyon

Grandada, Twins, Runnerman - David Price

Everywoman #1 - Serina Estrada

Everywoman #2 - Mariah Tobin

Everywoman #3 - Evelyn Lopez

Everyman #1 - Ben Little

Everyman #2 - Austin Harper

Everyman #3 - Stephen Lightfoot

The Creative Team

Director – Vanessa Stalling

Scenic Designer – Hsi-An Chen

Lighting Designer – Mextly Almeda

Costume Designer – Christopher Flagstad

Sound Designer – MaeAnn Ross

Production Stage Manager – Willie Mae Michiels

Asst. Costume Designer – Daniella Toscano

Asst. Stage Managers – Amber Dettmers

Asst. Stage Manager/PA – Andrew Gutierrez



ERIC GEIGER PERFORMS IN NEW DANCE WORK THIS WEEK

Dance Faculty Professor Eric Geiger will be directing and performing in a 90-minute evening length dance work next week called *Feeling*, a show born of research on the embodied nature of emotions and now feeds on music and dramas, both durably enduring. The shows are Dec 6, 7, and 8 at 7:30pm and are located at SDSU's EN Theater. *Feeling* is directed by Jess Humphrey and Eric Geiger, featuring Chloë F Zack King, Nhu Nguyen with piano by Toni James.

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

(<https://sa1.seatadvisor.com/sabo/servlets/TicketRequest?eventId=1244796&presenter=SDSU&venue=&event=&version=&tck=true&fbclid=PImdACLcHrInn3hEVjibaMTZfiERVgE>).

UNDERGROUND NEW PLAY FESTIVAL OPENS THIS WEEK

Company 157's festival of new undergrad works, the Underground New Play Festival, performs this week on Thursday, December 6 at 7:30 PM and Friday, December 7 at 7:30 PM in the Arthur Wagner Theater. This season features three new plays, student written, designed, directed, performed, and produced by UCSD undergraduates! All performances are free with a suggested donation of \$5 at the door to support our future workshops and productions. You can [reserve your ticket here \(http://tinyurl.com/2018UNPF\)](http://tinyurl.com/2018UNPF).

This season's lineup is as follows:

Home by Sasha King, directed by Ajay Pawaan

When you're home alone during a blackout and thunderstorm, you make a fort and watch a movie in your older sister's bedroom. Sometimes, that's simple enough. But when your sister comes home for the first time in weeks ready to kick you out so she can live on her own, you might find it's not exactly something you approve of.

Trish's Guide to Surviving High School by Lily Tholfsen, directed by Halle Sousa

It's Trish's first day at a new high school. She's told to be careful of Selena, the most popular girl in school, but when the girl looks at her, their chemistry is too powerful to resist. This play is a satire of cheesy high school stories, and a lesson that things aren't always as they seem.

Time Heals All Wounds by Natalie Lin, directed by Jenna Dern

Elena and Isaac are kindred spirits. Elena has the power of time travel. Isaac falls in love again and again and again.

URSULA MEYER DISCUSSES *A DOLL'S HOUSE PART 2* WITH TODD SALOVEY

Two of our professor's gathered to discuss the production of Lucas Hnath's *A Doll's House Part 2* now showing at SD Rep. **Acting Faculty Professor Ursula Meyer** joined **Acting Faculty Processor Todd Salovey** for a segment of "Talkin Theatre with Todd" , which can be viewed [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L04rAPKSJqQ) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L04rAPKSJqQ>). Todd is an MFA Directing alumnus and Associate Artistic Director for the Rep, which is running *A Doll's House Part 2* through December 16th.

This epochal drama of marriage and the individual portrays a controlling husband, Torvald Helmer, and his wife, Nora, a submissive young woman who, when their idealized home-life collapses, comes to the realization that she must finally close the door on her husband, children, and life in "a doll's house" in order to find and live as her true self. At the shocking conclusion of this seminal work, Nora does what was unspeakable at the time. She walks out the door, leaving behind her family to seek an independent life.

For tickets and more information, [click here](http://www.sdrep.org/showinfo.php?showid=368#) (<http://www.sdrep.org/showinfo.php?showid=368#>).



ALUMNI NEWS



NEW FILM CREATED BY ZORA HOWARD TO PREMIER SUNDANCE

MFA Acting alumna Zora Howard co-wrote and stars in the new film *Pre*, which was just announced will have its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival January 24 - February 3, 2019.

The summer before she leaves for college, Ayanna meets handsome and mysterious outsider Isaiah; her entire world is turned upside down as she navigates the terrain of young love against a changing Harlem landscape.

For tickets and more information, [click here](https://www.sundance.org/blogs/sundance-film-festival-features) (<https://www.sundance.org/blogs/sundance-film-festival-features>).

ANNE KAUFFMAN OPENS *YEAR TO COME* AT LJP

MFA Directing alumna Anne Kauffman is currently directing *The Year to Come* by Lindsey Ferrentino at La Jolla Playhouse in a production that begins performances today!

She was also recently featured in this Modern Luxury San Diego piece about San Diego's vibrant arts scene and the artists propelling it forward. You can check it out [here](http://bit.ly/2E5gOIA) (<http://bit.ly/2E5gOIA>).

Every New Year's Eve a family gathers in their Florida backyard to ring in the coming year. In between dips in the pool, politically incorrect banter and a highly-anticipated onion dip, their relationships grow and fracture in moments that become family legend. Unfolding backwards in time, *The Year to Come* is a funny, touching and relatable world premiere that shows how the promise of our future is shaped by the lens of our past. The production features scenic design by **MFA Scenic Design alumnus Christopher Acebo**, **MFA Stage Management alumna Mandisa Reed** is the ASM and **MFA Acting student Hannah Finn** in an understudy role for her LJP residency!

For tickets and more information, [click here](https://lajollaplayhouse.org/show/the-year-to-come/) (<https://lajollaplayhouse.org/show/the-year-to-come/>).



ALUMNI COLLABORATE FOR *MAN OF GOD* AT EAST WEST PLAYERS

East West Players has announced the cast and creative team for **MFA Playwriting alumna Anna Moench's** *Man of God*, a production which will be directed by **MFA Director alumna Jesca Prudencio** and star **MFA Acting alumna Katherine Ko**. The production is designed by MFA Scenic Design alumnus Justin Humphres and **MFA Lighting Design alumna Rebecca Bonebrake**. Fight direction from BA alumnus Andy Lowe. The production runs January 31 – February 24, 2019 at the David Henry Hwang theater in Los Angeles.

A hidden discovery in a hotel bathroom changes the lives of four Korean Christian girls on a mission trip to Thailand. Samantha is someone she trusted could betray her. Jen is worried about how this might affect her college applications. Kyung-Hwa thinks even if she adjusts their expectations. Mimi's out for blood. Amid the neon lights and go go bars in Bangkok, the girls plot revenge in this funny thriller.

For tickets and more information, [click here \(https://eastwestplayers.secure.force.com/ticket#details_a0U1N00000DHxJUA1\)](https://eastwestplayers.secure.force.com/ticket#details_a0U1N00000DHxJUA1).

DELEON DALLAS STARS IN OLD GLOBE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

MFA Acting alumnus Deleon Dallas is currently appearing in The Old Globe's Christmas show, *Clint Black's Looking for Christmas*.

Running November 11 – December 31 at the Old Globe, this new musical written by Clint Black and directed by Kent Nicholson is a world premiere American musical about family, loyalty, and the magic of Christmas from country music legend Clint Black, inspired by his 1995 chart-topping holiday album. Amid the commotion of the holidays, Staff Sergeant Mike Randolph returns from Afghanistan and home to his family. But before Mike can open his heart to the joy and spirit of the season, he must make peace with the past and let go of the ghosts of the battlefield. While Mike's wife helps him readjust to civilian life, it's their precocious young daughter's sweet search for the true meaning of Christmas that leads the family toward healing. This heartwarming musical is sure to become an enduring holiday classic.

For more information, [click here \(https://www.theoldglobe.org/press-room/2018-2019-season/looking-for-christmas-the-new-clint-black-christmas-musical/?fbclid=IwAR3jsP8u6FNyEtPWTQ0lrx19xv7IMrXg17BjQGK20oY28J6hwEwaSD-tNXo\)](https://www.theoldglobe.org/press-room/2018-2019-season/looking-for-christmas-the-new-clint-black-christmas-musical/?fbclid=IwAR3jsP8u6FNyEtPWTQ0lrx19xv7IMrXg17BjQGK20oY28J6hwEwaSD-tNXo).





LAUREN YEE'S *CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND* IN LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE'S 2019 SEASON

MFA Playwrighting alumna Lauren Yee's new play *Cambodian Rock Band* will be in La Jolla Playhouse's 2019 season. Lauren's show has performed at South Coast Rep Victory Gardens but is finally coming to San Diego next year. Chay Yew will direct.

Featuring songs by Dengue Fever, *Cambodian Rock Band*, an epic play/rock concert, tells the life of a young woman trying to piece together her family history thirty years after her father fled Cambodia. Featuring a cast that performs a mix of contemporary Dengue Fever and classic Cambodian oldies, playwright and UC San Diego alum Lauren Yee brings to the stage the Cambodian rock scene of the '60s and '70s, a movement cut short by the Khmer Rouge's attempt to erase the music (and musicians) once and for all. A story about survivors, the bond of family and the enduring power of music.

To read more about the full season, [click here \(https://lajollaplayhouse.org/2019-2020-season-announced/?fbclid=IwAR1bTN0SGpTmrGo-PjLlZjd2qqW3hRGurhgsKT3JZKqpHS1YLMf\)](https://lajollaplayhouse.org/2019-2020-season-announced/?fbclid=IwAR1bTN0SGpTmrGo-PjLlZjd2qqW3hRGurhgsKT3JZKqpHS1YLMf)

TOBY ONWUMERE DISCUSSES HIS NEW ROLE ON EMPIRE

MFA Acting alumnus Toby Onwumere appeared on Fox's Good Day LA to discuss his performance on *Empire*, where he appears as Jamal's fiance Kai, who is a war correspondent and HIV positive. *Empire*'s season finale airs this Wednesday at 8pm about a hip-hop mogul who must choose a successor among his three sons who are battling for control over his multi-million dollar company, while his ex-wife schemes to reclaim what is hers.

You can watch the full interview by [clicking here \(http://www.foxla.com/good-day-la/375707153-video?fbclid=IwAR3Zcke-5OellnKLKUufsbTmTfDD44aReyEpfAlQJhXcoynNSqXNaRp6yvw\)](http://www.foxla.com/good-day-la/375707153-video?fbclid=IwAR3Zcke-5OellnKLKUufsbTmTfDD44aReyEpfAlQJhXcoynNSqXNaRp6yvw).



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