

21 + 22 SEASON

SHANK
THEATRE

\$10 STUDENT | \$20 GENERAL

MAY 2 @ 7PM (PREVIEW)
MAY 6, 11-12 & 14
@ 7:30PM
MAY 7 @ 2PM

LIVE!



theatre

FIFTY BOXES OF EARTH

BY ANKITA RATURI

DIRECTED BY CAMBRIA HERRERA

PRESENTED IN THE WAGNER NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

UC San Diego

ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Theatre and Dance

theatre.ucsd.edu

Fifty Boxes of Earth

by Ankita Raturi
directed by Cambria Herrera

CAST

Q	Ellen Nikbakht
Harker	Iris Feng
Jon	Victor Flores
Nature Ensemble	Holly Robertson, Kaylin Poblete, Sophia Casas Danniel Ureña, Sarah Frazin, Lauren Dong

CREATIVE TEAM

Choreographer	Michelle Huynh
Production Stage Manager	Stephanie Diana Carrizales
Scenic Designer	Raphael Mishler
Costume Designer	Euihyun Song
Lighting Designer	Shelby Thach
Sound Designer / Composer	Ethan Eldred
Assistant Stage Managers	Hannah Gallagher, Angela Park
Assistant Director	Rachel Halili
Assistant Lighting Designer	Sydney Enthoven
Assistant Sound Designer	Mercedes Rockin
Vocal Coach	Ursula Meyer
Production Assistant	Sashank Kanchustambam, Melina Ginn

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#ucsdtheatreanddance *#fiftyboxesofearth*



THE PLAYWRIGHT

Ankita Raturi (she/her) is a second-year MFA student. She grew up in and around the capital cities of India, Indonesia, and the United States. Ankita has developed new plays at UCSD, NYU, Page Break (SoHo Playhouse), Atlantic Pacific Theatre, The Hearth Theater, Hypokrit Theatre Company, New York Shakespeare Exchange, Pete's Candy Store, and Natyabharati. Her devised work with co-creator Charlotte Murray has been seen at Fresh Ground Pepper, Corkscrew Theater Festival, and Dixon Place. Ankita's first poetry collection was performed in 2019 at Dixon Place. B.F.A. in Drama from NYU Tisch (Playwrights Horizons Theater School). M.F.A. Candidate in Playwriting at UCSD. Instagram: [@ankitawrites](https://www.instagram.com/ankitawrites)

THE DIRECTOR

Cambria Lorene Herrera is a second-year MFA student from Garden Grove, California. They were most recently based in Oregon, where they co-founded and facilitated The AGE Theatre Collective to empower the resiliency of Portland's female and non-binary artists of color. Selected credits: World Premiere Adaptation of *King Arthur* at Long Beach Opera (Assistant Director), *Yellow, Yellow, Yellow* at Red Balloon Theatre Collective (Director and Co-producer) *Romeo and Juliet* at Penguin Productions (Director), *Peter/Wendy* at Bag&Baggage Productions (Tiger Lily), *As One* at Portland Opera (Assistant Director), and *The Balkan Women* at George Fox University (Director, awarded Meritorious Achievement by Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 7). Cambria is a graduate of George Fox University, where they earned their BA in Theatre, and an AGMA Union Member. Full resume/portfolio at cambriaherrera.com

THE CHOREOGRAPHER

Michelle Huynh is a third-year PhD student at UCSD. Born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, she attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Michelle received her BA (Honors) in Theatre and English, and her MFA concentrating in Asian Theatre Performance. Her artistic projects consist of directing and acting in traditional Asian theatre performances. A firm believer in promoting cultural diversity through all possible venues, she learns, utilizes, and translates traditional Asian theatre acting styles to the Western stage that is often dominated by realism, musical theatre, and Shakespeare. She has been trained under master artists from all over in various Asian performance genres, such as Thai and Balinese dance, Japanese kyogen, and Chinese jingju. She has attended conferences and theatre festivals in the US, Asia, and Europe to showcase both her artistic and academic work. For her research, Michelle is interested in Asian theatre (Southeast, East, and South Asia), post-colonial theatre in Asia, experimental fusion work, performances of identity, and affect theory. Michelle's overall dissertation project focuses on how gendered Orientalism operates in Saigon to explore new theoretical languages on South Vietnam's unique affective history.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Q imports earth from their homeland to grow peculiar plants in a community garden, cultivating a little plot of home in this new land. Jon, the community garden manager, doesn't trust this mysterious immigrant or their foreign dirt. But much to his terror, Jon's eleven-year-old daughter is intractably drawn to the enigmatic Q and their unearthly garden. A creative response to Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, *Fifty Boxes of Earth* asks us to consider the heavy costs of leaving a home to put down new roots.

This is a play that is just as magical as it is grounded in necessary truths for our time. Truths about taking care of each other and the land. It's about both learning from our most ancient past through the mistakes and traditions of our ancestors and looking forward to how we can make a better future for the next generation. We'll see the power of connection to ancestors, connection to land, fear of the other, and desperate familial love explode into a transformative, queer garden.

This production of *Fifty Boxes of Earth* is dedicated to Ankita's Dadi, Uma Raturi. And to every grandmother who has provided stability in times of transition.

ABOUT THE WNPF

The Wagner New Play Festival is an exciting, annual presentation of new works by UCSD Theatre and Dance MFA playwrights, in collaboration with the departments MFA/PhD directors, actors, designers, stage managers, and dramaturges. This event aims to showcase the skills of the most original and groundbreaking new voices in the American Theatre. Plays produced in the Wagner New Play Festival have gone on to be produced at regional theaters across the country and Off-Broadway. The plays in this year's festival are *Hells Canyon* by Keiko Green, *limp wrist on the lever* by Preston Choi, *Fifty Boxes of Earth* by Ankita Raturi, *Promithes*, *Promithes* by Agyeiwaa Asante, and *Nonna Kills the President* by Milo Cramer.

The Wagner New Play Festival is named for Molli and Arthur Wagner, longtime benefactors of theater at UCSD and around San Diego. Arthur Wagner was the founding chairman of the university's theater and dance department.

CONTENT WARNING

Lighting flashes, strobe, and photosensitive effects; blood, self-harm

THE CAST

Sophia Casas (Nature Ensemble) (she/they) is a fourth-year Double major in theater, and political science with a minor in dance. As a theater and dance representative she is on the season planning committee. As a representative Sophia is here as a resource to students; please feel free to reach out with any questions/comments/greetings.

Lauren Dong (Nature Ensemble) is a second-year theatre major from Orange County, CA. UC San Diego Credit: *Sotoba Komachi*. Selected Credits: *nothing as it dreams*. (Asst. Dir., Company 157).

Liting (Iris) Feng (Harker) is a first-year MFA student born and raised in China and currently residing in Hawaii. She received acting training from RADA and Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. UC San Diego Credits: *Everybody*. Select Credits: *Romeo and Juliet* (Guildhall), *Blank* (Guildhall), *Cymbeline* (RADA), *Aloha Attire* (Kumu Kahua Theatre), *Sganarelle* (Hawaii Shakespeare Festival). Iris holds a BA in psychology from Harvard College.

Victor Flores (Jon) is a first-year MFA student from Houston, TX. He loves a challenge and is always looking for ways to put himself into his art. Victor just recently graduated with his BFA from SHSU, where his credits include: *Richard III* (King Richard), *Cloud Tectonics* (Annibal De La Luna), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Otto Frank), and *She Kills Monsters: VR* (Miles/Evil Miles); other credits include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* and *Godspell*. Other than acting Victor has a love for stage combat and devising. He is extremely blessed and excited to begin any and all new journeys that come his way.

Sarah Frazin (Nature Ensemble) is a second-year theatre major and psychology minor. UC San Diego Credits: *Men On Boats*. Selected credits: *Circle Mirror Transformation* (student-produced at UCSD), *The Tempest* (Fair Play Theatre Company), *A Christmas Carol*, *Metamorphoses*, *Alice Vs. Wonderland* (South Coast Repertory).

Ellen Nikbakht (Q) (they/she) is a first-year MFA student. She was born in Memphis, TN, and holds a BFA in Studio Art with a minor in Theatre from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Selected credits: *Fun Home* (KC Rep), *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Urinetown*, *Candide*, *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*, *The Threepenny Opera* (Clarence Brown Theatre); *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Les Misérables* (Playhouse on the Square), *Walls: A Play for Palestine* (FringeNYC).

THE CAST *cont.*

Kaylin Poblete (Nature Ensemble) is a first-year theatre major. Credits: *What's Yours Is Mine* (Theatre at the Mount), *The Inspector General* (NCRT), *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (NCRT), *Animal Farm* (NCRT), *The North Wind* (Patio Playhouse), *The Vain Princess* (Patio Playhouse), *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (NCRT), *The Three Musketeers* (NCRT).

Holly Robertson (Nature Ensemble) is a third-year theatre and dance double major. This is Holly's first production with the department and Holly is incredibly thankful for it! Other credits: *A Chorus Line* (Muir Musical), *New Directions* ('21).

Daniel Ureña (Nature Ensemble) is a third-year theater and dance double major. UC San Diego credits: *51Barrio*, *Sotoba Komachi*. Select credits: *RENT*, *Little Shop of Horros*, *Songs For A New World*, *Pippin*. Daniel is very excited to finally be back in person and would love to thank his family, RAZA friends, and closest friends.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Stephanie Diana Carrizales (PSM) is a first-year MFA student from Clovis, CA. She earned her BA in Theatre Arts with an emphasis in Tech and Design from California State University, Fresno. UC San Diego Credits: *Everybody* (ASM, 2022), *Men on Boats* (ASM, 2021). CSU, Fresno credits: *Dark of the Moon* (SM, 2020), *Anonymous* (SM, 2019), Contemporary Dance Ensemble's: *Moving Through the Static* (SM, 2019), *Just Like Us* (SM, 2018), *Lydia* (ASM, 2018), *Native Son* (ASM, 2017). Select credits: *So You've Think You've Seen Dance* (SM, Lively Arts Foundation 2018), *The Little Mermaid* (ASM, Centerstage Clovis 2019).

Rachel Halili (Assistant Director) is a second-year undergraduate theatre major and business minor from the Bay Area. This is her first time assistant directing. UCSD credits: *Napoli* (Thersa), *peerless* (L), *Uncle Vanya* (Maria).

Ethan Eldred (Sound Designer / Composer) is a first-year MFA student. He received a BA in Music from Messiah College in 2015 and a Graduate Certificate in Music Production Analysis and Studio Design from Berklee College of Music in 2021. In 2019 he served as the Sound and Video Supervisor for Jacob's Pillow, a center of dance history and National Historic Landmark. UC San Diego credits: *winterWORKS '22* (S/PD), *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (SD), *Sotoba Komachi* (ASD), *51Barrio* (ASD). Other select credits: *This Too Comes by Hard* (Capital Fringe '17); *The 39 Steps* (KCACTFII '18); *Woyzeck* (Bridgewater College '18). Portfolio and more at BardSound.com. LOVE!

THE CREATIVE TEAM *cont.*

Sydney Enthoven (Assistant Light Designer) is a second-year theatre major with a focus in stage management. They have previously been involved in Muir Musical and Company 157 productions. This is their first department show.

Hannah Gallagher (ASM) is a second-year undergraduate Theatre major. UCSD Credits: *Everybody* (ASM), *peerless* (PA), *Dainty* (ASM).

Melina Ginn (PA) is a fourth-year theatre major. UC San Diego credits: *Nonna Kills the President* (upcoming), *Baal* (upcoming), *Napoli*. Melina is a 2018 Desert Star Award winner for Outstanding Lead Actress in *Go Ask Alice*.

Sashank Kanchustambam (PA) is a third-year theatre major and economics minor from Chandigarh, India. UC San Diego Credits: *Man In Love*, *AHC* (LAB; choreographer), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Backwaters*, *Twelfth Night* (Assistant Director), *I__You*, *Night of 10s*. Playwriting credit: *We were kids* (Sparks Theatre Company) Short film Credits: *Nadartine* (Actor-Director-Writer), *Choice Creates* (Actor), *Re-Exam* (Actor), and *98 days at a time* (Writer-Actor).

Raphael Mishler (Scenic Designer) is a first-year MFA student originally from Mohican land, Albany NY. He creates visuals for live performance and has designed scenery for Clubbed Thumb's Winterworks, the New School, Dixon Place, ANTfest, NYU, HERE Arts Center, Amerinda Native Theater and Taylor Mac's Holiday Sauce (assoc.) UC San Diego Credits: *In the Red and Brown Water*, *Men on Boats* (ASD). Puppet design credits: *The Amateurs* (Vineyard), *Collective Rage...* (MCC), *Tumacho* (Clubbed Thumb, Drama Desk Award, Henry Hewes nomination). Raphael previously worked as a props designer for new plays. Highlights include the world premieres of Heidi Schreck's *What the Constitution Means to Me* (Broadway), Taylor Mac's *24 Decade History of Popular Music* (Pomegranate Arts, St. Ann's Warehouse and International tour), Will Arbery's *Plano* (Clubbed Thumb), Dominique Morisseau's *Pipeline* (Lincoln Center), Marcus Gardley's *The Box* (The Foundry) and Jaclyn Backhaus's *Men On Boats* (Playwrights Horizons/Clubbed Thumb). He is a founding member of Brooklyn-based cultural organizing hub Building Stories, and is an associate artist with Clubbed Thumb.

Angela Park (ASM)

THE CREATIVE TEAM *cont.*

Mercedes Rockin (Assistant Sound Designer) is a second-year theatre major. UC San Diego credits: *Limp Wrist on the Lever*, *50 Boxes of Earth*. Other credits: *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Our Town*, *Mary Poppins* at Chula Vista High School.

Eui-Hyun Song (Costume Designer) is a second-year MFA student. She was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea and holds a BA in Clothing & Textile from Kyung Hee University (2018). While in college, she attended exhibitions of apparel, accessories, and fashion illustration and worked at the costume studio of figure skating and dance sports. UC San Diego credits: *Sotoba Komachi*, *Man in Love* (ACD).

Shelby Thach (Lighting Designer) is a second-year MFA student from San Gabriel, California. She received her BA in drama with honors in lighting design and technology from the University of California, Irvine. Throughout her undergraduate and freelance careers, Shelby has worked on a variety of shows, ranging from plays, musicals, and dance concerts. UC San Diego credits: *winterWORKS '22* (ALD), *Everybody* (LD), *Peerless* (L/VD), *Trojan Women: A Version* (LD), *winterWORKS '21* (LD), *As You Like It* (LD), *Letters from Cuba* (ALD). Select credits: *The Garden* (ALD, La Jolla Playhouse), *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (ALD, South Coast Repertory), *I Love You So Much*, *Squeeze Me to Death* (LD, Bootleg Theater/Wisdom LA), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (LD, UCI).

Ursula Meyer (Vocal Coach) has had the privilege of studying voice with Cicily Berry, Patsy Rodenburg, Andrew Wade, Arthur Lessac and is a designated Linklater teacher. She also graduated with distinction from the Advanced Voice Studies Program at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London under David Carey. Before coming to UCSD, she taught Voice/Speech/Accents and Text at U.C. Santa Barbara, U.C. Santa Cruz, University of Washington, and four years as the primary voice teacher at the Yale School of Drama. As a professional Voice/Text and Accent Coach, Meyer has worked at numerous regional theatres including the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, South Coast Repertory Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, the La Jolla Playhouse, the Old Globe in San Diego, the Shakespeare Theatre Company in DC, and the Idaho, Santa Cruz, Utah, and Oregon Shakespeare Festivals where she has been working off and on since 1985. As a professional actress, she has worked extensively in regional theatre, including the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, A.C.T. Seattle, the Seattle Repertory Theatre, the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, and the La Jolla Playhouse. Ursula Meyer is a member of the Voice and Speech Trainer's Association where she was recently a board member and is currently sponsoring its new Mentorship Initiative. In 2007, she was a recipient of UCSD's Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.

ALSO ON STAGE

HELLS CANYON

WRITTEN BY
KEIKO GREEN

DIRECTED BY
VANESSA STALLING

LIMP WRIST ON THE LEVER

WRITTEN BY
PRESTON CHOI

DIRECTED BY
ROSIE GLEN-LAMBERT

PROMITHES, PROMITHES

WRITTEN BY
AGYEIWAA ASANTE

DIRECTED BY
EMILY MOLER

NONNA KILLS THE PRESIDENT

WRITTEN BY
MILO CRAMER

DIRECTED BY
EMILY MOLER

COMING SOON

Coming Soon

Baal

by Bertolt Brecht
directed by Madison Mae Williams
Arthur Wagner Theatre | June 1-4

New Directions

directed and choreographed by Yolande Snaith
Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre | June 2-4

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