

21+ 22 SEASON

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theatre

# PEERLESS

BY JIEHAE PARK

DIRECTED BY TYLER NII

A TRIO PRODUCTION

UC San Diego

ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
Theatre and Dance

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# peerless

by Jiehae Park  
directed by Tyler Nii

## CAST

Dirty Girl/Preppy Girl  
L  
BF  
D/D's Brother  
M

Mariella Floum  
Rachel Halili  
Gabriella Marie Johnson  
Michael Kendrick  
Jeana Yoon

## CREATIVE TEAM

Scenic/Projections Designer  
Costume Designer  
Lighting/Projections Designer  
Sound Designer  
Dramaturg  
Fight/Intimacy Choreographer  
Production Stage Manager  
Assistant Director  
Assistant Lighting Designer  
Assistant Costume Designer  
Assistant Sound Designer  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Production Assistant

Michael Wogulis  
Grace Wong  
Shelby Thach  
Salvador Zamora  
Raina Rose Duncan  
Zachariah Payne  
Emily Searles  
Natalia Demko  
Russel Chow, Darlene Jiang  
Hung-Yang (Jason) Chien  
Caleb Foley  
Caleb Thomas Cook, Jonathan Fong  
Hannah Gallagher

## THE TRIO SERIES

*The Trio Series* is a new performance opportunity of three productions with smaller cast sizes, a greater diversity of content, and specifically for the Undergraduate Area.

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## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Identities have been a key defining lens through which we talk about our modern world. Personal experience has come to be a defining way we understand oppression. Implicit to that statement is the existence of wider systems under which oppression exists. When we talk about people's personal experiences with oppression we are empathizing with them, however, it is often difficult to convey the larger systems these events are a part of. I have found it crucially important to work on understanding how our identities interact with the systems within our society. The ways in which systems were built have dictated how they continue to oppress groups of people. It has become evident that existing with certain identities in America changes your relation to America, and that the way that systems treat you depends on how you present those identities. Not only is it just how you personally identify, but how a wider group of people view you as a part of that system. *peerless* draws attention to how our wider system forces us to imagine ourselves as numbers and labels without ever considering what those things mean, and how those labels play into how we view each other as a part of that system.

Beyond that general view of identities and systems, *peerless* draws attention to the failure to understand the importance of identity and why things like diversity and social justice are valuable beyond individual impact. It is that failure to recognize the value of that personal experience that allows for the justification of violence. The dehumanization and reduction of identities are what allow individuals to justify violence against said identities. The play centers importantly on this progression from failing to recognize the wider systems of oppression, failing to empathize with other identities, and finally the enacting of violence because of those earlier worldviews in combination with extreme pressure.

We can often be driven to be short-sighted when we desire things. Ultimately how far we will go to achieve the things we desire is an extreme pressure that permeates our world, and the play itself. *peerless* is a play that addresses the societal pressures placed on us, explores the lengths we go for our dark desires, and shows how a selfish perspective consumes everything around it.

## THE DIRECTOR

**Tyler Nii** is a third-year undergraduate student. They are an Asian-American, Non-Binary person originally from Arizona. They are a multi-disciplinary artist with a range of experience and skills. UC San Diego credits: *Trojan Women: A Version* (ASM/Editor), *Exotic Deadly (Or the MSG Play)* (AD). Other select credits: *Nothing as It Dreams* (Director/Editor, Company 157); *Big Fish* (Editor, Muir Musical).

## SPECIAL THANKS

*A special thank you to Vanessa Stalling, Robert Castro, Jennifer Chang, Lisa Porter, and Naomi Louie.*

## THE CAST

**Mariella Floum (Dirty Girl / Preppy Girl)** is a second-year psychology major. *peerless* is her first UC San Diego production and has inspired her to take up a theatre minor.

**Rachel Halili (L)** is a second-year theatre major from the Bay Area. UC San Diego credit: *Uncle Vanya*. Other select credit: *The Patrick O'Sullivan Show* (Company 157).

**Gabriella Marie Johnson (BF)** is a second-year theatre major who is enjoying every second of her first production here at UCSD. She had an amazing opportunity to work on a Facebook Live show over quarantine and knew this was the place she wanted to spend the rest of her life! She thanks her amazing family and friends for supporting her no matter the distance or size of the role. She loves you all with all her heart!

**Michael Kendrick (D/D's Brother)** is a third-year transfer theatre major; his focus is in acting. This is his first production at UC San Diego. Previous acting credits: *In Love and Warcraft*, *The Bombitty of Errors*, and *Noises Off* (Los Angeles Pierce College); *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Legally Blonde the Musical* (Sherman Oaks CES).

**Jeana Yoon (M)** is a first-year double major in theatre and communications. This is her first production at UC San Diego.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

**Hung-Yang (Jason) Chien (Assistant Costume Designer)** is a fourth-year international studies BA/MIA student and theatre minor from Taipei, Taiwan. UC San Diego credit: *Twelfth Night, Or What You Will* (Costume Consultant), *Trojan Women: A Version* (CD).

**Russell Chow (Assistant Lighting Designer)** is a fourth-year theatre major and lighting designer.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM *cont.*

**Caleb Thomas Cook (Assistant Stage Manager)** is a first-year MFA student from Knoxville, TN. He has a BA in Theatre from the University of Tennessee. Favorite previous credits include *Richard III*, *Hamlet*, *The Price*, *The Foreigner*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Utah Shakespeare Festival, Cedar City UT), *Blithe Spirit*, *Detroit '67*, *The Santaland Diaries* (Clarence Brown Theatre, Knoxville TN), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Skylight Music Theatre, Milwaukee WI), *Anything Goes*, *Godspell* (Highlands Playhouse, Highlands NC), *The Consul*, and *The Magic Flute* (UT Opera Theatre, Knoxville TN). He is a proud Equity member.

**Natalia Demko (Assistant Director)** is a second-year theatre major. This is her first credit with UC San Diego and first time assistant directing. Other select credits: *The Tempest*, *Mary Poppins*, *Hello Dolly*.

**Raina Rose Duncan (Dramaturg)** is a third-year theatre major from Arizona. UC San Diego credit: *Trojan Women: A Version* (Andromache). Other select credits: *24-Hour Theatre Festival* (AD, Prescott Center for the Arts); *Learned Ladies* (AD/PSM, Idyllwild Arts Academy), *You Can't Take It With You* (Essie, IAA).

**Caleb Foley (Assistant Sound Designer)** is a third-year theatre major from Cutchogue, NY. UC San Diego credit: *Epicene: A Queer Extravaganza* (SD). Other credit: *The Fall of the City* (SD, Company 157).

**Jonathan Fong (Assistant Stage Manager)** is a third-year theatre and communications double major from Macau. UC San Diego credits : *Dainty* (SM, staged reading), *Backwaters* (ASM, WNPF '21), *Epicene: A Queer Extravaganza* (ASM), *Exotic Deadly (Or the MSG Play)* (Ojichan, Kenji, etc.), *Man In Love* (Ensemble), *How to Be Uncomfortable All The Time* (SM, studio project).

**Hannah Gallagher (Production Assistant)** is a second-year theatre and music double major. She frequently performs live music on campus at community concerts. Hannah is thrilled to be working on this stage management team and is looking forward to being on many more in the future! UC San Diego credit: *Dainty* (ASM, staged reading).

**Darlene Jiang (Assistant Lighting Designer)** is a fourth-year computer engineering double major. This is her first show at UC San Diego.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM *cont.*

**Zachariah Payne (Fight/Intimacy Choreographer)** (he.him.his) is a Fight and Intimacy Director who has been working in Chicago for the last five years. He teaches consent and stage combat to youth and adults, including students on the autism spectrum. Other credits include NBC Universal's *Gaslit*; Jeff Award-Nominated *First Love Is the Revolution* (Steep Theatre); *The Wolf Play* (Gift Theatre); *Herland with Redtwist*, *Spring Awakening* and *Blackbird* (Blank Theatre); *Twelfth Night, Or What You Will* (Writer's Theatre); *Cabaret* (Paramount Theatre); *In the Next Room...Or the Vibrator Play* (Timeline Theatre); *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* (Theatre Wit); *Burials* (Steppenwolf for Young Audiences); and others. He is a certified Advanced Actor Combatant with Fight Directors Canada, and he is certified in Mental Health First Aid. He is excited to join UC San Diego in creating art!

**Emily Searles (Production Stage Manager)** is a third-year MFA candidate originally from the East Coast. She holds a BA in business administration and theatre from Muhlenberg College. UC San Diego credits: *Prepared* (WNPF '21, audio play), *Uncle Vanya*, *Letters From Cuba*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Balm in Gilead*; *Peoria*, *Someone With Nerve* (Lab 2020). Other select credits: *On Your Feet*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Moonlight Stage); *Anything Goes*, *My Fair Lady* (Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre); *Brigadoon*, *Ubu Roi*, *How I Wonder*, *Salome* (Muhlenberg College); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Windham Theatre Guild).

**Shelby Thach (Lighting/Projections 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: *Trojan Women: A Version*, *winterWORKS '21*, *As You Like It*, *Letters from Cuba* (ALD). Other select credits: *The Garden* (ALD, La Jolla Playhouse); *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (ALD, South Coast Repertory); *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Crean Lutheran HS); *I Love You So Much*, *Squeeze Me to Death* (Bootleg Theater/ Wisdome LA); *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (UCI).

**Michael Wogulis (Scenic/Projections Designer)** is a second-year MFA student from Laguna Beach, California. He holds a BA in both theatre and communications from UC San Diego, having graduated in June of 2020. UC San Diego credits: *New Directions '21*, *Town Hall*, *winterWORKS '21*, *The Nether*, *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Dry Land*, *Our Town*, *Balm in Gilead* (ASD), *Peer Gynt* (ASD), *A Raisin in the Sun* (ASD).

## THE CREATIVE TEAM *cont.*

**Grace Wong (Costume Designer)** is a third-year theatre major from Arcadia, California. UC San Diego credits: *Trojan Women: A Version*, *Epicene: A Queer Extravaganza*, *Exotic Deadly (Or the MSG Play)*, *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles*, *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*, *The Underground* (ACD). Other select credits: *Love's Labours Lost*, *Les Miserables*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Giver* (Arcadia Stage).

**Salvador Zamora (Sound Designer)** is a second-year MFA student and producer, born and raised in Southern California. He holds a BA in interdisciplinary computing and the arts major (ICAM) from UC San Diego. UC San Diego credits: *Meladi Thive and Her Words of Comfort* (WNPF '21), *winterWORKS '21*, *Town Hall*, *Heap* (ASD), *Letters from Cuba* (ASD), *Balm in Gilead* (Sound Coordinator), *Classical Women* (SD & Composer), *Joshua* (ASD, WNPF '18). <https://www.suavecito.design/>

## ALSO ON STAGE

### **MEN ON BOATS**

WRITTEN BY  
JACLYN BACKHAUS

DIRECTED BY  
EMILY MOLER

### **SOTOBA KOMACHI**

WRITTEN BY  
YUKIO MISHIMA

DIRECTED BY  
MICHELLE HUYNH

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