

On behalf of the Directing Area, Kim Rubinstein has written this gratitude and wish for Joseph Hendel:

It has been my great honor and pleasure to have mentored Joe Hendel throughout his three-year director training. Truth be told, I felt equally mentored by him. Joe is a visionary director and a deep investigator of the human condition. In my directing classes Joe amazed me with the ferocity of his attention, the porousness of his reception, and the inventiveness of his participation in comment and action. Joe made significant contributions to the production of *Raisin in the Sun*, for which he was my assistant and musical selection comrade. I trusted his artistic eyes and ears to assist me during tech for my production of *Balm in Gilead*, asking him to hone small clusters of the massive production. He fulfilled those requests with precision and his unique comic sensibility. That comic sensibility, launching from the principles of Clown, is at the core of Joe's director voice. On delightful display in *Tambo and Bones*, his first production at UCSD, in both design and the movement and timing of the actors. *Life is a Dream*, his first full-length production at UCSD, a complex and arcane task, was a revelation of story, wackiness and pathos. But it was in his thesis production, a stunning and sophisticated revelation of *Orestes 2.0*, that Joe's cockeyed visions took on a unique planet of their own, perfectly matched with irreverent kaleidoscope of the Chuck Mee's text. Joe synthesized his inner visions, his musical virtuosity, his ability to command and inspire a room of other theatre artists working on what seemed an alien text and all the many details so thirstfully sucked in to his artistic being in his time at UCSD. Discerning, yet as porous as the a monster sponge, Joe transmogrified into the rare kind of theatre artist, one that will change the world through his hunger and his enormous talent. Miles Davis said a famous thing: "Man, sometimes it takes a long time to sound like yourself." Joe is well on his way. And his sound is unique: very nuanced and very loud.