

Dear PhD candidates or, should I say Dr. Jon Reimer and Dr. Kirsten Tregar!

The entire Performance Studies congratulates you in advance of your dissertation defense! Your respective research projects, which feel prescient and so necessary in our current context, explore how humans and non-human animals compose with traumatic events and weave resilient stories, profound connections, and impactful performances out of challenging times. From you Jon, we learn about the crisis of being and the structures of feeling in Japan after World War II. Kristen challenges us to think about how non-human animals have always played a role in the national stories we tell about ourselves and reflects on what we can learn from our relations to non-human living beings. Jon and Kristen, your research as well as your generous and compassionate ways of writing, teaching, and thinking about the world are needed now more than ever. And we feel lucky to have accompanied you on this journey! Both of you have brought so much to our area and to the entire department as scholars, artists, and educators. Congratulations, Kristen and Jon!

Dr. Jon Reimer

Professor Marianne McDonald, Jon's co-advisor, writes "Jon tirelessly donates his time helping others," She adds that she shares "with Jon a great admiration for Mishima" and that she knows that Jon's insights about Mishima have already contributed to general knowledge about this author who truly deserved the Nobel prize several times over!" Marianne adds that Jon is a brilliant scholar with insights derived from his living for years in Japan. "Jon will have a fine book out of his research when he finishes, and also material for his courses. He is also a gifted director, and will have a brilliant future whatever path he follows." Professor Emily Roxworthy, Jon Reimer's co-advisor, writes "from the moment I met Jon Reimer it was clear he embodied that rare combination of brilliant artistry and equally brilliant scholarly thinking. After spending nearly a decade working as a professional director in Japan, Jon came to our department driven by a passionate need to theorize the intercultural artistic scene in which he had been a player as well as its place within our global culture. During his time on campus, Jon has impacted every corner of Theatre & Dance, from his transformative directing of undergraduate and graduate productions to his highly professional contributions to department promotions and our web presence. He has served as a student representative that connects all the MFA and PhD areas of our multidisciplinary department and was always that mensch everyone counted on for favors big and small and endless support during our challenges. All the while, Jon has constantly astounded me with his unique research insights and his unrivaled prowess in the classroom, teaching highly rated courses in film, acting, theatre history, and many other subjects. It's hard to imagine our Theatre & Dance community without Jon, but I cannot wait to see how he changes the scholarly and artistic world beyond UCSD!"

Dr. Kristen Tregar

Professor Marianne McDonald, Kristen's advisor, writes: "I never cease learning from Kristen! She is the best! She never gives up and is brilliant in her research. She has already more

publications than any other student I've had, and I've had many! Kristen is absolutely outstanding, writing on many different areas, and always sensitive to abuses of power, over animals, people, and the planet. She is also generous, helping students with productions, directing, and writing. Her courses are simply outstanding. She also lives with and trains horses. I don't think she could turn her attention to anything without making it into a masterpiece!"

From Professor Julie Burelle, who serves on Kristen's committee, "Kristen is a renaissance woman! She holds a Masters in Forensic Science, a Masters in Educational Theatre, she rescues animals, teaches science and, as a dramaturg, invents with ease a new language when a theatre production calls for it. But she just as easily trains horses, rescues animals, grows food, or devises and directs plays with undergraduate students about Greek women! I often wonder if there is anything she cannot do and do well! I am not the only one: her teaching and mentoring have earned her an Integrity Award at UCSD and she is universally loved by her students and peers. Her research, whether she writes about flies and the role they play in the HBO series *Westworld*, or about *War Horse* or retired army dogs, is always original, complex, and surprising. Her work will contribute greatly to our field and I am proud to have had her as a student!"