

JON REIMER

When I applied for graduate school, I don't think I actually knew what I was getting myself into, because my time at UCSD has been expanding my mind and understanding of theatre and performance in ways that I could not have imagined, and for that I am and will be eternally grateful. You don't know what you don't know, and there was a lot I didn't know, but now at least I feel my six years being a part of this community has made me aware of the scope of all there is to know, how to go about knowing more, and what to do with that knowledge – academically and artistically.

First and foremost, I must thank my wonderful husband Andy for supporting me in all of my endeavors for over a decade. It was during my time in this program that he and I became engaged and got married, so my memories of UCSD will forever coincide for some of the happiest moments of my life with him. I must also thank the constant support and encouragement of the best parents a queer kid could ask for. Clayton and Nancy Reimer: you always have my back, and in light of all the things I have thrown at you throughout the years – like moving to California to pursue a PhD in Theatre – I will be forever grateful to count you as my parents and my friends.

While at UCSD, I was able to find for myself a family in which to belong while living here in La Jolla. The matriarch and patriarch of that family for me have been Marybeth Ward and Mark Maltby, two people who were always there to listen to me, to help me, to encourage me, and to be proud of me just like my real parents; for that love and support, words cannot express my gratitude. In addition, my fellow grad students who I've had the privilege of getting to know, to work with, and to bond with as artists and people throughout the years have been like siblings to me. I do not know what my time here would have been like without the friendship and emotional support of my fellow PhD students and the MFAs, especially Melissa Minniefee, Alison Urban, Joe Hendel, Jaymee Ngerwichit, and Mo Rodvanich. And thank you to the staff in the Department of Theatre and Dance who have helped me throughout the years as a student, a director, a dramaturge, and office worker.

Lastly, I thank the incredible professors I have had the honor and privilege to study under, work with, and learn from. The PhD area professors at UCSD from across my time here, including Jade Powers-Sotomayor, Janet Smarr, John Rouse, Jim Carmody, Julie Burelle, Nadine George-Graves, and most importantly my kindred spirit Marianne McDonald and my chair & mentor Emily Roxworthy – thank you for pushing me to be strong, confident, and proud of my contributions to the world of Theatre. The PhD area professors at UC Irvine that I have also been honored to study with -- Daphne Le, Ketu Katrak, Bryan Reynolds, Frank Wilderson III, Ian Munro, Stephen Barker, and especially Tony Kubiak – I thank for their brilliance. Additionally, I would be remiss to not mention the profound impact that MFA professors have also had on me in my time here, allowing me to keep alive my passion as a practitioner as well as a scholar, particularly Kim Rubinstein and Gabor Tompa.

As I leave this place and move on to the next chapter of my life, wherever and whatever that might be, I am grateful to UCSD's Department of Theatre and Dance for changing me, for making me a better Theatre artist and scholar. I will forever strive to make you proud.

KRISTEN TREGAR

My path over the last five years has been a winding one, and there are many people to whom I am grateful for their support, encouragement, presence, and wisdom along the way.

First, I should express my gratitude to my husband Sam, for his perpetual patience and his insistence that I can do anything I put my mind to, even when I'm unconvinced.

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Thank you to my PhD cohort, and in particular, to Will Jones, without whom I could never have made it this far.

Thank you to the MFAs I've had a chance to work with, for keeping me grounded in the pleasures of production when theory threatened to make me forget.

Thank you to the undergraduate students, who have consistently reminded me how much I love teaching and why all of this work is worth doing.

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Thank you to the MFA faculty members, who have shared your knowledge and expertise and who made me feel welcome in our department and in our productions, particularly when I was unsure of whether or not I deserved to be there.

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