

REFUSE IT

A BLACK WOMAN'S GUIDE TO 21ST CENTURY RAGE

BY PHANÉSIA PHAREL

DIRECTED BY DELICIA TURNER SONNENBERG

THEODORE AND ADELE SHANK THEATRE
MAY 6-17



WRITTEN BY Phanésia Pharel
DIRECTED BY Delicia Turner Sonnenberg

CAST

Dr. Bowenski

Track 1

Track 2

Track 3

Track 4

Track 5

Mysia Anderson

Ruva Chigwedere

Kennedy Tolson

Griffin Hanson

Olivia Picazo

Kenneth J. Ray

Understudies

Track 3 u/s

Track 4 u/s

Track 5 u/s

Michael Lakind

Grayce Britton

Griffin Hanson

STAGE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Production Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Production Assistant

Production Assistant

Juhi Sabharwal

Karina Sapkota

Ziyi Fang

Yareli Garcia

Katelin Shum

CREATIVE TEAM

Director

Playwright

Assistant Director

Scenic Designer

Costume Designer

Assistant Costume Designer

Assistant Costume Designer

Lighting Designer

Sound Designer

Accent Coach

EDI Advocate

Delicia Turner Sonnenberg

Phanésia Pharel

Annais Scott

Ruolin Zhao

Anabel Olguin

Ero Rodriguez

Natalia Darwish

Jake Olson

Nataly Cenicerros

Andrea Caban

Andrea Caban

CONTENT WARNING

Sexual Content, Postpartum Depression, and Strong Language

THE PLAYWRIGHT

Phanésia Pharel is a Haitian-American playwright & screenwriter from a dragon fruit farm in Miami. The daughter of an immigrant teacher and farmer, she writes to honor people.

She will be in residence at the Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference this summer for her play *DEAD GIRL'S QUINCEÑERA*.

She is the incoming Playwriting Fellow (2025-2027) at Emory University, where she will teach and have a new play produced by their repertory company.

Her plays have been developed at the New Harmony Project, Playwrights' Center, New York Stage and Film, SolFest, Thrown Stone, Shattered Globe, and Echo Theater Company.

She has received commissions from the Atlantic Theater, Lucille Lortel (Alcove), La Jolla Playhouse, Miranda Family Fund, Hero Theatre, City Theatre Miami, and the Latinx Playwrights Circle.

Phanésia is a member of the Obie-winning EST/Youngblood group and The Wish Collective. As a screenwriter, she is a member of Lena Waithe's Hillman Grad Screenwriting Lab.

Her honors include The Kilroys Web, five awards from the Kennedy Center, and recognition as a two-time Bay Area Playwrights Festival Finalist/Honorable Mention. She is a Jane Chambers Finalist, an A is For Playwriting Award recipient and a finalist for the Frank Moffett Mosier Fellowship for Works in Heightened Language.

She holds a B.A. in Urban Studies from Barnard College of Columbia University.

THE DIRECTOR

Delicia Turner Sonnenberg is a director, artistic leader, teacher, and mother. She is a founder and the former Artistic Director of MOXIE Theatre, which she helmed for twelve acclaimed seasons. Her directorial work has been celebrated for its boldness, creativity, and commitment to diverse storytelling.

Delicia has directed plays for La Jolla Playhouse, Old Globe Theatre, San Diego REP, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Round House, Utah Shakespeare, Two River Theatre, Theatre Calgary, South Coast Rep, Cygnet Theatre, NewVillage Arts, Diversionary Theatre, and Playwrights Project, among others.

CAST

Mysia Anderson is an assistant professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at UCSD. She holds an MA and PhD from Brown University's Theatre Arts and Performance Studies department, along with a BA from Stanford University's African and African American Studies program. As a scholar-artist, Anderson seeks to uplift stories rooted in African Diasporic world-making. Recent acting credits include VANESSA/BALKONAÉ/ST. DIANA OF DETROIT in *White* by James Ijames (Scripps Ranch Theatre), ALICE in *Lonnie's Lament* by Mylan Gray (Cygnet Theatre), and PIPER in *The Girls of Summer* by Layon Gray (Sandrell Rivers Theater).

Grayce Britton is a third year theatre major in Marshall College. Some of her previous theatre credits at UCSD include *Footloose* (Urleen), *The Five Bards Of Desente*(Castenous). This is her first Department show and she couldn't be more thrilled to be apart of this project!

Ruva Chigwedere is a second-year MFA student. UC San Diego credits: Hedda Gabler (Hedda Gabler), *The Rogue's Trial* (Baker's Wife), *The Half-Sibling Play* (Amoaa), *Romeo and Juliet* (Priestess Laura), and *Orlando* (Marmaduke). Other: *Richard III* (The Flea Theater), *The Emperor's New Clothes* (American Repertory Theater), and *Sweeney Todd* (Lowell House Opera). She received her B. A. in Theatre and History and Literature at Harvard University, where she was awarded the Jonathan Levy Prize for the most promising undergraduate actor. Connect with Ruva at ruvachigwedere.com or on Instagram (@ruvalicious)

Griffin Hanson is a third-year transfer student and theatre major in Revelle College. His previous UC San Diego credits include *Footloose* (Reverend. Shaw Moore) and *Vinegar Tom* (Packer/Doctor). He is so thankful for this opportunity and is excited to wrap up his first year on campus with a bang! He would like to thank his Grammy for being one of his most fervent supporters, on and off the stage! (he/him) Instagram: @b_slothie

Michael Lakind is a fourth-year theatre major and education minor in Seventh College. UC San Diego credits include *Gone Missing* (asst. music director), *Vinegar Tom* (u/s Packer & Man), *25th... Spelling Bee* (Barfée), and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Brad). This is his final project before graduating

and moving onto pursuing a teaching credential in theater at SDSU. He would like to express the utmost gratitude to Delicia and Phanésia for believing in him, and to his family for their unwavering support.

Olivia Picazo is a third-year theatre major and film minor in Sixth College. Her previous UCSD experience includes *Dead Girls Quinceañera* (Salma, Este u/s), *Honor the Thief* (Terry), *Ups & Downs* (Cara), *Spelling Bee* (Chip, Marcy u/s), and *Heathers* (Martha). She would like to thank her family and her friends for their never ending love and support!

Kenneth J. Ray is a second-year MFA student.

Kennedy Tolson is a second-year MFA student. She received a BA in theatre and a BA in communications with a minor in business while playing Division 1 soccer from the University of Maryland. UC San Diego credits: *Gone Missing*(Actor 3), *Vinegar Tom*(Alice), *Cancelina*(Patti/Literary Agent), *X*(Mattie), *Orlando* (Queen/ Chorus #3). Select credits: *Marble Rooftop*, *Emma has Church Tomorrow* (La Jolla Playhouse DNA festival, Mia), *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark* (The Ina & Jack Kay Theatre, Lottie), *Stickfly* (Kogod Theatre, Cheryl). (she/her): www.kennedytolson.com

CREATIVE TEAM

Andrea Caban (Accent Coach) is new faculty in the Department of Theatre and Dance. She is an accent/dialect coach for film and theatre, and a public speaking coach. She collaborated with Francis Ford Coppola on his career opus film *Megalopolis*. Other recent coaching credits include *Appropriate* (Old Globe), *Three Summers of Lincoln* (La Jolla Playhouse), *The Truth About Jellyfish* (Berkeley Rep) and several seasons at the Tony Award-winning South Coast Repertory Theatre (*Absurd Person Singular*, *Chinglish*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Madwomen in a Volvo* & *Peter and the Starcatcher*). Co- Director and designated Master Teacher of Knight-Thompson Speechwork™; she is known internationally as a teacher of accent teachers. She has co-written two books on the subject: *Experiencing Speech: A Skills-based, Panlingual Approach to Actor Training* and *Experiencing Accents: A Knight-Thompson Speechwork Guide for Acting in Accent*. Her award-winning research on adapting actor voice and accent training for the care of people living with ALS to prolong their ability to speak without assistive devices is ongoing. She served as Head of Voice and Speech at CSULB for 11 years earning the rank of Full Professor and the 2024 Distinguished Faculty Scholarly and Creative Achievement Award. MFA, UC Irvine. andreacaban.com

Nataly Cenicerros is a first-year MFA student. UC San Diego credits: *Vinegar Tom* (ASD), *The Rogues Trial* (SD), and *Baby Shower Katie* (SD). She received her BA in Theatre, Film, and Digital Production from UC Riverside in 2024. Other design credits include: *Three Sisters* (UCR), *The Fundamentals* (UCI), and *Airness* (UCR). (she/her)

Anabel Olguin is a recent UCSD MFA costume design graduate. UC San Diego design credits: *The Rogues Trial*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Dead Girl's Quinceañera*, *WinterWorks '24 "Open Your Eyes"*, *The Promise*, and *नेहा & Neel*. anabelolguindesigns.com

Jake Olson is a first year MFA student from Chicago. He recently designed *Ragtime*, *Frozen*, and *The Music Man* at City Springs Theatre, and was also one of the lighting designers for the UCSD 2025 Winter Works. His work has also been seen on the touring stages of Lil Nas X and Noah Kahan, and he is a current collaborator with Walt Disney Imagineering. To learn more about Jake and his work you can visit him at jakeolsondesign.com.

Annais Scott is a third-year theatre major (She/Her). UC San Diego credits: *Vinegar Tom* (Assistant Director), *809 Almond* (Assistant Director), *Romeo and Juliet* (Assistant Stage Manager), *I Found A Zipper* (Production Assistant). Directing credits: *Hallow* (LABs), *He Shot Me & Robber For Cheese* (Company 157).

Ruolin Zhao is a first-year MFA student. Design credits include Window, Peony Pavilion (National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts), Schrödinger's Legacy (Beijing Prism Theater Festival), 2025 Winter works (UC San Diego), Refuse it: A Black Woman's Guide to 21st Century Race (UC San Diego), Baby shower Katie (UC San Diego). She received her BA in National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts in 2024.

STAGE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Ziyi Fang is a third-year Business Econ major with minors in Finance and Theatre. UC San Diego credits: *Gone Missing* (ASM), *Hedda Gabler* (PA), *809 Almond* (ASM).

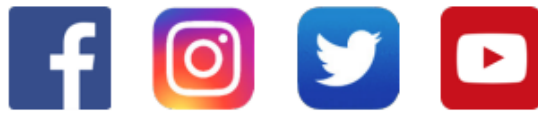
Yareli Guadalupe Garcia is a 3rd year Sociology- Law and Society major with Minors in Theatre & Human Rights and Immigration. UC San Diego Credits: *809 Almond* (ASM). Selected Credits: *Sanctuary City* (SM).

Juhi Sabharwal (Production Stage Manager) is a fourth year theatre and linguistics double major. UC San Diego credits: *The Rogue's Trial* (ASM), *Hedda Gabler* (ASM), *809 Almond* (PSM), *X* (PA), *नेहा & Neel* (ASM), *The Winter's Tale* (ASM), Company 157's *Women in Rubber* (PSM, Fall Labs '23), *Embers Adrift* (PSM), *I ____ You* (PSM, Fall Labs' 21) and Muir Musical's *American Idiot* (PA). This is her final show at UCSD!

Karina Sapkota is a first-year Chemical Engineering major and Theatre minor. This is her first department show! Selected Credits: *Driven* (Company 157), *Beauty and the Beast* (StarStruck Theatre).

Katelin Shum is a third-year theatre major. UC San Diego Credits: *The Rogue's Trial*, *Cancelina*, *Dance Nation*. Selected Credits: LAMDA's *Hamlet*, Groundworks' *Sisters on the Ground*, *Robber for Cheese*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Women in Rubber*. She serves as a representative for the department.

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