HILTON ALS TO SPEAK ON CAMPUS TONIGHT

UC San Diego Department of Theatre and Dance is hosting a free public event Issues of Identity: In Conversation with Hilton Als. Special Guest and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and critic Hilton Als will be in conversation with Neurobiology Faculty Professor Dr. Gentry Patrick. The event will be held on Monday, February 5th, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Mandell Weiss Theatre of the Jacobs Theatre District, UC San Diego. Preregistration is requested.

The conversation will be framed by the Department of Theatre and Dance’s new production of Lorraine Hansberry’s classic A Raisin in the Sun. Produced on Broadway in 1959, the play explores issues of identity that still resonate. The conversation will focus on issues of racial identity, gender and access to the American dream.

For more information on the event and to RSVP, click here.

RAISIN IN THE SUN NEARS PREVIEWS AND OPENS ON SATURDAY
The UC San Diego Theatre Department of Theatre and Dance begins its Winter quarter with a production of Lorraine Hansberry's classic A Raisin In The Sun which begins performances on February 7th in the Weiss Theatre.
A classic of the American stage, *A Raisin in the Sun* follows Walter Younger and his family in Chicago, each feeling confined by their physical home space and the social roles they’ve been assigned. When an insurance payout after the death of the family’s patriarch offers an opportunity to improve their lives, individual priorities and how they affect others come into question.

The Creative Team
Director – Kim Rubinstein
Scenic Designer – Anna Robinson
Costume Designer – Evan Kwong
Assistant Scenic Designer – Samuel Keamy-Minor
Production Stage Manager – Bryan Runion
Assistant Stage Manager – Amber Dettmers

The Cast
Walter Lee Younger – Michael Rishawn
Beneatha Younger – Amara Granderson
Lena Younger – Kimberly Monks
Ruth Younger – Janet Fiki
Joseph Asagai – Xavier Clark
George Murchison / Bobo – Sidney Hill
Mr. Karl Lindner – Andrew Gallop
Travis Younger – TBD

For tickets and more information, click here.

ALUMNI NEWS

**SARAH RASMUSSEM RECEIVES BOLD GRANT**

MFA directing alumna Sarah Rasmussen is one of five women Artistic Directors who will be receiving $250,000 grants from the BOLD Theater Women’s Leadership Circle. Along with the $250,000 grant, the BOLD Circle will provide leadership resources for women artistic directors and networking opportunities in semiannual meetings. It also provides for an Associate Director position designed to train the women artistic directors of the future.

To read the full story, click here.
SARAH WANSLEY NAMED DRAMA LEAGUE DIRECTOR IN RESIDENCE

MFA Directing alumna Sarah Wansley has been named as a 2018 Director in Residence by The Drama League where she will develop new plays and musicals as part of the 2018 Drama League Artist Residency Program, culminating in public work-in-progress presentations to be held throughout the year at the Drama League Theatre Center. The Drama League Artist Residency Program offers director/collaborator teams and/or ensembles an opportunity to develop a new theater piece at the Drama League Theater Center in Tribeca. A residency stipend, rehearsal space, professional mentorship, administrative support, and community engagement are included in the residency experience.

To read the full list of artists, click here.

JACK MIKESELL TO STAR IN AGAINST THE HILLSIDE

MFA Acting alumnus Jack Mikesell is currently appearing in Against the Hillside at Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York City. A new play by Sylvia Khoury, Against the Hillside runs from January 31- February 25.

What happens to a drone pilot who is spending full days watching a young Pakistani woman and her family? What happens to the woman when she knows she is being watched? Sylvia Khoury imagines and examines the hidden human costs of this strange new warfare.

For tickets and more information, click here.

LAUREN YEE NAMED BLACKBURN PRIZE FINALIST

MFA Playwriting alumna Lauren Yee has been named one of the ten finalists for The Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, the oldest and largest prize awarded to women playwrights writing in the English language. Chosen from over 150 nominated plays, Lauren's The Great Leap is one of the final ten finalists. The Winner of the 2017-2018 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize will be named in early March. The Winner will be awarded a cash prize of $25,000, and will also receive a signed print by renowned artist Willem de Kooning, created especially for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Each of the additional Finalists will receive an award of $5,000.

To read more, click here.
LUIS VEGA APPEARS IN THE HUMANS IN CHICAGO

MFA Acting alumnus Luis Vega is currently appearing in the national tour of *The Humans* which is playing in Chicago through February 11th. Acting faculty including Acting Faculty Professors Ursula Meyers and Eva Barnes have spent the past week traveling across the country on the annual audition tour and stopped by to see Luis and the show while they were in Chicago.

For tickets and more information, [click here.](#)
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UC San Diego Theatre & Dance

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