

UC SANDIEGO THEATRE & DANCE

Week 4

January 30th, 2017

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Department News

Opening This Week: *Though It May Shift*

A dance performance

Directed by **MFA Choreographer Erin Tracy**

Text by **MFA Playwright Lily Padilla** and **MFA Playwriting alum Kristin Idaszak**



About the Performance

Though It May Shift is a dance and theatre work constructed of interwoven solos, simultaneous actions, and chance meetings. The piece is built collaboratively with a team of playwrights, musicians, and performers as it explores the coinciding intimacy and duality of solo structures in performance. The work makes space for the prismatic quality of identity while embracing its inconsistencies, aberrations, and incongruities. *Though It May Shift* investigates the intrinsic tension between the contrasting forces in language and movement, linear and nonlinear, simultaneous and singular. Ultimately, it posits that our perception of one another and what we actually know is perpetually building, one upon the other, to create fragments and suppositions that construct our relationships.

Creative Team

Scenic Designer - **Charlie Jicha (MFA Scenic Design)**

Costume Designer - **Jaymee Ngernwichit (MFA Costume Design)**

Lighting Designer - **Chao-yu Tsai (MFA Lighting Design)**

Production Stage Manager - **Mandisa Reed (MFA Stage Management)**

Assistant Stage Manager - **Bryan Runion (MFA Stage Management)**

Production Assistant - Michelle Xiao

Dancers

Erin Tracy

Issa Hourani

Nicole Javier (MFA Actor)

Dina Apple (MFA Choreographer alum)

Rachel Torres

Musicians

Kristopher Apple

Hillary Jean Young

Kyle Adam Blair

Alumni News

Val Day To Be New Artistic Director of 59E59 Street



59E59 Theaters has announced that artistic director Elysabeth Kleinhans and executive producer Peter Tear will be stepping down from their posts in May. **MFA Directing alum Val Day**, a longtime agent with William Morris Endeavor and ICM, has been appointed the new artistic director.

"It is an immense honor to be joining the talented team at 59E59," said Day in a statement. "I am so gratified to be working within the unique presenting model that Elysabeth and Peter have created. The level of support they provide to other nonprofits is unusually generous and provides exposure to a broad range of theatres

and artists who would otherwise not be able to afford the substantial costs of producing in NYC."

To read the full article, [click here](#).

Ngozi Anyanwu's "Good Grief" Premieres in Los Angeles



MFA Acting alum Ngozi Anyanwu's "Good Grief" will have its world premiere at Center Theatre Group's Kirk Douglas Theatre. Directed by Patricia McGregor, "Good Grief" will play February 26 through March 26, 2017. Ngozi will also be performing in the play!

About the Play

Nkechi was a good Nigerian girl. She did everything right. Went to med school. Made plans. Then life happened. And plans changed. A first-generation coming-of-age journey of love, loss, and growing into adulthood, *Good Grief* follows Nkechi as she navigates Pennsylvania's suburbs alongside her childhood crush, her would-be-philosopher brother-the king of the cul-de-sac-and her immigrant parents. A fresh voice in American theatre, Ngozi Anyanwu makes her playwriting debut with this World premiere.

For tickets and more information, [click here](#).

Alumni Gathering in New York

This past Monday, January 23rd, there was a Theatre & Dance department alumni event on the last evening of the New York MFA actor audition tour. Though a windy & wet evening there was a good turnout of 35 or so alumni. It was a nice gathering and new connections were made.



Those attending were - **Department Chair Chuck Means** and **Rob Miketa**, **Professor Ursula Meyer**, **Promotions Manager Mark Maltby**, current MFA Stage Managers **Jackie Mullen**, alumni **Stephanie Gatton**, **Michael Keyloun**, **Erin Gioia Albrecht**, **Paloma H Young**, **Orli Nativ**, **Whitney Anne Adams**, **Colin McGurk**, **Samantha Watson**, **Barry Levey**, **Katie Sigismund**, **Kate Guthrie**, **Toby Jaguar**, **Tim Becker**, **Tim J. Lord**, **Mat Smart**, **Brad Fleischer**, **Amy Sutton**, **Steve Tate**, **Jenny Grober**, **Kim Blanck**, **Tom Patterson**, **Anne Whitaker**, **Jess Watkins**, **Samantha Cooper**, **Pearl Rhein**, **Carlos Angel Barajas**, **Hannah Corrigan**, **Zach Martens**, **Walker Hare**, **Daniel K. Isaac**, **Dominique Fawn Hill**, **Christina Cervenka**, **Sarah Cogan**, **Ron Washington**, and **Steph Marron**.





(Photos by **Rob Miketa**)

West Hyler's "Georama" Is Nominated for the St. Louis Critics Circle Awards



The musical that **MFA Directing alum West Hyler** directed and co-wrote, "Georama", received 4 nominations from the St Louis Critics Circle, including for Best Musical and Best New Play or Musical! West began writing "Georama" while at UCSD as a MFA student.

In "Georama," 19th-century artist John Banvard travels (PJ Griffith) down the Mississippi, sketching the landscape as he goes. It's nominated for outstanding production of a musical.

For more information, [click here.](#)

Toby Jaguar Designing at Florida Studio Theatre.



MFA sound Design alum Toby Jaguar is currently working on "Older Than Dirt" at Florida Studio Theatre.

Older Than Dirt

Written By Rebecca Hopkins, Richard Hopkins, Stephen deGhelder, and Nick Santa Maria

With Arrangements by Jim Prosser

About the Show

Older Than Dirt provides a witty and heartfelt 360 degree view of aging. From physical challenges to re-entering the dating scene, this concert celebrates the ups and downs of getting older. Older Than Dirt brings back the wacky writers of Laughing Matters combined with some of the funniest songs ever written on aging. From joints popping to mirrors mocking, this show proves you

should never be ashamed of your age. Featuring songs such as, "Age of Urology," "The Cougar Boogie," "Father Time," and "Enjoy Yourself (It's Later Than You Think)."

For more information, [click here](#).

Ismet Prcic's "Imperial Dreams" On Netflix



Netflix has released a new trailer for its John Boyega-led film "Imperial Dreams" written by **UG alum Ismet Prcic**. The film initially debuted at Sundance all the way back in 2014, winning the "Best of Next" award. Since then, it has been bouncing between both domestic and international film festivals, but after being picked up by Netflix, it is finally set for a global release.

The film centers on a young father (Boyega) who is struggling to make a new life for himself as a writer following his release from prison, while trying to protect his son from the harsh world they live in. The trailer highlights the father-son relationship, juxtaposing these emotional moments with the unsettling environment the characters inhabit.

"The hood is the cruelest of prisons, the most unusual of punishments. But you're born into," laments Boyega's character. Filmed on location in Watts, Los Angeles, the film has received excellent feedback from those who have seen it, as it currently sits at 86 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. With the recent success of "La La Land," a film which celebrates the beauty of Los Angeles, it will certainly be intriguing to see a film display the rougher parts of the City of Stars.

For more information, [click here](#).



Marsha Stephanie Blake In "Crown Heights" On Amazon



Amazon is moving into Crown Heights, acquiring the title after its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival, The Hollywood Reporter has confirmed.

The streaming service nabbed the film for just over \$2 million. The film will receive a theatrical release.

The prison drama stars Lakeith Stanfield as Colin Warner, who is arrested and wrongfully convicted of a crime he did not commit. While losing hope, his best friend, Carl King, devotes his life to restoring Colin's freedom, doggedly pursuing every lead for years.

Matt Ruskin wrote and directed the film, which also features Nnamdi Asomugha, Natalie Paul, Amari Cheatom, **MFA Acting alum Marsha Stephanie Blake**, Nestor Carbonell, Zach Grenier, Josh Pais, Yul Vazquez and Ron Canada. Throughout Sundance, the film received standing ovations at each of its public screenings.

For more information, [click here](#).

UC San Diego

ARTS AND HUMANITIES Theatre and Dance

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Sincerely,

[UC San Diego Theatre & Dance](#)