

UC SANDIEGO
THEATRE & DANCE

Week 4

October 17th, 2016

In This Issue

[Department News](#)

[Alumni News](#)

Department News

Anna Moench: Welcome Baby Hank & Hollywood's Top 100 New Writers in the 2016 Young & Hungry List



Anna Moench ('18 MFA Playwright) and her husband Graham Allen recently had a baby! His name is Hank Moench Allen, he was born on October 3rd, and he is cute as a button.

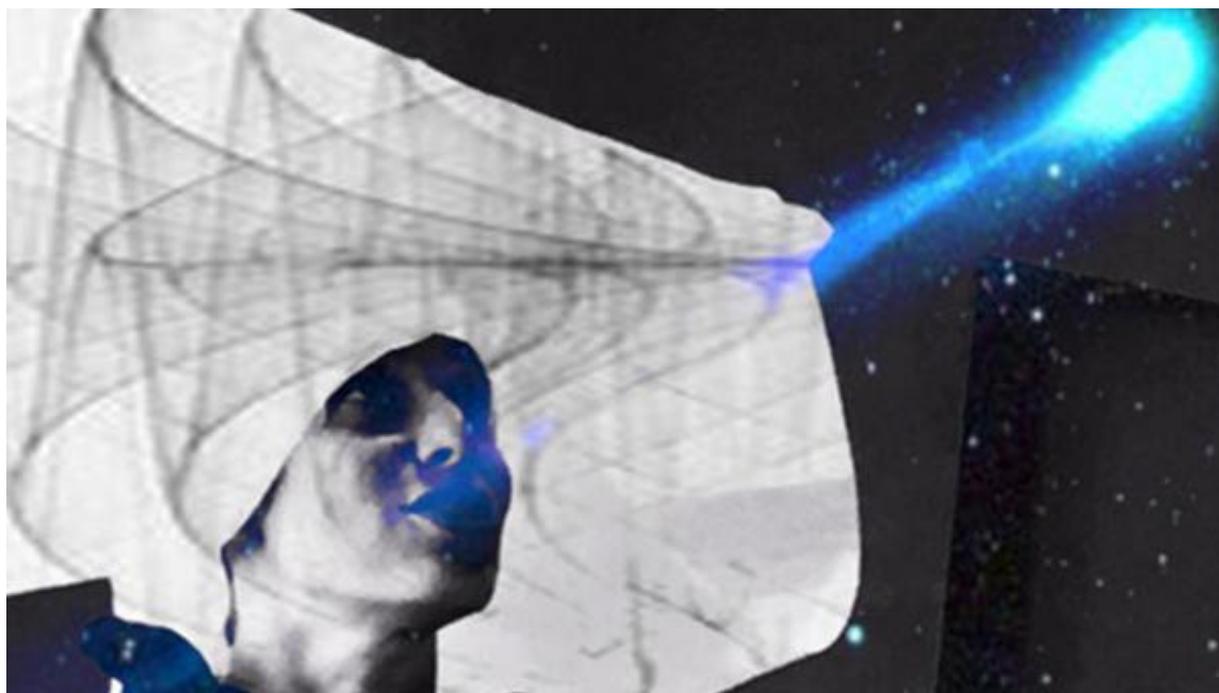
Anna was also listed on the 2016 Young and Hungry List, a list of Hollywood's top 100 new writers. Every year, a new Young & Hungry List is compiled from across the industry. Voted on by Hollywood's most influential players, each list spotlights a fresh slate of up-and-coming creatives preparing to take the next step in their careers. Whether it be a newcomer making their first big splash, a sophomore writer coming into their prime, or an established veteran returning to their roots, they all share one thing: the unrelenting drive to make their mark.

2016-2017 IDEAS Performance Series

On October 20, the fourth season of the Qualcomm Institute's Initiative for Digital Exploration of Arts and Sciences (IDEAS) performance series will kick off with "Measuring the Dream", a multimedia dance collaboration. The 2016-2017 IDEAS season will feature six works featuring faculty and student writers, directors, performers and others from the departments of Music, Visual Arts and Theatre & Dance at UC San Diego.

Says IDEAS selection committee chair Shahrokh Yadegari: "I am extremely proud and excited to witness IDEAS enter its fourth year with such a strong and innovative line-up of pieces." The performances and artist residencies were awarded following a peer-review competition open to faculty and graduate students.

Measuring the Dream



Victoria Petrovich, Yolande Snaith, Ryan Welsh and Jose Lopez

Date: Thursday, October 20, 2016

Time: 5 to 7 p.m.

Location: Calit2 Theater, Atkinson Hall, UC San Diego

Measuring the Dream's collaborative team includes **Yolande Snaith, Victoria Petrovich, Ryan Welsh, Jose Lopez, Erin Tracy, Aurora Lagattuta, Heather Glabe, Veronica Santiago Moniello and Anne Gehman**. The production is based on text, choreography, music and the visual world from the tragic life of Sor Juana Inez De La Cruz and her written works, in particular *The Dream*. "The poetic landscape of images, emotions and the feminine philosophy that her work expresses provide a rich, universal and timeless theme for this multimedia production," said production designer Petrovich, who has previously been involved in Qualcomm Institute performances (including Prof. Mark Dresser's Telematic concerts, *Crossing Boundaries* with Shahrokh Yadegari, and the opera workshop for *Lilith* with Anthony Davis and Allan Havis, which was part of the IDEAS series). "This project will be a multidimensional synthesis of

visual imagery, sound, text and choreography," notes choreographer Snaith. "The collaborative team aims to create a poetic synthesis between our respective disciplines through the integration of dance, music, text, voice and visual design, in order to merge the essence of Sor Juana's unique, historic voice with the invention of a new, highly contemporary artistic language using the new technologies at the Qualcomm Institute." Composer Ryan Welsh is working on his Ph.D. in music (composition) at UC San Diego. "In contrast to the rambling and ever-unfolding nature of the text by Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, the musical score will emphasize the spoken text as a unified sonic object, alongside other processed and manipulated vocal sounds," explains Welsh. "The Qualcomm Institute's black-box Calit2 Theater provides the opportunity to surround the audience in an immersive and evolving sonic landscape. The audience will travel into the imaginative writings of Sor Juana through the narrow and claustrophobia-inducing cloisters of her native Mexican convent and arrive at the expansive universe of the sister's mind."

MACHINAL

OR, MEDIATIZED LIVENESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY



MACHINAL, Or the Mediatized Liveness in the 21st Century

Will Detlefsen, Mary Glen Fredrick, Grady Kestler, Annie Le, Steven Leffue, Anna Robinson, Stephanie Del Rosso and Kristen Tregar

Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017

Time: 5 to 7 p.m.

Location: Calit2 Theater, Atkinson Hall, UC San Diego

Based on the real-life case of Ruth Snyder, this devised performance is the story of a woman caged in a male-dominated, mechanized, materialistic world who murders her husband in order to be set free. The performance used the Vroom wall display system in the Calit2 Theater for a live performance and interaction with a live audience. "*MACHINAL* is an artistic experiment based on big questions about what live theatre can be and how technology and machines have changed the landscape of our human interactions in the world today," said Will Detlefsen, an MFA candidate in Directing (expected in 2017) and one of the graduate students behind *MACHINAL*. The performance is based, in part, on the 1928 play "Machinal" by Sophie Treadwell, based on the true story of the first woman sentenced to the electric chair for murdering her husband.

Austyn Myers, Anjee Nero, Omar Ramos & Brandon Rosen: In "October Sky" at the Old Globe

October Sky

Book by Brian Hill and Aaron Thielen

Music and Lyrics by Michael Mahler

Directed by Rachel Rockwell

Inspired by the Universal Pictures film and Rocket Boys by Homer H. Hickam, Jr.



The beloved film is now a triumphant new American musical that will send your heart soaring and inspire your whole family to reach for the stars! In the small town of Coalwood, West Virginia, every young man's future is in the coal mines, but after the launch of Sputnik in 1957, the world's race to space inspires local highschooler Homer Hickam to dream of a different life. Against the wishes of his practical-minded father, he sets out on an unlikely quest to build his own rockets and light up the night sky. October Sky is an uplifting musical portrait of small-town Americana packed with youthful exuberance, and a sweeping, unforgettable new score.

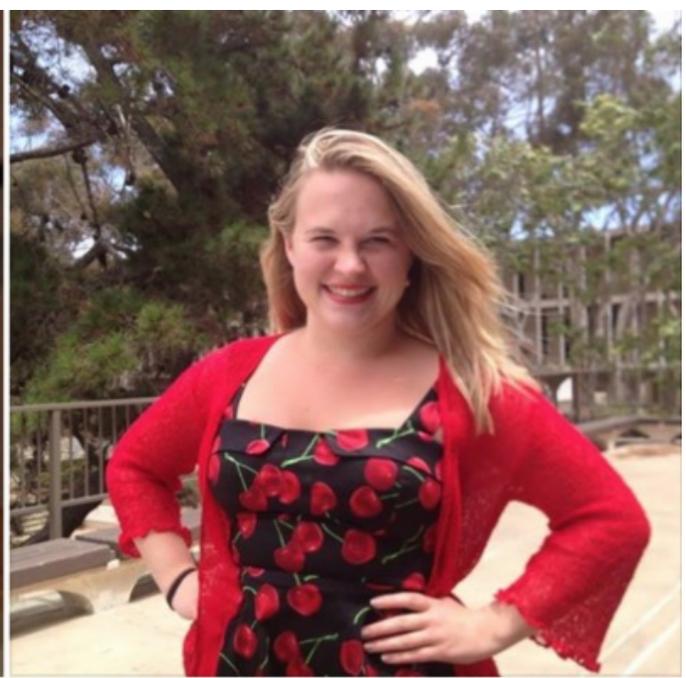
You can see **UG Actor Austyn Myers** through October 23, 2016.

The October Sky production team included **MFA Stage Management alum Anjee Nero** as the Production Stage

Manager, **MFA Sound Design alum Omar Ramos** as the Associate Projection Designer and **current MFA Lighting Designer Brandon Rosen** as the Assistant Lighting Designer.

(Austyn Myers pictured on the right, bottom row)

PhD Students: Accepted Into the American Society for Theatre Research Conference



(Top row, left to right: Jason Dorwart, Laura Dorwart; Bottom row, left to right: Melissa Minniefee, Kara Raphaeli and Kristen Tregar.)

PhD Students Jason Dorwart, Laura Dorwart, Melissa Minniefee, Kara Raphaeli, and Kristen Tregar have been accepted into the annual American Society for Theatre Research conference this November.

The American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) is a U.S.-based professional organization that fosters scholarship on worldwide theatre and performance, both historical and contemporary.

The 2016 ASTR Annual Conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota! ASTR's conference offers one-of-a-kind networking opportunities, education and a unique conference experience tailored exclusively for those in theatre research! With 650+ theatre researchers in attendance last year, ASTR is expecting to exceed those numbers in Minneapolis.

November 3-6, 2016
Minneapolis Marriott City Center

Alumni News

Chaz Shermil Hodges: Nominated for Theater Bay Area Award



The 2016 TBA Awards Celebration, now in its third year, honors the excellence of professionally-oriented theatre in the Bay Area by offering a peer-based adjudication process and awards celebration.

This year, over 300 adjudicators cast ballots for over 281 productions at 96 companies across the Bay Area. Audiences, adjudicators, and theatre professionals alike are invited to gather in A.C.T.'s Geary Theater to celebrate the excellence of Bay Area theatre in a festive evening featuring live entertainment, hosted by Theatre Bay Area.

Congratulations to **Chaz Shermil Hodges ('15 MFA Acting alum)** for her Best Actress nomination for her role in this summer's Ubuntu Theater Project production of Katori Hall's "Hurt Village".

Lisa Portes: Receives the 2016 Zelda Fichandler Award



Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF), the not-for-profit foundation of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), has given the 2016 Zelda Fichandler Award to **Lisa Portes ('92 MFA Directing alum)**. The prize comes with \$5,000 and recognizes an outstanding director or choreographer who has transformed the regional arts landscape.

"I am deeply honored to receive the 2016 Fichandler Award for the Central region," said Portes in a statement. "Ms. Fichandler-a woman artist, producer, and leader dedicated to changing the very nature of the American theatre-has long been an inspiration to me. In everything I do, I seek to build in some small way upon

the work she began in Washington, D.C., in 1950-to break ground, make room, and expand our understanding of what the American theatre can be."

Casey Stangl (Current Quinn Martin Director) chaired the committee. "With the recent passing of the legendary Zelda Fichandler, it was especially moving to serve on this year's selection committee for the award that bears her name," said Stangl in a statement. "The committee was presented with 38 outstanding nominees, demonstrating the breadth and depth of directors and choreographers in the

Central Region-artistic directors, freelancers, and educators making impactful work in communities ranging from large cities to rural towns."

Emily Feldman & Bennett Fisher: Presenting New Work in the Keneda Festival



The Keneda Festival Scene Presentation includes plays by recently minted **2016 MFA in Playwriting alums Emily Feldman and Bennett Fisher.**

The Keneda Graduate Playwriting Competition is a one-of-a-kind national competition that transitions student playwrights to the world of professional theatre.

Each year, final-year candidates in the country's leading graduate playwriting programs are invited to submit a play to the Alliance Theatre. An in-house panel of readers evaluates the scripts and selects a slate of finalists to advance to the final round. Those scripts are then sent to a national panel for judging. In conjunction with Alliance Theatre Artistic Director Susan V. Booth, the judges select the Alliance/Keneda winner. All of the playwrights establish an ongoing relationship with the Alliance Theatre and the city of Atlanta. Each winner is also offered the option to have their play published and licensed by Samuel French.

UC San Diego

ARTS AND HUMANITIES Theatre and Dance

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Have news to share? Send it to us at TandDNews@ucsd.edu and we'll pass it along for you. Photos are encouraged. Please be sure to let us know what year you graduated, if you're an alum. If you've changed your name, be sure to tell us what it was when you attended UC. Miss a back edition? Visit the [Newsletter Archives](#).

Sincerely,

[UC San Diego Theatre & Dance](#)