

UC SANDIEGO  
**THEATRE & DANCE**

**Week 7**

November 8th, 2016

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**Department News**

**Opening This Week: The Annual Quinn Martin Production of "Native Son"**



**NATIVE SON**

By Nambi E. Kelley

Adapted from the novel by Richard Wright

*About the Show*

Suffocating in rat-infested poverty on the South Side of Chicago in the 1930s, 20-year-old Bigger Thomas struggles to find a place for himself in a world whose prejudice has shut him out. After taking a job in a wealthy white man's house, Bigger unwittingly unleashes a series of events that violently and irrevocably seal his fate. Adapted with theatrical ingenuity by Chicago's own Nambi E. Kelley, this Native Son captures the power of Richard Wright's novel for a whole new generation.

*The Cast*

Bigger - Terrance White

The Black Rat - Deleon Dallas

Mary - Claire Roberson

Jan - Kyle Hester

Hannah - Kimberly Monks

Buddy - Yonatan Gebeyehu

Bessie - Zora Howard

Mrs. Dalton - Caroline Siewert

Britten - Volen Iliev

*The Creative Team*

Director - Casey Stangl

Scenic & Props Designer - Justin Humphres

Costume Designer - Jaymee Ngernwichit

Lighting Designer - Chao-Yu Tsai

Sound Designer - Melanie Chen

Dramaturg - Tezeru Teshome

Voice & Speech Coach - Ursula Meyer

Asst. Lighting Designer - Minjoo Kim

Production Stage Manager - Mandisa Reed

Asst. Stage Managers - Ashley Martin, Bryan Runion

Production Assistant - Hazel Park

*Performance Schedule*

Monday, Nov. 7th at 7:00PM - Preview #1

Wednesday, Nov. 9th at 7:00PM - Preview #2

Thursday, Nov. 10th at 7:30PM - Opening Night

Saturday, Nov. 11th at 2:00PM & 7:30PM

Thursday, Nov. 17th at 7:30PM

Friday, Nov. 18th at 7:30PM

Saturday, Nov. 19th at 7:30PM

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



(Photo by Jim Carmody)



(Photo by Jim Carmody)

## Alumni News

### Bennett Fisher: Takes 2nd Place Prize in Samuel Goldwyn Writing Awards

The screenwriting prizes were handed out at a ceremony at UCLA. The winners of the 61st annual Samuel Goldwyn Writing Awards recognizing excellence in dramatic writing were announced Tuesday at a ceremony at UCLA's Faculty Center by John Goldwyn, president, and Tony Goldwyn, vice president, of The Samuel Goldwyn Foundation.

The first prize, worth \$15,000, was awarded to Eric Mallory Morgan of UCLA for the screenplay "Tonya"; second place resulted in a tie between **Bennett Fisher (MFA Playwriting alum)** of UCSD for "Damascus" and Nicholas Adams of UCLA for "Falling"; third prize was presented to Dominic Abeyta of UCLA for "100 Degrees"; and an honorable mention was given to Meedo Taha of UCLA for "Other People".

Guardians of the Galaxy director James Gunn, AMC and SundanceTV exec Joel Stillerman and Empire co-creator Danny Strong judged the competition.



(Bennett Fisher, second from the right, with the other award winners and Dean Teri Schwartz, center.)

### Lauren Yee: Featured New Play at the 2017 Colorado New Play Summit

The Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA) theatre company has announced the lineup for the 2017 Colorado New Play Summit, which will take place Feb. 18-20, 2017 and Feb. 24-26, 2017.

The summit will feature readings of the following three plays:

- \*Blind Date by Rogelio Martinez, about the consequences of the friendship between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan during the Cold War era.
- \*Hanussen by Robert Schenkkan, about Weimar-era clairvoyant Erik Hanussen.
- \*Manford From Half Court or The Great Leap by **Lauren Yee (MFA Playwriting alum)**, about an American basketball team traveling to Beijing in the 1980s.

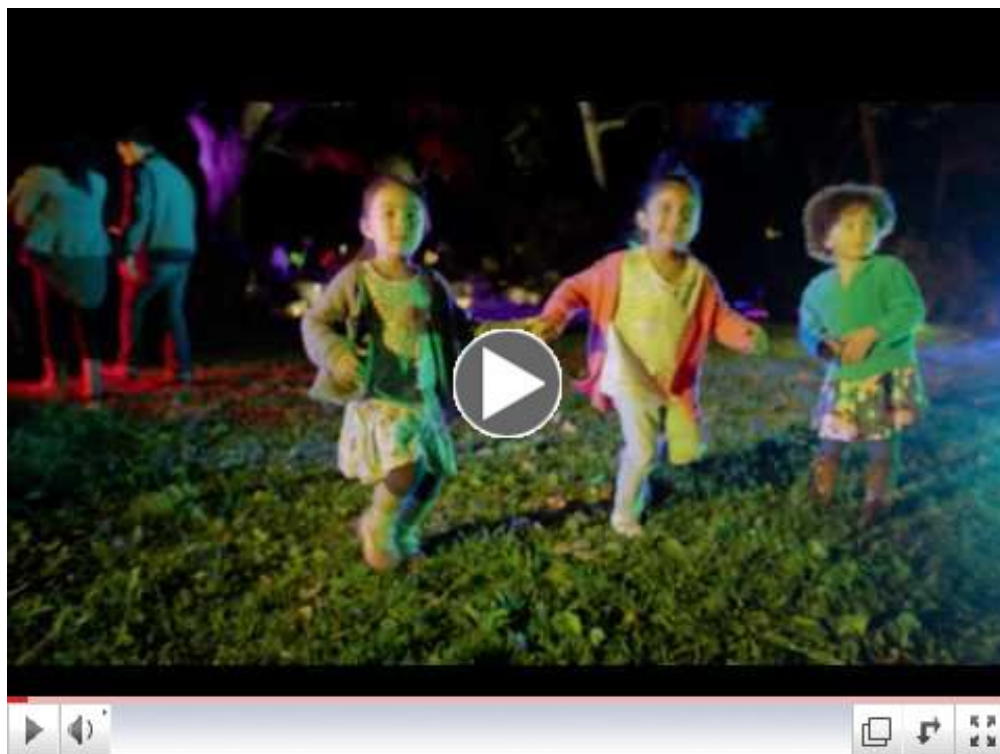
The Colorado New Play Summit has debuted 48 new plays, more than half of which have returned to the stage as full productions. Recent world premieres include Matthew Lopez's *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, which made its Off-Broadway debut at the MCC Theater and has since made it onto American Theatre's list of the top 10 most-produced plays of the 2016-2017 season.



### Chris Medvitz: Designs "Enchanted Forest of Light" at Descanso Gardens

"Enchanted: Forest of Light" is a new night-time walk-through experience taking place Nov. 25th - Jan. 8th at Descanso Gardens in La Cañada Flintridge, near Glendale CA, designed by **Chris Medvitz (UG Lighting Design alum)**.

"Enchanted: Forest of Light" is an interactive, nighttime experience unlike anything else in Los Angeles, featuring a one-mile walk through 10 distinct lighting displays in some of the most beloved areas of Descanso Gardens. Tickets are timed and must be purchased in advance.



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

## Kevin Matthew Reyes, Flynn Platt & Yamil Jaiman: In "Old School Love"

Written by Andres Paul Ramacho, "Old School Love" features behind-the-scenes work from **UG Acting alums Kevin Matthew Reyes, Flynn Platt** and **Yamil Jaiman**. The short film is produced by Wood Island Media (The Kardashians, Zendaya, Toyota) and features a performance from Nicolette Noble (Spring Breakers, Mother's Day, Netflix Series: Love)



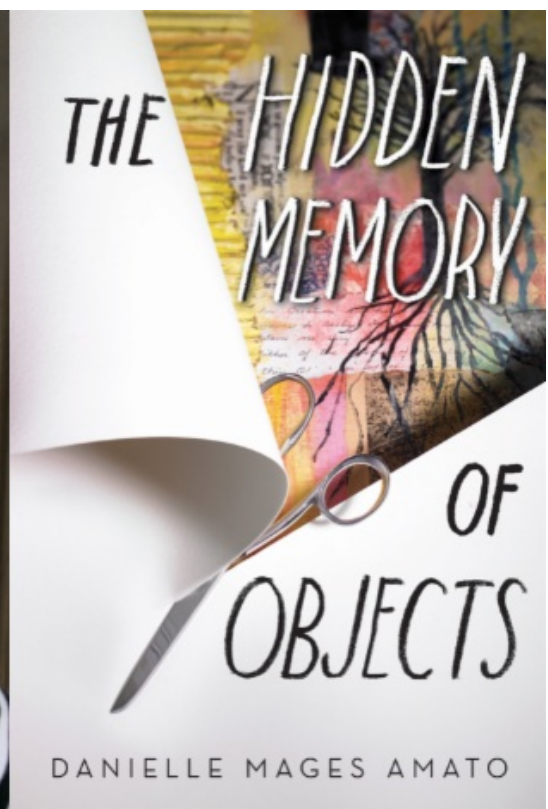
(Left to right: Kevin Matthew Reyes, Flynn Platt, and Yamil Jaiman)

To watch the full video, [click here](#).

## Danielle Mages Amato: Young Adult Series to Become a Web Series

**Danielle Mages Amato (MFA '98, PhD '03)** has a young adult novel, "The Hidden Memory of Objects", due out from Balzer+Bray/Harper Collins in March 2017. It is about Megan, a young artist who uses her ability to see memories attached to objects to find out more about her brother's death. With the help of an artifact detective who specializes in "murderabilia" - objects tainted by violence or the deaths of their owners - she uncovers troubling truths not only about her brother but also about corruption and social injustice in the nation's capital.

A web series is currently in development. The Sony production company Astronauts Wanted is developing the project in collaboration with Danielle.



### [Melanie Watnick: Featured in Pepperdine University Article](#)

Pepperdine Adjunct Professor of Theatre and Costume Designer **Melanie Watnick (MFA Costume Design alum)** is a lover of the art of costume and the people in them. She threads her love for people and her craft to weave together in her vocation. As she talks about these passions, there is a melodic joy that rings in her voice.

"Every project is different, every approach is different," Watnick said. "It always keeps things fresh and vibrant, and you're always learning about different time periods, different people and collaborating with different artists."

Watnick is a vintage aficionado and collector, whose pieces she calls the "little friends in my closet." Another little friend she adores is her dog Koda, whom she takes on walks while listening to podcasts in her spare time. She is a podcast listener, but her storytelling medium is clothing.



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

### Halei Parker: Nominated for an LA STAGE Alliance Ovation Award

The Ovation Awards are the only peer-judged theatre awards in Los Angeles, created to recognize excellence in theatrical performance, production, and design in the Greater Los Angeles area. This year, the ceremony will be held at the Ahmanson Theatre on Tuesday, January 17.

Congratulations to **Halei Parker (MFA Costume Design)** for her nomination for Best Costume Design for "The Hairy Ape" at the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble.





To view the full list of nominees, [click here](#).

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# UC San Diego

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Sincerely,

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