

# UC SAN DIEGO THEATRE & DANCE

## Week 1

January 9th, 2017

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### Department News

#### Naomi Iizuka: Announced as the Roger S. Berlind Playwright-In-Residence at the Lewis Center for the Arts in Princeton



Along with Sarah Ruhl, **MFA Playwriting alum & professor Naomi Iizuka** will engage with students at Princeton and develop new work in collaboration with McCarter Theatre Center.

This program, made possible by the support of Roger S. Berlind, Princeton Class of 1952, recognizes exciting established playwrights whose work has had significant impact on the field.

"I'm delighted in welcoming back to Princeton two artists we worked with when they were still, as the saying goes, 'emerging,'" commented Michael Cadden, Chair of the Lewis Center. "Naomi was a Hodder Fellow at Princeton in 1998 and our Program in Theater produced Sarah's *Melancholy Play* as its Fall Show in 2002. We were ahead of the curve! It's been a pleasure to see them evolve into two of the best playwrights in America today."

#### Keith Wallace Interviewed in "The Village Voice" & a "New York Times" Review

"The Bitter Game" opened on Friday, Jan. 6th, 2017 at The Public's Under the Radar Festival in New York City and included many current Theatre & Dance students and alums:

Calling "The Bitter Game" a solo performance is a bit of a misnomer. Throughout this compelling play, "actorvист" **Keith A. Wallace (MFA Acting alum)** is in direct conversation with theatergoers - improvisational shit-talking, he calls it - to inspire radical empathy about how police violence traumatizes African Americans in communities across the country. First performed on a San Diego basketball court as part of the La Jolla Playhouse immersive theater festival, Wallace and director **Deborah Stein (Playwriting Faculty)** bring the show to the Public this week for the Under the Radar Festival. "The Village Voice" spoke with Wallace via phone about his work.

You can read the [full interview here](#).

**Current MFA Stage Managers Kamra A. Jacobs and Mandisa Reed, current MFA Scenic Designer Charlie Jicha, current MFA Lighting Designer Brandon Rosen, and MFA Costume Design alum Melissa Ng.**

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



The New York Times' top theatre critic, Ben Brantley recently praised "The Bitter Game." Check out an excerpt from the review below:

"A response to the shootings of African-Americans by police officers that inspired the Black Lives Matter movement, "The Bitter Game" deals with a syndrome that has been copiously reported, analyzed and deplored. But Mr. Wallace, and his director (and co-creator) Deborah Stein, give the subject an unignorable visceral immediacy.

That you can predict where "The Bitter Game" is going doesn't diminish its ability to unsettle. Performed as an interactive exercise that allows no one to maintain a distance, the show is a sharp reminder of the persuasive powers of live theater."

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

### **OPENING THIS WEEK: "Machinal"**

A team of current MFA Theatre & Dance students have been developing a project for the past several months based on Sophie Treadwell's play "Machinal".

"Machinal" is a powerful expressionist drama about the first woman in history sentenced to the electric chair for murdering her husband. In this brand new adaptation Stephanie Joy Del Rosso has concocted a hilarious, moving, modern look into the mind of a young woman who seeks to be set free of a misogynist male-dominated machine world.

# MACHINAL



The event is completely FREE!  
And it is ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Thursday, January 12th @ 5:00pm

And it is STARRING... **MFA Actors**  
**Mary Glen Fredrick** as Young Woman  
**Enrico Nassi** as Husband/Man

Check out all of the awesome people involved:

Directed by **Will Detlefsen (MFA Director)**  
Adapted by **Stephanie Joy Del Rosso (MFA Playwright)**  
Production Stage Managed by **Kasson Marroquin (MFA Stage Manager)**  
Scenic Design by **Anna Robinson (MFA Scenic Designer)**  
Costume Design by **Annie Le (MFA Costume Designer)**

Lighting Design by **Brandon Rosen (MFA Lighting Designer)**  
Asst. Lighting Design by **Minjoo Kim (MFA Lighting Designer)**  
Sound Design by **Steven Leffue (MFA Sound Designer)**  
Asst. Sound Design by **Carren Wang (MFA Sound Designer)**  
Media Design by **Grady Kestler (MFA Sound Designer)**  
Dramaturgy by **Kristen Tregar (PhD Student)**

"Machinal" is presented as a part of the '16-'17 IDEAS (Initiation for Digital Exploration of Arts & Sciences) Festival at the Calit2 Theater.  
The show runs 45 minutes.

**Professor Jim Carmody's Photograph on the Cover of American Theatre Magazine: La Jolla Playhouse's "Miss You Like Hell"**

# AMERICAN THEATRE

JANUARY 2017 THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP



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UC San Diego  
ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
Theatre and Dance

### Alumni News

#### 2016 Craig Noel Award Nominations Announced

More than 90 local and national theatre artists representing 56 San Diego theatrical productions from 20 different producing companies will compete for the 2016 Craig Noel Awards.

Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on Monday, Feb. 6, 2017, at the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation in San Diego.

Check out the all of the Theatre & Dance alums nominated for the Craig Noel Award:

Outstanding Solo Performance

**MFA acting alum Keith A. Wallace** - "The Bitter Game," La Jolla Playhouse

Outstanding Sound Design

**MFA Sound Design alum Emily Jankowski** - "Brownsville Song (b-side for Tray)," Moxie Theatre

Outstanding Lighting Design

**MFA Lighting Design alum Wen Ling Liao** - "The Boy Who Danced on Air," Diversionary Theatre

Outstanding Projection Design

**Design Faculty Emeritus Tara Knight** - "Hollywood," La Jolla Playhouse

Outstanding New Play

"Damascus" by **MFA Playwriting alum Ben Fisher** - Wagner New Play Festival, University of California, San Diego

"The Last Tiger in Haiti" by **MFA Playwriting alum Jeff Augustin**, La Jolla Playhouse

"Junk: The Golden Age of Debt" by Ayad Akhtar, La Jolla Playhouse. Stage Managed by **Stage Management Faculty & Department Chair Charles Means**.

### **Judy Dolan, Rebecca Lustig, Janet O'Neill & Junior Bergman: "Candide" at NY City Opera**

**Design Professor Judy Dolan** is the Costume Designer of this Hal Prince directed opera of "Candide". **MFA Costume Design alums** were also on this project: **Rebecca Lustig** was the Associate Costume Designer and **Janet O'Neill** was Assistant Costume Designer. Also, **current Costume Design MFA Junior Bergman** was the Costume Design Intern.

Founded in 1943 as a populist alternative to the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera operated continuously through 2013, when it declared bankruptcy. In 2016 a not-for-profit group, NYCO Renaissance, reorganized the company's debts, brought the company out of bankruptcy, and resumed performances on a limited basis with smaller casts and lower budgets.

"Candide" was a financial failure in its original 1956 production, but Prince restaged it on Broadway in 1974 with a revised libretto and some new lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. It ran 740 performances. It is the latter version that will be staged by NYCO.

To read more about the show, [click here](#).



(Left to right: Judy Dolan, Rebecca Lustig, Janet O'Neill, and Junior Bergman)

### **Paloma Young Interviewed in "American Theatre Magazine"**

**MFA Costume Design alum Paloma Young** discusses blending Imperial Russia with modern punk in her costumes for the genre-spanning musical.

"Anachronism is much louder and direct in the ensemble costuming. Punk might seem like an odd inspiration for a 19th-century story, but to Rachel Chavkin and me, the choice was so obvious. What do you get when you combine extreme teenage joy and misery (Natasha) with deep, deep philosophical depression (Pierre) and military and religious iconography (uniforms, camouflage, bullets, crosses and more crosses)? Punk rock!

"It was really important for the chorus to be a bridge to our outermost sphere: the audience. No matter where you sit, you'll always be part of the stage picture yourself. Even though their costumes are brighter, wilder, 'performative,' each ensemble look is rooted in authentic subcultures and is collaged together from real clothes. It's vintage, thrift, Macy's, and H&M mixed together with crude patches and irreverent T-shirts. The chorus costumes truly capture the joy and energy of the score, and the principal looks center the emotional depth of the story and the characters."





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

There was another nice article about Paloma's design for Josh Groban as Pierre in the current Broadway production.

"Pierre is in bad shape physically - he drinks too much, he talks about his own corpulence, and he's in ill health," said the show's costume designer, Paloma Young. "Josh Groban is in fine shape. We knew we had to go in and modify his body, but we didn't want it to be comic - I just had to figure out how Josh would look if he put on 60 pounds and wasn't going to the gym."



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

## Natalia Valerdi-Rogers: Residency Programs Manager at Arts for Learning in San Diego

**UG Dance alum Natalia Valerdi-Rogers** is the new "Residency Programs Manager" at Arts for Learning San Diego, formerly known as Young Audiences. This 53-year old organization is the single largest provider of K-12 arts education in San Diego County. During the 2015-16 academic year, Arts for Learning San Diego served 66,101 students and 2,585 educators via 1,563 programs in 23 school districts with a roster of 202 Teaching Artists.



Natalia is an arts advocate, a dance artist and collaborator. Her work has taken her to Cuba, Europe, Mexico and throughout Southern California in the United States. She was born in Mexico City and grew up on the California borderland. She is owner of SHADOWORX, a creative services company working with clients ranging from the arts to systems engineering. Her artistic roots are in dance, and evolved from working as a modern dancer and choreographer, to writing, giving lectures and designing video projection installations, and more recently delving into arts education and advocacy. She recently produced the short dance film "mara" to raise awareness of the Tibetan Nuns Project. She collaborated with the Patricia Rincon Dance Collective (PRDC) from 2006-2014, where she co-developed The Myth Project and co-produced the Salon Dances Series at the Encinitas Library. She toured Europe with PRDC, performing in the TANZ IN OLTEN Dance Festival. She also collaborated with UK choreographer **Yolande Snaith (Dance Faculty)** creating the video projection design for "One Hundred Feet" among other

projects.

Natalia's work in education began when she established the dance program at Bonita Vista High School in 2003. She shifted into higher education, teaching at Southwestern College, San Diego City College, and the University of California, San Diego where she is currently a Lecturer in Ballet. Natalia has worked as a teaching artist in K-12 for the last 6 years through various organizations, with an emphasis on arts integration. Natalia has an M.F.A. in Dance and Technology from the University of California, Irvine and a Certificate in Choreography from the Centro de Investigación Coreográfica INBA in Mexico City.

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

## Jeff Augustin's "The Last Tiger In Haiti": The Best in San Diego Theater in 2016

An excerpt from the San Diego Union Tribune's article listing James Hebert's Top 15 Theater Experiences in San Diego in 2016:

"Between its often-toxic politics and its seemingly endless string of sad passings (beginning with David Bowie, always a pioneer), 2016 hardly appears destined to land on anyone's Top 10 list of Extra Fun Years. (Although maybe someday it'll all seem grand compared with whatever's to come.)

Somehow, though, theater didn't get the message, because this has been a particularly rich, satisfying and diverse past 12 months on San Diego stages, with an extra dose of the kind of passion and commitment that typifies our theater scene."

"The Last Tiger in Haiti," La Jolla Playhouse: Playwright and **MFA Playwriting alum Jeff Augustin**, a rising star in American theater, returned to his old haunts for what proved a haunting meditation on the power (and perils) of storytelling. The work, set in Augustin's ancestral home of Haiti, was the first by an alumnus of UCSD's playwriting program to be included in the Playhouse's subscription season.





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

### Craig Siebels: Directs "MacGyver" on CBS

MacGyver is an American action-adventure television series developed by Peter M. Lenkov and starring Lucas Till as the title character. It is a reboot of the ABC series of the same name created by Lee David Zlotoff, which aired from 1985 to 1992. The series premiered on September 23, 2016, on CBS.

**MFA Scenic Design alum Craig Siebels** directed the January 6th, 2017 episode of "MacGyver" which airs on CBS.



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


### Toby Onwumere: On Netflix's "Sense8"

The journey continues as these eight singular hearts and minds weave in and out of each other's lives finding deeper connections, learning darker secrets about one another and struggling to identify with more than just oneself.

Sense8 Season 2 released "A Christmas Special" which is now available to stream on Netflix. The two-hour

special introduces **MFA Acting alum Toby Onwumere** as Capheus. The rest of the second season will be released in May 2017.

**NETFLIX**  
Now on Netflix



**NETFLIX**

**sense8**


**Sense8** A Christmas Special

2016 1 Episode **HD**

Scandals and celebrations deepen the Sensates' bond as they rebuild their lives and try to outsmart Whispers. The story continues May 5 in new episodes. [More Info](#)

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**Melanie Marnich: Writing for AMC**



Playwright and TV writer ("The Affair") and **MFA Playwriting alum Melanie Marnich** has signed an overall deal with AMC. Under the pact, Marnich is working on two drama projects in development at the network.

Marnich, a playwright, first ventured into TV as a writer on the HBO drama series Big Love, earning a WGA nomination for her work. She most recently worked as co-executive producer on the first season of the Netflix drama "The OA". She has also written multiple episodes for "The OA." She previously served in the same capacity on the Showtime series The Affair and also worked on the network's The Big C. Marnich is repped by WME and Rise

Management.

This is the latest senior-level female writer-producer AMC has signed to an overall deal over the past couple of months, along with LaToya Morgan and Angela Kang.

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

### Emily Feldman & Krista Knight: New Plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville

**MFA Playwriting alums Emily Feldman and Krista Knight** will have new plays in the Tens at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

#### MIDSUMMER'S EVE

By Emily Feldman

Directed by Krissy Vanderwarker

On a perfect night in the middle of the summer, in the middle of the city, a pretty outdoor performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream is interrupted by an ugly act of violence.

#### HOME INVASION

By Krista Knight

Directed by Krissy Vanderwarker

Two ghosts have lured robbers to an expensive apartment rented out on Airbnb. The robbers think they've outsmarted the absent tenants, but they're about to fall into a trap themselves.

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





(Left to right: Emily Feldman; Krista Knight)

### Andrea M Stolowitz & David Myers: In the Top 10 of 2017 Jewish Playwriting Contest

Two **MFA playwriting** alums **Andrea M Stolowitz** and **David Myers** are part of the 2017 Jewish Playwriting Contest Top 10!

Selected from 219 submissions by a stellar panel of artists - playwrights, dramaturgs, literary managers, actors, directors, producers, and scholars - these 10 plays point the way to the future of Jewish drama: vibrant, challenging, culturally-specific yet universal, and ready to enter the mainstream of American theater.

To read more about these plays, [click here](#).



### Marsha Stephanie Blake & David Wilson Barnes In "Othello" at New York Theatre Workshop in New York

**MFA Acting alum Marsha Stephanie Blake** and **UG alum David Wilson Barnes** are currently performing in New York Theatre Workshop's production of Shakespeare's "Othello" with Daniel Craig.

Check out an excerpt from this excellent New York Times review:

The 21st century has become the default era for "Othello" since the American invasion of Iraq - sometimes brilliantly, sometimes misguidedly. But this "Othello" isn't striving for contemporary relevance or high-concept surprise.

The colorblind casting of other roles (Iago's wife, Emilia, is played by a fine Marsha Stephanie Blake, an African-American actress) makes Othello's blackness less of a cultural issue than it often is. What interests Mr. Gold is the intimate spectacle of two disastrously different, equally great minds in collision.

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



### **Michael Greif Directs "Dear Evan Hansen" on Broadway**

Check out the excellent New York Times review of **MFA Directing alum Michael Greif's** production of "Dear Evan Hansen."

Here is an excerpt from the review:

What's more, this gorgeous heartbreaker of a musical, which opened at the Music Box Theater on Sunday, has grown in emotional potency during its journey to the big leagues, after first being produced in Washington and Off Broadway. Rarely - scratch that - never have I heard so many stifled sobs and sniffles in the theater.

For those allergic to synthetic sentiment, rest assured that the show, with a haunting score by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (the coming movie musical "La La Land," for which they wrote the lyrics, is already generating Oscar buzz), matched by a book of equal sensitivity by Steven Levenson, doesn't sledgehammer home its affecting story. On the contrary, the musical finds endless nuances in the relationships among its characters, and makes room for some leavening humor, too. It is also the rare Broadway musical not derived from or inspired by some other source, which is refreshing in itself.

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



### Tim Barnett: Music Performance in Los Angeles



**UG Acting alum Tim Barnett** will soon release his latest album, 'As Deserts Go.'

Groovy tunes. Groovy People. An all around Radical Randy time!!

A special music performance will be presented at The Mint in Los Angeles on Tuesday, January 31st, 2017.

Tickets are \$8

Lineup:

7:45p--Nevin Campos

8:30p--Adam Miller

9:15p--Tim Barnett

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

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# UC San Diego

## ARTS AND HUMANITIES Theatre and Dance

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