

SPRING QUARTER: WEEK 1

DEPARTMENT NEWS



MFA CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATES

On Saturday March 25th, UCSD's MFA Class of 2017 was honored at their graduation ceremony at the Forum Theatre. Congratulations for all of their work over the last few years and best wishes on their future careers!

SHOWCASE SCHEDULE

For those interested, the Acting class of 2017 will have their New York showcase this week and the Los Angeles showcase later in the month. [Details here](#) and below:

NYC:

NYU Tisch School of the Arts 111 2nd Avenue New York, NY 10003

Wednesday April 5th: 1pm, 4:30pm, and 8pm

[Reserve online](#) or over the phone: (212) 998-1960

LA:

The Falcon Theatre 4252 Riverside Drive Burbank, CA 91505

Tuesday April 25th, 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m

[Reserve online](#) only

PATRICIA RINCON RECEIVES FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dance Faculty Professor Patricia Rincon will be recognized with the 2017 Faculty Excellence Award for Community Service by the UC San Diego Chancellor's Associates at a ceremony to be held Thursday, April 6th at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, in the Robert Paine Scripps Forum for Science, Society and the Environment.

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



UCSD STUDENTS PERFORM IN POETIC LANDSCAPES AT THE LOFT



Several UCSD students, faculty, and staff will be performing *Poetic Landscapes*, an evening of poetry, spoken word, and storytelling by Indigenous writers and performers at The Loft on April 6th at 7:30p. The evening will be emceed by **PhD Candidate Sam Mitchell** and include performances by The Rincon Youth Storytellers, Diana Cervera, Amrah Salomon, Casandra Lopez, Lehua Taitano, and others.

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

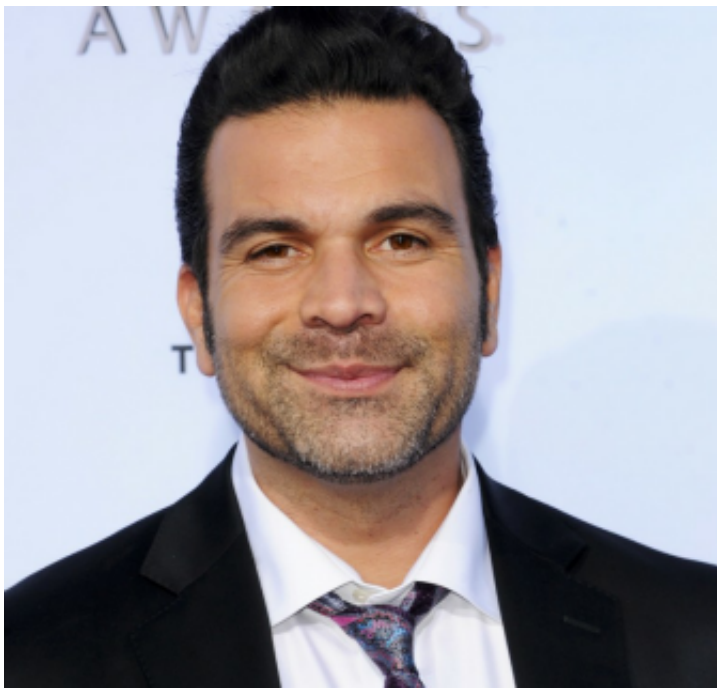


UCSD STUDENTS BEGIN RESIDENCIES ON *ESCAPE TO MARGARITAVILLE*

La Jolla Playhouse began rehearsals for the new Jimmy Buffet musical *Escape to Margaritaville* this week. Several current students are doing their residencies on the show, including **MFA Acting students Volen Iliev, Mo Rodvanich, and Andrew Gallop. MFA Stage Management student Jackie Mullen, Costume Design student Junior Bergman, Lighting Design student Brandon Rosen, and Scenic Design student Matthew Herman** are also working on the show.

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

ALUMNI NEWS



RICARDO CHAVIRA JOINS CBS' MISSION CONTROL

MFA Acting alumnus Ricardo Chavira is set as a series regular in CBS' NASA-themed drama pilot, *Mission Control*.

Mission Control revolves around the next generation of NASA astronauts and scientists who juggle their personal and professional lives during a critical mission with no margin for error. Chavira will play Diaz, director of the Johnson Space Center.

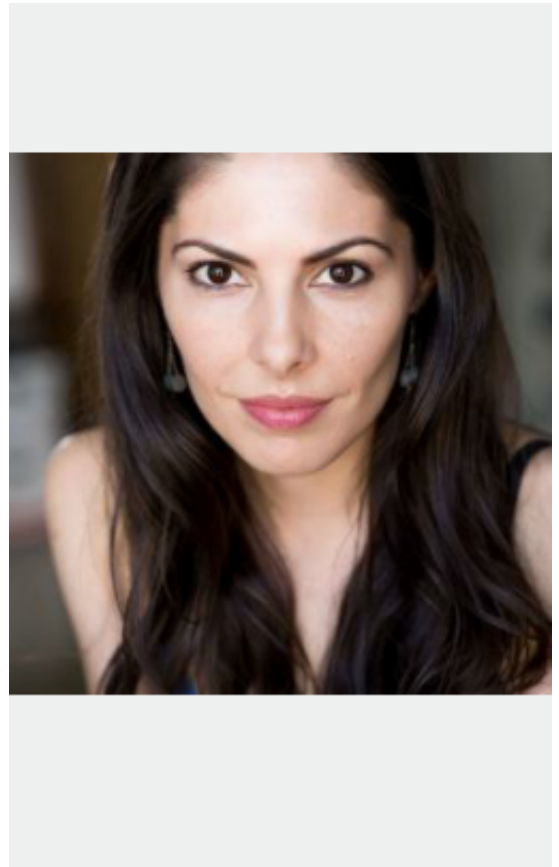
To read more, [click here](#).

ELLA SALDANA NORTH STARS IN *DESTINY OF DESIRE* AT THE GOODMAN THEATRE

The Goodman Theatre recently opened Karen Zacarias' new play *Destiny of Desire* starring **BA alumnus Ella Saldana North**. A clever exploration of racism, sexism, and classism, *Destiny of Desire* uses the form of a classic telenovela in which two baby girls are born into two very different worlds—one to privilege and one to poverty—but then are secretly switched. Ella plays the role of the impoverished young maid who becomes elevated to a wealthy family.

The production also features **BA alumni Stephanie Diaz and Pablo Santiago** as an actor and lighting designer respectively. See Ella and her costar Esperanza America talk about the show and their preparation in [this video](#) about the show, which runs through April 16th.

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



LAUREN YEE AND JOSHUA BRODY OPEN *KING OF THE YEES* AT GOODMAN



MFA Playwriting alumnus Lauren Yee's play *King of the Yees* opened at the Goodman Theatre this weekend in a production directed by **MFA Directing alumnus Joshua Brody**.

"Growing up just outside of San Francisco's Chinatown, Lauren Yee has always felt like an outsider, especially compared to her father Larry, the unofficial king of the Chinese community. But when her father disappears, she must embrace her heritage for the first time in order to find him." Performs through April 30th.

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

JIHAE PARK'S *HANNAH AND THE DREAD GAZEBO* OPENS AT OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

MFA Acting alumnus Jihae Park's new comedy *Hannah and the Dread Gazebo* is having its world premiere at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. The production is directed by Chay Yew and features **MFA Acting alumnus Paul Juhn** among the cast.

"Hannah is two weeks away from becoming a board-certified neurologist when she receives a strange package from her grandmother, who may—or may not—have just ended her life in a most flamboyant fashion. The mystery leads Hannah and her family on a surreal, funny, heartbreaking adventure back to their roots in South and North Korea and the forbidden Demilitarized Zone that divides them." The production runs through October.

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





MELISSA NG DESIGNS COSTUMES AT ABOUT FACE THEATRE

MFA Costume Design alumnus Melissa Ng is designing costumes for Chicago's About Face Theatre in their final production of the season, *Bright Half Life* by Tanya Barfield. Winner of the 2016 Lambda Literary Award for Best Play, *Bright Half Life* follows the ups and downs of a modern lesbian couple and opens May 26th.

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

ARTISTS' REP NAMES ANDREA STOLOWITZ PLAYWRIGHT IN RESIDENCE

MFA Playwriting alumnus Andrea Stolowitz has received a five-year patronage from Artists Repertory Theatre. For at least two of those years, Stolowitz will be embedded in Artists Rep's staff as the Lacroute Playwright-in-Residence.

The Lacroute Playwright-in-Residence offers Stolowitz an annual salary and discretionary funds to enhance and promote the development of her scripts and support her professional development. Stolowitz's five-year patronage will begin with a two-year residency at Artists Rep. Stolowitz will have an office at Artists Rep where she can work on her writing, and learn first-hand about the operating dynamics of regional theatre.

To learn more, [click here](#).





MARIA DIZZIA PROFILED BY THE INTERVAL

The theatre website The Interval interviewed **MFA Acting alumnus Maria Dizzia**. Maria is currently starring in Steven Levenson's drama *If I Forget* at Roundabout Theatre.

Maria plays a member of a Jewish family in the early 2000s grappling with issues of Jewish identity in the 21st century. The production runs at the Laura Pels Theatre through the end of April.

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



KJ SANCHEZ AND LILA ROSE KAPLAN IN MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE'S 2017-2018 SEASON

Merrimack Repertory Theatre recently announced their 2017-2018 season. **MFA Acting alumnus KJ Sanchez** will direct Vichet Chum's *Knyum* in January and **MFA Playwriting alumnus Lila Rose Kaplan**'s comedy *The Villains' Supper Club* will open in April of 2018.

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



ANNE KAUFFMAN TO MAKE BROADWAY DEBUT

Roundabout Theatre Company will produce Scott McPherson's *Marvin's Room* on Broadway in a production directed by **MFA Directing alumnus Anne Kauffman** in her Broadway debut.

The play follows the uneasy reunion between two estranged sisters, one of whom has leukemia and will star Janeane Garofalo. Previews begin June 8th.

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

SARAH COGAN DESIGNS NEW SHORT

MFA Costume Design alumnus Sarah Cogan has designed the costumes for a new short with Walking Dead Star Ross Marquand, called *White Lies Noir*.

The short was produced by the Reverse Cowboys comedy and production team and can be viewed online [here](#).



DANIELLE MAGES AMATO RELEASES DEBUT NOVEL

The San Diego Union Tribune profiled **PhD and MFA alumnus Danielle Mages Amato** whose debut novel, *The Hidden Memory of Objects*, was recently released and has already been optioned for television.

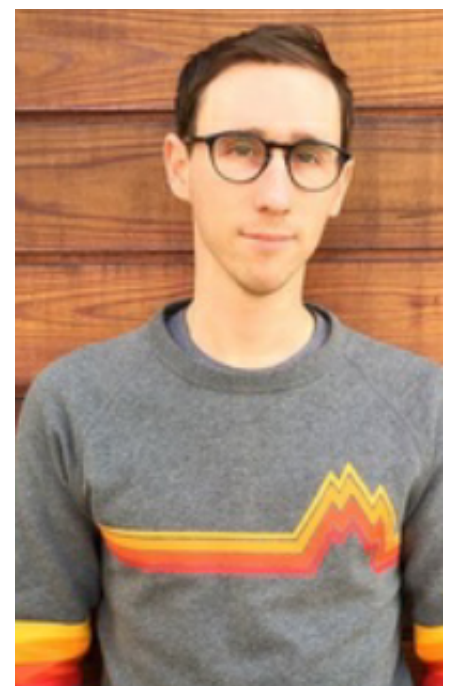
The new novel from Danielle, the literary manager and dramaturg at The Old Globe, is a YA story about 15-year-old Megan Brown, whose older brother has died — a drug overdose, and apparently a suicide. Megan doesn't buy it. She begins investigating, prodded by searing flashbacks she gets when she holds items — several associated with the Lincoln assassination — that her brother left behind.

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

WILL DETLEFSEN TO DIRECT TWO SHOWS AT UBUNTU THEATRE PROJECT

MFA Directing alumnus Will Detlefsen will direct productions of *Confirmation* and *Machinalia* for Oakland's Ubuntu Theatre Project from June 1st through 11th. *Confirmation* will star **MFA Acting alumnus Michael Turner** and *Machinalia*, a new adaptation of Sophie Treadwell's classic written by **MFA Playwriting student Stephanie Del Rosso**, will star **MFA Acting alumnus Mary Glen Frederick**, and is designed by **MFA Design students Anna Robinson, Annie Le, Brandon Rosen** and **MFA Sound Design alumnus Steven Leffue**. The Artistic Director Ubuntu Theatre Project is **MFA Directing alumnus Michael Moran**.

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





DAMIAN BALDET AND ALISON WELLER'S *BOUNDLESS* TO APPEAR IN CAPE REP'S 2017 SEASON

Cape Cod's Cape Rep Theatre recently announced their 2017 season. The season will close with a world premiere of **MFA Acting alumni Damian Baldet and Alison Weller's** new play *Boundless*. *Boundless* is a new play with music based on interviews with Cape fishermen, their families and the organizations that work to keep them fishing.

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



LORENE CHESLEY APPEARS IN *SMART PEOPLE* AT ARENA STAGE

Arena Stage is opening their production of Lydia Diamond's *Smart People* starring **MFA Acting alumnus Lorene Chelsea**. Lorene was recently interviewed by NBC's Washington affiliate to discuss the production, her role, and her career in a clip which can be [viewed here](#).

The production is directed by Seema Sueko and begins performances on April 14th.



KEITH WALLACE JOINS NPR'S "EMBEDDED" LIVE

NPR's lauded podcast "Embedded" hosted an evening of live storytelling, audience participation, and conversation about police shootings on March 30th in Los Angeles. **MFA Acting alumnus Keith Wallace** performed in the event which told the story of Jonathan Ferrell, an unarmed black man who was shot by police in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2013. The audience served as a mock jury, and civil rights activist and lawyer Connie Rice joined the stage for a conversation after the story.

DENNIS FOX PERFORMS *FROM COAST TO COAST*

MFA Acting alumnus Dennis Fox will be performing an evening of songs at New York City's Don't Tell Mama from April 12th-17th. He'll be singing selections from the great American songbook, musicals, as well as some contemporary pieces,

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



JOHN WESLEY STARS IN NEW FILM AT PHOENIX FILM FESTIVAL

MFA Acting alumnus John Wesley is starring in *The Midnighters*, a new film which is streaming at the Phoenix Film Festival next weekend. The film tells the story of an aging safe-cracker who is recently released from prison and asked to put his old skills to use and risk his freedom to save his son's life.

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



MIKEAH JENNINGS STARS IN FOUNDRY THEATRE PREMIERE

BA alumnus Mikeah Jennings will star in The Foundry Theatre's world premiere production of W. David Hancock's *Master* and created in collaboration with visual artist Wardell Milan.

Renowned 20th century African American artist "Uncle Jimmy" has died poor and alone; his life's work - a radical retelling of Huckleberry Finn called "The Illuminated Twain" - is left behind in pieces. His estranged son James Clemens Jr. struggles to eulogize his father when he is interrupted by the arrival of Uncle Jimmy's widow, Edna Finn, self-proclaimed last living descendent of Huckleberry. Performances begin May 25th.

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





BRAD FLEISCHER APPEARS ON CBS' *BLUE BLOODS*

MFA Acting alumnus Brad Fleischer appeared in CBS' hit drama *Blue Bloods* last week. The police procedural and legal drama airs on Friday nights on CBS.

The episode can be [streamed here](#).

KEVIN ROBERT FITZPATRICK MANAGES *MAGIC MIKE LIVE*

MFA Stage Management alumnus Kevin Robert Fitzpatrick is the company manager of the new Las Vegas show *Magic Mike Live*. Inspired by the film and directed by Channing Tatum, the performance is now in previews.

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



ANDY LOWE AND ALUMNI DEVELOP HALO-HALO FOR ASIAN STORY THEATER

BA alumnus Andy Lowe and several other alumni have created a new show about San Diego based on historical research and personal interviews, *Halo-Halo*, a moving and eye-opening window into our city. Filipino Americans will recognize themselves in stories that explore their culture and traditions, as well as their struggles and triumphs. And every audience will experience new insights, and discover common ground with this fascinating and fast-growing community. The production runs through April 9th at the Lyceum Theatre.

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

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