

UC SAN DIEGO THEATRE & DANCE

Week 1

September 27th, 2016

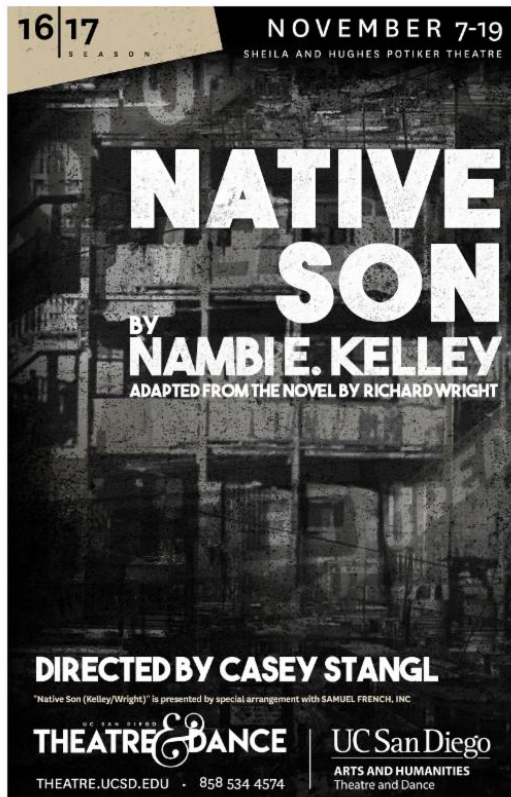
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Department News

Native Son & Vieux Carré Begin Rehearsals



Native Son
By Nambi E. Kelley
Adapted from the novel by Richard Wright

Directed by **Casey Stangl (Quinn Martin Director)**
the annual Quinn Martin production

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.

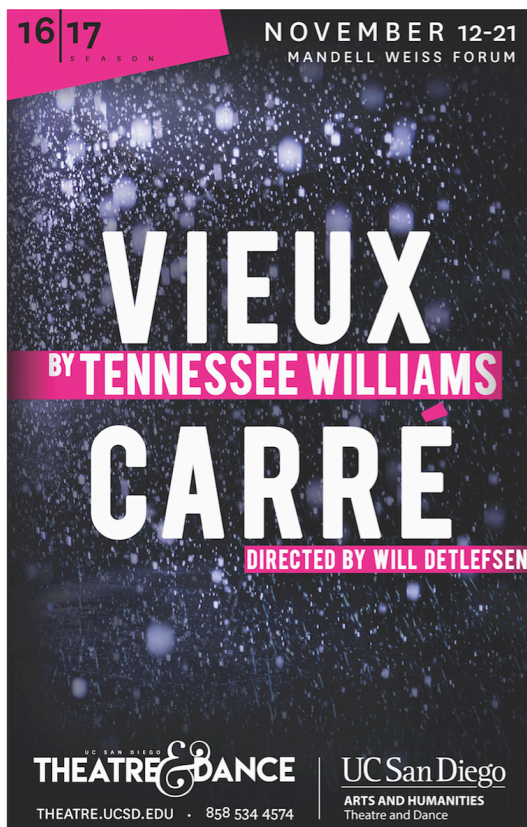
More About Casey Stangl

Casey Stangl's recent projects include the world premiere of Kenneth Cavander's The Curse of Oedipus for Antaeus Company, Venus in Fur for South Coast Repertory and American Conservatory Theater, Lombardi for Cleveland Playhouse and Arizona Theater Company and Val Kilmer's one man show Citizen Twain.

Active in the LA theatre scene, Casey works regularly at South Coast Repertory (including an award winning production of In the Next Room or the vibrator play), Antaeus Company, Falcon Theater, Chalk

Repertory and EST-LA. She serves on the Rules Committee of LA Stage Alliance's Ovation Awards and was a respondent for SDC's Student Director Fellowship. Nationally Casey's work has been seen at the Guthrie Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Denver Center Theater Company, HERE, Portland Stage, Woolly Mammoth, Jungle Theater, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Minnesota Opera, Fort Worth Opera and Kentucky Opera. Casey has developed work with many playwrights including Samuel D. Hunter, Lauren Yee, Deborah Zoe Laufer, Sophia Alvarez, Lila Rose Kaplan, Carson Kreitzer, Bekah Brunstetter, Bill Corbett, Kirsten Greenidge and Sheila Callaghan and she has directed for the Humana Festival, Pacific Playwrights Festival, PlayPenn, Perry-Mansfield New Works, and Playlabs. Casey was the Artistic Director of Eye of the Storm Theatre in Minneapolis and in 2003 was named Minnesota Artist of the Year.

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



Vieux Carré
By Tennessee Williams

Directed by **Will Detlefsen (MFA Directing)**

Tennessee Williams' Vieux Carré is a memory play, written over the span of 40 years. The play tracks the journey of a young, gay writer searching for love and artistic inspiration in the people and the environment surrounding him. He finds himself in a dilapidated boarding house filled with beautiful dying souls, all tragically lonely and wonderfully weird. It is there that he discovers who he is and the power of empathy.

"How readily one accepts the inevitable, it would seem."
- Tennessee Williams

More About the Production

In this production Vieux Carré is not tied specifically to New Orleans, but is represented instead as a universal space in which an audience is free to attach their own personal place of growth to the Vieux Carré. It is my hope that the audience will write their own meaning based on the places that most affected who they are today. Because of this, we are stripping away period, stripping away New Orleans and setting the play in a contemporary world--on a mostly bare stage.

The goal is to simultaneously give our audience an experience of zoomed-in cinematic intimacy and larger-than-life instances of heightened theatricality. I want the audience to leave with a feeling of hope and possibility as the Writer sets off for a new life--a life in which he can be as weird and gay and as promiscuous and experimental as he desires.

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

Patricia Rincon: Hispanic Heritage Month Local Hero on KPBS



Two dancers enter the stage. One can hear everything. The other is deaf.

Patricia Rincon (Dance Faculty), a veteran of the international dancing community, was fascinated. They were both dancing to the music, on the music. "It was astonishing to watch how brilliantly they did," she said of the 2013 Blurred Border performance.

Blurred Borders is an annual dance festival Rincon puts on, through the Patricia Rincon Dance Collective. It's just one of the programs she orchestrates that led to her being selected as a KPBS Hispanic Heritage Month Local Hero.

Her goal with the festival is to blur borders of all sorts - borders of intellect, culture, gender. There aren't many limits. But there is one tenet to the program she maintains: The artists must stay at her home. "That's where the art happens," she says. Rincon finds the most intimate and important connections with the performers happen during seemingly bland home affairs such as sharing a meal, chatting in the living room, or doing the dishes.

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

Will Snider: "How to Use a Knife" at Capitol Stages in Sacramento

Will Snider (MFA Playwriting) has had his 2016 Wagner New Play Festival production of "How to Use a Knife" produced at various theatres with more productions coming throughout this upcoming theatre season.

A current production at Capital Stages features **David Harris (MFA Acting Alum)** and **Kirk Blackinton (UG Acting Alum)**.



Here is an excerpt from the review:

"In Capital Stage's world premiere of Will Snider's "How To Use A Knife," the back of the house setting contains this contemporary international mix of cultures and ethnicities who co-exist out of necessity. The work can be tense and pressure-packed as the employees count on each other to maintain the precise timing of getting hot meals out to waiting customers.

Snider's detailed play, which receives a smart, affecting production here, has much more on its agenda, though, than simply portraying an ingratiating slice of modern life. The work smoothly morphs from boisterous comedy to tense character drama through taut, believable narrative twists and outstanding performances across the ensemble."

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

Alumni News

Bennett Fisher: Samuel Goldwyn Writing Award Finalist



The 61st annual Samuel Goldwyn Writing Awards have whittled down to five finalists for the competition to encourage young film, stage and TV writers. Guardians of the Galaxy helmer James Gunn, AMC and SundanceTV exec Joel Stillerman and Empireco-creator Danny Strong are the judges for the competition recognizing excellence in dramatic writing, with the winners to receive cash prizes.

The winners will be announced November 1, 2016.

Past winners have included Francis Ford Coppola, Eric Roth, Allison Anders and Jonathan Kellerman.

This year's finalists and their projects:

Bennett Fisher ('16 MFA Playwriting Alum), Damascus

Dominic Abeyta (UCLA School of Theater, Film & Television), 100 Degrees

Nicholas Adams (UCLA School of Theater, Film & Television), Falling

Eric Mallory Morgan (UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television), Tonya

Meedo Taha (UCLA School of Theater, Film & Television), Other People

Kevin Connell: Stage Directions Magazine Interview



Kevin Connell ('90 MFA Acting Alum) was interviewed by Stage Directions Magazine for an article called "Failing in the Classroom: Three Professors Weight In On the Art of Allowing Students to Learn from Themselves!" Kevin is a part of the faculty at Marymount Manhattan College.

Stage Directions Magazine offers practical guidance for all aspects of the theatre community. We cover theatre for people making it, with articles about acting, playwriting, lighting and sound design, sets, props and much more. No matter what your talent is, we'll help you improve it. Our writers are professionals in their individual fields, they know the challenges and share their techniques to ensure your production goes perfectly. Each month you can easily download the latest or past editions of the magazine all right within the application.

To listen to the full interview, [click here](#).

Tom Quaintance: Named Producing Artistic Director at Virginia State Company

Congratulations to **Tom Quaintance ('93 MFA Directing Alum)** for being appointed the Producing Artistic Director at the Virginia Stage Company.

After a national search, Tom was selected to work with the company's board and staff over the next few months and begin in full on December 1, 2016. Previously, he served as the Artistic Director of



Cape Fear Regional Theatre, an Associate Artist with PlayMakers Repertory Company and Open Fist Theatre Company, and was the Founder and Artistic Director of FreightTrain Shakespeare in Los Angeles.

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

Chris Medvitz: Designed for Lionel Richie



Take a look at **Chris Medvitz's ('94 UG Alum)** incredible design for Lionel Richie's show at The AXIS at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas. The show runs for the next three weeks.

SiriusXM Presents: "Lionel Richie - All The Hits", an exclusive headlining residency show at The AXIS at Planet Hollywood from the four-time Grammy Award winner and legendary music icon.

The show will feature a set list of Lionel's brightest and best anthems, including "All Night Long," "Hello," "Stuck on You," "Say You, Say Me," and "Dancing on the Ceiling." Fans can be sure to expect a high energy show that is a perfect match for the vibrant Las Vegas Strip.

Whitney Anne Adams: Designed "The Eyes of My Mother"



The Eyes of My Mother is a 2016 American Drama Horror film written, edited and directed by Nicolas Pesce as his directorial debut. **Whitney Anne Adams ('08 UG Alum)** did the costume design.

The film was produced by Borderline Presents and Tandem Pictures. It premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival to a polarizing reception and was acquired by Magnet Releasing.

A young, lonely woman is consumed by her deepest and darkest desires after tragedy strikes her quiet country life.

Luis Vega: The Last Barnstorm in Los Angeles



Luis Vega ('16 MFA Acting) wrote a play called "The Last Barnstorm" which will receive a reading at The Skirball Center of Los Angeles next Thursday, September 29th at 8:00pm.

Witness a story of redemption in this work-in-progress presentation of a script by playwright Luis Vega. Seeking to escape a troubled home and racial segregation in the United States, an up-and-coming Negro League Baseball player abandons his wife and newborn for the chance to start anew in Mexico.

Before long, his bases are loaded with physical injury, booze, and a run-in with a Dia de los Muertos reveler. The Last Barnstorm is a haunting and lyrical story that explores how hard it is to truly outrun oneself. Directed by Deena Selenow.

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

UC San Diego

ARTS AND HUMANITIES Theatre and Dance

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Sincerely,

[UC San Diego Theatre & Dance](#)

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