



FALL NEWSLETTER: FINALS WEEK

DEPARTMENT NEWS

## WAGNER NEW PLAY WORKSHOPS SHOWING THIS WEEK

This week features a series of readings of new work by the MFA Playwrights that will be produced in the spring quarter. All shows the public and performed in the Wagner Theatre.

Thursday 12/13 @ 5pm:

**MONSTER** by Ava Geyer

Directed by Joseph Hendel, Stage Managed by Rebekah Fegan, Dramaturged by Will Jones

With Farah Dinga, Hannah Finn, Rebecca Futterman, Ariana Mahalatti, Ryan Martinez, Ally McGreevey, Enrico Nassi, Max Singer, and Stout

*TV self-help guru Drew Capuano was America's favorite uncle -- until he wasn't. A kaleidoscopic, sometimes brutal romp through media machine and the humans at its core.*

Thursday 12/13 @ 7pm:

**Shame Spiral** by Ali Viterbi

Directed by Natalie Robichaux, Stage Managed by Topaz Cooks, Dramaturged by Kristin Leadbetter

With Celine Castro, Nicole Javier, Brennan Mahon, Micaela Martinez, Savanna Padilla, Christine Penn, Michael Rishawn, and Lee V  
*The Bachelor franchise - it's everything we love, everything that shames us, and everything we are ashamed of loving. SHAME SPIRAL us in the alternate reality of reality TV, when a shocking revelation about fan favorite Lauren S causes massive internet retaliation*

Friday 12/14 @ 3pm:

**Exception to the Rule** by Dave Harris

Directed by Maddie Williams, Stage Managed by Bryan Runion

With Anthony Adu, Vivian Barnes, Xavier Clark, Janet Fiki, Cornelius Franklin, and Amara Granderson

*Five high school students are stuck in detention when Erika, the college bound all-star of the worst high school in the city, shows very first sentence. EXCEPTION TO THE RULE attacks the issue of surviving in an institution that was not built for you.*

Friday 12/14 @ 5pm:

**The Gradient** by Steph Del Rosso

Directed by Steph Del Rosso, Associate Directed by Vanessa Stalling, Stage Managed by Jacob Halpern Weitzman, Dramaturged by Tregar

With Mary Rose Branick, India Gurley, Garrett Schulte, and Cody Sloan

*In a not-so-distant future, men accused of sexual misconduct are sent to The Gradient to reckon with their mistakes and get rehired. New employee Tess is eager to hold men accountable and enact change - but it might not be as simple as it seems.*

Friday 12/14 @ 7pm:

**The Sanford Middle School Monthly** by Mara Nelson-Greenberg

Directed by Carla Harting, Stage Managed by Andrew Gutierrez, Dramaturged by Jim Short

With Molly Adea, Allyn Anthony Morion, David Price, Tiffany Raditch, Trevor Rinzler, Kristiana Rosas, Danielle E.B. Wineman and B  
*Five eighth graders try to edit their peers' work, adjust to their new faculty advisor, and possibly solve a murder—all before the next their school paper is due.*



## FALL QUARTER PHD SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD THIS WEEK

This Thursday, on December 13th at 9am in the Wagner Theatre GH157 all are invited to please join the PhD area for coffee and they share our current research. Moderated by this year's incoming **PhD Faculty Professor, Dr. Jade Power-Sotomayor**, the symposium will feature work by current **PhD students Yi-Jen Yu, Kara Raphaeli, and Jim Short!** They're excited to welcome this wonderful opportunity to engage with their work. If possible, please RSVP to Jim Short (vshort@ucsd.edu, theshovj@gmail.com) to know how much coffee to buy.



## DAVE HARRIS RECEIVES VENTUROUS PLAYWRIGHT FELLOWSHIP FROM THE LARK

**MFA Playwriting Student Dave Harris** and his play *Incendiary* have been one of the three recipients for the second Venturous Playwright Fellowship from The Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation. Each of the fellows will receive an award of \$50,000 over two years, and a Production Subsidy Grant of up to \$50,000 to support a production of the play at a theatre of the playwright's choosing. *Incendiary* is about Tanya, a Black single mother as she attempts to break her death row bond out of prison. During the two-year residency, the three playwrights will receive access to play development and advocacy resources, including readings, workshops, writing retreats, career guidance, and community engagement activities.

To read more about the award, [click here \(https://www.americantheatre.org/2019/12/10/lark-names-recipients-of-2019-20-venturous-playwrights-fellowships/\)](https://www.americantheatre.org/2019/12/10/lark-names-recipients-of-2019-20-venturous-playwrights-fellowships/).

## UCSD DIRECTING COHORT PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL

MFA Directing students Dylan Key, Joseph Hendel, Nicholas Rapp, and Juliana Kleist-Mendez joined Directing Faculty Professor Gabor Tompa for the 6th Interferences Theatre Festival at the Hungarian National Theatre of Cluj last week. Gabor's new production of *The Merchant of Venice* was included in the festival which included productions of work from around the world and workshops and seminars which the students participated in.

To read more about the festival, [click here \(http://www.interferences-huntheater.ro/2018/en/\)](http://www.interferences-huntheater.ro/2018/en/).



## QUARTER IN REVIEW

### MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN



### A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN NOVEMBER ON THE BANKS OF THE GREATEST OF THE GREAT LA



OUR TOWN



ALUMNI NEWS



## GUILLERMO REYES PUBLISHES NEW PLAY

**MFA Playwriting alumnus Guillermo Reyes** has recently published a new play, *Day in Tucson* with Dramatic Publishing.

A shooting rampage in Tucson, Ariz., creates international headlines as Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords becomes one of the victims. A young intern from Tucson, Daniel Hernandez Jr., rushes to Giffords' rescue, and he's credited with helping save lives. The media creates a circus around him, transforms him into a reluctant hero and puts his private life to public scrutiny, especially when he wasn't ready to discuss his identity in the LGBTQ community. This is the real story of an unexpected hero who is thrust into the limelight, and, in flashbacks, the play depicts what led to that crucial day in Tucson.

You can get yourself a copy of the play by [clicking here \(https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dramaticpublishing.com%2Fthat-day-in-tucson%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3KG6WPEurNX9hmiSK5fjGtCnDXKsaAamaE-ok9XIfNKrMkYU2YuuxGwrA&h=AT00chAVumiwmwtbXChsmae24IxZnmw-0r89W7qnntGVjq3Vn5hd5ur-w7fq9Ym1e8NljxgdjK1k0ivVbIMPKitRQbFqnlp3d2IA7zRwZoUluBpdoZxHngtiWkkzFwOrAr97ZQ\\_LA7DQhhW78Mt6P\)](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dramaticpublishing.com%2Fthat-day-in-tucson%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3KG6WPEurNX9hmiSK5fjGtCnDXKsaAamaE-ok9XIfNKrMkYU2YuuxGwrA&h=AT00chAVumiwmwtbXChsmae24IxZnmw-0r89W7qnntGVjq3Vn5hd5ur-w7fq9Ym1e8NljxgdjK1k0ivVbIMPKitRQbFqnlp3d2IA7zRwZoUluBpdoZxHngtiWkkzFwOrAr97ZQ_LA7DQhhW78Mt6P).

## ANNE KAUFFMAN OPENS *YEAR TO COME* AT LJP

**MFA Directing alumna Anne Kauffman** is currently directing *The Year to Come* by Lindsey Ferrentino at La Jolla Playhouse in a production that opened this weekend!

Every New Year's Eve a family gathers in their Florida backyard to ring in the coming year. In between dips in the pool, politically incorrect banter and a highly-anticipated onion dip, their relationships grow and fracture in moments that become family legend. Unfolding backwards in time, *The Year to Come* is a funny, touching and relatable world premiere that shows how the promise of our future is shaped by the lens of our past. The production features scenic design by **MFA Scenic Design alumnus Christopher Acebo**, projection design by **MFA Scenic Design alumna Anna Robinson**, **MFA Stage Management alumna Mandisa Reed** is the ASM and **MFA Acting student Hannah Finn** in an understudy role for her LJP residency!

For tickets and more information, [click here](https://lajollaplayhouse.org/show/the-year-to-come/) (<https://lajollaplayhouse.org/show/the-year-to-come/>).



## GLORIA AND ROBERT MANN SHARE NEW FILM AT CULVER CITY FILM FESTIVAL

**MFA Acting alumna Gloria Mann** and **BA alumnus Robert Mann** shared their new short film, *The Cassie Confession* at the Culver City Film Festival last week. Robert wrote and directed the piece which Gloria starred in, about a grieving mother aids a police detective in solving a horrific crime, only to regret it moments later.



## ALUMNI COLLABORATE FOR *AUBERGINE* AT SAN DIEGO REP

San Diego Rep's new production of Julia Cho's *Aubergine* includes a bunch of UCSD alums in the creative team! **MFA Directing Todd Salovey** is directing the play with a design team that includes **MFA Scenic Design alumnus Justin Humphres**, **MFA Design alumna Elisa Benzoni**, **MFA Lighting Design alumna Kristin Swift**, and **MFA Sound Design alumna Melani Cole**. **MFA acting alumna and current Acting Faculty Professor Carla Harting** is the assistant director!

Ray believes in the power of food. As a gourmet chef, he's seen a bowl of berries help a woman to fall in love. He's heard stories prepared by a mother to keep a son from leaving home and moving to the other side of the world. Now with the help of his uncle unexpectedly from Korea, Ray is tasked with preparing a family soup recipe to keep his father alive. When words fail, a home-cooked transcends differences in this touching story of intergenerational connectedness, forgiveness and the sweetest spice of life: love. family struggles to relate across emotional and cultural divides, it's the ingredients they share in common that lead to understanding. *Aubergine* is a mouthwatering meditation on the beauty of life where hope is no mere ingredient, it's the main course. Performances January 24th.

For tickets and more information, [click here \(http://sdrep.org/showinfo.php?showid=363\)](http://sdrep.org/showinfo.php?showid=363).



## CHRIS MEDVITZ DESIGNS FOR NISSAN AND LA AUTO SHOW

**MFA Lighting Design alumnus Chris Medvitz** has been busy with a few industry gigs this fall, leading his team in designing the announcement of Nissan's 2019 line of vehicles at the LA auto show earlier this month. A video of the event can be viewed by [clicking here](#)

(<https://www.facebook.com/nissanusa/videos/vb.238312155374/357137801711779/?type=2&theater>).



## KEN CERNIGLIA PENS BOOK FOR NEW ATLANTIS MUSICAL

**BA alumnus Ken Cerniglia** has co-written the book for a new musical, *Atlantis*, which will be produced this coming spring at Virginia Rep.

*Atlantis* whisks us away to an isolated, mysterious island days before it disappears for a young refugee washes ashore on the eve of a sacred solstice, igniting political chaos and a birth to an unexpected new leader. With an epic and moving score, this glorious new sail first from the Port of Richmond and begins performances on April 12th.

For tickets and more information, [click here \(https://va-rep.org/\\_atlantis-november-th-richmond.html\)](https://va-rep.org/_atlantis-november-th-richmond.html).



## MIKE RYAN ANNOUNCES NEW SEASON OF SANTA CRUZ SHAKES

MFA acting alumnus Mike Ryan, the current artistic director of Santa Cruz Shakespeare has recently announced their 2019 season. This season includes *The Comedy of Errors* which will be directed by BA alumna Kirsten Brandt!

You can watch a video announcing the full season by [clicking here](#)

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1eQdbH0aXo&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2CuGQqf7E3ATP4XYMjLNeAVppGU45HwieOg)

[v=Y1eQdbH0aXo&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2CuGQqf7E3ATP4XYMjLNeAVppGU45HwieOg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1eQdbH0aXo&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2CuGQqf7E3ATP4XYMjLNeAVppGU45HwieOg)

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UC San Diego Theatre & Dance

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