

UC SAN DIEGO  
**THEATRE & DANCE**

SPRING NEWSLETTER: WEEK THREE  
DEPARTMENT NEWS



FOCUSING ON *THE WAGNER NEW PLAY FESTIVAL*



*MONSTER* BY AVA GAYER IN THE POTIKER  
THEATRE

Directed by Joseph Handel.

About the play: When TV self-help guru Drew Capuano's compulsive masturbation comes to light, he retains the services of the only person who will still represent him: his power hungry twenty-four year-old female assistant. Meanwhile, survivor Mona Giotti works to make sure she's put Drew away for good. *Monster* is a brutal and brutally funny odyssey through America's media machine that puts perpetrator and survivor on an inevitable collision course of reckoning.

In the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre

Preview: Apr. 30 @ 7:30pm

Show dates: May 7-16 @ 7:30pm

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

*THE GRADIENT* WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY  
STEPH DEL ROSSO IN THE SHANK THEATRE

About the Play: Tess just landed a job at sleek tech start-up The Gradient: a center where men accused of sexual misconduct are sent to be rehabilitated. The clients go in with a lifetime of toxic male conditioning and emerge as new men, sensitized, redeemed. It sounds too good to be true, and maybe it is. When Tess meets a client who says all the right things, she's forced to question her most basic assumptions about what is true and what is real. The Gradient asks what it means to say I'm sorry and whether it's possible for people to truly change.

Preview: May 1 @ 7:30pm

Show dates: May 8-17 @ 7:30pm

May 18 @ 2pm

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



*SHAME SPIRAL* BY ALI VITERBI IN THE POTIKER  
THEATRE

Directed by Natalie Griffith Robichaux.

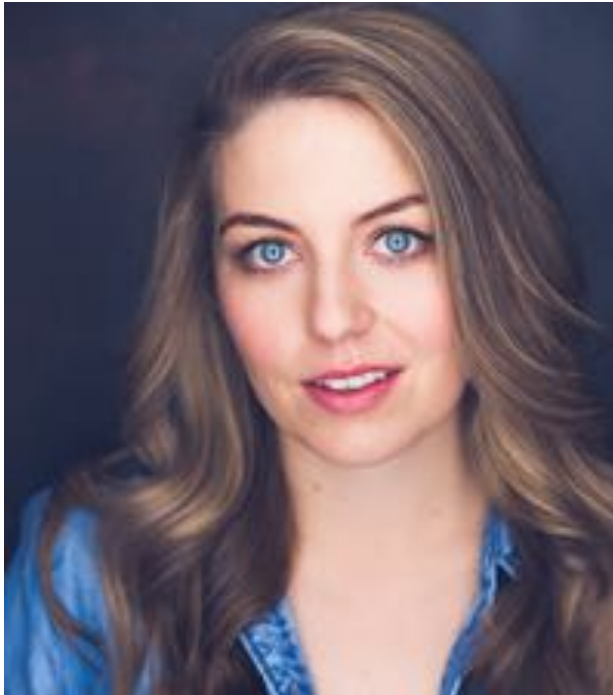
About the play: When contestant Lauren S joins The Bachelor in its 23rd season, she's prepared for all the drama if it means finding her one true love. What she's not prepared for is the internet's response to the revelation of her virginity and the subsequent fallout. *SHAME SPIRAL* engulfs us in the alternate reality of reality TV complete with false eyelashes, red roses, antiquated gender roles, and this persistent sense of shame that seems to lurk beneath every single moment. What's the price we're willing to pay to find true love? And why do the things that give us pleasure make us feel so guilty?

Preview: May 4 @ 7:30pm

Show dates: May 9-17 @ 7:30pm

May 11 @ 2pm

[Get your tickets and more info here.](#)



*THE JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTHLY* BY MARA NELSON-GREENBERG IN THE SHANK THEATRE

Directed by Carla Harting.

About the play: There's something amiss at Jefferson Middle School. Women are going missing, Cora may be turning into a doll, and MJ has tubes growing out of his belly button. The editors of the school paper are going to get to the bottom of all of it. A coming of age comedy that dives into the dark underbelly of life in 21st century America, *THE JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTHLY* explores what it means to become an adult in a world where the adults have messed everything up.

Preview: May 6 @ 7:30pm

Show dates: May 10-16 @ 7:30pm and May 18 @ 7pm

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



*DUCHESS! DUCHESS! DUCHESS!* BY VIVIAN BARNES IN THE ARTHUR WAGNER THEATRE

Directed by Juliana Kleist-Mendez.

About the play: A Royal Wedding is looming. The Duchess and The Soon-to-be-Duchess are meeting face to face for the first time to go over everything you ever needed to know to become a duchess. There are rules. There's a way of doing things. Remember, everybody is watching. And you don't want to know what happens if you step out of line. *Duchess! Duchess! Duchess!* looks at the hidden costs of being the "luckiest girl in the world."

Preview: May 9 @ 7:30pm

Show dates: May 11-17 @ 7:30pm

May 18 @ 10:30am

To get your tickets or get more info, [click here](#).



ALSO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INFORMATION IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS ON A STAGED READING OF A NEW PLAY FROM DAVE HARRIS, ENTITLED *INCENDIARY*, SET TO PERFORM AT *THE WAGNER NEW PLAY FESTIVAL*.



## FACULTY IN THE NEWS

## PLAYWRITING FACULTY FEATURED IN NEW YORK TIMES STYLE MAGAZINE IN FEATURE ON THE FUTURE OF THEATRE

Professor Naomi Lizuka was one of 15 extraordinary playwrights asked to imagine America five years into the future — in 2024.

To check out the magazine, [click here](#).

To go directly to Professor Lizuka's play *The Ugly Chair*, [click here](#).



## ALUMNI NEWS



### ALUMNA LAUREN YEE JOINS SIGNATURE THEATRE'S RESIDENCY 5 PROGRAM

Playwriting Alumna Lauren Yee will join Signature Theatre's Residency 5 program, which guarantees playwrights three premieres over five years.

"Playwriting is by necessity a lonely endeavor. One that has us chasing the next reading or workshop or production every year all the time. Our reward is other people and the chance to make something with them. That's why this residency at Signature is such a gift. It's an opportunity to breathe. To consider my work not just in terms of the next year or the next play, but my career as a whole. I've had the good fortune to work at many wonderful theaters across the country and build connections in those communities. But New York City is my home and I am so thrilled to be home in so many senses of the word at Signature." - LAUREN YEE

For more information read the [announcement here](#).

### MFA ACTING ALUMNUS SET TO APPEAR IN THE WEST END PRODUCTION OF *GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY*

MFA Acting alumnus Donald Mackay will be playing the lead role in London's West End production of *Girl from the North Country*, written and directed by Conor McPherson with songs by Bob Dylan.

*Girl from the North Country* is set to run in Toronto September 28 thru November 24 and then open and run in the West End early December thru May 30, 2020.





## PHD PROGRAM ALUMNA HELMS UPCOMING PRESHOW TALK FOR LYNN NOTTAGE'S *SWEAT* AT THE SAN DIEGO REP

Alumna and San Diego State University faculty Dr. Shelley Orr will be holding a preshow talk entitled "Theatre that Documents Our Lives" for *Sweat* at SD Rep as part of her duties as Dramaturg prior to the April 27th performance.

About the talk: "Some plays are able to connect deeply with audiences, especially when a play gives voice to the voiceless. *SWEAT* Dramaturg and Assistant Professor at SDSU School of Theatre, Television, and Film Shelley Orr will discuss the creation process used to make *SWEAT*, which involved more than two years of on-site, first-hand research by the playwright, Lynn Nottage. Join her on April 27 to learn how this powerful piece of theatre was created and how it forges an authentic connection to audiences."

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

## MFA ALUMNA PENS EPISODE OF HBO'S *VEEP*

The episode "Pledge" of *Veep* written by MFA Playwriting Alumna Rachel Axler recently aired on HBO and marks Axler's third writing credit on the popular cable series.



## ALUMNUS ADDS WORDS TO MUSIC AT THE VIRGINIA REP

Alumnus Ken Cerniglia (BA) co-wrote the book for *Atlantis: The New Musical* which premiered at the Virginia Rep on April 12th.

*Atlantis* is set to run from April 12th - May 5th.

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

# UC San Diego

**ARTS AND HUMANITIES**  
Theatre and Dance

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