

UC SAN DIEGO  
**THEATRE & DANCE**

SPRING NEWSLETTER: WEEK FOUR  
DEPARTMENT NEWS



MEETING THE DIRECTORS OF *THE WAGNER NEW PLAY FESTIVAL*



## MONSTER BY AVA GAYER DIRECTED BY JOSEPH HANDEL IN THE POTIKER THEATRE

Joseph Hendel is a second-year MFA Directing student from New York. He is a writer, director, and composer whose plays include *Katzelmacher, USA* (inspired by Fassbinder's *Katzelmacher, the cell*), *The Tasty Karp Hotel* (Teatr Fredry in Gniezno, Poland), *Playing with Masculinity* (Have Art: Will Travel! Inc.), and *Beware the Ides of Monday* (the cell).

Other directing credits: *The Inner Circle* (opera about Alfred Kinsey at the Brick Theater's F\*ckfest), *Avoid2Remember* (Title:Point's?! Festival), *Appendage* (1st Irish Theater Fest) and works by Brecht, Ionesco, Pirandello, and Gilbert and Sullivan. Hendel is a resident artist at the cell, a two-time member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab, and is trained in clown and Commedia by master clown teacher Christopher Bayes.

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

Steph Del Rosso is a playwright, television writer, and educator. Rosso's play *53% Of* is the second-place recipient of the Paula Vogel Award in Playwriting, presented by the Kennedy Center and her play *Fill Fill Fill Fill* received its world premiere at The Flea in 2018, and will be published by Dramatists Play Service Inc. Other plays include *Machinalia* (JACK), *Are You There?* (UCSD), *Flee* (Seven Devils Playwrights Conference), *Mean Well*, *Sister Play*, and *You're Crazy* (a play with karaoke).

Rosso's work has been developed at Soho Rep, Clubbed Thumb, New York Stage and Film, Colt Coeur, The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, SPACE on Ryder Farm, Judson Memorial Church, Caldera Arts, Theater Masters, The Disquiet International Literary Program in Lisbon, Portugal, and others. She is an alum of the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab and Clubbed Thumb's Early Career Writers' Group.

Show dates: May 8-17 @ 7:30pm, May 18 @ 2pm

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





*SHAME SPIRAL* BY ALI VITERBI DIRECTED BY  
NATALIE GRIFFITH ROBICHAUX IN THE POTIKER  
THEATRE

Natalie Griffith Robichaux received her BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Evansville and her MFA in Acting from the University of California, San Diego. She has performed in theaters across the country including Lincoln Center Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Indiana Repertory, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and the La Jolla Playhouse. Her study at the Drama Therapy Institute of Los Angeles and with MICHA (Michael Chekhov Association) in the psycho-physical approach to acting under master teachers Joanna Merlin, Fern Sloan, Ted Pugh, Ragnar Freidank, as well as Lenard Petit of the Michael Chekhov Acting Studio New York has deeply influenced her work as an artist and instructor. Natalie's areas of study include acting, movement for the actor, development of the imagination through the body, intimacy choreography and the creation of original theatre pieces. A recent example of original performance work is her solo piece *Bicycle Face* performed at the International Michael Chekhov Festival 2018, which explores the social construct of the feminine as a pathological condition. Natalie's experiences as an actor, director, artist, educator, and mother fill her passion for championing the imagination and creative spirit in others. At UC San Diego, she teaches acting, movement for actors and public speaking.

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

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

Carla Harting is an actor who has worked extensively in New York and all over the country. Harting has collaborated with Sarah Ruhl on several of her new plays, including the premiere of *Dead Man's Cell Phone* at Playwrights Horizons, *Eurydice* at Yale Rep and Second Stage Theatre, as well as *Passion Play* at Arena Stage. Harting has been seen on San Diego County stages in *Outside Mullingar* (San Diego Rep), *Betrayal* (North Coast Rep), *Fool For Love* (Cygnet), and *August: Osage County* (The Old Globe) for which the cast received a Craig Noel Award for Best Ensemble.

Harting received her BA from the College of William & Mary and an MFA in Acting from UC San Diego and teaches as an Adjunct Professor at UC San Diego.

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

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





***DUCHESS! DUCHESS! DUCHESS!* BY VIVIAN BARNES DIRECTED BY JULIANA KLEIST-MENDEZ IN THE ARTHUR WAGNER THEATRE**

Juliana Kleist-Méndez is a first-year MFA Directing student previously based in Brooklyn, NY. She is an Iowa-born Cuban American committed to embodied storytelling collaborations.

Selected credits: *Far From Canterbury* (Winner of Best Musical: New York International Fringe Festival; Encores! at The SoHo Playhouse); *La hija del pirata/The Pirate's Daughter* (La Pirata Productions); *Club Silencio* with the Cuban Cultural Center of New York (Manhattan Theater Company); *Elvira: The Immigration Play* with Si Se Puede Productions (Lehman College, Collaboraction Theatre Company, Chicago); *King Lear: A Radio Play* (The Framework Theatre, Chicago). BA in Theater for Social Change from Cornell University.

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](#).

***INCENDIARY*, BY DAVE HARRIS DIRECTED BY MADDIE WILLIAMS.**

Born and raised on Cape Cod, Maddie Williams attended Hampshire College, where she received her BA concentrating in Musical Theatre, Poetry, and Africana Studies in May 2018. Her two-part thesis project consisted of directing and music directing a site-specific production of *Next To Normal*, and creating and performing a choreopoetic performance and collection entitled *A FULL PLATE: Interludes and Movements*.

At Hampshire, Williams also served as chair of the theatre program's Slotting Committee, a group responsible for organizing, planning, and selecting the shows that will be mounted during the upcoming fall and spring semesters.

A first year PhD Student Williams' research areas include identity, poetic/musical/theatrical form, Shakespeare, historic memory and trauma, the Black Power/Arts movement, and the uncanny. Williams' is a member of the Black Theatre Network.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

## PHD PROGRAM WORKS TO BRING IMPORTANT INDIGENOUS VOICE TO CAMPUS

In co-ordination with the UC San Diego Intertribal Resource Center, the Viejas Tribal Education Program, and programs on the campuses of both UC San Diego and San Diego State University, Dr. Julie Burrelle and the Department of Theatre and Dance have invited noted Kumeyaay Poet Tommy Pico to Campus. Co-host of the *Food 4 That* podcast, Pico's books include *IRL*, *Nature Poem*, and *Junk*.

The event with Pico is open to the public and will be held on Tuesday April 30th at The Loft at 7PM.



The poster features a black and white photograph of Tommy Pico on the left, looking thoughtfully to the right with his hand near his chin. The background is split into blue and black geometric shapes. Logos for San Diego State University and UC San Diego are at the top. The event title and Pico's name are prominently displayed in the center. Event details for two dates are listed on the right. A bio and sponsors list are at the bottom.

**SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**UC San Diego**

Poetry & Convo  
with  
Queer Indigenous Poet  
**TOMMY PICO**

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTEND....

**TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 7PM**  
**THE LOFT @ UCSD**  
6:30 PM DOORS - 7:00 PM SHOW

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 4PM**  
**SHW-011 @ SDSU**  
RECEPTION AFTER EVENT, ON SHW PATIO

Photo by Nigel Custer

Tommy "Teabs" Pico is author of the books *IRL*, *Nature Poem*, and *Junk*. He also co-curates the reading series *Poets With Attitude (PWA)*, co-hosts the podcast *Food 4 That*, and is a contributing editor at *Literary Hub*. Originally from the Viejas Indian reservation of the Kumeyaay Nation, he now splits his time between New York and Los Angeles.

**SPONSORS**

**UCSD:** The Loft, Inter-Tribal Resource Center, Institute for Arts & Humanities, Critical Mission Studies, Department of Theater and Dance, Literature Department New Writing Series, LGBTQIA+ Living and Learning Community, Department of Ethnic Studies.

**SDSU:** Associated Students, Native American Student Alliance, Eilymash Yuuchaap Indigenous Scholars & Leaders Program, Educational Opportunities Programs, Sycuan Institute on Tribal Gaming.

**COMMUNITY:** The Viejas Tribal Education Center

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**AS ASSOCIATED STUDENTS**

Events are free & open to the public

UC SAN DIEGO BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO THE 2019 MFA ACTING CLASS AND CONGRATULATES THEM ON THE COMPLETION OF THEIR FINAL SHOWCASE



ALUMNI NEWS

MFA ALUMNI FEATURED IN LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE'S 2019 DNA NEW WORK SERIES





The La Jolla Playhouse has announced their upcoming May 2019 DNA New Work series featuring readings of MFA playwriting alumni Jeff Augustin's (Upper right) *Jean, Jonah, and the Ginger Karl* & Emily Feldman's (Upper left) *The Best We Could (a family tragedy)*.

In addition MFA directing alumnus Joshua Kahan Brody (Right) will be directing *Jean, Jonah, and the Ginger Karl*.

For the full lineup, [click here](#)

## MFA DESIGN ALUMNI NAMED TO NEW DIVERSITY COMMITTEE



MFA Lighting Design Alumna Sherrice Mojgani (Right) and Scenic Design Alumni Christopher Scott Murillo (Left) have been named to a new diversity committee that is being formed by the United Scenic Artists Local USA 829.



### MFA ACTING ALUMNA RECEIVES NOMINATION FOR DRAMA LEAGUE DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE AWARD

Alumna Quincy Tyler Bernstine has been nominated for a Distinguished Performance Award for her performance in Stephen Adly Guirgis's *Our Lady of 121st Street* at the Pershing Square Signature Center.



**UC San Diego**  
**ARTS AND HUMANITIES**  
 Theatre and Dance

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Sincerely,

UC San Diego Theatre & Dance

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