ONE ACT PLAYS

PROMITHES, PROMITHES by Agyeiwa Asante

NONNA KILLS THE PRESIDENT by Milo Cramer

Directed by Emily Moler

Presented in the Wagner New Play Festival
NONNA KILLS THE PRESIDENT
by Milo Cramer

PROMITHES, PROMITHES
by Agyeiwaa Asante

directed by Emily Moler

CAST

NONNA KILLS THE PRESIDENT
Mona Kat Peña
Nonna Colby Mohammad
The President Jalen Davidson

PROMITHES, PROMITHES
Ashley Leovine Charles
Jeremy Junior Nyong’o

CREATIVE TEAM

Production Stage Manager Jared Blake Halsell
Scenic Design Jeni Cheung
Costume Design Elise Wesley
Lighting Design Elba Emicente
Sound Designer Caleb Foley
Assistant Director Alana Burgess
Assistant Stage Managers Shaila Sarathy, Andrew Olson, Abby Stein
Intimacy/Fight Director Rachel Lee Flesher

THE DIRECTOR

Emily Moler (Director) is a third-year MFA candidate previously based in Brooklyn NY. UC San Diego Credits: End Days, Uncle Vanya, As You Like It, Ironbound, Men on Boats. Selected credits: And We’re Live, Coffee Break, The Patriot, and MINUTES_12/2/08.doc (Actors Theatre of Louisville), Guarding (The PIT), Chamber Music (Self-produced, featuring an updated script created in collaboration with Arthur Kopit), Untitled American Flag Craft Project and Good Cry (The Brick), and The Troll King (Pipeline Theatre Company). Recent assistant and associate directing credits include The Thin Place (Les Waters), How to Defend Yourself (Marti Lyons), Pipeline (Steve H. Broadnax III), The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Meredith McDonough), Peace for Mary Frances (Lila Neugebauer). Moler has developed new work with Joe’s Pub, Night Vale Presents, The Bushwick Starr, Ars Nova, Heartbeat Opera, 3-Legged Dog, The Duplex, and Dixon Place. Emily is a graduate of Skidmore College where she earned her BS in Directing.
Agyeiwaa Asante (Playwright of Promithes, Promithes) is a first-year MFA student and a Ghanaian-American theatre artist based in Maryland. She writes to explore the experience of the black diaspora, intraracial/cultural dynamics and more. Her plays include Swirl (Kennedy Center’s Page-to-Stage Festival 2017, Watermelon One-Act Festival- Best Production 2019), Help Wanted (Silver Spring One Act Festival, Elemental Women Productions) and Dainty (BOLD NYC’s 2020 Festival). Her short play, Wildest Dreams, will premiere at the 13th Annual Fire This Time Festival. Most recently she was commissioned for UMD’s NextNow Festival and Single Carrot Theatre. She is the 2020 recipient of The Bret Adams and Paul Reisch Foundation’s Ollie Award for emerging playwrights. Her play By Grace Pt. 2 will be published via the 46th Annual Samuel French Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival.

Milo Cramer (Playwright of Nonna Kills The President) is a first-year MFA student. As a child, Milo couldn’t pronounce “r,” “k,” “ch,” “th,” “j,” or “t,” and was in speech therapy until age 10 - a lot of his work is trying to process human connection and misunderstanding on a very basic level! Milo’s audio-play Boy Factory - a thrillingly vulnerable masturbation confessional - can be heard on Playwrights Horizons: Soundstage. His play Cute Activist premiered at The Bushwick Starr in 2018 (“a brilliant match of material and theater…a fable for our times” – Jesse Green, NYT). With New Saloon Theater Company (co-founder), Milo spent four years collaboratively devising Minor Character: Six Translations of Uncle Vanya at the Same Time (“delightful… a spring-green forum on youth’s discontents” – Helen Shaw, Village Voice), presented at The Public Theater’s Under The Radar Festival. Milo is a Macdowell Fellow and is under commission from Clubbed Thumb and Playwrights Horizons. He is working on a one-person musical about the New York City school system. BA: Bard College; Representation: Emma Feiwel, WME.
About the WNPF

The Wagner New Play Festival is an exciting, annual presentation of new works by UCSD Theatre and Dance MFA playwrights, in collaboration with the departments MFA/PhD directors, actors, designers, stage managers, and dramaturges. This event aims to showcase the skills of the most original and groundbreaking new voices in the American Theatre. Plays produced in the Wagner New Play Festival have gone on to be produced at regional theaters across the country and Off-Broadway. The plays in this year’s festival are *Hells Canyon* by Keiko Green, *limp wrist on the lever* by Preston Choi, *Fifty Boxes of Earth* by Ankita Raturi, *Promithes*, *Promithes* by Agyeiwaa Asante, and *Nonna Kills the President* by Milo Cramer.

The Wagner New Play Festival is named for Molli and Arthur Wagner, longtime benefactors of theater at UCSD and around San Diego. Arthur Wagner was the founding chairman of the university’s theater and dance department.

About Promithes, Promithes

*Promithes, Promithes* is a portrait of a friendship in crisis. Ash has always been there for Jeremy but when she finds herself helping him navigate yet another personal crisis she wonders if it is finally time for these two old friends to define their relationship. A comedy about how we treat the people we claim to love.

About Nonna Kills the President

Nonna is in her 90s and spends her days pooping and puzzling and watching the news. Mona is in her 70s and spends her days cleaning up the poop and fantasizing about abandoning Nonna in the woods. Nonna doesn’t know who she is but she knows one thing. She wants to kill the president. *Nonna Kills the President* is a mother daughter comedy/thriller/daydream about an old woman’s dying wish and the caring daughter she’s leaving behind.

Special Thanks

A special thank you to Vanessa Stalling, Robert Castro, Jennifer Chang, Lisa Porter, and Naomi Louie.
The Cast: Nonna Kills The President

Jalen Myles Davidson (The President) is a first-year MFA student born and raised in the great city of Atlanta, Ga. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Performance Studies w/ an Acting Concentration from Kennesaw State University. UC San Diego credits: In the Red and Brown Water. KSU credits include: As You Like It, Our Town, Ragtime, Bring it On: The Musical, and The Normal Heart.

Colby Muhammad (Nonna) is a first- year MFA student from Richmond, VA. She graduated cum laude from Howard University with a BFA in Musical Theatre. UC San Diego credits: In the Red and Brown Water. Select Theatre credits: Anything Goes, Spunk!, and Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine. Film credits: Centerfold, Transcend, and Doing it Wrong.

Kat Peña (Mona) is a first-year MFA student. She's a Dominican plant-mom from the Bronx. UC San Diego credits; Everybody. Other acting credits: Yaz in Water by the Spoonful (Cahill Theater/Regional), Sullivan in Dracula (Actors Theatre of Louisville), To The Moon (Creede Repertory Theatre), Remy in a reading of A Skeptic and A Bruja (Urbanite Theatre and San Diego Rep), Big Green Theater (The Bushwick Starr), Escolastica in Eight Tales of Pedro (The Secret Theater), and Michelle in award-winning short comedy, Reina.

The Cast: Promithes, Promithes

Leovina Charles (Ashley) is a second-year MFA student. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, she discovered her love for acting at a young age, making her professional theatre debut as Young Nala in The Lion King on Broadway. Graduating summa cum laude from Howard University with a BFA in Musical Theatre, Leovina is also an alumna of The Maggie Flanigan Studio’s 2-year Meisner Conservatory, and has studied at the British American Drama Academy (BADA) in Oxford, England. UC San Diego credits: In the Red and Brown Water, Twelfth Night, Town Hall. Select credits: Maribel in Sonadora (Tribeca Film Festival), Ismene in I Am Antigone (Theatre for a New City), Clytemnestra in Oresteia (BADA), Young Brooklyn in Brooklyn (Howard University), and Passing Strange (Howard University).

Junior Nyong’o (Jeremy) is a second-year MFA student. He was born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya and holds a BA in Theatre and Digital Arts from Stetson University. UC San Diego credits: In the Red and Brown Water, Meladi Thive and Her Words of Comfort, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Twelfth Night. Regional credits: Hamlet, Gertrude and Claudius, 12th Night, Shakespeare in Love, Man of La Mancha (Orlando Shakes).
The Creative Team

Alana Burgess (Assistant Director)

Jeni Cheung (Scenic Designer) is the Prop Shop Supervisor for the Department of Theatre and Dance. She has been a part of the Theatre and Dance department since 2001 when she began working in the Prop Shop as an undergraduate student, starting full time in 2006. Originally from Hong Kong, she has a BFA in both Theatre and Visual Arts. Jeni has worked for La Jolla Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, The Old Globe, San Diego Rep, Second Stage and Roundabout Theatre.

Elba Emicente Sanchez (Lighting Designer) is a first-year MFA student. She was born in Mexico and holds a BA in Dance from Universidad de las Américas Puebla (UDLAP). In 2010, she founded her own lighting company “iluminicente” in the City of Puebla, Mexico. Since then, she has participated in several national and international festivals such as Performatica (Mexico), Festival Internacional de Teatro México in Montreal (Canada), Festival Internacional Cervantino (Mexico), The Bates Dance Festival (USA), among other participations. Throughout her career, she had the opportunity to impart some lectures in Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain). In recent years, she worked as a Head of Logistics and Lighting Designer in Cultural Activities at UDLAP, in the same way as a Technical Director of the dance company Ballet Incluyente. UC San Diego credits: winterWORKS ‘22 (L/PD), Everybody, 51Barrio, Sotoba Komachi (ALD). UDLAP credits: Victor/Victoria, Regina, All shook up, Ballet Gala, The Nutcracker, L’enfant et les sortilèges, Dido and Aeneas, Popurrini, algo de un tal Rossini, Zentzontle Sinfónico, las notas del zapateado, Nupcias Mexicanas, De la madera al son. Ballet Incluyente credits: Ciudad de hilos, La danza de la resistencia, Soy de otro planeta, El jardín del cocodrilo, Lazos de cebolla.

Rachel Lee Flesher (Intimacy/Fight Director)

Caleb Foley (Sound Designer)
Jared Blake Halsell (Production Stage Manager) is a second-year MFA student originally from Ione, CA. Prior to moving to San Diego, he attended Folsom Lake College where he also worked at The Harris Center for the Arts (formerly Three Stages) as a stage technician from 2011 – 2016. He recently graduated from San Diego State University in 2019 with his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts. UC San Diego credits: Napoli, 51BARRIO, Meladi Thive and Her Words of Comfort (audio play - PSM), Virtual production of Town Hall (ASM; 2021), Virtual production of Heap (ASM; 2020). Select credits: Spring Awakening (PSM; 2014), The Who’s Tommy (PSM; 2016), Anna in the Tropics (PSM; 2018), James and the Giant Peach (ASM; 2019), To Be Alive: A New Musical (PM & PSM; 2019), The Old Globe’s premiere of Almost Famous: The Musical (SM Intern; 2019)

Andrew Olson (Assistant Stage Manager)

Shaila Sarathy (Assistant Stage Manager)

Abby Stein (Assistant Stage Manager)

Elise Wesley (Costume Designer) is a first-year MFA student. Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, she holds a BFA in Theatre Design and Technology from Otterbein University. She has extensive wardrobe and production assistant experience, working with companies such as The Public Theater, Theatre for a New Audience, and National Lampoon. UC San Diego credits: In The Red and Brown Water (ACD), 51BARRIO (CD). Design credits: Carry On (Eleventh Hour Theatre Co.); Festival 2018, Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (Otterbein University). Assistant design credits: National Lampoon’s Lemmings: 21st Century (Joe’s Pub); The Rocky Horror Show (Short North Stage); Big Fish (Otterbein University).
Also On Stage

**HELLS CANYON**
Written by Keiko Green
Directed by Vanessa Stalling

**LIMP WRIST**
Written by Preston Choi
Directed by Rosie Glen-Lambert

**ON THE LEVER**
Written by Ankita Raturi
Directed by Cambria Herrera

**FIFTY BOXES OF EARTH**

**Coming Soon**

**Baal**
by Bertolt Brecht
Directed by Madison Mae Williams
Arthur Wagner Theatre | June 1-4

**New Directions**
directed and choreographed by Yolande Snaith
Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre | June 2-4

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