

How to Defend Yourself

by Lily Padilla

directed by Kim Rubinstein

Cast

Nikki	Molly Adea
Kara	Mary Rose Branick
Mojdeh	Ariana Mahalatti
Diana	Fedra Ramirez
Eggo	Trevor Rinzler
Andy	Garrett Schulte
Brandi	Andrea van den Boogaard

Creative Staff

Scenic Designer	Yi-Chien Lee
Costume Designer	Annie Le
Lighting Designer	Minjoo Kim
Sound Designer	Steven Leffue
Production Stage Manager	Amber R. Dettmers
Dramaturg	Gabe Greene
Fight Choreographer	Jamie Newcomb
Assistant Director	Hannah Folk, Cassidy Paradis
Assistant Costume Designer	Chad Burlin, Thomas Goss
Assistant Lighting Designer	Michael Wogulis
Assistant Stage Manager	Levani Korganashvili
Production Assistant	Lily Joo, Krystle Montgomery

From Festival Director Naomi Iizuka

The **Wagner New Play Festival** is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to see some of the most exciting new plays being written today. UC San Diego playwrights are making a name for themselves nationally. San Diego audiences can be the first to see plays that have gone on to be produced Off-Broadway and in regional theatres across the country. The plays by our MFA playwrights that you will see represent a wide range of original voices and stories for the stage. What is so unique about the Wagner New Play Festival is the integral role it plays in cultivating a new generation of playwrights who are already transforming the landscape of American theatre. What is equally unique about the festival is the way in which it showcases the exceptional talents of our MFA actors, directors, designers, and stage managers as they come together to bring these new plays to the stage. It is an exhilarating and inspiring time in our season, and we are thrilled to be able to share the work with you.

Special Thanks from the Playwright

Dylan Key for being the first reader on every draft I write, who always helps me see what's there and what might be. Phoebe Morris for her fierce, tender fighter skills. Allison Johnson & Jenna Jones of the Center for Community Solutions for helping us find ground. Ali Viterbi for holding me with such grace as actor, script consultant and friend. Gina Cioffi for her Greek life consultations. Naomi Iizuka, who makes this festival and its revelations possible. To Kim & the entire HTDY team: thank you for being in this journey with so much tenderness, brilliance and strength.

About the Playwright + Director

Lily Padilla (Playwright) is a third-year MFA Playwright at UC San Diego, under the mentorship of Naomi Iizuka, Deborah Stein and Allan Havis. Her plays explore sex, intersectional communities and what it means to heal in a violent world— Selected works include *How to Defend Yourself*, *(w)holeness* (Finalist for the Latinx Theatre Commons' 2018 Carnival), *And Then You Wait* (La Jolla Playhouse WOW Festival). Padilla is an EmergeNYC fellow with the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics. Lily co-founded American Nightcap at INTAR, a late-night play series which gathered artists from diverse NYC theater communities. BFA NYU, Playwrights Horizons and Experimental Theatre Wing. www.lilypadilla.com

Kim Rubinstein (Director) was most recently Long Wharf Theatre's Associate Artistic Director where she directed *Guys and Dolls*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Private Lives*, *Santaland Diaries*, and *The Cocktail Hour*. This past summer she directed *Much Ado About Nothing* for Shakespeare Santa Cruz. Other regional credits include *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* (Portland Center Stage and San Jose Rep), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth* and *Julius Caesar* (Chicago Shakespeare), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Next Theatre), *The Tempest* (Southwest Rep), *The American Plan* and *Eloise and Ray* (Roadworks), *Pan and Boone* (Running with Scissors), *Baby With The Bathwater* (Roundhouse Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival), *Beckett Shorts* (Berkshire Theatre Festival, Splinter Group's Buckets O'Beckett Festival). She was Associate Director with Michael Mayer and Tour Director of the National Tour of *Angels In America*. Her other teaching credits include ten years on the acting/directing faculty at Northwestern University, University of Chicago, Brown/Trinity Consortium, Wesleyan University, NTI at The O'Neill Center and a ongoing teaching gig with the School at Steppenwolf. Kim has been very active in development of new plays and has directed many readings and workshops at places like New Dramatists and Long Wharf. Ms. Rubinstein is a recipient of the TCG/NEA directing fellowship and was nominated for the Alan Schneider Directing Award, among other awards for her directing and teaching. Upcoming projects: *Santaland Diaries* at the Long Wharf, *The American Plan* at The Old Globe.

Cast Bios

Molly Adea (Nikki) is a fourth-year undergraduate transfer student, majoring in Theatre and double-minoring in Dance and Business. UC San Diego credit: *The Skriker*, *Spring Awakening* (Muir Musical). Other credits: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Marcy Parks), *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (Pilar).

Mary Rose Branick (Kara) is a first-year MFA Acting student. She is from Corte Madera, California and holds a BA in Theatre from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. UCSD credits: Helena in *What of the Night* and *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again*. WU credits: Sparrow in *Conference of the Birds*, Chorus in *Trojan Women*, Angie in *Top Girls*, Io in *Helen*, Anna van Gogh in *Vincent in Brixton*, the Fool in *Lear's Daughters*, and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*.

Ariana Mahallati (Mojdeh) is a third-year undergraduate Theatre major transfer from College of Marin. She was born and raised in the Bay Area. Recent credits in the Bay: Elma Duckworth in *Bus Stop* and Maid Marian/Much the Miller in *Robin Hood* at Ross Valley Players. UC San Diego credit: *She Kills Monsters*.

Fedra Ramirez (Diana) is a fourth-year undergraduate Theatre major. This is her second UC San Diego production. Other credits: *Broadcast* (On Stage Playhouse), *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (UC San Diego), *#takebackgraffiti* (Company 157).

Trevor Rinzler (Eggo) is a first year Theater major. This is his first time taking the stage in a UC San Diego department show. Previously at UC San Diego, he was the production assistant for *What of the Night?* and played Damis in Fair Play's production of *Tartuffe*. He is very excited to be part of such an important work.

Cast Bios cont.

Garrett Schulte (Andy) is a first-year MFA Acting student. After being raised in Florida's heat, he sought refuge in the cold weather of Boston to complete his BS at MIT in Mechanical Engineering. UC San Diego credits: *The Green Cockatoo*, *Othello*. MIT credits: *The Pillowman* (Katurian), *Arcadia* (Septimus Hodge), *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Arturo Ui), *A Bone Close to My Brain* (Man), *Small Infinities* (Nicholas Fatio de Duillers), *Legally Blonde* (Warner). He also performed as Diesel in St. Petersburg Opera's production of *West Side Story* in Florida.

Andrea van den Boogaard (Brandi) is a third-year undergraduate Theatre major, minoring in Political Science. UC San Diego credits: *Fefu and Her Friends* (Julia), *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (Kayleen), *Scenes from an Execution* (Supporta), *Other People* (Sydney/ Tomi), *Electra* (Chorus), *War of the Worlds* (Phillips). Other credits: *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Millie), *Noises Off!* (Poppy), *Six Characters Looking for an Author* (Lead Woman).

Creative Staff Bios

Chad Burlin (Assistant Costume Designer) is a third-year transfer student Theatre major from Victor Valley College with emphasis on playwriting and acting. UC San Diego credit: *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.* (Scenic Crew).

Amber R. Dettmers (Production Stage Manager) is a first-year MFA Stage Manager and holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Loyola University Chicago. UC San Diego credits: *She Kills Monsters* (ASM), *A Raisin in the Sun* (ASM). LUC credits: *Katrina: The K Word* (PSM), *As You Like It* (ASM). Chicago credits: *Wounds to the Face* (PM), *After the Dance* (PM), *A Number* (PSM) and *Scenes From an Execution* (PSM) with Runcible Theatre; *Seminar*, *A Walk in the Woods*, *Jake's Women*, and *A Bright Room Called Day* (PSM, Spartan Theatre); *Savage in Limbo* and *Take Me Back* (PM, The Poor Theatre); *Vices & Virtues* (PSM, Profiles Theatre); and *Ghost Gardens* (PSM, Pegasus Theatre Chicago).

Hannah Folk (Assistant Director) is a third-year Theatre and Joint Mathematics-Economics double major at UC San Diego. UC San Diego credits: *Fefu and Her Friends* (Sue), *She Kills Monsters* (Monster), *Eurydice* (ASM), *Rumors* (SM), *Birds of North America* (Assistant Stage Manager, WNPF 2017), *Simply Fried* (SM, UNPF 2016), *Built for Two* (ASM, UNPF 2016).

Thomas Goss (Assistant Costume Designer) is a first-year undergraduate Theatre major here at the UC San Diego with a planned emphasis in Costume Design. UC San Diego credits: *Skriker*, *The Green Cockatoo* (Scenic Crew), Muir Musical's *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Assistant Costume Designer, Production Assistant).

Gabe Greene (Dramaturg) is the Director of New Play Development at La Jolla Playhouse. His plays include *Safe at Home* (written with Alex Levy; premiere: Mixed Blood Theatre) and the immersive theatrical event *Goosebumps Alive* (written with Tom Salamon; premiere: The Vaults, London). Gabe has overseen the development of dozens of new works, including world premieres by Ayad Akhtar, Jeff Augustin, Kirsten Greenidge and Quiara Alegria Hudes. This is his tenth year as a dramaturg for UCSD's Wagner Festival.

Lily Joo (Production Assistant) is a fourth year International studies-political science major and theatre minor. She was a production assistant for the Muir Musical *In the Heights*, and scenic crew for the Theatre & Dance Department show *Othello*. This is her first time being a production assistant for a Theatre Department show. She is very excited about the show and wants you to enjoy the show as much as she does.

Minjoo Kim (Lighting Designer) is a second-year MFA Lighting Design student. She received a BA in Theatre and Film Design from Chung-Ang University in Seoul, Korea. Recent lighting design credits: *Crimson Girl* (Dongsoong Art Center), *Die or Not* (Seoul Art Space Mullae),

Creative Staff Bios cont.

After School, Alice (Chungwoon Art Theater), *Mask on/off* (Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre), *Story of Sorastar* (Dongsoong Art Center), *The Last Day* (Chungwoon Art Theater). UC San Diego credits: *Birds of North America* (LD), *Streamers* (Assistant), *Native Son* (Assistant), *Vieux Carré* (Assistant), *Anansi The Story King* (LD).

Levani Korganashvili (Assistant Stage Manager) is a fourth-year, pursuing a BA in Theatre Arts. He was born and raised in the Republic of Georgia. Working as an actor, dancer, musician, and martial artist around San Diego, his recent works include Sledgehammer Theatre's *Under Construction* for La Jolla Playhouse's WithOut Walls Festival. UC San credit: *The Skriker*. And *What of the Night?* at UC San Diego.

Annie Le (Costume Designer) is a recent MFA Costume Design graduate. Design credits: College of the Holy Cross - *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *Spring Awakening the Musical*; Hanover Theatre - *Oklahoma!*, *Footloose*; Ballet Arts Worcester - *Mother Ginger* (The Nutcracker), *Peter and the Wolf*. She has previously worked with The Huntington Theatre (Boston), Richard Fisher Performance Arts Center (Bard College) and has gone on tour with the I Made Bandem (Balinese Art Festival). UC San Diego credits: *(w)holeness*, *Machinal* (IDEAS 2017), *Go. Please. Go.*, *Movers + Shakers*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Taming of the Shrew*(ed).

Yi-Chien Lee (Scenic Designer) is a second-year MFA Scenic Design student. She received her BFA in Drama and Theatre from National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan. Design credits: *Mission Incomplete* (Young Stars, New Vision Festival), *Code: Cytus* (Divertimento. Media), *In Search of Beckett* (Double Theatre), *You tube* (The Deadend Flower Troupe), *Representation of the Cherry Orchard* (Minister of Culture, Taiwan). UC San Diego credits: *winterWORKS*, *The Green Cockatoo*

Steven Leffue (Sound Designer) is co-founder of the OBIE award winning theater JACK, Brooklyn (jackny.org). His work, which manifests itself as performance, research, and education, combines theater, dance, live music, interactive electronic systems, and performance art with topics of social justice. Steven is a member of the Voices of Our City Choir (www.voicesofourcity.org) and the International Computer Music Association. He has taught sound design in the UCSD Department of Theater and Dance and the UC Academic Connections program. More at stevenleffue.com.

Krystle Montgomery (Production Assistant) is a third year Ethnic Studies major from Thurgood Marshall College. They are excited to make their first appearance in a UC San Diego Theatre Department production. Previous work as a Production Assistant include: *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Spring Awakening*, and *In the Heights* (Muir Musical).

Jamie Newcomb (Fight Choreographer) has taught stage fighting for the UC San Diego graduate theatre program for 18 years and has directed fights for UC San Diego productions as well as La Jolla Playhouse productions including *Sweet Bird Of Youth*, *Jayne Eyre*, and *Loot*. He was resident fight director for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and has directed fights for Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, San Diego Opera, San Diego Rep, The Old Globe, South Coast Rep, and many more. He is also an actor working throughout the country.

Cassidy Paradis (Assistant Director) is a second year student from Washington, D.C. At UCSD, she is studying theatre, literature, and behavioral neurosciences. This is her first assistant directing credit.

Michael Wogulis (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a second-year undergraduate theatre major at UCSD. In the past he has worked with the department on *(w)holeness* (scenery/props crew), *Strange Men* (scenery/props crew) *She Kills Monsters* (light board operator), and *A Raisin in the Sun* (assistant scenic designer). He has also worked with Muir Musical on their productions of *Spring Awakening* (Production Assistant) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (1st Assistant Stage Manager).