

SERE

by Ava Geyer

directed by Dylan Key

Cast

Des	Gina Maria Cioffi
Mariana	Farah Dinga
Ellen	Serina Estrada
Malcolm	Sidney Hill
Alec	Allyn Anthony Moriyon
Chris	Brandon O'Sullivan
Paige	Christine Penn

Creative Staff

Scenic & Projection Designer	Samuel Keamy-Minor
Costume Designer	Chris Flagstad
Lighting Designer	Mextly Almeda
Sound Designer	MaeAnn Ross
Vocal Coach	Ursula Meyer
Dramaturg	Gabe Greene
Research Dramaturg	Kirstin Leadbetter
Production Stage Manager	Jacob Halpern Weitzman
Assistant Director	Joyce Lai
Assistant Costume Designer	Isabella Calabrese
Assistant Lighting Designer	Hazel Park
Assistant Stage Manager	Rosanna Wong
Production Assistant	Chloe Miller
Production Assistant	Hayden Emmerson

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.

Cast Bios

Gina Maria Cioffi (Des) is a recent alumnus of UC San Diego's Theater BA program. She held the position of Undergraduate Theatre Representative in the 2016-2017 school year. UC San Diego credits: *She Kills Monsters*, *Rumors* (studio), *Anansi, the Story King*, *Simply Fried* (UNPF), *Electra* (Studio), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Studio), *Legally Blonde, the Musical* (Muir Musical), and *The Burial at Thebes*.

Farah Dinga (Marian) is a third year transfer student in UCSD's Theatre and Dance Program. This is her acting debut here in San Diego, and is proud to be making an appearance in SERE. UCSD Credits: *The Skriker* (AD), *Mirage* (D, Studio).

Serina Estrada (Ellen) is a second year undergraduate theatre major. UC San Diego Credits: *Scenes from an Execution* (Rivera), *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (Kayleen).

Sidney Hill (Malcolm) is a native of New Mexico. He spent much of his formative years working behind the scenes on several studio film and television productions, performing duties that varied as widely as mail gathering all the way to stunt work. Sparked by this experience, Sidney's passion, or what some would call his obsession, for both the process and life of an actor was ignited, leading him to the city and stages of Chicago, IL. He currently holds a BA in Acting from the University of Illinois-Chicago and is a member of the UC San Diego second-year MFA Acting cohort. UC San Diego credits: *Eurydice* (Eurydice's Father), *Baby Teeth* (Rod), *Streamers* (Roger), *Green Cockatoo* (Maurice), *Raisin in the Sun* (George Murchison/Bobo).

Allyn Anthony Moriyon (Alec) is a second-year MFA Acting student. He received his BFA in Performance from Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, Florida. UC San Diego credits: *Othello* (Cassio), *What of the Night* (Charlie), *Are You There?* (Adam, WNPF 2017), *Taming of the Shrew*(d). FIU credits: *The Cherry Orchard* (Peter), *An Ideal Husband* (Goring), *Rumors* (Ernie), *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Dwight), *Flea In Her Ear* (Victor/Posh).

Brandon O'Sullivan (Chris) is a second-year MFA Acting student from New York. UC San Diego credits: *(w)holeness*, *Streamers*. New York credits: *Bobrauschenbergamerica!* (The Brewing Dept.), *The Revenger's Tragedy/Bonesetter* (Spicy Witch Productions), *Rex* (New Light Theater Project), among others. Tour credits: *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Schoolhouse Rock: Live!* (Surflight Theater), *Mythunderstood* (No.11 Productions). He holds a BS from Skidmore College. www.BrandonOSullivan.com

Christine Penn (Paige) is a first-year MFA Acting student originally from New York. Recent credits: *Red Light Winter* (CSU Long Beach), the world premier of *Out of Orbit* (California Repertory Theatre). Christine holds a business degree from California State University Long Beach. UC San Diego credits: *The Green Cockatoo* (Georgette), *Rovolt*, *She Said*, *Revolt Again*.

About the Playwright

Ava Geyer (Playwright) is a second-year MFA Playwriting student. Awards and commissions include the Francis LeMoine Page Award, an Alex Adams commission and the Stanley J. Seeger Fellowship. Recent projects include *Baby Teeth* (WNPF '17). BA: Princeton University, 2015.

From Playwright Ava Geyer

I owe a great debt to retired Army Major Joshua Mantz and his story of recovery. For further reading, look to his book *The Beauty of a Darker Soul: Overcoming Trauma Through The Power of Connection*.

Creative Staff Bios

Dylan Key (Director) is a second-year MFA Directing candidate. His work has been seen at the La Jolla Playhouse (WoW Festival), Undermain Theatre, the Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas Actor's Lab, Kitchen Dog Theater, and site-specific work throughout Dallas. He spent five years as the Artistic Associate for Undermain Theatre and co-founded Shakespeare in the Bar and TRIBE, for which he was named a 2016 Dallas Mastermind. He has trained with Anne Bogart and the SITI Company, Marc Bamuthi Joseph and the Living Word Project, and is an alumni of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. BA: University of Dallas UC San Diego Credits: *Othello*, *(w)holeness* (WNPF 2017).

Mextly Almeda (Lighting Designer) is a first-year MFA Lighting Design student. She graduated from UC San Diego with a Pure Mathematics major, Theatre minor. UC San Diego credits: *Scenes from an Execution*, *Undergraduate New Play Festival 2016*, *New Directions 2016*, *Damascus*, *Rocks in Her Pocket*, *thesisWorks 2016*, *War or the Worlds*, *New Directions 2015*, *Dimmer Switches*, *Sunset on Mars*, *Widower*, *Winter Studio Projects 2015*, *Marriage of Bette and Boo*, *Really Fall 2014*. Other credits: *Blurred Borders Festival #15*.

Isabelle Calabrese (Assistant Costume Designer) is a third-year undergraduate Theatre major with a focus in Acting and Directing. Recently, she stage managed *Cyrano de Bergerac* with Livermore Shakespeare Festival. Other credits: *Avenue Q* (Kate), *Eurydice* (Stone), and *SubUrbia* (BeeBee) with San Joaquin Delta College. UC San Diego credit: *The Green Cockatoo* (Ensemble).

Hayden Emmerson (Production Assistant) is a third-year transfer student from Ventura College and is in Sixth College. He has acted in shows such as *Into the Woods*, *The Waiting Room*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Watch that Ends the Night*, *Triangle Factory Fire Project*, and *The Green Cockatoo*. This is his first show as a Production Assistant.

Christopher Flagstad (Costume Designer) is a first-year MFA Costume Design student. He is from San Diego, has a BFA from UCLA, and attended San Diego City College. Design credits: *Big White Devil*, *Cesar and Cleopatra*, *Faustus* (UCLA Theater Fest); *Fault Line*, *About a Bird* (Francis Ford Copula One-Act Festival). UC San Diego credit: *What of the Night*.

Gabe Greene (Dramaturg) Gabriel Greene (Director of New Play Development) joined La Jolla Playhouse's artistic staff in 2007. In addition to curating and producing the annual DNA New Work Series, he has dramaturged over two dozen new plays and musicals for the Playhouse, including *Wild Goose Dreams*, *At the Old Place*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Miss You Like Hell*, *JUNK*, *The Last Tiger in Haiti*, *Blueprints to Freedom*, *Up Here*, *The Darrell Hammond Project*, *The Who & The What*, *Milk Like Sugar* (also off-Broadway) and *Memphis* (also Broadway and London; four Tony Awards). With Alex Levy, he wrote *Safe at Home*, a site-specific show which was developed through the DNA Series and received its world premiere at Mixed Blood Theatre in 2017 (Ivey Award). *Goosebumps Alive*, his immersive adaptation of R.L. Stine's best-selling novels (co-written and directed by Tom Salamon) received its world premiere at The Vaults (London) in 2016. He is a graduate of University of Michigan and Trinity College, Dublin.

Jacob Halpern Weitzman (Production Stage Manager) is a first-year MFA Stage Management student. Jacob began his professional career at Actors Theatre of Louisville as a stage management intern (2012-2013). He later returned for This Random World (40th annual Humana Festival of New American Plays, 2016). Jacob is from NYC and has stage managed with Primary Stages, The Flea Theater, The Public Theater, and The Mad Ones. He has called New Orleans home for the last three years, and has stage managed with Le Petit Theatre, The NOLA Project, and Goat in the Road. Jacob holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Hendrix College. UC San Diego credits: *What of the Night* and *Revolt, She Said, Revolt Again*.

Creative Staff Bios cont.

Sam Keamy-Minor (Scenic & Projection Designer) is a first year MFA Scenic Design student. Born in Baltimore, MD, he spent the last five years in Providence, RI, working towards a degree in Geological Sciences from Brown University. Recent projects include *INTERBEING* at Production Workshop (pw) and the US premiere of *Prom Queen the musical* at Stagedoor Manor.

Joyce Lai (Assistant Director) is a fifth year undergraduate Theatre major with a focus in Directing and minor in business. This is her first time assistant directing for the WNPF. Past credit includes *The Oldest Boy* with SD Rep, *Jade Heart* with Moxie, *The King and I* with Welk Resort, *The Web Series* (youtube opera series), and numerous indie films.

Kristin Leadbetter (Research Dramaturg) is a first-year PhD student. She received her BA in Communication with a specialization in Personal and Professional Communication from SUNY Geneseo in 2012, where she developed interest in the intersections of social sciences and performance theories. Before receiving her Masters in Theatre Arts at Stony Brook University, Kristin worked as an On-Air Producer and Event Manager for iHeartMedia. She has worked as a theatre educator and professional actor for regional theater companies, and modeled for NYC-based studios. Her areas of interest are communication and media studies, performance theories and pedagogy, and feminist critical theory.

Ursula Meyer (Vocal Coach) has studied voice with Cicily Berry, Patsy Rodenburg, Andrew Wade, Arthur Lessac and Kristen Linklater. She graduated from the Advanced Voice Studies Program at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London and is a designated Linklater Teacher. Before coming to UC San Diego, she taught Voice/Speech and Text at UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, University of Washington, and four years at the Yale School of Drama. Meyer has worked at numerous regional theatres including the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, South Coast Repertory Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, the La Jolla Playhouse, and the Idaho, Santa Cruz, Utah, and Oregon Shakespeare Festivals where she has been working off and on since 1985. As an actress, she has worked extensively in regional theatre, including the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, A.C.T. Seattle, the Seattle Repertory Theatre, the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, and the La Jolla Playhouse. In 2007, she was a recipient of UC San Diego's Saltman Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.

Chloe Miller (Production Assistant) is a first year theatre major at UC San Diego with an emphasis in stage management. She is grateful for this opportunity and is eager to continue working on shows.

Hazel Park (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a third-year undergraduate at UC San Diego double majoring in Art History/Criticism and Theatre with a minor in Music. UC San Diego credits: *(w)holeness* (WNPF 2017, ASM), *Social Suicide* (UNPF 2016, PSM), *An Ideal Husband* (Studio Project, PSM), *Native Son* (PA), *Though It May Shift* (Assistant Lighting Designer) and *The Skriker* (ASM).

MaeAnn Ross (Sound Designer) is a first-year MFA Sound Design student. She holds a BFA in Technical Production from Texas State University. TXST design credits: *Fool For Love*; *Legally Blonde: The Musical*; *5 Women Wearing The Same Dress*. Professional design credits: (Wimberley Playhouse) *Lost in Yonkers*, *The 39 Steps*, *Wait Until Dark*; (St. Edwards University) *She Loves Me*. UC San Diego credits: *What of the Night?* (Asst.), *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again*.

Rosanna Wong (Assistant Stage Manager) is a third-year transfer undergraduate student. She is from Macau and attended Dean College, MA for the Theatre Arts program. Through exploring by working on *Hair*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Into the Woods*, and *The East* in Dean College, Rosanna decided to pursue stage management. And she has recently stage managed a one-act show, *Merry Christmas Eve or Whatever*. UC San Diego credit: *Revolt, She Said, Revolt Again*.