

## UCSD Theatre Department to stage "Plays in Progress Festival"

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UCSD THEATRE DEPARTMENT PLAYWRITING PROGRAM TO STAGE "PLAYS IN PROGRESS FESTIVAL"  
APRIL 20-23

Three plays in progress written by graduate students in the University of California, San Diego Department of Theatre's Professional Theatre Training Program will be performed at 8 p.m. in the Warren Theatre from April 20-23.

The works, two short and one full-length, are titled "Public Image Limited," "Who's Got a Hold of the Hold-On Man," and "Ty and Jay," and will be acted, directed and staged by students in the Master of Fine Arts program, according to department chair and playwright Adele Edling Shank. The two short plays will be presented on April 21 and 23.

"It is through the rehearsal process that new playwrights learn how to rework their scripts, and it is necessary for the writers to have an audience's reaction to their work," she said.

"The play takes on a new life when the actors begin to read the script. Everyone involved learns when the script is brought from page to stage."

Shank said there is always a risk present in staging brand new material and in this case there was shorter preparation time involved, so the presentations have a special energy to them. "Theatergoers will have the special experience of seeing something new."

One of the shorter works, by Daniel Camacho, titled "Who's Got a Hold of the Hold-On Man," is a story about a Chicano man's fight with his own mid-life sexuality and machismo.

The character, Felix, deals with a two-pronged desire: the procurement of a \$1000 bill to flash in public (a life-long ambition), and the need for a young, subservient Mexican wife. The play's tension develops as Felix discovers that his ambitions are at odds.

The cast is: Felix, Danny Burstein; Lola, Luzmaria Garcia; Face/Child, Kevin Connell, and Carmelita, Molly Powell.

"Ty and Jay" was written by Michael Erickson and directed by Maria Mileaf. Two young men, disillusioned by their status in a world where others are getting ahead, carry on a dialogue in a convenience store about what immediate measures they could take to increase their worldly wealth. Ty, a salesclerk on the graveyard shift, discusses these problematic events with Jay, while they freely help themselves to what the store has to offer.

The cast for "Ty and Jay," is: Donald McKay as Ty and Danny Burstein as Jay.

Reid Jensen's play, "Public Image Limited," is a full length production which will be staged on April 20 and April 22, and is directed by Todd Salovey. The play tells how the lead character, Aaron, must search for his missing father, who is a fugitive.

The search takes place in a setting sometime in the future, where the government can change people's identities without notice or consent. Aaron's companions on this search take on several different incarnations. While the search is eventually successful, the identities of those around him play havoc with his reality.

The cast for "Public Image Limited" is: Lou, David Ledingham; Marshall, Tom Nelis; Martha, Jessica Black; Aaron, Mark Deakins and Michelle, Karen Vesper.

The playwriting program has been in effect at UCSD for a little less than 10 years. Most of the alumni are still in the business, according to Shank. One alumnus, Carlos Morton, has had many plays staged, with two produced at New York City's Public Theatre.

Admission to the New Play Festival is \$3 for a pass good for all performances, available at the Mandell Weiss Center Ticket Office, ARTS TIX booth at the Spreckles Theater, and the UCSD Student Center Box Office (534-4559). The box office at the Mandell Weiss Center for the Performing Arts is open April 4-May 29, 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and nights of performance through curtain time (534-4574). On performance dates the Warren Theatre box office is open two hours prior to curtain.

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