



WAGNER NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

SUSTAINING THE SPOTLIGHT

UC San Diego's Wagner New Play Festival is a campus original.

For 25 years, the festival has been a launchpad for successful careers in entertainment and the dramatic arts, whether graduates continue on in theatre, cinema or new media platforms. Showcasing some of the most **exciting new plays in American theatre**, the festival produces original new work by the UC San Diego MFA playwrights in collaboration with student and faculty directors, actors, designers, stage managers and dramaturgs. Plays featured in the festival have been produced off-Broadway and in major theatres nationwide.

The opportunity for the university's **MFA cohort** to collaborate on new work in this way creates a **unique learning experience**: playwrights grow exponentially by seeing full productions of their plays; directors, actors and designers grow by being essential collaborators in the creation of new work. The festival has become an **incubator for a new generation of writers and theatre artists** who are embodying new American stories, including celebrated playwrights like Lauren Yee, MFA '12; Dave Harris, MFA '20; Keiko Green, MFA '22; and Anna Moench, MFA '20; among many others.

First established as the Baldwin New Play Festival in 1999 and then renamed the Wagner New Play Festival in 2013 to honor the contributions of **Molli and Arthur Wagner**, the festival is rooted deep in UC San Diego's founding ethos of dauntless experimentation. It is regularly attended by local theatre enthusiasts as well as artistic directors, literary managers, agents and producers from across the country. Your support of the Wagner New Play Festival is a chance to **honor the generosity and vision** of its founders by **ensuring the festival's continuation** and dynamism into the future.

At UC San Diego, we believe that what we don't know today will forever change our tomorrows. Empowered by generosity and fueled by curiosity, we are unafraid to chase the unknown — to ask the questions no one has asked before and to push the boundaries of possibility. Together, we unite diverse people and unconventional perspectives to propel limitless impact. Because we know that when we come together, nothing is beyond us.

20+

Professionally produced plays premiered at the Wagner New Play Festival

TV CREDITS

MFA alumni credits include *Beef* (Anna Oyyang Moench, MFA '20), *Apples Never Fall* (Melanie Marnich, MFA '98), *Stranger Things* (Karl Gajdusek, MFA '94) and four Emmys for Rachel Axler, MFA '04 for *Veep* and *The Daily Show*

FILM PREMIERES

Dave Harris, MFA '20 with *Summertime* at Sundance, upcoming adaptation of *Fortress of Solitude* at Amazon Studios ; Ben Fisher, MFA '15 with *The Zealot* at Cannes

RECENT HONORS

New York Times Top 10 Productions of the Year 2023 (Liliana Padilla, MFA '18) and Top 10 Unforgettable Moments 2023 (Emily Feldman, MFA '17)

UC San Diego



OUR TIME TO SHINE

- “Empty Ride” by **Keiko Green, MFA '22** will premiere at the Old Globe in February, and “Exotic Deadly or the MSG Play” won the San Diego Critics Circle Award for Best Play of 2023.
- “Your Local Theatre Presents: A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. Again!” by **Anna Oyyang Moench, MFA '20** will receive its world premiere at the La Jolla Playhouse this November.
- “MANAKIN” by **Dave Harris, MFA '20** just won the 2024 Relentless Award. More than 1,200 playwrights submitted their work for this \$50,000 award, which was established in honor of Philip Seymour Hoffman.

“The Wagner New Play Festival is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate new stories and voices, and represents some of the most exciting new plays in American theater. The festival gives San Diego audiences a first look at cutting-edge work by our world-class MFA playwrights, many of whom have gone on to become some of the most well-known and highly produced playwrights in American theater.”

– **Naomi Iizuka**, Playwrighting Program Head Professor

COMING TOGETHER TO GIVE

As **alumni, friends and patrons** of our plays, you understand the distinctive thrill of experiencing breathtaking talent as it develops. UC San Diego Department of Theatre and Dance asks you to play your part in building a baseline endowment to make the festival fully self-sustaining into the future.

Our goal of **\$1 million in combined contributions** will establish an endowed fund sufficient to support production costs for each festival season. You can make a gift of any size to help sustain the Wagner New Play Festival for new generations of students and audiences.

Thank you for contributing to original stories and outstanding new careers.

Together with your philanthropic support, we can continue to challenge convention, to be the place where the spotlight shines on original creations by artists trained to dare deeper and inspired to delight.

Learn more at giving.ucsd.edu.

For more information on supporting the Wagner New Play Festival endowment, please contact:

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