SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Theatre Arts & Dance presents
SUPER MEGA MOLTEN HOT LAVA NEW PLAY FESTIVAL
NOVEMBER 12–14
Artistic + Production Team

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR Scott Horstein
DIRECTORS Dean Dawkins, Gabe Fernandez, Rosemarie Kingfisher, Laura Millar, Doyle Ott, John Ruzicka, Annaliese Van Sickle
STAGE MANAGER Julianna Hakopian
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Theo Bridant
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR Francelle Mariano
STAGE MANAGEMENT MENTOR Hannah-Jane Dakin
POSTER DESIGN Natasha Radocker
Imagine this little band of explorers, lost in wonder, on the shore of an unknown ocean. See their faces as the vision of a new world bursts upon them. A scene on the stage should give us the same sense of incredulity and wonder and delight. As we enter the theatre we too are on the threshold of a new experience. The curtain rises. The vision of a new world bursts upon us as it burst upon these voyagers of an earlier day. A new powerful life pervades the theatre. Our hearts beat with a wild hope. Is this what we have waited for? we ask. Shall we see at last? Shall we know?

- Robert Edmond Jones, *The Dramatic Imagination*

Welcome to this 2021 edition of the Super Mega Molten Hot Lava New Play Festival!

The Mega Hot festival consists of readings of the work from our Playwriting I and II classes (THAR 376 and 377). It’s the moment when the work, having incubated for many weeks, is finally born, when it bursts out into stage light and takes its first breath.

Readings like those you’ll hear tonight are just a step in the script’s journey, as writers draft and re-draft until they get a script to the point where it is ready for a full production. Based on everything they will learn this weekend, the playwrights will revise their plays yet again before our work for the semester comes to a close.

The theater field has created many hybrid forms of live/digital performance during this pandemic. Tonight’s streamed readings will be performed LIVE online, a model now common throughout the professional play development sector.

Twenty-six students from many majors, along with four faculty and guest directors, form the cast, creative, and production teams for this year’s festival. We’re delighted that this rich company of artists can come together in this act of communal storytelling.

You are the first audience these plays will ever have. Thank you for joining us on this voyage of discovery.

- Scott Horstein, Festival Director and playwriting instructor
PROGRAM A
FRIDAY NOV. 12 AT 7:30 PM
SUNDAY NOV. 14 AT 3 PM

ALL ICE CREAM PLANETS EVENTUALLY MELT
BY Avery Flasher-Duzgunes
DIRECTED BY Laura Millar
SHERBETIA Maya Pratt-Bauman
ROCKY Armando Ramos
VANILLALANA Stormi Martin
STAGE DIRECTIONS Robert Wiles
Content advisory: play contains some discussion of suicide

THE TITAN
BY Rylan Valdepena
DIRECTED BY John Ruzicka
SHI’KARA Annaliese Van Sickle
DESTRA Luis Escobar
SEAN Tyson Miller
STAGE DIRECTIONS Alice Tikoibau

FIRE 101
BY Tiffani Lopez
DIRECTED BY Rosemarie Kingfisher
EMMA Daisy Galeana
REDBUD Tiffani Lopez
FIREMAN/POLICE SHERIFF Lukas De Bel
STAGE DIRECTIONS Josiah Pel

NO ERA
BY Sean Wilson
DIRECTED BY Gabe Fernandez
MYRA Stormi Martin
KO A Luis Escobar
THE CAPTAIN Avery Flasher-Duzgunes
STAGE DIRECTIONS Robert Wiles
CONFESSIONS

BY J.P. Lloren

DIRECTED BY Dean Dawkins

WALT/STAGE DIRECTIONS Robert Wiles

NIKI/STAGE DIRECTIONS Alice Tikoibau

REN/STAGE DIRECTIONS Josiah Pel

MIZU Tiffani Lopez

THE AIRPORT

BY Ian Donohue

DIRECTED BY Rosemarie Kingfisher

WILL Robert Wiles

MEGAN Maya Pratt-Bauman

STAGE DIRECTIONS Josiah Pel

Content advisory: play contains some discussion of violence
PROGRAM B

SATURDAY NOV. 13 AT 7:30 PM
SUNDAY NOV. 14 AT 7:30 PM

A MOONLESS SEA
BY Kat Anderson
DIRECTED BY Doyle Ott
ASTRID Annaliese Van Sickle
NISHA Maya Pratt-Bauman
THEROS Tyson Miller
STAGE DIRECTIONS Josiah Pel

THREE FRIENDS
BY Cassidy Lieberfarb
DIRECTED BY Annaliese Van Sickle
HANK Avery Flasher-Duzgunes
HENRY Sean Wilson
OLIVIA Stormi Martin
STAGE DIRECTIONS Luis Escobar
Content advisory: play contains depictions of physical violence

ON TOP OF THE WORLD
BY Julianna Hakopian
DIRECTED BY Laura Millar
GREG Lukas De Bel
MOM Alice Tikoibau
KELLY Annaliese Van Sickle
STAGE DIRECTIONS Luis Escobar

AN OVERDUE DRINK
BY John Ruzicka
DIRECTED BY Dean Dawkins
AMBER Alice Tikoibau
BENEDICK Lukas De Bel
ESMERALDA Tiffani Lopez
STAGE DIRECTIONS Robert Wiles
Content advisory: play contains references to sexual situations
ENVOI

BY Gabe Fernandez
DIRECTED BY Doyle Ott
TOBY Armando Ramos
VERONICA Maya Pratt-Bauman
DANNY Tyson Miller
STAGE DIRECTIONS John Ruzicka

Content advisory: play contains some discussion of suicide
GUEST DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES

DEAN DAWKINS
Dean is a creative by nature. He’s made a home for himself on the stage, having been in concert band and choir before settling into theatre. In his six-year educational career, Dean wore many different hats. From light designing, soundboard operation, and stage crew, to production research, writing, and directing, he has always managed to be working on a show or project. While obtaining his B.A. at Sonoma State University, he had a hand in several productions, but the stand-out was assistant directing the premiere run of *Origin Story* in 2019. Dean sees an empty theatre, full of potential, as his favorite place, and is elated to finally return.

ROSEMARIE KINGFISHER
Rosemarie Kingfisher (she/her) has been acting in the Bay Area since she graduated from Sonoma State University in 2017. Since then she has acted with theatre companies including the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Bay Area Children’s Theatre, Ross Valley Players and Playground SF. She has gained further experience training with Shakespeare and Company’s Actor Training program in Lenox, MA and graduated from San Francisco Circus Center’s 7-month Clown Conservatory, a professional circus training program in 2020. Rose now has performed in over 5 ‘Zoom’ style productions with various companies in the Bay Area and beyond in the last year. Some of her favorites include Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* and the Clown in *All’s Well that Ends Well* with Lake County Theatre Co. and Angelique from *The Imaginary Invalid* with The Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. Rose is very excited to explore the world of Zoom Theatre, this time through a director’s lens, with the students of SSU with a project that she remembers acting in during her time in the same theatre program.
LAURA MILLAR
Laura Millar is an SSU Alumna (go Seawolves!). She is so excited to be back for her third round of Mega Hot! Since graduating, she has been working as an actor, director, teaching artist, and dramaturg in the Bay Area. Recent dramaturgy credits include *Rhinoceros* and *Mr. Burns* at The Actors Space (Zoom productions), and “microturgy” (fast paced, short-term dramaturgy for new works still in development, usually during a workshop or festival setting) with FoolsFURY during their Fury Factory festival. Recent directing credits include a St. Patrick’s Day Cabaret at The Actors Space. Before the pandemic, she performed in *Camelot* at Sierra Repertory Theatre, *A Christmas Carol* with CenterREP, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* at Lucky Penny and *Angel*, a short film. She has taught with The Actors Space, Transcendence Theatre Company, Marin Shakespeare Company, and as a private coach. Outside of the theater world, she loves reading and learning new things! Whether it’s a new recipe, a new language, or the answer to one of life’s many burning questions (such as “what is a group of jellyfish called?” A smack. A smack of jellyfish. Now you know!).
DOYLE OTT

Doyle Ott is a performer, director, dramaturg and theatre and circus scholar. Career highlights include work with Make A Circus, Splash Circus Theatre, Prescott Circus, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, San Francisco Circus Center, Bay Area Children’s Theatre, Foolsfury, Antenna Theatre, Golden Thread, and the San Francisco Playwright’s Foundation, where he served as dramaturg for Pulitzer Prize winner Jackie Sibblies Drury, and many other playwrights.

As Artistic Director at Children’s Fairyland in Oakland he has overseen the creation of two new performance spaces, written and directed over 30 plays for children, and developed the Bay Area’s first professional Theatre for the Very Young. He directs and produces the park’s annual summer circus performance. He also produces events for young audiences at the park, including performances by Axis Dance, Oakland Ballet, and the Bay Area Childrens Theatre.

Recent publications include Believing Impossible Things: Alice in the Circus Ring, about circus adaptations of Alice in Wonderland, and Extreme Embodiments: Shakespearean Circus Performance, about the use of circus in producing Shakespeare.

In addition to his work at SSU he performs and directs regularly as company member of the Medical Clown Project and of Playground. He is a member of Actors Equity and a certified Feldenkrais practitioner. Doyle holds a Ph.D. in Theatre (concentration in Theatre for Youth) from Arizona State University, an MA in Interdisciplinary Arts Education from San Francisco State University, and a BA, University of California, Irvine where he studied with Jerzy Grotowski.
Welcome to the Department of Theatre Arts & Dance

EVERT B. PERSON THEATRE is an extraordinary learning laboratory, a fully-equipped live performance space containing professionally staffed costume and scene shops, where SSU students learn skills essential to the art of live dance, music and theater performance. For today’s show, through performance-related coursework, the students have spent weeks in this building hammering, harmonizing, acting, welding, stitching, and cabling, under the mentorship of professional staff, designers, and faculty. We hope you enjoy the product of the students’ learning and skill-building process.

2020-21 EVERT B. PERSON SCHOLARSHIPS

ACTING Maya Pratt-Bauman
DANCE Abigail Eissman, Alessandra Balestrieri-Jennings, Zara Labbe, Jennifer Martuscelli
TECHNICAL THEATRE Elise Clark, Sabrina Hick
THEATRE STUDIES John Ruzicka
Christine Cali, Department Chair
Dr. Hollis Robbins, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities

Acting

Marie Ramirez Downing Program Director
Introduction to Acting, Advanced Scene Study, Voice, Movement, Devised Theatre Workshop

Danielle Cain Voice, Scene Study, Comedy of Manners, Shakespeare, Audition, Drama Ensemble

Laura Odeh Beginning Acting, Career Prep and Planning, Physical Theatre

Doyle Ott Critical Thinking, Children’s Theater, Humanities Learning
Community, Commedia dell’Arte, Feldenkrais, Theatre History

Paul Draper Professor Emeritus

Dance

Christine Cali and Kristen Daley Dance Program Co-Directors

Christine Cali Contemporary Dance Forms, Choreography, Global Perspectives in Dance, Improvisation/Somatic Practices, Theatre in Action, Critical Thinking, Actor/Dancer Collaboration, Dance Ensemble, Spring Dance Choreography, Dance for Everybody

Kristen Daley Contemporary Dance Forms, Anatomy for Dance, Choreography, Dance History & Criticism, Yoga, Dance Conditioning, Actor/Dancer Collaboration, Dance Ensemble, Spring Dance Choreography, Global Perspectives in Dance

Jennifer Jaffe Ballet

Nancy Lyons Professor Emeritus

Farrah McAdam Dance Ensemble, Dance for Everybody, Hip Hop

Byb Chanel Bibene African Dance Forms, Contemporary Dance Forms

Technical Theatre

Anthony Bish Program Director
Scene Design, Light Design, Prop Design, Stage Management, Portfolio

Robyn Spencer-Crompton Costume Instruction

Hannah Dakin Stage Management Instruction

Theatre Studies

Scott Horstein Program Director
Dramaturgy, Contemporary Theatre, Playwriting, Research Methods, Theatre History, Humanities Learning Community

Judy Navas Professor Emeritus

Guest Speakers

Olivia Bowman-Jackson Osvaldo Ramirez Uzoamaka Nwankpa
Abdur-Rahim Jackson Beowulf Boritt Joti Singh
Farrah McAdam Adam Versényi Lourdes Guzmán González
Logan Marshall-Green Jamie Nakama Brenda Muñoz Salazar
Guillermo Aviles-Rodriguez Mestre Espaço
Rulan Tangen Nakissa Etemad
CPA Professional Staff

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER Tai Russotti
ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST, DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC Brooke Tester
ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST, DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS & DANCE Douangta Sorenson
ASSISTANT TO THE DEAN Leigh McTaggart
COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ANALYST Linda Eichhorn
PUBLIC AFFAIRS/COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST Jana Duncan
COSTUME SHOP SUPERVISOR Teresa Kopaz
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Theo Bridant
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR Fancelle Mariano