

UCSB Theater/Dance

LAUNCH PAD — New Plays, Fresh Ideas

THE TENSION IN THE AIR WAS ELECTRIC at a certain point during a recent reading at UCSB of James

Still's new play in progress, *April 4, 1968: Before We Forget How To Dream*.

Seven actors, including two UCSB Theater/Dance faculty, stood before a small audience in a black

box environment and read the play in the presence of the playwright, an essential key to the intimate artistic

experience nurtured by Theater/Dance's Summer LAUNCH PAD: New Plays in Progress. *April 4* takes place on the evening Martin

Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis in 1968 and Robert F.

Kennedy was compelled to assume the onerous but important duty of breaking the devastating news to an outdoor rally gathered in Indianapolis to support Kennedy's presidential campaign. Standing and facing the audience, the actors became the hopeful crowd that had gathered to hear senator Kennedy give a speech about his own hopes for America. The sound of Kennedy's recorded voice from that moment in history long ago - consoling, compassionate, and visionary - mesmerized.

"We named it LAUNCH PAD in 2010," explained Risa Brainin, Theater/Dance Chair and Director of this summer's reading of *April 4*, during a telephone interview with CASA. "During the year it's part of our production season. We do one play a year, we call them Premiere Productions, which is more reflective of what they are: they're a chance for the writer to see them in a really safe environment, but fully produced so that they can learn more about how the play functions on it's feet."

UCSB's Summer LAUNCH PAD just completed its second summer, offering students a unique opportunity to enjoy hands-on collaboration with playwrights and helping them hone their new pieces that are not yet quite ready



Photo by David Bazemore

A LAUNCH PAD reading event last year with **Anne Torsiglieri, Chase O'Donnell, and Tonea Lolín**

for fully staged debuts. Working together for several weeks in a supportive academic environment, experimentation and re-imagining is nurtured. Students and playwrights alike, take away profound lessons from the collaborative experience. This summer, three in-progress plays were tweaked and fine-tuned for public review: Anne Torsiglieri's *The 'A' Train*, KJ Sanchez' *Too Much Water*, and Still's play.

LAUNCH PAD, the Fall/Winter/Spring program that brings a major playwright to UCSB for several weeks to work with students and professional colleagues to prepare and present a new play in a fully staged manner, was established in 2005.

Asked what she thought UCSB Theater/Dance students gained from what is now a year-round program with LAUNCH PAD during the

regular academic season and Summer LAUNCH PAD, Brainin repeated what she had been told by one of her former students who had performed in three LAUNCH PAD plays in a row. "The first thing she got, right out of school, was a new play to learn, because that's what most young actors are working on," Brainin shared. "She said everyone around her was freaking out about getting new rewrite pages every day." But for this UCSB LAUNCH PAD graduate and others, the process was normal. "It has given students who have been through the LAUNCH PAD program, an easy bridge into the profession," Brainin declared, proudly.

Daniel Kepl has been writing music, theatre, and dance reviews for Santa Barbara publications since he was a teenager. His professional expertise is as an orchestra conductor.

SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE

MARILYN RICKARD

On the sales of:

- 773 Dos Hermanos, \$929,000
- 1155 Via Bolzano, \$1,499,000



MARILYN RICKARD

CalBRE#: 00575869 | 805.452.8284
marilyn.rickard@sothebyshomes.com
marilynrickard.com

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Sotheby's International Realty and the Sotheby's International Realty logo are registered (or unregistered) service marks used with permission. Operated by Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. Real estate agents affiliated with Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Sotheby's International Realty, Inc.



You found your dream home

Choose a mortgage to match

When it comes to larger loans, your options can be limited. At Union Bank®, we broaden your choices and offer our most competitive rates on larger home loans.¹

Whether you're buying or refinancing, we make our best options available to you:

- Variety of Loan Programs
- Zero Point Options
- Interest-Only Payment Option²
- Portfolio Lender

Get personalized service and great rates with a Jumbo Loan.



Teri Gauthier

VP, Mortgage Consultant
NMLS ID #515671
805-565-4571
teri.gauthier@unionbank.com



Roxanne Doree

Mortgage Consultant
NMLS ID #633058
408-892-2755
roxanne.doree@unionbank.com



Gemma DeLaPena

Mortgage Consultant
NMLS ID #633245
805-268-5246
gemma.delapena@unionbank.com

¹ Loans subject to credit and collateral approval. Financing available for collateral located in CA, OR, or WA. Restrictions may apply. Terms and conditions subject to change.

² With an interest-only mortgage payment, you will not pay down the loan's principal balance during the interest-only period. Once the interest-only period ends, your payments will increase to pay back the principal and interest. Rates are subject to increase over the life of the loan. Contact your mortgage consultant to determine what your payments might be once the interest-only period ends.

