

MFA Year 3 Acting Repertory  
Scene Dock Theatre  
February 1–March 3, 2019



USC School  
of Dramatic Arts



**THE MFA ACTING CLASS OF 2019**

(L to R): **Natalia Leyva Lezcano | Malachy Silva | Akshaya Pattanayak  
Briyana Guadalupe | Carlos Harrison (seated) | AJ Clark  
Tessa Hope Slovis | Gabriel Leyva Lezcano | Calahan Skogman  
Zaire Martínez Roldán | Brett Wyman | Bukola Ogunmola**

**Your presence at this performance** is invaluable to us, and we trust you will enjoy watching our graduating MFA acting students in any and all of the plays that comprise this “rep” — *Children of the Sun* by Maxim Gorky in a new version by Andrew Upton, *Gnit* by Will Eno and *Swimmers* by Rachel Bonds. This multi-play repertory is the equivalent of the students’ Master’s thesis, and it culminates the ensemble performance aspect of the USC School of Dramatic Arts’ MFA actor training program. For more on the extraordinary challenges and rewards of the repertory experience, please read the words, penned by the MFA Acting’s Founding Director Andy Robinson, which perfectly capture the essence of this remarkable experience.

**DAVID WARSHOFSKY**  
Director of MFA Acting

Photo by anna azarov photography

## The MFA Acting Repertory Experience

BY ANDY ROBINSON

This rep serves two purposes in actor training: one, it brings a group of student-actors together into a working ensemble; and two, it gives them an intense repertory experience that allows them to practically apply all aspects of their training. What the actor learns from being a working member of an ensemble is every bit as important as learning the nuts and bolts of the craft. To be a true ensemble player, one develops a vital connection and a responsibility to the other players. Individual talents are brought together into a coherent and responsive ensemble that creates the potential for extraordinary theatre.

Michael Chekhov, the great Russian actor, director and teacher, believed “the purpose of all training is to create character.” After more than two years of classes, workshops and performance situations, each one of these actors has now created three or more characters from three very different plays. And because they are a small group taking on this enormous challenge, they are sometimes playing roles that commercial theatres would be reluctant to hire them to play. Nothing stretches an actor more than to struggle with a character that’s 180 degrees removed from her or his “type.” It’s this kind of “miscasting” that often allows for revelatory performance.

Until relatively recently, actors coming out of drama school had more opportunity to secure an apprenticeship

with one of a number of resident repertory companies located throughout the country. The intensity of the rep experience (rehearsing one play during the day, playing another at night) allowed the apprentice to put recent drama school training to the test of practical application. Unfortunately, these resident rep companies have dwindled down to a precious few.

Today, the vast majority of students coming out of drama school are immediately thrown into a “freelance” situation where the work comes sporadically with a lot of “down time” in-between. The formative practical experience that professional rep companies used to provide has now, to a large extent, fallen to academy-styled university or private actor-training programs.

And if the repertory experience is not even offered in these programs, then chances are slim that the graduated actor will ever find it in the professional world.

Multi-play rep is not for the faint of heart. It requires stamina, patience and true belief in the creative imagination. Every bit of intellectual, emotional and physical resource the actor possesses is put into play. It’s an experience that strengthens and expands presence, the actor’s most valuable asset, and I am deeply grateful to the School of Dramatic Arts for keeping the experience alive here at USC.

### REPERTORY PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

***Children of the Sun***

Fri, Feb 1 | 7:30 p.m.  
Sat, Feb 2 | 2:30 p.m.  
Sat, Feb 16 | 8 p.m.  
Sun, Feb 17 | 2:30 p.m.  
Fri, Feb 22 | 7:30 p.m.  
Sat, Feb 23 | 2:30 p.m.  
Wed, Feb 27 | 7:30 p.m.  
Thu, Feb 28 | 7:30 p.m.

***Gnit***

Sat, Feb 2 | 8 p.m.  
Sun, Feb 3 | 2:30 p.m.  
Wed, Feb 13 | 7:30 p.m.  
Thu, Feb 14 | 7:30 p.m.  
Sat, Feb 23 | 8 p.m.  
Sun, Feb 24 | 2:30 p.m.  
Fri, Mar 1 | 7:30 p.m.  
Sat, Mar 2 | 2:30 p.m.

***Swimmers***

Sat, Feb 9 | 8 p.m.  
Sun, Feb 10 | 2:30 p.m.  
Fri, Feb 15 | 7:30 p.m.  
Sat, Feb 16 | 2:30 p.m.  
Wed, Feb 20 | 7:30 p.m.  
Thu, Feb 21 | 7:30 p.m.  
Sat, Mar 2 | 8 p.m.  
Sun, Mar 3 | 2:30 p.m.

## MFA Year 3 Acting Repertory

Scene Dock Theatre February 1–March 3, 2019

### The Company

**AJ Clark** | **Briyana Guadalupe** | **Carlos Harrison**  
**Gabriel Leyva Lezcano** | **Natalia Leyva Lezcano**  
**Zaire Martínez Roldán** | **Bukola Ogunmola**  
**Akshaya Pattanayak** | **Malachy Silva**  
**Calahan Skogman** | **Tessa Hope Slovis** | **Brett Wyman**

### In Repertory

## Children of the Sun

 By **Maxim Gorky**

In a new version by **Andrew Upton** Scenic Design **Takeshi Kata**  
Costume Design **Kathryn Poppen** Lighting Design **Derek Christiansen**  
Sound Design **Dom Torquato** Projection Design **Abigail Light**  
Stage Manager **Marcedes L. Clanton**  
Directed by **Kate Burton**

## Gnit

 By **Will Eno**

Scenic Design **Takeshi Kata** Costume Design **Kathryn Poppen**  
Lighting Design **Derek Christiansen** Sound Design **Ethan Zeitman**  
Projection Design **Abigail Light** Stage Manager **Marcedes L. Clanton**  
Directed by **Andrei Belgrader**

## Swimmers

 By **Rachel Bonds**

Scenic Design **Takeshi Kata** Costume Design **Kathryn Poppen**  
Lighting Design **Derek Christiansen** Sound Design **Alysha Bermudez**  
Projection Design **Abigail Light** Stage Manager **Marcedes L. Clanton**  
Original Music composed and performed by **Fay Wolf**  
Directed by **David Warshofsky**

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Marcedes L. Clanton, Stage Manager, is appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

These productions use the Artist Engagement Services of the University Resident Theatre Association.

*Children of the Sun* was first performed by The Royal National Theatre, London in the Lyttleton Theatre on 9th April, 2013. Adaptation © Andrew Upton, 2014. *Children of the Sun* is produced by special arrangement with Faber and Faber.

*Gnit* received its World Premiere in the 2013 Humana Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville and is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

*Swimmers* received its World Premiere Production at Marin Theatre Company, Jasson Minadakis, Artistic Director; Michael Barker, Managing Director, Mill Valley, CA. Winner of the 2015 Sky Cooper New American Play Prize at Marin Theatre Company, Mill Valley, CA Artistic Director, Jasson Minadakis; Managing Director, Michael Barker and is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

# Children of the Sun

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

**Protasov Fyodorich Protasov**  
Malachy Silva

**Antonovna, the Protasov's Nanny**  
Natalia Leyva Lezcano

**Roman/Yakov Troshin**  
Calahan Skogman

**Elizaveta Fyodorovna (Liza)**  
Tessa Hope Slovis

**Yegor/Doctor**  
Gabriel Leyva Lezcano

**Boris Borisovich Chepurnoy**  
Brett Wyman

**Melaniya Borisovna/Avdotyia (Yegor's Wife)**  
Briyana Guadalupe

**Efimia Ivanovna (Fima)/Lukeria (Loosha)**  
Bukola Ogunmola

**Nazar Avdeyich Vigrusov**  
Akshaya Pattanayak

**Mikhail Nazarov Vigrusov (Misha)**  
AJ Clark

**Elyene Nikolaevna Protasov (Yelena)**  
Zaire Martínez Roldán

**Dimitri Sergeyich Vaguin (Vageen)**  
Carlos Harrison

Time/Place: **A small town in Russia in the summer of 1905**

ACT 1: In the house after breakfast

ACT 2: The same day in the garden after dinner

ACT 3: In the house the next day

ACT 4: In the garden the next day

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

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### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to this stunning adaptation by Andrew Upton of Maxim Gorky's masterful *Children of the Sun*. Maxim Gorky picks up where Anton Chekhov leaves us at the end of *The Cherry Orchard*. Chekhov looked longingly to the past and gazed warily into the future in his final masterwork and Gorky hurtles us towards this future. Written during the 1905 revolution, Gorky gives us a snapshot of what a group of scientists, artists, merchants, workmen and peasants were thinking about and wrestling with as they looked around them and saw the world that they had grown up with disappearing before their eyes. Upton has updated Gorky's work so that it tumbles out at us with much overlapping dialogue and vibrant anachronisms. Gorky's heart beats loud and clear throughout giving us a story that is densely packed but rampages along for a surprisingly fleet experience. Welcome to Russia in 1905.

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### PRODUCTION STAFF

Vocal Coach **Natsuko Ohama** | Vocal Coach **Lauren Murphy Yeoman** | Fight Choreography **Edgar Landa** | 1st Asst. Stage Manager **Arturo Fernandez, Jr.** | 2nd Asst. Stage Manager **Zoya Naqvi** | Asst. Scenic Design **Mimi Bower** | Asst. Costume Design **Gigi Shin** | LX/Lighting Design Mentor **Jason Thompson** | Sound Design Mentor **Alma Reyes-Thomas** | Assoc. Sound Designer **Jack Johnson** | Crew **Gena Baek, Alexis Cruz, Courtney Frank, Oscar Gonzalez, Aidan Gray, Michael Howard, Kumar Rohit, Sindri Sigfusson**

### SPECIAL THANKS

Center Theatre Group, Kevin Williams at UCLA

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**WARNING** Please be advised that this production contains mature language and themes.

# Gnit

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

### **Peter**

Gabriel Leyva Lezcano

### **Mother/Dark Lady**

Bukola Ogunmola

### **Stranger 1/Green Family**

### **International Man/Beggar/Auctioneer**

AJ Clark

### **Stranger 2/Green Family/Bartender**

### **Pastor/Shackleton**

Calahan Skogman

### **Stranger 3/Hunter/Robber**

### **Bremen/Grave Digger**

Carlos Harrison

### **Town**

Akshaya Pattanayak

### **Bridesmaid/Women in Green**

### **Sick Woman/Anitra**

Natalia Leyva Lezcano

### **Moynihan/Middle/International Man**

### **Sphinx/Pale Man**

Malachy Silva

### **Uncle Joe/Green Family**

### **International Man/Begriffin/Reporter**

Brett Wyman

### **Solvay**

Briyana Guadalupe

### **Bride/Case Worker**

Tessa Hope Slovis

### **Groupie/Helen/Anna**

Zaire Martínez Roldán

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Vocal Coach **Natsuko Ohama** | Vocal Coach **Lauren Murphy Yeoman**

Music Direction **Tessa Hope Slovis** | Fight Choreography **Edgar Landa**

1st Asst. Stage Manager **Zoya Naqvi** | 2nd Asst. Stage Manager **Arturo Fernandez Jr.**

Asst. Scenic Design **Edward Hansen** | Asst. Costume Design **Gigi Shin**

LX/Projections Design Mentor **Jason Thompson** | Sound Design Mentor **Alma Reyes-Thomas**

Assoc. Sound Designer **Kiegan Lee** | Crew **Wesley Brown, Giovanni Camarena,**

**Stephen Humes, Isha Kamdar, Elise Kesler, Charrell Mack, Cameron Murphy**

Musicians **Tessa Hope Slovis, Natalia Leyva Lezcano, Brett Wyman**

**WARNING** Please be advised that this production contains theatrical haze, smoking of herbal cigarettes and mature language.

# Swimmers

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

### **LeAnna**

Zaire Martínez Roldán

### **Walter**

AJ Clark

### **Tom**

Calahan Skogman

### **Charlene**

Bukola Ogunmola

### **Vivian**

Natalia Leyva Lezcano

### **Randy**

Carlos Harrison

### **Priya**

Briyana Guadalupe

### **Farrah**

Tessa Hope Slovis

### **Yuri**

Malachy Silva

### **Bill**

Akshaya Pattanayak

### **Dennis**

Gabriel Leyva Lezcano

### **George**

Brett Wyman

There is no intermission.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Vocal Coach **Natsuko Ohama** | Vocal Coach **Lauren Murphy Yeoman**

Choreography **David Warshofsky** | Fight Choreography **Edgar Landa**

Dance Captain **Bukola Ogunmola** | Asst. Stage Manager **Zoya Naqvi**

Asst. Stage Manager **Arturo Fernandez** | Asst. Scenic Design **Milner Sommers**

Asst. Costume Design **Howard Peter Schmitt** | LX/Projections Design Mentor **Jason Thompson**

Sound Design Mentor **Alma Reyes-Thomas** | Assoc. Sound Designer **Joy Cheever**

Lighting Coordinator **CB Borger** | Music arranged and supervised by **Macgee Warshofsky**

Crew **Lorena Gonzalez, Rose Kimball, Jalen Stewart, Rebecca Tabor, Brandon Tam,**

**Galen Williams**

**WARNING** Please be advised that this production contains smoking of herbal products and mature themes.

**Kate Burton** (Director, *Children of the Sun*) is a professor of theatre practice at USC. She has directed *Three Sisters*, *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Seagull* for the MFA rep and *Twelfth Night* for the BFA. She has also directed three versions of Shakespeare/Tchaikovsky for Gustavo Dudamel and the LA Phil featuring Matthew Rhys, Anika Noni Rose, Ioan Gruffuyth, Malcolm MacDowell and Orlando Bloom. A recipient of three Tony and Emmy nominations, she has appeared in 15 Broadway shows, as well as *Grey's Anatomy* and *Scandal* and the upcoming *Where'd You Go Bernadette?* starring Cate Blanchett. A Russian Studies graduate of Brown University and The Yale School of Drama, she serves as a Western Regional Councilor for Actor's Equity Association.

**Andrei Belgrader** (Director, *Gnit*) is a professor of theatre practice at USC. He is a theatre and television director who has also been a master teacher at the Yale School of Drama, a professor at UCSD and Head of the Directing Department at Juilliard. On television, he has directed numerous episodes of *Monk*, as well as *Law & Order: Criminal Intent* and the sitcom *Coach*. He directed extensively at major regional theatres such as the American Repertory Theatre, Yale Repertory, the Goodman and Seattle Repertory, as well as in New York City. Projects in New York include Beckett's *Endgame* at BAM, with John Turturro and Elaine Stritch, and *The Cherry Orchard* at CSC, with Dianne Wiest, John Turturro and Michael Urie. Both productions were named among the 10 best productions of the year in major publications such as *The New York Times* and *New York* magazine. *The Cherry Orchard* was awarded the Lucille Lortel Award for Best Revival in 2012. Among his former students are Frances McDormand, Angela Bassett, Tony Shalhoub, Liev Shrieber, John Turturro, Patricia Clarkson, Chris Noth, Ricardo Chavira, Michael Urie and Jessica Chastain.

**David Warshofsky** (Director, *Swimmers*) is the director of the MFA in Acting program at USC. Film credits include Oliver Stone's *Born on the Fourth of July*; Paul Thomas Anderson's *There Will Be Blood* and *The Master*; Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*; Paul Greengrass' *Captain Phillips*; and the franchise films *Taken* (1 and 3) and *Now You See Me* (1 and 2). Warshofsky has appeared in numerous indie films including six at the Sundance Film Festival, most recently as Grant in *Beatriz at Dinner* by Mike White and directed by Miguel Arteta. Television credits include many *Law & Order* incarnations and, most recently, the recurring role of Theodore Peus on season 6 of ABC's *Scandal*. On stage, Warshofsky originated the role of Gottfried Swetts in Tony Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day*. Additionally, *Biloxi Blues* and Nicholas Hytner's revival of *Carousel* on Broadway; Shakespeare in the Park; Playwrights Horizons and Manhattan Theatre Club; as well as numerous regional theatres.

**DEAN**  
**BRAVERMAN FAMILY DEAN'S CHAIR**  
David Bridel

**ASSOCIATE DEANS**  
Professor Sharon Marie Carnicke (Director of BA Programs)  
Associate Professor of Theatre Practice Anita Dashiell-Sparks  
Associate Professor Oliver Mayer  
Associate Professor of Theatre Practice Stephanie Shroyer (Director of BFA Programs, Artistic Director)

**DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS**  
Velina Hasu Houston (Director of MFA Dramatic Writing, Head of Undergraduate Playwriting, Resident Playwright)

**PROFESSORS**  
Meiling Cheng

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**  
Luis Alfaro  
Takeshi Kata  
Sibyl Wickersheimer (Head of Design)

**ASSISTANT PROFESSORS**  
Alexandra Billings  
Carla Della Gatta  
Elizabeth Harper

**PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE**  
Andrei Belgrader  
Kate Burton (Master Artist)  
Kenneth Noel Mitchell (Head of Musical Theatre)  
Natsuko Ohama

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE**  
Philip G. Allen (Head of Sound Design)  
Brent Blair (Head of Theatre & Social Change)  
Paula Cizmar  
Elsbeth M. Collins (Head of Production)  
John DeMita (Head of Visual and Performing Arts Studies)  
Kathleen Dunn-Muzingo  
Scott Faris (Head of Stage Management, Alice M. Pollitt Professor in Stage Management)  
Melinda C. Finberg  
Laura Flanagan (Head of Undergraduate Voice)  
Christina Haatainen-Jones  
Joseph Hacker  
Duncan Mahoney (Head of Technical Direction, Technical Director)  
Mary Joan Negro (Head of Undergraduate Acting)  
Louise Peacock (Head of Critical Studies, Head of Comedy)  
David Warshofsky (Director of MFA Acting)

**ASSISTANT PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE**  
Lauren Murphy Yeoman  
Christopher Shaw  
Zachary Steel

**ADJUNCT LECTURERS**  
Emily Alpren, Boni Alvarez, Robert Bailey, Kay Bess, VP Boyle, Tom Buderwitz, Anne Burk, Frank Catalano, Andi Chapman, Guillermo Cienfuegos, Tiffany Cole, Caitlyn Conlin, Tim Dang, Gregg T. Daniel, Nancy Cheryll Davis, Debra De Liso, Gary Domasin, Kirstin Eggers, Christine Estabrook, Anna Faris, Dan Fishbach, Jeff Flowers, Parmer Fuller, Terry Gordon, Rena Heinrich, Murry Hepner, Paul Hungerford, Lisa James, R. Steven Johnson, Michael Keenan, Edgar Landa, Michael Laskin, Jack Lovick, Babette Markus, Marya Mazar, Kevin McCorkle, Patrick Murphy, Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine, Jeremiah O'Brian, Brett Ryback, Sim Sarna, Dan Shaner, Judith Shelton, Armin Shimerman, Nathan Singh, Ashley Steed, Rodney To, Paul Urcioli, Julie Welch  
Courtesy Joint Appointments: Thomas G. Cummings, Larry E. Greiner (Emeritus), Bruce Smith  
Emeriti Faculty: Don Llewellyn, Eve Roberts, Andy Robinson, Robert R. Scales, Eric Trules, James Wilson



# USC School of Dramatic Arts

## 2019 Spring Season of Plays

For more information about our shows, visit  
[dramaticarts.usc.edu](http://dramaticarts.usc.edu)

### MFA Acting YEAR 3 Repertory

SDT Feb 1-Mar 3, 2019

#### Children of the Sun

By Maxim Gorky

In a new version by Andrew Upton

Directed by Kate Burton

#### Gnit

By Will Eno

Directed by Andrei Belgrader

#### Swimmers

By Rachel Bonds

Directed by David Warshofsky

### The Two Gentlemen of Verona

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Drew Barr

BT Feb 21-24, 2019

### Holy Ghosts

By Romulus Linney

Directed by Jay Lee

MT Feb 28-Mar 3, 2019

### The Busybody

By Susanna Centlivre

Directed by Louise Peacock

SDT Mar 28-31, 2019

### Sunday in the Park with George

Music and Lyrics

by Stephen Sondheim

Book by James Lapine

Directed by Kelly Ward

BT Mar 28-Apr 7, 2019

### Rough Magic

By Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa

Directed by John DeMita

SDT Apr 18-21, 2019

### Queen Margaret

By William Shakespeare

Edited by J. Steven White

Directed by Kathleen Dunn-Muzingo

MT Apr 18-21, 2019

### New Works Festivals

YEAR 1

#### New Play Readings

Presented in association

with Playwrights' Arena

April 2019

YEAR 2

#### Playwrights Workshop

Presented in association

with Latino Theatre Company

MASSMAN THEATRE Apr 5-14, 2019

YEAR 3

#### Play Project

Presented in association with

The Pasadena Playhouse

May 17 & 18, 2019

KEY:

SDT = Scene Dock Theatre

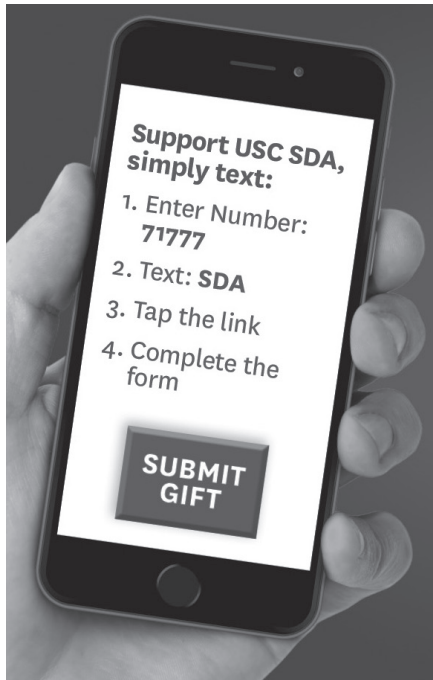
BT = Bing Theatre

MT = McClintock Theatre



#USCSDA

TICKET PRICES **Plays:** Gen \$15, USC Students/Faculty/Staff with ID \$8, **Musicals:** Gen \$20, USC Students/Faculty/Staff with ID \$10  
PERFORMANCES Thurs & Fri at 7:30 p.m., Sat at 2:30 & 8 p.m. and Sun at 2:30 p.m. (Except where noted)



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