

Department Newsletter

February 16, 2022

WELCOME TO OUR DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER!

We're excited to share the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) accomplishments of our Radio, Television, Film, and Theatre Arts faculty and staff this month.

Professor Andrea Bechert



Theatre Arts Associate Professor Andrea Bechert created the scenic design for *The Weir* at the [Jewel Theatre Company](#) in Santa Cruz. The arrival of a mysterious woman from Dublin disrupts the routine in a tiny pub in rural Ireland. The local barflies vie to impress her with tales of the supernatural—but what starts as stories of ghosts and fairies leads to revelations about love and family. Playwright Conor McPherson was awarded the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play for *The Weir*. **Photo is of the 1/4" = 1'-0" scale model of the scenic design.**

Dr. Matthew Spangler



Film and Theatre Interim Department Chair **Dr. Matthew Spangler's** adaptation of *The Kite Runner* will open on [Broadway](#) at the Helen Hayes Theatre. The production starts previews on **July 6, 2022** and runs until **October 30**. *The Kite Runner* had early performances at San José State University (2007) and the San José Repertory Theatre (2009). Read the exciting article in [The New York Times](#).

Nancy Carlin

In November and December, **Theatre Arts lecturer Nancy Carlin** understudied three roles in [Wintertime](#) by Charles L. Mee, directed by Les Waters, at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre.



Johnny Moreno



Theatre Arts lecturer Johnny Moreno is performing in [The Heroes of the Fourth Turning](#) at the SF Playhouse. Now playing through **March 5, 2022**.

Photo by Jessica Palopoli (SF Playhouse)

Dr. Philippa M. Kelly



Theatre Arts lecturer Dr. Philippa M. Kelly is keeping busy with several projects. She is the dramaturg on [Oakland Theatre Project's The Tempest](#) running **February 18 to March 13**. Read the article in Broadway world [here](#).

Dr. Kelly will also continue her public lecture series [Shakespeare-in-Depth with Philippa Kelly](#) at Cal Shakes through **March 22**. She will also be the dramaturg for the six authors who have been commissioned to co-write a play about [Roe versus Wade](#) at Remote Theatre's The Common Law Theatre Project.

Vinh G. Nguyen



Theatre Arts lecturer Vinh G. Nguyen will be directing the musical *Allegiance* at Palo Alto Players this spring. Rehearsals are set to start at the end of February and the show is slated to run from **April 22** through **May 8**. <https://paplayers.org/event/allegiance/>

In other news, Vinh was a guest on “Carefully Taught,” a Musical Theatre pedagogy podcast (episode 11), hosted by Kikau and Matty and available on all major podcast platforms. Additionally, he attended the annual Musical Theatre Educators’ Alliance (MTEA) Conference (virtually) in early January and currently serves on the Executive Committee and as the West Regional Representative for MTEA.

Last but not least, Vinh was recently featured in a [SF Chronicle article](#), which spotlighted understudy and swing experiences in the Bay Area theatre scene.

Jeffrey Lo



Photo by Charr Crail, courtesy Capital Stage



Theatre Arts lecturer Jeffrey Lo's production of Lauren Yee's [The Great Leap](#) opened last Saturday at Capital Stage in Sacramento. The production is set to run till **February 27** and will also have a video capture available for virtual audiences.

Professor Amy Glazer

Theatre Arts Professor Amy Glazer is currently knee deep in the editing process of post production for her feature film *Meli* that she shot this past fall in Oahu. Working virtually with her editor, Raymond Wood from Atlanta, they are in the process of compiling the rough cut.

Additionally, her previous feature film, *The Surrogate*, has just been released by [Amazon](#). iTunes and other major streaming platforms to follow. Many former SJSU Film and Theatre students worked behind and in front of the camera! Check out the trailer [here!](#)

Photo of Meli



Dr. Kathie Kratochvil



Theatre Arts lecturer **Dr. Kathie Kratochvil** directed two premiere short plays as part of the [8 Ten's at Eight 2022 Theatre Festival](#) at the Santa Cruz Actors' Theatre. The live production sold out in December, and was due to begin performances the weekend of January 14. Unfortunately, due to the surge in COVID cases, the live performances were canceled. However, all of the pieces were professionally filmed and will be available for on-demand streaming in mid-February.

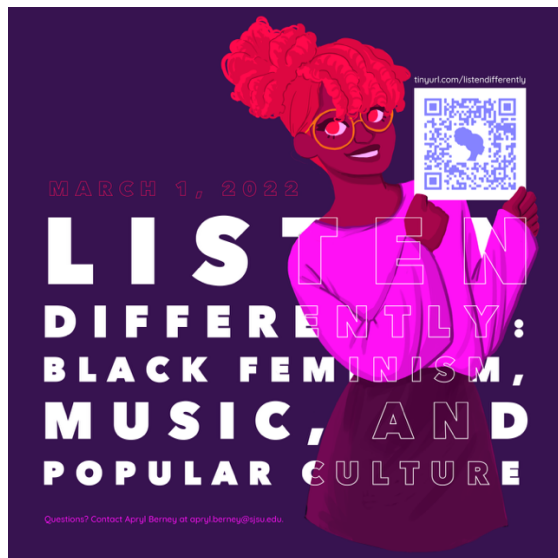
The 26th annual 10-minute play festival is one of the most anticipated and popular events of the theatre season in Santa Cruz. Eighteen awarded short plays, from our annual International Short Playwriting and Young Playwrights' contests, are performed and directed by some of the best the Santa Cruz theatre community has to offer.

Professor Kirsten Brandt



Theatre Arts Assistant Professor **Kirsten Brandt**, was profiled in the recent issue of The Dramatists Guild of America's magazine [The Dramatist](#). Additionally, she was chosen to participate in SJSU's [Grant Academy](#) where she will be writing significant external grants. Another proposal was accepted into the SJSU [eCampus Technology Equipment Program](#) to redevelop courses that meaningfully integrate technology equipment. She is working on integrating Virtual Reality components into her courses.

Dr. Apryl Berney



Radio-Television-Film lecturer Dr. Apryl Berney's

Artistic Excellence Programming Grant event, “Listen Differently: Black Feminism, Music, and Popular Culture,” takes place on **Tuesday, March 1, 2022** at the Hammer Theatre.

This project addresses the how milestones of women of color in popular music and culture are often celebrated, yet in both the music industry and in scholarly studies, little attention is paid to what women of color think about the state of popular music and culture; the impact popular images and tropes

have on their everyday lives; and the possibilities for interracial exchange and political mobilization.

“Listen Differently: Black Feminism, Music, and Popular Culture” prioritizes Black feminist thought and criticism in the Arts and Humanities by welcoming one of its most powerful practitioners—Dr. Tricia Rose—to the SJSU campus for a keynote address and conversation with Bay Area hip hop artist and journalist, Rocky Rivera.

Dr. Tricia Rose is an internationally-respected scholar of post Civil Rights era Black U.S. culture, popular music, social issues, gender, and sexuality. Her first book *Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in Contemporary America* laid the intellectual foundations for Hip Hop Studies. In 2008, Dr. Rose returned to hip hop to challenge the field she helped found, with: *The Hip Hop Wars: What We Talk About When We Talk About Hip-Hop-And Why It Matters*. Following her keynote, Dr. Rose will join in conversation with Bay Area independent hip hop artist and journalist Rocky Rivera. Their conversation will focus on addressing the lines between cultural appreciation and appropriation, along with the possibilities for social and political alliances within hip hop music and culture for women of color. Rocky will also perform songs from her latest album *Rocky's Revenge*.

ALUMNI in the SPOTLIGHT

Francisco Alvarez, class of 2018, raised over \$13,000 for his short film, [Luz de la Luna](#), which just completed principal photography. The film focuses on the San José Latino community and many SJSU alumni worked on the film as actors and crew.

Stills from the filming of Luz de la Luna



Tiana Chan was the script assistant during pre-production of Amy Glazer's *Meli* and is now in her first year at Chapman University!



A special shout out to [More Más Marami Arts](#), created by SJSU alum, and their free immersive [SJ SOUNDS](#) project which will take place over the month of **March 2022** throughout San José “exploring present-day issues such as housing, airport pollution, global warming, and more”.



RTVF and KSJS alum, **Amy Robbins**, has made her name internationally known throughout the entertainment industry. She will, once again, be contributing to the NFL SuperBowl game. Since her humble beginning as a wedding DJ and MC in 2009, she has dominated the dance floor at the acclaimed best clubs in the nation, has energized fans at all kinds of sporting events across the country and has captivated audiences on multiple syndicated radio shows over the airwaves.

Amy has shared the stage with well known artists and DJs such as John Legend, Tiesto, Diplo, Calvin Harris, Mix Master Mike, DJ Qbert, Z-Trip, The Roots and many more. She has performed in front of audiences of 70,000 people and has appeared on internationally-broadcasted television during events such as the Super Bowl, America's Cup, and U.S. Men's and Women's National Soccer Team games, and beyond.

Outside of DJing, Amy's scope of work includes scoring live event productions, producing edits, hosting shows and everything in between. She works closely with some of the most well known organizations in the world to carefully craft the perfect environment for any space, whether there are ten people, or tens of thousands of people.

Amy's exclusive compositions are heard throughout stadiums all over the world for clients such as the NFL, U.S. Soccer, the NHL, and professional football and basketball cheerleading teams. She has hosted events for clients such as Red Bull, Intel and National Geographic, and serves as an ambassador for the latest technology within the DJ industry alongside Thud Rumble. Recently, Amy has signed on as an ambassador for the number one record pool in the world, BPM Supreme. From stadiums to intimate venues, Amy's eclectic style satisfies any crowd. No matter where she performs, she becomes unforgettable.

Check out Amy's accomplishments at: <https://djamyrobbins.com/>
You can also follow Amy on Instagram (@djamyrobbins) and on Facebook.