

Christopher Ashley (Director: *MK-ULTRA*/Playhouse Artistic Director) has served as La Jolla Playhouse's Artistic Director since October, 2007. During his tenure, he has helmed the Playhouse's acclaimed productions of *Hollywood, Come From Away, The Darrell Hammond Project, Chasing the Song, His Girl Friday, Glengarry Glen Ross, A Dram of Drummhicit, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Restoration* and the acclaimed musicals *Xanadu* and *Memphis*, which won four 2010 Tony Awards including Best Musical. He also spearheaded the Playhouse's Without Walls (WoW) series and the Resident Theatre Program. Prior to joining the Playhouse, he directed the Broadway productions of *Xanadu* (Drama Desk nomination), *All Shook Up* and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations), as well as The Kennedy Center Sondheim Celebration productions of *Sweeney Todd* and *Merrily We Roll Along*. Other New York credits include: *Blown Sideways Through Life, Jeffrey* (Lucille Lortel and Obie Awards), *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told, Valhalla, Regrets Only, Wonder of the World, Communicating Doors, Bunny Bunny, The Night Hank Williams Died* and *Fires in the Mirror* (Lucille Lortel Award), among others. Mr. Ashley also directed the feature films *Jeffrey* and *Lucky Stiff*, as well as the American Playhouse production of *Blown Sideways Through Life* for PBS. Mr. Ashley is the recipient of the Princess Grace Award, the Drama League Director Fellowship and an NEA/TCG Director Fellowship.

Jaime Castañeda (Director: *Child of Colonialism*/Playhouse Associate Artistic Director) joined the Playhouse in 2014 as the Associate Artistic Director, where he recently directed *Tiger Style!* by Mike Lew. He has directed productions for Dallas Theater Center, Atlantic Theater Company, Cleveland Play House, The Old Globe, Perseverance Theatre, Kitchen Dog and American Theater Company. Mr. Castañeda has developed new plays with the O'Neill, Rattlestick Theater, Portland Center Stage, Denver Center Theater Company, The Kennedy Center and the Atlantic Theater Company, where he spent five seasons as Artistic Associate. He is a Drama League fellow and has received the Princess Grace Award and the TCG New Generations

Grant. M.F.A. in Directing from University of Texas at Austin.

Zayd Dohrn's (Playwright: *MK-ULTRA*) plays include *The Profane* (Playwrights Horizons), *Outside People* (The Vineyard/Naked Angels), *Want* (Steppenwolf First Look), *Sick* (National New Play Network), *Long Way Go Down* (Kitchen Dog), and *Reborn* (The Public/SPF). Zayd received his MFA from NYU, and was a Lila Acheson Wallace Fellow at Juilliard. He is the recipient of the 2016 Horton Foote New American Play Prize, the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, the Kennedy Center's Jean Kennedy Smith Award, the Sky Cooper American Playwriting Prize, Theatre Master's Visionary Playwrights Award, and Lincoln Center's *Lecomte du Nouy* Prize. He currently teaches in the MFA program in Writing for the Stage + Screen at Northwestern. www.zayddohrn.com.

Jackson Gay (Director: *Kill Local*) Upcoming: the new musical *Chix 6* by Lourds Lane (La MaMa); Chekhov's *Three Sisters* (Studio Theatre/New Neighborhood). Recent: Lisa Lampanelli's *Stuffed* (Women's Project); *Transfers* by Lucy Thurber (New York Stage & Film); *Much Ado About Nothing* adapted with Kenneth Lin (Cal Shakes); Suzanne Vega's *Lover, Beloved, An Evening with Carson McCullers* with music by Duncan Sheik (Rattlestick West LA and upcoming at Alley Theatre); *These Paper Bullets!* adapted from Shakespeare's *Much Ado* by Rolin Jones with music by Billie Joe Armstrong (Atlantic Theater Company, Geffen Playhouse, Yale Rep; Critics Pick Time Out NY, Best Production and Adaptation LA Stage Awards, Best of 2015 Time Out Los Angeles, Connecticut Critics Circle Award Best Production and Best Director). Jackson teaches directing at Yale College and is from Sugar Land, Texas.

Sylvia Khoury (Playwright: *Selling Kabul*) is a New York-born playwright living in Manhattan. Her play *Against the Hillside* has been featured at the Lark's Playwrights' Week, the Eugene O'Neill Playwrights' Conference, on the Kilroys List, at the Roundabout Underground Reading Series, at NNPN's National Showcase of New

Plays and at the Kennedy Center/NNPN's MFA Playwrights' Workshop. She is a member of EST's Youngblood, a member of the 2016-2018 Women's Project Lab and a 2015-2016 Dramatists' Guild Fellow. Sylvia completed her undergraduate degree in Middle Eastern Studies at Columbia University (2012) and received an MFA in Playwriting at the New School for Drama (2015). She is currently in her second year at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Rehana Lew Mirza's (Playwright: *Child of Colonialism*) *Child of Colonialism* is a commission from La Jolla Playhouse and is part three in a trilogy being co-written with her husband Mike Lew. Rehana and Mike hold a Mellon National Playwright residency at Ma-Yi Theater. Her other productions include: *Soldier X* (Ma-Yi; Kilroys selection; NYSCA Commission); *Lonely Leela* (LPAC); and *Barriers* (Desipina; AATC). She is a Rita Goldberg Playwrights' Workshop Fellow at the Lark and the recipient of a 2016 Lilly Award (Stacey Mindich commission). Previous honors include: NNPN commission via InterAct, IAAC/Lark residency, TCG/New Georges fellowship, Tofte Lake residency, E.S.T./Sloan commission. Affiliations: Ma-Yi Writers Lab and Primary Stages' Dorothy Strelsin Writers Group. MFA: Columbia University. BFA: NYU's Tisch. www.rehanamirza.com

Joanie Schultz (Director: *Selling Kabul*) is a Chicago-based freelance director. Recent work includes directing for The Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Victory Gardens Theatre, The Cleveland Play House, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Studio Theatre in Washington DC, and many other theatres throughout Chicago. Joanie holds an MFA in directing from Northwestern University; was a Drama League Fellow; The Goodman Theatre's Michael Maggio Directing Fellow; the SDCF Denham Fellow; a Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab participant; and was 2013 Co-Artistic Curator for Theater on the Lake. She is an ensemble member at Steep Theatre and associate artist with Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago; an artistic cabinet member at Studio Theatre in DC; and is on the theater faculty of Columbia College and University of Chicago. From 2014-16, Joanie served as Associate

Artistic Producer at Victory Gardens Theater, as part of the Leadership U One-on-One Fellowship funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by TCG.

Mat Smart (Playwright: *Kill Local*) won the 2015 Equity Jeff Award for Best New Work in Chicago for *The Royal Society of Antarctica* (Gift Theatre, upcoming at Stage West). Other plays include: *Naperville* (Slant Theatre Project, Theater Wit), *Tinker to Evers to Chance* (Geva, Merrimack Rep), *Samuel J. and K.* (Williamstown Theatre Festival, Steppenwolf), *The Hopper Collection* (Magic Theatre, Huntington) and *The 13th of Paris* (City Theatre, Seattle Public Theatre). Awards & Fellowships: 2014 Otis Guernsey New Voices Award from the William Inge Center for the Arts, Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, two Jerome Fellowships and a McKnight Advancement Grant. Commissions: South Coast Rep, Huntington, Denver Center, and currently, the La Jolla Playhouse, The Second City, and Geva Theatre Center. An avid baseball fan and traveler, Smart has been to all 30 of the current MLB stadiums, all 50 states and all of the continents. Undergrad: University of Evansville. MFA: UCSD.