

# San Diego Free Press

GRASSROOTS NEWS & PROGRESSIVE VIEWS

SanDiegoFreePress.org

P.O. Box 7012  
San Diego, CA 92167  
Email: [contact@sandiegofreepress.org](mailto:contact@sandiegofreepress.org)

Eric van Baars  
Director, School of Theatre and Dance  
Center for the Performing Arts Building  
1325 Theatre Drive  
Kent State University

June 14, 2017

RE: RECOMMENDATION FOR DR. YUKO KURAHASHI

Dear Mr. van Baars,

Please regard this as a letter of support for Yuko Kurahashi who is applying for promotion to full professor in the School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University. *San Diego Free Press* editor Anna Daniels recently met with Ms. Kurahashi, who has written theater reviews for the publication since early 2016. During the course of their conversation, Ms. Kurahashi mentioned her plan to apply for promotion. Ms. Daniels asked if *SDFP* could submit a recommendation on her behalf.

*San Diego Free Press* is [an award winning](#) online media platform that promotes grass roots news in the San Diego region from an explicitly progressive perspective. Its editors and contributors are all volunteer citizen journalists whose commitment to justice shapes their pursuit of truth and beauty.

Ms. Kurahashi has been pivotal in providing a cultural visibility, via her theater reviews, of whole communities and issues that are ignored or often misrepresented by main stream media outlets. She respects the intelligence of her readers, providing nuanced and in-depth analysis of a performance, allowing it to unfold in a cohesive way. She presents complex ideas, free of jargon, with an assured, conversational voice.

We will be submitting her most recent article "[Courage and Camaraderie During the Reign of Terror: Moxie Theatre Produces 'The Revolutionist'](#)" for a San Diego Society of Professional Journalism Award next year. In addition to her analysis of the themes of women's equality and

justice in the play, Ms. Kurahashi's signature attention to set design and costuming is also an important element of her article.

We feel that the professional respect and generosity of spirit that Ms. Kurahashi conveys for every aspect of stagecraft are particularly noteworthy. She travelled to Winston-Salem North Carolina to attend "[Collidescope 3.0: Adventures in Pre- and Post- Racial America](#)". The play was staged with student performers and she makes it a point to acknowledge their exemplary work. Ms. Kurahashi's review was riveting. The word "passion" is over used, but no other word comes to mind when describing Ms. Kurahashi's palpable engagement with the theatrical world and the possibilities it presents to us.

It is that palpable engagement and the intelligence that informs it that makes Ms. Kurahashi's theater reviews so relevant to our readers and so important to our efforts at *San Diego Free Press*.

Sincerely,

***San Diego Free Press Editorial Board: Anna Daniels, Rich Kacmar, Annie Lane, Patty Jones, Frank Gormlie, Doug Porter, Barbara Zaragoza, Brent Beltrán***