**Staged readings of David Abramson's tragicomic play Purely Academic**

**PLOT** - Charles Mittleman (played by David Price) sets out to pursue a successful academic career. He knows exactly where he wants to be, and he aims to get there as quickly as possible. He gets a PhD and rises rapidly through the academic ranks, trampling anyone and anything that stands in his way—including his well-intentioned mentor, Professor Holywell (Deanna Driscoll). Invincible, he reaches the pinnacle of his career and a bright future awaits, only for his past to return and challenge him.

**Dr. David Abramson** is a professor of computer science at the University of Queensland in Australia (UQ). In addition to a staged reading at UQ, *Purely Academic* has been performed at Oxford University (2013) and the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (2017). The UC San Diego staged readings will be the play's US premiere.