



NEW SOUTH young playwrights festival



JUNE 8-13, 2020

**NEW SOUTH YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL
JUNE 13, 7PM**

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About Horizon's New South Young Playwrights Festival

This year, the winners of our New South Young Playwrights Contest, who hail from all over the country, joined us for a one-week virtual playwriting experience at Horizon. During this intensive program, they were submerged in the world of playwriting and theatre. They wrote every day and worked with their mentors/dramaturgs. attended seminars and workshops, and met nationally acclaimed playwrights of all ages and backgrounds. They saw plays, discussed, and debated. They heard their own work read by professional actors. And most importantly, they were nurtured and supported as young artists and as the future of American theatre. **The short plays that you will see today were written this week as a part of their residency at Horizon.**

The PLAYS

THE JINGLEMAN CHRONICLES • by Amanda Friedman *NYU*

Conrad Jingleman: BRANDON MICHAEL MAYES •

Bethany Longwood: MAGGIE BIRGEL •

Candice van Walden: MICHELLE POKOPAC •

John Johnson: CORDELL COLE •

Stage Directions: JACK PADGETT

(Mentor: Darren Canady; Director: Heidi McKerley)

RUEDAS • by Emily Beltran *UCLA*

Mago: CHRIS HECKE • Sylvia: NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL • Stage

Directions: MARKELL WILLIAMS

(Mentor: Adrienne Dawes; Director: Keith Arthur Bolden)

A NIGHT • by Cassidy Byron *NYU*

Jonathan: CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON •

Roger: JUSTIN WALKER

Clara: SHELLI DELGADO • Melanie: PARRIS SARTER •

Stage Directions: LAURA BLANKENSHIP

(Mentor: Lauren Brooke Ellis; Director: Lydia Fort)

UNFAMILIAR • by Cameron Noel *University of the South-Sewanee*

Nancy: CARA MANTELLA • Leslie: NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL • Stage

Directions: MARKELL WILLIAMS

(Mentor: Rachel Graf Evans; Director: Keith Arthur Bolden)

VIRTUAL SILENCE • by Anna Steuerman *Townson University*

Cara/ Voice Four: MAGGIE BIRGEL •

Voice One: BRANDON MICHAEL MAYES •

Voice Two/ Young Woman: MICHELLE POKOPAC •

Voice Three/ Jeff: CORDELL COLE •

Stage Directions: JACK PADGETT

(Mentor: I.B. Hopkins; Director: Heidi McKerley)

SANDING DOWN • by Abigail Norris

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Nya Beth: PARRIS SARTER • Julissa: SHELLI DELGADO
Rian: JUSTIN WALKER • Simon: CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON • Stage
Directions: LAURA BLANKENSHIP
(Mentor: Lauren Brooke Ellis; Director: Lydia Fort)

CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE GROCERY EMPLOYEE

by Claire Dell-Priscoli *SUNY-Albany*

Kayla: NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL • Janine: CARA MANTELLA •
Stage Directions: CHRIS HECKE
(Mentor: Rachel Graf Evans; Director: Keith Arthur Bolden)

JOE BIDEN AND DAPHNE: A SATYR PLAY • by Luke Maloney *NYU*

Daphne: MICHELLE POKOPAC •
Joe Biden: BRANDON MICHAEL MAYES •
Stage Directions: JACK PADGETT
(Mentor: I.B. Hopkins; Director: Heidi McKerley)

SELF-CHECKOUT • by Gerard Eglitis *GSU*

Terence: CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON • Candace: PARRIS SARTER
Jensen: JUSTIN WALKER • Mandy: SHELLI DELGADO •
Stage Directions: LAURA BLANKENSHIP
(Mentor: Lauren Brooke Ellis; Director: Lydia Fort)

FRAGILE • by AJ Maryn *Community College of Philadelphia*

Zach: MARKELL WILLIAMS • Juno: CARA MANTELLA • Stage
Directions: NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL
(Mentor: Adrienne Dawes; Director: Keith Arthur Bolden)

CAMILLE ANDERSON: VICE-PRESIDENT • by Jayla Creekmur *NYU*

Camille Anderson: SHELLI DELGADO •
Mr. Miller: CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON •
Stage Directions: PARRIS SARTER
(Mentor: Edith Freni; Director: Lydia Fort)

LUCK BE A LADY • by Brooklyn Norrington *KSU*

Bianca Elizabeth: MICHELLE POKOPAC •
Amell: BRANDON MICHAEL MAYES • Beatrix: MAGGIE BIRGEL •
Antonio: CORDELL COLE • Stage Directions: JACK PADGETT
(Mentor: I.B. Hopkins; Director: Heidi McKerley)

—5-MINUTE INTERMISSION—

TWO DINOSAURS UNDER THE SUN • by Darby Sherwood

University of Washington

Troo: CHRIS HECKE • Rio: NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL •

Stage Directions: CARA MANTELLA

(Mentor: Adrienne Dawes; Director: Keith Arthur Bolden)

MURDER IS NOT JUST MURDER by Orlean Vidrine

Carnegie Mellon

Ama: SHELLI DELGADO • Sal: PARRIS SARTER • Stage Directions:

CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

(Mentor: Edith Freni; Director: Lydia Fort)

THE MOYO DILEMMA • by Eliana Mabe Rhodes College

Dr. Moyo: NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL • Karina: CARA MANTELLA

Darius: MARKELL WILLIAMS • Tristan Wells: CHRIS HECKE •

Stage Directions: ELISSA VILLALOVAS

(Mentor: Rachel Graf Evans; Director: Keith Arthur Bolden)

ONBOARDING • by Bella Cavicchi Brown University

May: MICHELLE POKOPAC • Stage Directions: JACK PADGETT

(Mentor: Darren Canady; Director: Heidi McKerley)

...ESSENTIALLY • by D.A. Mindell Emory University

Jay: CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON • Celeste: SHELLI DELGADO

Melanie: PARRIS SARTER • Stage Directions: JUSTIN WALKER

(Mentor: Edith Freni; Director: Lydia Fort)

RAINDANCE • by William O'Neal II Emory University

Joel: BRANDON MICHAEL MAYES • Becca: MICHELLE POKOPAC

Riley: MAGGIE BIRGEL • Stage Directions: CORDELL COLE

(Mentor: Darren Canady; Director: Heidi McKerley)

RADIO SILENCE, WHITE NOISE • by Hannah Rose Wagner

Emory University

Charlie: MAGGIE BIRGEL • Abraham: CORDELL COLE

Radio Host: CHRIS HECKE •

Radio Guest: BRANDON MICHAEL MAYES •

Stage Directions: MARKELL WILLIAMS

(Mentor: I.B. Hopkins; Director: Keith Arthur Bolden)

GOPHER BROKE • by Matthew Pittard Rice University

Reggie: CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON • Nat: SHELLI DELGADO • Stage

Directions: JUSTIN WALKER

(Mentor: Edith Freni; Director: Lydia Fort)

PLAYING GAMES • by Beverley Sylvester *Emory University*

Meadow: MAGGIE BIRGEL • Charlie: CORDELL COLE

Amelia (Waitress): MICHELLE POKOPAC •

Stage Directions: BRANDON MICHAEL MAYES

(Mentor: Darren Canady; Director: Heidi McKerley)

BONES UNDER THE MAGNOLIA TREE • by Maya Gelting

Agnes Scott College

Jeremy: CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON • Mina: PARRIS SARTER •

Stage Directions: SHELLI DELGADO

(Mentor: Lauren Brooke Ellis; Director: Lydia Fort)

GETTING A HANDLE • by Logan Butcher *University of Houston*

Catalina: MICHELLE POKOPAC • Thomas: CORDELL COLE •

Stage Directions: JACK PADGETT

(Mentor: Darren Canady; Director: Heidi McKerley)

THE HOLY BLOCKBUSTER • by Le'Kee Horton *KSU*

Ashley: CARA MANTELLA • Rodney: MARKELL WILLIAMS

Clarence: CHRIS HECKE • God: NAIMA CARTER RUSSEL •

Stage Directions: ELISSA VILLALOVAS

(Mentor: Adrienne Dawes; Director: Keith Arthur Bolden)

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions:

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through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in
permitting the Artists to appear on this program.

Festival Leadership

Lisa Adler, Artistic Director
Amy Levin, NSYPF Coordinator

Festival Staff

Nichole Palmietto, NSYPF Assistance
Clifton Guterman, Casting
Elissa Villalovas, Intern
Laura Blackenship, Intern

Readers: Kyle Bostian, Amy Levin, Lisa Adler, Sally Eggleston, Heidi McKerley, Suehyla El-Attar, Lauren Morris, LaWanda Green

Directors

Heidi McKerley (Horizon Artistic Associate)
Lydia Fort (faculty, Emory University)
Keith Arthur Bolden (faculty, Spelman College)

Plays in Blue directed by Heidi McKerley; Plays in Red directed by Lydia Fort; Plays in Green directed by Keith Arthur Bolden

Festival Teachers and Dramaturgs

Lead Mentors/Professional Playwrights:
Darren Canady (faculty, University of Kansas)
Edith Freni (faculty, Emory University, University of the South-Sewanee)

MFA Mentors:
Lauren Brooke Ellis (Hollins University), Rachel Graf Evans (Temple University),
Adrienne Dawes (University of Arkansas), I.B. Hopkins (University of Texas, Austin)

VERY SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank the artists and leaders who gave generously of their time and talents this week to launch the next generations of playwrights.

Itamar Moses, Tony Award winning book writer *The Band's Visit*
J. Holtham, television writer; Steve Yockey, award-winning playwright and television writer
Annah Feinberg, television animation writer
Sharr White, award-winning playwright and television writer
Aaron Carter, award-winning playwright and television writer
Victor Malana Maog, playwright; RJ Tolan, Ensemble Studio Theatre/Youngblood
Jenni Page-White, Literary Manager, Actors' Theatre of Louisville
Amber Bradshaw, Executive Director, Working Title Playwrights (Atlanta)
Marie Cisco, independent producer, formerly producer for The Public Theatre
Jeremy B. Cohen, Executive Director, The Playwrights Center
Adam Szymkowitz, Julliard School faculty
Emily Dendinger, playwright, MFA University of Iowa Playwright's Workshop.
Andrew Saito, playwright, MFA, University of Iowa Playwrights Workshop
A. Rey Pamatmat, playwright
Zayd Dohrn, playwright, MFA, NYU
Thomas W. Jones II, playwright/director, former artistic director Jomandi Productions
Lauren Gunderson, award-winning playwright and NSYPF Alumni
Korde Arrington Tuttle, playwright and NSYPF Alumni
Emma Goidel, playwright and NSYPF Alumni
Gabriel Jason Dean, playwright and NSYPF Alumni, MFA UT-Austin's Michener Center for Writers; Andrew Watring, playwright and NSYPF alumni
Kimberly Belflower, playwright, Emory Playwriting Fellow, MFA, University of Texas at Austin

On behalf on the 2020 New South Young Playwrights, artists, and staff at Horizon Theatre Company, we would like to thank

The National Endowment of the Arts

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The Molly M. Blank Fund of The Arthur M.

Blank Family Foundation

for your generous support of our New South Young Playwrights Festival. We appreciate the continued commitment of these important organizations to nurture the next generation of talented young writers.



NSYPF Playwrights



Abigail G. Norris is a playwright and actor from Richmond, Virginia. Last month, she finished her B.A. in Theatre Performance at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She has written four full-length scripts, all of which have been produced and/or publicly workshoped. She has also written and devised over thirty short plays as a part of a theatre company (known as Short Plays for Hot Singles Near You) that she created with other UNCW Theatre students. She doesn't like to talk much but loves to eavesdrop which, any writer can tell you, is the perfect recipe for finding golden dialogue. She is a big advocate of Theatre for Social Change. As Margaret Atwood said, "A word after a word after

a word is power." Abigail hopes her words can help others find pride, power, and perspective. Also, once she had to play a Squid Girl onstage and is now vehemently determined to help fill the world of playwrighting with less talking animal scripts

AJ Maryn (they/them pronouns) is a Philadelphia-based multi-disciplined theatre artist, creating work that exposes vulnerabilities and speaks to emotional truths within us all. They come from a creative background that includes many years of dance, singing and acting, in addition to writing short stories and non-fiction essays. Maryn is an early-career playwright, whose first short play production was in Mesa, Arizona, on March 2019, for Laughing Pig Theatre's Monologue Cafe play festival. Since then, they have had their short plays produced in many festivals in New York City. They are currently studying English at the Community College of Philadelphia while working on a production of their first full length play, as well as their first EP. AJ Maryn (who can also be found as Alex J. Maryn) can be contacted by email at handleproductions@gmail.com and followed on Instagram @temporaryground.



Amanda Friedman (New York University) is a writer, producer, and actor from Stamford, Connecticut. She is currently a rising junior at New York University studying Dramatic Writing, with plans on concentrating in TV writing. She has completed several comedic works during her time at Tisch so far, and was given the opportunity to have some produced. These include her most recent film *Appetite* and her 2019 film *Bad.*, which received "Best Original Screenplay" at NYU Tisch's 48 Hour Film Festival and "Best Concept" at the Rough Cut Film Festival. Along with this, she also enjoys doing aerial silks and was lucky enough to combine her interests as the producer for Camp Lindenmere's 2019 circus show "Click and Flip".



Anna Steuerman (Towson University) is an actor, poet, playwright, dragster, solo performer, and theatre artist from Baltimore, MD, and graduated this May from Towson University with a B.F.A. in Acting. Their favorite type of theatre is "theatre that hits you in the gut" and their favorite word to live by is "vast" (Ask them why! They have a poem and a whole thesis to share with you). Amidst our current pandemic, Anna has begun work on their first poetry album and a virtual theatre and art collaboration space called The Porch Night Collective with TU Theatre peers and alumni. When not in the theatre Anna can be found rock climbing, spending quality time with their beloved dog Stella, and supporting their local drag community. Anna firmly believes the best way to tell stories, especially stories that reflect a narrative different than one's own, is to listen.





Bella Cavicchi, originally from Mansfield, MA, is a rising senior at Brown University, where she is pursuing an independent major in Literacy and the Performing Arts. She is passionate about increasing access to the arts and creating theatre for all ages, and she aspires to a career in arts education. In addition to playwriting, she also loves to read, bake, and stage manage student productions.

Beverly Sylvester (Emory University) is a rising Junior pursuing a double major in music composition and playwriting. Her dream career is one in which she creates beautiful things that encourage people to love and find magic in each other and themselves. Her current means of acquiring money include giving piano lessons, teaching martial arts, gigging with her band, and miscellaneous artistic endeavors. Some of her recent recognitions are the Artistine Mann Award for her play *Becoming*, acceptance into the Juniper Summer Writing Institute for poetry, and selection for Vice Presidency of Emory Musician's Network.



Brooklyn Norrington (Kennesaw State University) is an aspiring actress, musical theatre performer, and playwright. From Los Angeles to Marietta, Georgia, Brooklyn now resides in Kennesaw, working towards earning a BA in Theatre and Performance Studies as a third-year student at Kennesaw State University. She wrote her first original, short play her senior year of high school, and has recently gotten involved in creating more works of art with her fellow co-playwright Le'Kee Horton, and as an individual. Her first experience with theatre was in 2014, performing as a Dynamite in *Hairspray*, and after feeling the magic of theatre, caught stage fever and a passion for the arts immediately! Brooklyn has been casted as Snoopy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Feste the Clown in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, and Gloria in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, along with many more roles and shows! After she graduates, Brooklyn would like to pursue a career in musical theatre and acting, and hopes to someday be seen on a Broadway stage and feature films! Not only does she believe in the love and light that theatre possesses, but she also has unwavering faith and confidence in herself and her path in life, and would like to assure everyone that with hard work, time, positivity, and perseverance, you can do anything you set your mind to!

Cameron Shomari Noel (Sewanee) is a rising senior at Sewanee University. He is studying Theatre with a minor in dance. Originally from Glen Allen Virginia, he is currently located in Suitland Maryland. He is an aspiring director and playwright who enjoys writing plays centered around the experiences of African Americans & the LGBTQ community. In 2018 he attended a playwriting intensive at the Kennedy Center and served as a paid playwriting fellow for their summer festival. On Sewanee's campus, he is a Posse Scholar, member of the track team, and member of the Queer & Ally house (2018-2020). This year he also was a member of Advocates for Youth, as a member of their Youth resource team. He focused on spreading awareness about sexual health and fought to have PREP available at the University Wellness Center. In his spare time, he enjoys binge-watching shows on Hulu and Netflix, dancing, and making youtube videos. His goal as a writer is to create interesting and thought-provoking plays featuring minorities that both show the issues they face, but also allows them to exist without being boxed in by their identities.





Cassidy Byron (any pronouns) is a rising third year student at NYU Tisch studying dramatic writing with a focus in playwriting. They are dedicated to telling queer stories and employing fellow queer artists, and will only write a cis het character as a villain. Ze has been involved in theatre for a little over 10 years, including over 50 credits in acting alone. Huge thanks to his fellow classmates at NYU for helping make this show what it is, and to xir girlfriend, Lexi, for all the undying support. See more of Cassidy's work at cassidybyron.pb.gallery, or follow her instagram [@booksbroadwayb99](https://www.instagram.com/booksbroadwayb99). Happy pride month!

Claire Dell-Priscoli is an aspiring queer playwright and part time actor. She just finished her first year at UAlbany and is studying to get her Masters in Information Studies in order to become a librarian, with a minor in theatre. Although she goes to school in Albany, she's originally from Southern New Jersey, in a town fifteen minutes from Atlantic City. So, no, she can't pump her own gas. When she's not writing or crying to a Front Bottoms song, she enjoys video games, cross-stitching/embroidery, song-writing, poetry, and cooking! She's always been inspired by theatre, and used to be in a leadership position in her drama club in high school as a captain. She's also a part of the improv trope on campus, and recently performed in a production of *Suddenly Last Summer* last winter. Instead of having a normal job like a functioning person in society, she just plays Animal Crossing all day, every day. Although she has written scripts before, they often have never seen the light of day. She did, however, win a screenwriting award from Rowan University at their RTF Media festival in 2019. This is her first public theatre work, and she's ecstatic it will be shown off at the festival!



Darby Sherwood (University of Washington) comes from Aurora, Illinois and is a rising junior at the University of Washington in Seattle studying Drama and Political Science. Her play *Two Heads of a Hydra* has been performed and rehearsed three times in the past three years. She has also adapted new versions of *Three Sisters* and *Romeo and Juliet* for performance by the UW School of Drama. She is also a director, dramaturg, and classical singer. Her most recent project was directing and performing in *Everyone Gets Eaten by Sharks* with Asbestos Productions.





D.A. Mindell is a rising junior at Emory University, where he majors in playwriting and minors in Hebrew (and no, as of yet, he has not written a play in Hebrew). He originally hails from Woodbridge, Connecticut and does not miss the snow at all. At Emory, he is a founding member and community outreach chair of the school's first and only Disability Advocacy Group. He also sits on the board of Ad Hoc, the school's student musical theatre company, where he occupies the position of mediation office, which he created to facilitate communication between cast, crew, designers, and board members. He served as a production assistant for the 2018-2019 Theater Emory season, and held a production internship at the

Welfare Harbor Actors Theater for their 2019 season. Drew is a content creator for Sex Ed Queeries, an LGBT-inclusive sexual education YouTube series. He is currently co-directing a virtual production of "You On The Moors Now," which will stream June 18-20, and will be directing "The Baltimore Waltz" in the fall. His play "Grow Your Roots A Mile Long And Get Me Tangled Up" received its first workshop in the 2020 Lenaia Student Playwriting Festival.

Eliana Mabe (Rhodes College) is a rising sophomore from Colorado Springs, Colorado. She is pursuing a double major in Theatre and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology while being exposed to the vivid community in beautiful Memphis, Tennessee. She writes under the pen name Neurawtic, drawing from her left brain-right brain conflict. Her piece for the NYSPF "Show-and-Tell" is her first original play and her first festival submission. She would like to thank Dr. Dave Mason and Dr. Joy Brooke Fairfield for supporting her through this process and seeing something in her that has since been undiscovered. Neurawtic has explored every aspect of theatre her college program has to offer, including acting in the punk rock musical *Hissifit*, working in the production shop, and assistant directing the what-would-have-been regional spring premiere of *Firebringer*. She is heavily involved in the Rhodes Theatre Guild, a student organization dedicated to producing more diverse opportunities in all areas of the theatre community, from tech crew to costume design to the lead role. This coming year she is serving as RTG's secretary, directing *The Prom*, and continuing to write stories that represent minorities, mental health, female empowerment, and hope in these uncertain times.



Emily Marie Beltrán (UCLA) is from Paramount, California. She is an Undergraduate Theater, Film and Television major that will graduate this month with an emphasis in Playwriting. Her love for writing came in her youth, and flourished in High School when she won a competition for Theatre of N.O.T.E.'s Young Writers Project in 2015. Since then, her focus has expanded into writing, directing and acting in Latinx plays. She has been involved with LATIC's The Latino Theater Company, and acted in the 2019 production of LA VICTIMA that was set to continue touring in 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19. She also loves to sing, play music, paint, and take care of children and teenagers! She became a Summer Theater Counselor and is a part-

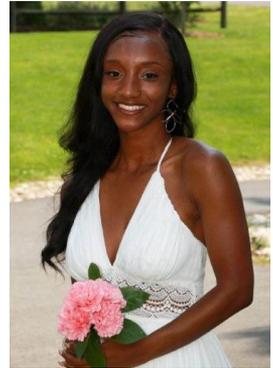
time Caretaker. She is excited to have this opportunity to interact and learn from so many other great theater artists in this program.

Gerard Eglitis Jr. (Georgia State University) was born in Boston, Massachusetts, but currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a rising senior pursuing a BA in Film and Media with a minor in Entertainment Media Management. His enthusiasm for filmmaking has led him to his newest interest in writing for the stage as well. He hopes to create art that not only serves as escapism from the hellscape that is planet Earth but also allows people to laugh a little, with his favorite genre being satire.



Hanna Rose Wagner is a playwright and theater artist from Seattle, currently studying playwriting at Emory University. She's passionate about eco-theater, coffee, dramatic research, her dogs, and a very specific female pirate in feudal Ireland that she's writing a musical about. She has been involved in many facets of theater in the past; some recent favorites include serving as the Artistic Producer of the Lenaia Playwriting Festival at Emory, working as a dramaturg for Village Theater's production of *Tuck Everlasting*, and co-music directing Emory's production of *Heathers*.

Jayla Creekmur is a rising sophomore studying Dramatic Writing at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She was born and raised in New Jersey. Ever since high school, she has had a passion for filmmaking, acting and screen/playwriting. She has served as a member of the Montclair Film Festival Junior Jury and has acted in multiple theatre productions. Her screenplay *College Dreams* was awarded Best Youth Screenplay at the Newark International Film Festival. Throughout her artistic journey, she has noticed that there exists a lack of positive media representation of people who looked like her. As a young person who is equally passionate about social justice, she aims to use her art as a platform to create more narratives starring underrepresented groups, therefore allowing audiences to "meet" characters of different backgrounds and dispel the stigmas surrounding certain cultures. She wants to write plays and films that are drenched in a multitude of cultures and filled with a diverse array of intriguing and complex characters.



Le'Kee Horton (Kennesaw State University) is an aspiring entertainer currently studying Theatre at KSU. His love for thrillers, horror, and campy comedy all forged to create his taste in storytelling. He loves to entertain in any way possible and dreams of one day creating a cult classic.

Logan Butcher is a Houston-based theatre artist focused on playwriting, dramaturgy, directing, and producing (new play development). As a co-founder of Theatre 66, he enjoys developing new works with young artists in the Houston area; they recently produced *The NEOS Showcase: A Short Play Festival* at The Alley Theatre. A piece he wrote titled "What it Takes to Thrive" was produced by the Houston Symphony in the event *Resilient Sounds* at White Oak Music Hall. Several of his ten-minute plays have been produced in the University of Houston 10-Minute Play Festival. He worked on dramaturgy for *Julius Caesar* and *As You Like It* at the Houston Shakespeare Festival last summer. During the COVID-19 quarantine, he has workshoped and live-streamed over 15 plays (and counting) through *The Quarantine Series*, a project he co-founded. If Logan isn't reading or writing, he can often be found playing basketball at the park despite his height disadvantage.



Luke Maloney (New York University) is from Wilton, Connecticut. Currently a junior studying dramatic writing, Luke loves to read works from Annie Baker, Martin McDonagh, and Suzanne Lori-Parks. He spends as much time in the woods of Connecticut as he can. He likes to do improv and sketch comedy on campus, but stand up is too scary for him. Luke is not as blurry in real life as his "headshot" might suggest.

Matthew Pittard (Rice University) was born in Atlanta, although he's lived most of his life in Winston-Salem, NC. He graduated this May from Rice University with degrees in English (Concentration in Creative Writing) and French Studies. Across four years of college, he has served variously as an actor, director, producer, and writer in nearly a dozen productions and events. His one-act *Yukon Breakfast* was the first of his plays to receive a full production in the fall of 2018. Matthew is both a playwright and a novelist, and now that he has graduated, he is excited to continue honing his craft and exploring his identity as a writer.



Maya Gelting (Agnes Scott College) is a rising junior studying English Literature- Creative Writing with a minor in Public Health. She moved from theater performance to writing when she started college, but still practices and performs as a soprano. She is not only an avid writer in many formats and genres, but also works as a writing and speaking tutor. Her passion for period pieces and obsession with illuminating shared humanity is reflected in much of her work. Her first play, *If Not For Family*, has been published through the Agnes Scott Writer's Festival and received the Janef Newman Preston Prize for Dramatic Writing. She looks forward to expanding her skills and portfolio.

Orlean Vidrine is pursuing a BFA in Dramaturgy from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama. Orlean is from a tiny farming town in Vermont and regularly engages in the necessary yet tedious act of splitting wood. Using the mediums of playwriting, filmmaking, and visual/audio art, Orlean works to tap into the human experience of communication, escapism, the meaning of identity, and the pursuit of living.



William O'Neal II, having been treated by numerous hospitals growing up, has learned to imagine the worlds that are not directly in front of him: worlds that are gentler, more kind, the ones he can control. Will aspires to be a screenwriter and producer who reminds the world of stories where the happy endings are just beyond the storms; we just must be willing to walk through the rain for a short while. After completing two years at Florida State University's College of Motion Picture Arts, Will is now a rising junior at Emory University. He was born in Birmingham, Alabama and currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

OUR MENTORS



Darren Canady's work has been produced at the Alliance Theatre, Congo Square Theater, Horizon Theatre, London's the Old Vic Theatre, M Ensemble, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, American Blues Theater, and others. His awards include the Alliance Theater's Keneda Graduate Playwriting Award, Chicago's Black Excellence Award, the Black Theatre Alliance Award, and the American Theatre Critics Association's Osborn Award. He currently teaches playwriting at the University of Kansas.



Edith Freni holds both her BFA and MFA from NYU. Her work has been produced and developed nationally at theaters including Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Profile Theatre Company in Portland, OR; EST, EST West, Labyrinth Theater Company, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, Actor's Express, and City Theatre. Edith was the inaugural Emory University Playwriting Fellow from 2014-16 and served as the Tennessee Williams Playwright-in-Residence at The University of the South in Seawane, TN from 2016-18. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two cats. www.edithfreni.com



Lauren Brooke Ellis (she/hers) is a playwright, director, and stage manager from Aiken, South Carolina. At Hollins University she completed the New Play Directing certificate in 2017 and graduated with her Master's of Fine Arts in Playwriting in May 2020. Lauren is the Resident Professional Teaching Artist for the undergraduate theatre department at Hollins. She also serves as the chair for both the Ten Minute Play Festival and the Charles M. Getchell New Play Contest for the Southeastern Theatre Conference.



Rachel Graf Evans is a writer and theater artist currently based in Philadelphia, PA. A dual MFA Playwriting Candidate, RGE studies and teaches full-time at Temple University during the academic year, and spends her summers as a member of the Hollins University Playwrights Lab, where she was a first year merit scholar in 2019. From 2016-2018, RGE created in Atlanta where she was a co-winner of the 2018 Essential Playwriting Award for Georgia Playwrights, as well as a recipient of the Ethel Woolson Lab at Working Title Playwrights. rachelgrafevans.com



Adrienne Dawes (she/her) is an Afro-Latina playwright, producer, and teaching artist originally from Austin, TX. Her work has been developed with Stages Repertory Theatre, B Street Theatre, Teatro Milagro, North Carolina Black Repertory, English Theatre Berlin, and others. Her play AM I WHITE won the David Mark Cohen New Play Award from the Austin Critics Table and an award for Outstanding Original Script by the B. Iden Payne Awards. She is currently pursuing a graduate fellowship (MFA-Theatre) at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. [@heckleher](https://twitter.com/heckleher) adriennedawes.com



I. B. Hopkins is a playwright from Gainesville, Georgia and a proud YPF Alum! He is the author of numerous plays and musicals. He has been recognized as a distinguished emerging scholar by ATHE and MATC and received a Fulbright Grant for Creative Writing in a Haudenosaunee / settler Canadian community in rural Ontario. He writes about obsession, empire collapse, unruly time, and the analog magic that knits us all together. Hopkins recently earned an MFA from the University of Texas at Austin, where he is beginning coursework for a PhD in Dramatic Literature.

Weekend Actor Bios - YPF 2020

MAGGIE BIRGEL Our Town, The Laramie Project (Theatrical Outfit), Bullets Over Broadway (Georgia Ensemble Theatre), The Last Night of Ballyhoo (Stage Door Players), Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Pete the Cat, Stellaluna (Center for Puppetry Arts), Nell Gwynn, Strait of Gibraltar, Fancy Nancy (Synchronicity), Enchanted April (Weird Sisters), Damn Yankees (Theatre Buford), Madeline's Christmas (Horizon).

NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL is an Atlanta resident, FSU Alumnus and a Suzi Bass Award winner for her role as Felicia Farrell in Memphis (Aurora Theater /Theatrical Outfit). Other regional credits include: The Nacirema Society...and Christmas Carol (Alliance Theatre); Big Fish and Godspell (Theatrical Outfit); Tranced and Lark Eden (Aurora Theatre); Antigone (Georgia Shakespeare), Caroline, or Change (St. Louis Black Rep), Rejoice (True Colors Theatre Company). Film/TV credits include: House of Payne, Let's Stay Together, and Banshee. She is a passionate diverse book reviewer and shares the drama of mothering 2 girls @itsthedramamama on Instagram.

CORDELL COLE is a Georgia native, who loves traveling around acting; and is always thankful to get to visit Georgia again. Past credits include: Utah Shakespeare Festival- Macbeth, Every Brilliant Thing, (as well as Desperate Measures, Cymbeline, Shakespeare's Worst- Postponed until 2021), Texas Shakespeare Festival- Othello, Into The Woods, As You Like It, Alliance Theatre- Nick's Flamingo Grill, Blues for an Alabama Sky, American Shakespeare Center- Romeo and Juliet, A Christmas Carol, Our Town, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Goodnight Desdemona; Good Morning Juliet, Henry V, Julius Caesar, The Importance of Being Earnest, American Players Theatre- The Seagull, Romeo and Juliet, Much ado about Nothing, Georgia Shakespeare- The Jungle Book, Antony and Cleopatra, Mighty Myths and Legends, The Tempest, Much ado about Nothing. Essential Theatre- The Darker Face of the Earth
All glory to God. All my love to my parents, brothers, grandma, and Nadia.

SHELLI DELGADO is thrilled to be joining the Young Playwrights Festival this year. Most recently she played Siobhan in Horizon's & Aurora Theatre's joint production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time". Regional Credits: A Christmas Carol, Max Makes a Million, Tiger Style!, Little Raindrop Songs and Dinosaur! (Alliance Theatre); A Doll's House Part 2, The Crucible*, RENT (Actor's Express, *Suzi Bass Award for Featured Actress), Hamlet (Atlanta Shakespeare Company), Much Ado About Nothing (Warehouse Theatre), Into the Woods, Don't Dress for Dinner, 4000 Miles, Les Misérables (Aurora Theatre), Sense & Sensibility (Synchronicity Theatre), Grease, Miss Saigon (Serenbe). TV: "The Vampire Diaries". IG: @shellidelgado Black Lives Matter.

CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON is honored to join Horizon Theatre for the YPF festival again. Christopher has performed on many stages locally and nationally. In Atlanta he has been seen at Theatre Buford, 7 Stages, Horizon, Theater Emory, and the Alliance among others. He is thankful to his family and friends for their unending support, and his fiancée for enhancing his life. Christopher is a mainstage company member and instructor at Whole World Improv Theater, and will be seen in the upcoming Jon Stewart Film Irrisible.

CHRIS HECKE (he/him/his) is a Regional Actor and a proud Immigrant from Brazil. He holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Arkansas. Since moving to the US at the age of 18, Chris has been blessed to work from Atlanta, to Fayetteville, to Greenville, to Gainesville. Since making Atlanta his professional, home-base in 2016, his favorite credits include: Hotspur (Henry IV Pt.1), Edmund the Bastard (King Lear), and Berowne (Love's Labours Lost), at the Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern; stints in Shakespeare in Love and My Father's War at Theatre Squared; Pablo (Native Gardens), Aurora Theatre. Honored that this is his 3rd consecutive year back at Horizon's YPF.

CARA MANTELLA has appeared on stages in and around Atlanta including Alliance Theatre, Aurora Theatre, Theatre in the Square, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Actor's Express, Horizon Theatre, Stage Door Players, Dominion Entertainment Group, and Théâtre du Rêve. Recent TV & Film credits: Lodge 49, Stranger Things, Bobcat Goldthwait's Misfits & Monsters, American Soul, Nashville, The Oval, The Founder, The Good Lie, Noelle, I, Tonya, and more. BFA in Acting from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. [imdb.me/caramantella](https://www.imdb.me/caramantella)

BRANDON MICHAEL MAYES is an Atlanta based actor, theatre artist, and writer. Originally from Jacksonville Florida, Brandon has migrated from his artistic home and pursued training at Florida School of the Arts and Brenau University with the Gainesville Theatre Alliance, where he received his A.S. And B.FA. In Acting with additional focus in Directing. In the Greater Atlanta Area Brandon has been featured in works with the Atlanta Opera, Alliance Theatre, Theatre Buford, and most recently seen in The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime (Horizon & Aurora Theatre) and Indecent (Theatrical Outfit). He is represented in film television and commercial work with Stewart Talent Atlanta.

MICHELLE POKOPAC is an actor in both theatre and film. She received her BFA in Theatre Performance from Columbus State University and did additional studies in Florence, Italy and Oxford, England. In 2017, Michelle and her partners founded East by Southeast, an organization dedicated to supporting, developing, and producing Asian artists and their work in Atlanta while also encouraging inclusivity and representation through community engagement. @pokopac @east_x_southeast

PARRIS SARTER is pleased to be a part of the Young Playwright Festival! She has worked extensively throughout the Atlanta metro area some of her work includes: Angels in America: Parts 1 & 2 (Actor's Express), The Cake (Horizon Theatre), Eclipsed (Synchronicity Theatre), The Revolutionists (7Stages), and Entertaining Lesbians (Out of Box Theatre). Keep supporting live theater and the arts especially now for it is the only thing that is keeping us sane in the midst of this insanity.

JUSTIN WALKER is excited to return to Horizon Theatre. At Horizon, Justin previously appeared in The City of Conversation and Sweet Water Taste. Regional Credits include: the Alliance Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, TheatreSquared, Hangar Theatre, Arkansas Rep, Warehouse Theatre, Synchronicity Theatre, Serenbe Playhouse, Georgia Shakespeare, Aurora Theatre, Centre Stage, and Atlanta Shakespeare, among others. Justin holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Arkansas.

MARKELL WILLIAMS is thrilled to be back with YPF. Favorite Atlanta theatre credits

include: Top Dog/Under Dog with the National Black Theatre Co., The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe (Peter) at the Alliance Theatre where he and cast received a Suzi Bass Award for Best Performance, The Breakers (PA) at 7stages, I Said I Was Sorry (Partner/Victim) with Michael Haverty's Object Group and The Boys Next Door (Lucien P Smith) with Marietta Players, for which he won a MAT Award for best major supporting actor in a play. He thanks the amazing Director and Crew, friends, family and YOU for supporting the arts and live theatre! Follow him on instagram @Markell.Williams to see what he's up to next!

Weekend Director Bios - YPF 2020

KEITH ARTHUR BOLDEN native of Los Angeles, California, he earned his MFA in Acting from the University of Illinois. An associate professor of Theatre and Performance at Spelman College. Directing Credits include: *By The Way*, *Meet Vera Stark (Univ of GA-Spring 2021)*, *Pipeline (Horizon Theatre)*, *Two Trains Running (Triad Stage)*, *Topdog/Underdog (NC Black Rep)*, *Hands Up (Hattiloo Theatre)*, *Hoodoo Love*, *Seven Guitars*, *Saturday Night/Sunday Morning*, *The Piano Lesson (Spelman College)*

Acting Credits include: *Paradise Blue (True Colors Theatre)*, *Fetch Clay Make Man (Dallas Theatre Center)*, *Between Riverside and Crazy (True Colors Theatre)*, *Dreamgirls (DOMA Theatre)*, *Gem of the Ocean (The Fountain Theatre, Rubicon Theatre)*, *A Raisin in the Sun (Kirk Douglas Theatre, Hartford Stage, Cape Fear Regional Theatre)*, *CROWNS (Texas Southern University-Guest Artist)*, *Neighbors (Matrix Theatre)*, *Fences*, *Take Me Out (Human Race Theatre)*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis)*, *Ragtime (Penn State-Guest Artist)*, *The Exonerated*, among others

LYDIA FORT has directed at Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Bay Street Theater, Actors Express, Cygnet Theatre, Diversionsary Theatre, Perseverance Theatre, Women's Project Theatre, Women Center Stage, Urban Stages, McCarter Theatre Youthlink! Festival, New Federal Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem, freeFall Theatre, Hangar Theatre, Planet Connections Festivity (where she was honored with the 2103 Best Director Award) as well as other festivals including the New Black Fest, 48 Hours in Harlem and the Fire This Time Festival. She was a Time Warner Foundation Fellow of the 2012-2014 Lab at Women's Project Theater, a TCG New Generations Future Leaders Grantee, New York Theatre Workshop Directing Fellow, and Drama League Directing Fellow. She is an Assistant Professor at Emory University and serves on the Executive Board of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. MFA in Directing from the University of Washington.

HEIDI McKERLEY has been fortunate to work with most professional theatres in Atlanta during her thirty-two years of living here; including, the Alliance Theatre, Horizon Theatre, Serenbe Playhouse, Georgia Shakespeare, Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern, Aurora Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Actor's Express, Atlanta Lyric Theatre, Theatre Emory, Dad's Garage, Fabrefaction, Jewish Theatre of the South, Theatre in the Square, Push Push Theatre, and has been a guest artist for the Gainesville Theatre Alliance, Berry College, Kennesaw State University, the Lagrange Lyric, and the University of Georgia. She has also taught for the acting intern companies of Actor's Express and the Atlanta Shakespeare Company. Heidi has been nominated for thirteen

Suzi Bass Awards, and won for Best Director of a Musical in 2011 for Avenue Q. She enjoys writing and wrote the book for one of the three first official entries to be showcased in the Atlanta Musical Theatre Festival, *The Fine Art of Forgetting*. Heidi was the Founding Producing Artistic Director of Soulstice Repertory Ensemble, offering thirty-one theatrical classics at 7 Stages in eleven years. She is also an Artistic Associate with the Horizon Theatre. Regionally, Heidi has worked for the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia and the Oasis Theatre and Hippodrome State Theatre in Florida. She is a member of the Southern Order of Storytellers, the National Storytelling Network, the Alliance for Theatre in Education, Georgia Thespians, the Georgia Theatre Conference, and the Educational Theatre Association of America.

FESTIVAL STAFF

LISA ADLER (Co-Artistic/Producing Director) is the co-founder of Horizon Theatre Company, now in its 36th season. She has produced more than 160 regional and world premieres of contemporary plays and directed more than 35 since she co-founded the theatre in 1983. She also founded the New South Play Festival and has dramaturged and directed dozens of new play workshops. Under her artistic and administrative leadership, Horizon Theatre has become a respected institution in the Atlanta arts community, producing exciting new and recent work and creating innovative community art programs while also remaining fiscally sound. Horizon Theatre was named “Best Theatre Company: Critics Choice” by *Creative Loafing*, “Best Theatre Company” by *Atlanta Magazine*, and has received numerous awards from local media for Best Production, Best Actor and Best Director. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* has described Horizon Theatre as a leader among Atlanta’s playmakers, “attempting to transform Atlanta’s theatre scene into a reflection of Atlanta’s unique spirit not just an echo of New York...Horizon commands respect...standing tall in the city’s imaginative life.”

AMY L. LEVIN (Interim Producing & Education Manager) is an actor/singer/sound designer from Decatur, GA. She earned her degrees in Religion and Theatre from the University of Georgia in 2015 and completed her Acting Apprenticeship with Horizon Theatre Company in 2018. She’s designed and performed at several theaters around Atlanta and the southeast and is also a jazz singer/musician and a stage manager. Check out www.amyllevin.com for more!

HORIZON THEATRE COMPANY STAFF

Co-Artistic/Producing Director	LISA ADLER
Co-Artistic/Founding Technical Director	JEFF ADLER
Managing Director	SALLY EGGLESTON
Associate Producer and Apprentice Company Co-Director.	MARGUERITE HANNAH
Operations/Box Office Manager	LaWANDA GREEN
Major Gifts Manager	KEENA REDDING HUNT
Marketing & PR Manager	JAYNE ROBERTS
Apprentice Company Co-Director	LAUREN MORRIS

Graphic Designer
Interim Assistant Producer
Development and Box Office Assistant

DARYL LISA FAZIO
AMY LEVIN
SAMUEL GRESHAM

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