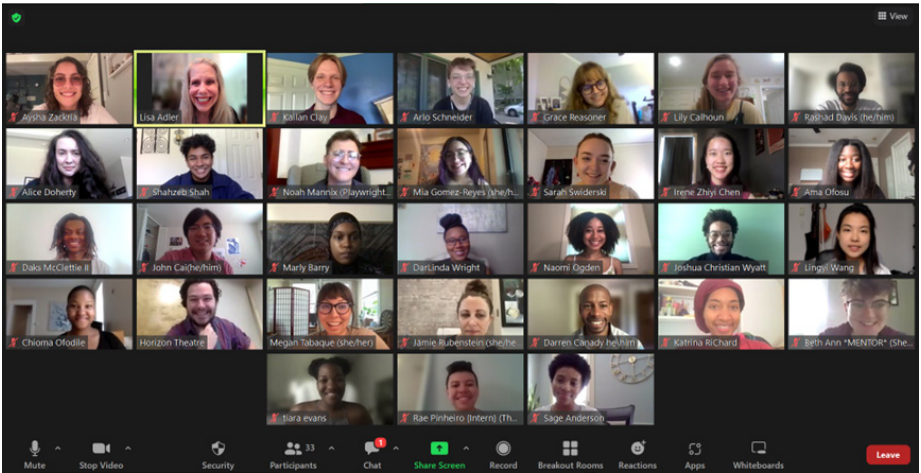


VIRTUAL

2022 NEW SOUTH
young playwrights
festival



May 30-June 4, 2022
SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL JUNE 4 • 7PM

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This program is supported by the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs. This program is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA also receives support from its partner agency—the National Endowment for the Arts.

ABOUT HORIZON'S NEW SOUTH YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

This year our Young Playwrights, who range in age from high school to college, have come from all over the country for a one-week residency at Horizon. They are winners of our New South Young Playwrights Contest. While here at Horizon, they have been submerged in the world of playwriting and theatre. They wrote every day and worked with their mentors/dramaturgs. They attended seminars and workshops. They met professional playwrights of all ages and backgrounds. They saw plays, ate, 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

NEW MANAGEMENT • by Sarah Claire Swiderski

Emory University

Gale: Vivi Thai • Kendra: Patty de la Garza • Waiter: Lamar K. Cheston
Stage Directions: Gabrielle Stephenson

(Mentor: Jamie Rubenstein; Director: Melanie Martin Long)

WHAT A LOVELY FIRE • by Daks McClettie II

Howard University

Dylan: Jacob York • Morgan: Britny Horton
Stage Directions: Brad Raymond

(Mentor: Darren Canady; Director: Justin Anderson)

FROM THE CRADLE • by Noah Mannix

Temple University

Toby: Patty de la Garza • Lynette: Vivi Thai • Sister: Gabrielle Stephenson
Stage Directions: Lamar K. Cheston

(Mentor: Megan Tabaque; Director: Melanie Martin Long)

UNFORTUNATE • by Marlyatou Barry

Emory University

Halle: Aminah Williams • McDonald's Worker: Britny Horton
Stage Directions: Libby Williams

(Mentor: Beth Ann Powers; Director: Justin Anderson)

KARTOGRAFEE • by Kailan Clay

University of Arkansas

Trey: Brad Raymond • Jess: Libby Williams
Stage Directions: Jacob York

(Mentor: Beth Ann Powers; Director: Justin Anderson)

TO BECOME OR NOT TO BECOME • by Chioma Onwuka Ofodile

SUNY Albany

Nneka: Aminah Williams • Chizoba: Cara Mantella • Oluchukwu: Markell Williams
Stage Directions: Josh Brook

(Mentor: Katrina Richard; Director: Teresa Leggard)

THE PLAYS

LAMAR'S RADIO • by Shahzeb Shah

Brookwood High School

Lamar: Markell Williams • Jacob: Josh Brook • Stage Directions: Cara Mantella
(Mentor: Katrina Richard; Director: Teresa Leggard)

BABYDOG • by Naomi Ogden

Wellesley College

Sarah: Patty de la Garza • Will: Lamar K. Cheston • Stage Directions: Vivi Thai
(Mentor: Jamie Rubenstein; Director: Melanie Martin Long)

WHEN WE BECAME STRANGERS • by Ama Ofosu

Emory University

Kendra: Britny Horton • James: Jacob York • Sydney: Libby Williams
Stage Directions: Brad Raymond
(Mentor: Darren Canady; Director: Justin Anderson)

CERTAIN SEA • by Aysha Zackria

Carnegie Mellon University

Olo: Vivi Thai • Verd: Lamar K. Cheston
Stage Directions: Sage Anderson
(Mentor: Jamie Rubenstein; Director: Justin Anderson)

ULTRA BLACK • by Rashad Davis

Howard University

Darius: Josh Brook • Keisha: Cara Mantella • Dennis: Markell Williams
Sasha: Aminah Williams • Stage Directions: Tiara Evans
(Mentor: Phillip Christian Smith; Director: Teresa Leggard)

—10-MINUTE INTERMISSION—

GROUND CONTROL TO THE CAPTAIN OF STARS • by Lingyi Wang

Columbia University

Captain of Stars: Lamar K. Cheston • Echo 1 & 2: Patty de la Garza, Vivi Thai
New Person: Gabrielle Stephenson • Stage Directions: Rae Pinheiro
(Mentor: Megan Tabaque; Director: Melanie Martin Long)

YARD SALE • by Grace Reasoner

Columbia College

Teddy: Jacob York • Paul: Brad Raymond
Stage Directions: Libby Williams
(Mentor: Darren Canady; Director: Justin Anderson)

I GLUED MY HEAD BACK ON: A QUEER PARABLE • by Arlo Schneider

University of Iowa

Lorie: Patty de la Garza • Cyrus: Lamar K. Cheston
Stage Directions: Gabrielle Stephenson
(Mentor: Megan Tabaque; Director: Melanie Martin Long)

THE PLAYS

MASON JARS • by Alice Doherty

University of Iowa

Meemaw: Aminah Williams • Charles Lee: Josh Brook

Stage Directions: Libby Williams

(Mentor: Katrina Richard; Director: Teresa Leggard)

STRONG AS DEATH • by DarLinda M. Wright

Dillard University

Carla Blackwell: Britny Horton • David Blackwell: Jacob York

Leland Perry: Brad Raymond • Stage Directions: Libby Williams

(Mentor: Beth Ann Powers; Director: Justin Anderson)

THE AGE OF SILVER • by John Cai

Emory University

Silver: Markell Williams • Brown: Aminah Williams • Green: Cara Mantella

Stage Directions: Josh Brook

(Mentor: Katrina Richard; Director: Teresa Leggard)

A PIECE OF HOME FOR BIRTHDAY

Brown University

Jill: Patty de la Garza • Annie: Vivi Thai • Stage Directions: Gabrielle Stephenson

(Mentor: Megan Tabaque; Director: Melanie Martin Long)

HUE • by Joshua Christian Wyatt

Carnegie Mellon University

Dante: Markell Williams • Beatrice: Aminah Williams • Virgil: Josh Brook

Charon: Cara Mantella • Stage Directions: Tiara Evans

(Mentor: Phillip Christian Smith; Director: Teresa Leggard)

HELTER SKELTER • by Lily Calhoun

Emory University

Harmony: Gabrielle Stephenson • Kate: Patty de la Garza

Stage Directions: Rae Pinheiro

(Mentor: Jamie Rubenstein; Director: Melanie Martin Long)

flowerchild • by Mia Gomez-Reyes

University of Texas - Austin

Jane: Aminah Williams • Jake: Josh Brook • Stage Directions: Markell Williams

(Mentor: Phillip Christian Smith; Director: Teresa Leggard)

FESTIVAL LEADERSHIP

LISA ADLER, Artistic Director
JACK PADGETT, NSYPF Coordinator

FESTIVAL STAFF

Interns:

SAGE ANDERSON • TIARA EVANS • RAE PINHEIRO

FESTIVAL TEACHERS AND DRAMATURGS

Lead Mentors/Professional Playwrights:

DARREN CANADY (University of Kansas) • MEGAN TABAQUE (Emory Univ.)

MFA Mentors:

BETH ANN POWERS • KATRINA RICHARD
JAMIE RUBENSTEIN • PHILLIP CHRISTIAN SMITH

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.

SUBMISSIONS READERS

Ciara Auten
LaBorn Brown
Rachel Ruff Cuyler
Daryl Lisa Fazio
Amy Levin
Lauren Morris

LITERARY ROUNDTABLE

Hannah Joyce
Marguerite Hannah
Dexter Singleton

PLAYWRIGHTS/AGENTS IN TV/FILM

Katie Bussert
Gloria Bond Clunie
Jessica De Maria
Edith Freni
Topher Payne

REGIONAL/YPF ALUM PLAYWRIGHTS

Kimberly Belflower
Lauren Gunderson
Thomas W. Jones III
Angie Jones

WEEKDAY READING ACTORS

Alishah Bhamani
Anna Holland
Brie Wolfe
Cara Mantella
Chris Lange
Chris Kayser
Christina Leidel
David Soyka
Derrick Robertson
Elaina Walton
Gabrielle Stephenson
Juan Cruz
Kai Chisholm
Kristina Jin
Kyla Cheneil
Lamar Cheston
Mustapha Slack
Niko Carleo
Parris Sarter
Posy Leftwich
Sloka Krishnan
Stephanie Dunnam
Suehyla Young
Sully Brown
Tamil Periasamy
Brad Raymond
De'Ja McKnabb
Jacob York
Jay Jones

Kait Rivas
Libby Williams
Maria Rodriguez-Sager
Michelle Pokopac
Patty De la Garza
Ryan Vo
TJ Ruth
Vivi Thai
Aminah Williams
Britny Horton
Josh Brook
Zac Moss

YPF COORDINATOR

Jack Padgett

INTERNS

Sage Anderson
Tiara Evans
Rae Pinheiro

SPECIAL THANKS DRAMATISTS GUILD

Emmanuel Wilson

SPECIAL THANKS EASTxSOUTHEAST

for their help in casting
the weekday readings

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

**AMERICAN GUILD OF
MUSICAL ARTISTS**

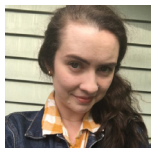
**AMERICAN GUILD OF
VARIETY ARTISTS**



for their cooperation in
permitting the Artists to
appear on this program.

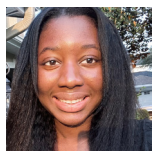
ACTOR BIOS & HEADSHOTS are available on our website
at www.horizontheatre.com/nsypf-2022-actors/

THE PLAYWRIGHTS



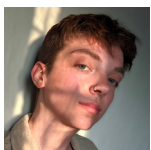
ALICE DOHERTY (*University of Iowa*) is a playwright, dramaturg, screenwriter and theatre artist from Severna Park, Maryland. Currently, she is

pursuing a double major in Theatre Arts and Religious Studies at the University of Iowa. She recently completed her senior thesis for the Religious Studies major, which examines the ritual drama component of Temple worship of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints through the lens of the Stanislavsky system of acting. Theatre is her favorite medium for storytelling because both onstage and in the audience, it puts people who disagree on their deepest beliefs and the very fundamentals of life in the same room. Upon graduation, she plans to apply to MFA programs in playwriting and screenwriting. She lives in Iowa City, Iowa.



AMA OFOSU (*Emory University*) is an aspiring playwright, composer, marketer, and producer. Originally from Tampa, Florida, Ama is rising senior

at Emory University, studying business with a concentration in Film and Media Management. Since a young age she has been attracted to the art of storytelling, excited to create worlds where people can escape, relate to the characters, and reflect on their own experiences. Inspired by creators like Michaela Coel, Lin Manuel Miranda and Issa Rae, she hopes to bring more representation into this industry. She currently interns at Paramount Global in their offices of Global Diversity and Inclusion. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, attending any type of performance, working on her musical, and exploring different cuisines in the area.



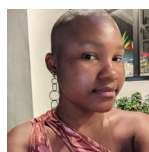
ARLO SCHNEIDER (*University of Iowa*) (He/They) is a recent graduate of the University of Iowa. He is a queer/trans playwright and actor with an interest

in new works and puppetry, among other things. He enjoys astrology, folk music, and being asleep and he is very excited to be apart of the festival this year.



AYSHA ZACKRIA (*Carnegie Mellon University*) is a dramatist, writer, and musician going into her third year at Carnegie Mellon University. She

seeks to amplify important issues through dramaturgy, playwriting, and other acts of creation. She works as Script Editor at Lovewell Institute for the Creative Arts, encouraging high school students to make their voices heard by devising musical theatre. She won the national Scholastic Arts and Writing “One Earth Award” for her play *Hell and High Water*, which addressed the effects of climate change. She also won the *Miami Herald’s* “Silver Knight Award in English and Literature” for her work as a tutor and advocate for improving access to literature in correctional facilities. Aysha is an accomplished musician with a background in music theory. As an instrumentalist, she has played bass in twelve musicals. Born and raised in South Florida, she loves mangos, kitsch, and the sun.



CHIOMA ONWUKA OFODILE (*SUNY Albany*) completed her bachelor’s degree in 2022 at UAlbany. She was born and raised in Nigeria, which has shaped

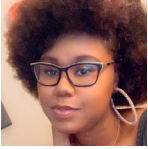
her passion for African storytelling in its complexity and beauty. She looks forward to a future of theatre, playwriting, and creative expression.



DAKS McCLETTIE II (*Howard University*) is a 22-year-old Senior Acting Major at Howard University and originally from Charlotte, North Carolina.

He is an artist who loves writing, acting, making music, and creating in general.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS



DARLINDA WRIGHT (*Dillard University*) is a senior English major at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Hailing from Memphis, Tennessee, Wright has

committed to exploring various genres of creative writing from poetry to playwriting. She is currently the president of the Dillard University English Club and a member of Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society. The young writer is passionate about her craft and taking risks that bring authentic voices to the stage.



GRACE REASONER (*Columbia College*) (she/they) is an actor and playwright from Winston-Salem, NC. She currently resides in Chicago, where

she studies acting and playwriting at Columbia College. Starting at age 15, Grace has had multiple plays produced by local theatres in her hometown. Her play, *To Fall in Silence from the Sky*, was one of the four chosen to be performed in the Columbia College One-Act Play Festival (2021). When she isn't writing, Grace can be found leaving empty tea mugs all over her apartment.



IRENE ZHIYI CHEN (*Brown University*) (she/her) makes theatre that dives into in-between spaces and holds powerful tenderness. She grew up in Shanghai, China

and currently lives in Providence, Rhode Island as a first-year student at Brown University. She had extensive performing arts experience in high school, through which she found a passion for writing and directing. Her plays have been produced at YK Pao School and had staged readings at the 2021 EdTA Young Thespian Festival in China and Brown University. She also aspires to be an educator and, during her gap year, worked as a drama and theatre teaching assistant. While most of her creative works are in English, she sees herself both as a native and a foreigner to the language, for it has opened up worlds but also complicated her sense of

belonging. When she needs a break from the intertwining multilingual voices in her head, she communicates through her body as a ballroom dancer and a Lindy Hopper.



JOHN (YIDE) CAI (*Emory University*) is a playwright, a fiction writer but ultimately a poet, studying Playwriting and German Studies at Emory University, comes

from China but has stayed in America for almost seven years, formerly wanted to study philosophy but now wants to write stories with philosophical insights instead of research papers, is deeply interested in Chinese culture and history, loves reading European literature but also knows a lot about America. He loves playing around with abstract concepts and history, riffing off older works, impersonating historical figures but always manages to speak from his heart. His words are poetic and stylized without being flowery or melodramatic, symbolic without being overly literary.



KAILAN CLAY (*University of Arkansas*) is an actor, writer, woodworker, and musician from Oklahoma City. Kailan grew up loving the arts from a young age and believes

that art should be used to produce hope and inspire change. Kailan is the creator of The Playground, the University of Arkansas's student script development group. Kailan is currently a senior studying Theatre Performance at the University of Arkansas.



JOSHUA CHRISTIAN WYATT (*Carnegie Mellon University*) is a multi-hyphenate creative artist who opens conversations

surrounding the connections between philosophy, psychology, and genre. Born in Houston, TX, their Southern roots give way to an exploration of culture and literary language that allows them to delve into the facets of storytelling. They further built these tools when they were accepted into the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA), where they found

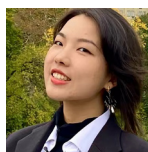
THE PLAYWRIGHTS

their eye in design – where they were awarded at the Texas U.I.L. State Design Competition— and acting, culminating in them becoming a Theatre Finalist at the 2018 National Young Arts Competition. This passion for an interdisciplinary exploration of story prompted their pursuit for a formal training and their acceptance into the prestigious John Wells Directing Program at Carnegie Mellon University. In their time at the institution, they strengthened their theatrical prowess by producing festivals, broadcast directing fashion shows, creating short films, directing theatrical staged readings with August Wilson House x City of Asylum, as well as being named an inaugural Cody Renard Richard Scholar in partnership with Broadway Advocacy Coalition. Developing plays and screenplays for distribution, they've found new avenues of expression through movements such as Afro-Futurism, Afro-Surrealism, and Absurdism. They are at present on a track towards a career in creative development and television production.



LILY CALHOUN (*Berry College*) is a playwright, screenwriter, and videographer from the heart of Atlanta, GA. With a passion for people and

storytelling, Lily hopes to make space for unconventional stories that center hope and humanity. She just graduated from Berry College in May, where her original play *Call Number* was produced in a stage reading. She wrote scripts for several other productions and cabarets at Berry. Lily also participated in the inaugural run of Interactive Cyber Theatre at Berry College, which combined improv theatre with audience interaction to make a choose-your-own-adventure experience. Her film degree has brought her all kinds of fun and unexpected experiences on various projects, and she is so excited to continue those storytelling adventures. After graduation, Lily hopes to continue to develop Interactive Cyber Theatre, work in the film industry, and obtain as many disco balls as possible.



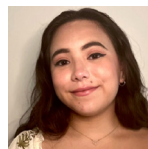
LINGYI WANG (*Columbia University*) is a rising junior at Columbia University in the City of New York, studying theater, German and East Asian Studies

at Columbia College. As an international student born and raised in the most ancient city in China, she finds herself drawn to the interdisciplinary connections between language, culture and art. Her amateur theater journey includes devising, writing, stage management, costume and set design from Xian, Shanghai to New York. She hopes to further her exploration in multilingual and transnational theater through writing and keeping on writing.



MARLYATOU BARRY

(*Smith College*) is a student at Smith College studying computer science. I am interested in writing, specifically playwriting and screenwriting. When she is not writing, she enjoys analyzing films and reading.



MIA GOMEZ-REYES

(*University of Texas - Austin*) (she/her) is a Latina playwright, director, and stage manager currently residing in Austin, Texas.

She recently graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in Theatre and Dance. She is obsessed with all things Taylor Swift, latinidad, and the complicated relationships mothers and daughters are destined to have. Her embarrassing loves are romance novels with plenty of tropes and sitcom television.



NOAH MANNIX (*Temple University*) is a playwright, poetic ethnographer, and artist from Springfield, PA. His work asks questions of identity and connection

between people and the space and time they live in. When he is not working he can be found in the woods thinking about bears.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS



NAOMI OGDEN

(Wellesley College) (she/they) is a Queer Afro-Mexican American playwright, performer, and ethnographer from Los

Angeles, CA, and Washington, D.C. She is currently studying Anthropology and Theatre Studies at Wellesley College (B.A. 2024). Naomi is a passionate multimodal storyteller fascinated by everything from the way people create spaces for themselves and build connections with nature, objects, and each other, to the way physical evidence on human remains can tell the story of one's life. Recent written work includes the plays *The Forest Problem* (Wellesley College THST Department Showcase '22), *Gender Play*, and *Triples*, which will be performed next year as part of the Babson Players' 10-Minute Play Festival. Naomi has also acted in a staged reading of *An Incredible Devotion: love is not for show, I would die for you in secret* by Brysen Boyd as part of KCACTF's National Playwriting Program, the student film *The Pervious Path to Alter Reality* by Link and Hazel Kevlihan, and *Grease* in the past year. As a Queer artist and scientist of color, she hopes to inspire others with marginalized identities. In all her work, theatrical or anthropological, Naomi strives to honor those whose stories she portrays by speaking in faith alongside them (Dr. Kim TallBear).



RASHAD DAVIS (Howard University)

is a 21-year-old Junior Acting Major at Howard University from Huntley, Illinois. He has a passion for rapping,

singing, songwriting, producing, acting, writing, and directing. He hopes to be able to create more art across multiple media in the future.



SARAH SWIDERSKI

(Emory University) is a rising senior pursuing a double major in Neuroscience and Creative Writing. While

her background is in poetry, playwrighting has quickly become a favorite medium. She aims explore complex characters and their relationships, and she is especially interested in aging, girlhood, and movement. She currently divides her time between writing and conducting research at the Emory Healthcare Veterans Program, where she works on novel PTSD treatments as a Neuroscience Research Fellow.



SHAHZEB SHAH

(Brookwood High school) is a recent graduate of Brookwood High School in Lawrenceville, Georgia and will soon be attending

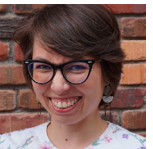
Northwestern University, pursuing a double major with Theatre. Over the last four years, Shahzeb has developed his skills as an actor and a singer, performing in various musicals and plays and competing with his high school. In region and state-wide competitions, Shahzeb earned the Best Actor award and an All-Star Cast award respectively. He has recently taken his experience from the stage and his skills in writing to develop the play *Brothers*, a play that examines the relationship of two brothers living in a low-income household. During the festival, Shahzeb is excited to workshop his play and join others who share his passion for theatre.

THE MENTORS



DARREN CANADY (LEAD MENTOR) hails from Topeka, KS. His 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. His work has been developed at numerous festivals including the O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwright's Conference. His play *You're Invited* appeared in *The Best American Short Plays 2010-2011*. His work has been seen or developed at the Quo Vadimus Arts' ID America Festival, the Fremont Centre Theatre, Premiere Stages, the BE Company, Penumbra Theatre, and American Blues Theater. Darren is an alum of Carnegie Mellon University, New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and the Juilliard School. He is a former member of Primary Stages' Dorothy Strelsin New Writers Group, and a past participant in the T.S. Eliot US/UK Exchange. He is an artistic affiliate with American Blues Theater and Congo Square Theatre. He currently teaches playwriting at the University of Kansas.



MEGAN TABAGUE (LEAD MENTOR) is a Filipina-Canadian playwright, actor, and arts educator. Her work has been developed, commissioned, and produced

by the Alliance Theater, Salvage Vanguard Theater, Tofte Lake Center, the Workshop Theater, Paper Chairs, Vanderbilt University, and Egg & Spoon Theatre Collective, among others. She is a James A. Michener Fellow, Kundiman Fiction Fellow, Sewanee Writers' Conference Scholar, Seattle Public Theater Emerald Prize finalist, Playwrights' Realm Scratchpad Series semi-finalist, and a 2021 Four Seasons Residency nominee. She is currently developing a brand new play about conspiracy theorists and human trafficking in Asian American communities titled *Marry Me, Bruno Mars* for Emory University's Brave New Works festival. Megan earned her MFA

in Playwriting and Fiction from the Michener Center for Writers in Austin, TX. She currently resides in Atlanta, where she is the 2021-2023 Emory Fellow of Playwriting.



BETH ANN POWERS is a playwright, comedian, theater artist, screenwriter, and snarky little rascal. In 2017, Beth Ann received her degree in Theater Arts,

Performance Creation from the University of Minnesota and is currently pursuing an MFA in Dramatic Writing from Carnegie Mellon University. Additionally, she has trained in television writing at The Comedy Lab with Kim Howard Johnson, as well as attended sketch and satire classes at IO Theater, Second City Theater, and The Institution Theater. Beth Ann has seen her work produced regionally with such companies as Little Lifeboats, The Playwrights Center, Phoenix Theater, Theater Unbound, Raw Sugar, and Umbrella Collective. She is also a former company member of the Minneapolis based sketch comedy troupe, Rinky Dink Operations. In 2015, Beth Ann helped co-found the production company Slap Happy Studios, for which she now serves as Artistic Director. Beth Ann is currently a staff writer for the satire website, wordbrothel.com.



JAMIE RUBENSTEIN is an English-teacher-turned-playwright who writes with explosive joy and heartbreak about the ephemeral nature of life. She grew up in New

Jersey and has spent her whole adult life in New York. Her full-length plays include *Ruth* and *Lydia* (Alliance/Keneda Finalist, Hunter MFA Thesis Festival and Roundtable Reading), *Metzevich/Metz* (Hunter MFA workshop), *Sophomore* (2020 Trustus Playwrights' Festival Finalist), *Sam, Inc.* (The Bechdel Group Reading), *What We're Worth* (ROO Residency semi-finalist) and *The Postponement*, adapted from Euripides' *Akestis* (Hunter MFA workshop). Her short plays have been performed at Spark Creative Works and ESPA/Primary Stages Detention Nights at the Cherry Lane Theater, Jimmy's No. 43, and Skeleton Rep. She is in her final year at Hunter College's Rita and Burton Goldberg MFA Playwriting Program, where she studied under Clare Barron,

THE MENTORS

Lisa D'Amour, Lloyd Suh, and Christine Scarfuto. She holds an MA in English from Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School of English and a BA in English from Barnard College.



KATRINA RICHARD is a theater artist that has performed on stages across the city of Chicago and the Chicagoland area as well as worked behind the scenes

as a writer, producer, and director. Having been born and bred on the South Side of Chicago, she finds the city continues to hold a special place in her heart. Katrina will earn a MFA in Dramatic Writing from the University of Southern California (USC) in May 2022. During her tenure, she was awarded the Joan Beber Playwriting Award. Her mission as an artist is to illuminate marginalized voices, tell stories that have never been told before, and to tell classic stories with a fresh perspective.

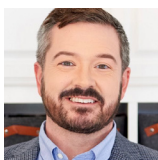


PHILLIP CHRISTIAN SMITH is a 2022 Tennessee Williams Scholar at Sewanee, 2021 O'Neill (NPC) Finalist for his drag ball adaptation of *The Importance of Being Earnest*

titled: *A Handbag is Not a Proper Mutha*, 2020-21 Playwrights Realm Fellow, Lambda Literary Fellow, Winter Playwrights Retreat, two-time Blue Ink Playwriting Award Semi-Finalist, Finalist for The Dramatists Guild Fellowship and New Dramatists, Finalist and Semi-finalist PlayPenn, two time Semi-finalist for The O'Neill (NPC), and runner-up in The Theatre of Risk Modern Tragedy writing competition for his play *The Chechens*, which also won Theatre Conspiracy's playwriting award, and recently had its third production at Alliance for the Arts. He has been a semi-finalist for Shakespeare's New Contemporaries (ASC), semifinalist for Barrington Stage's Burman New Play Award, finalist for Trustus, former Playwright in Residence Exquisite Corpse and founding member of The Playwriting Collective. 2021 Playwright in Residence: Quicksilver Theatre's Playwrights of Color Summit. Co-Literary Director of Exquisite Corpse Company. His work has been supported by The Fire This Time Festival, Bennington College, Primary Stages (Cherry Lane) ESPA, Fresh Ground Pepper, and the 53rd Street New York Public Library. MFA Yale School of Drama, BFA University of New Mexico. MFA Hunter '23.

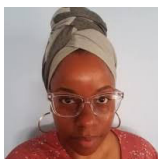
ACTOR BIOS & HEADSHOTS are available on our website
at www.horizontheatre.com/nsypf-2022-actors/

DIRECTORS



JUSTIN ANDERSON is an Atlanta-based storyteller, director and educator whose work has been seen at Horizon Theatre Company with *A Curious*

Incident of the Dog In the Night-Time, *The City of Conversation* (Suzi Award for Best Production of a Play), and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. He was the Associate Artistic Director at Aurora Theatre in Lawrenceville, Georgia for many years, directing numerous productions there and around the Southeast. While studying directing at Rutgers University, Justin had the privilege to work with Amy Saltz, Pam Berlin, William Carden, and Deborah Headwall. He holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Campbell University and an M.A. in Theatre Studies from Regent University. Justin is also a part-time faculty member in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University. Along with his partner, Michael Crute, Justin co-founded The Welcome Home Atlanta Team, powered by Keller Williams First Atlanta, and is using the platform of real estate to help clients write the next best chapter of their stories through selling, buying, education and wealth-building. www.welcomehomeatlanta.com



TERESA LEGGARD (she/her) is a Brooklyn-born, Jersey-raised, Midwest transplant with a B.A. from Spelman College and an MFA from the University

of Missouri-Kansas City. Her directing credits include *Ontario Was Here* (Lied Center of Kansas - University of Kansas); *Pipeline* (The Unicorn Theatre); *Pass Over* (Olathe Civic Theatre); *The Green Book* *Wine Club Train Trip* and *Single Black Female* (KC Melting Pot Theatre); *Every 28 Hours* (Fishtank Theatre); *Gumbo House* (Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre, independent production); as well as

staged readings for The Unicorn Theatre, Midwest Dramatist Center, Westport Center for the Arts, Olathe Civic Theatre, and Johnson County Heritage Center.



MELANIE MARTIN LONG has worked as a director, writer, script developer and actor for several Atlanta theatre companies, including

Georgia Shakespeare, Theatre in the Square, Alliance Children's Theatre, Jewish Theatre of the South, Georgia Ensemble, Theatrical Outfit, and Theater Emory. Before coming to Atlanta in 2005, Melanie was Artistic Associate at the Lark Play Development Center in New York, where she produced its highly acclaimed Playwrights Workshop with Arthur Kopit. As an award-winning director and adapter, she has guided more than thirty productions at the Off-Broadway, regional and collegiate levels. Publications: "Mastering Stage Presence" DVD series for The Great Courses, *The Frog Prince* (Book and Lyrics with composer James Woodward), and annotations of *Julius Caesar* and *The Tempest*. Memberships: Lincoln Center Directors Lab, Yoga Alliance (RT-200). Education: BA Theatre and English - William and Mary; MFA Directing University of Minnesota. Melanie has taught Voice and Body for the Alliance Theatre and Actors Express, and conducts workshops on stage presence for presenters in all fields.