

HORIZON
THEATRE COMPANY

2023 NEW SOUTH young playwrights festival

PRESENTS



May 28-June 3, 2023
SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL JUNE 3 • 2PM

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Major funding is provided by the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs and the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. 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

Welcome to the culminating event of our New South Young Playwrights Festival. The playwrights here with us today are the college age winners of our New South Young Playwrights Contest. They are joining us from all over the country for a one-week residency at Horizon. While here at Horizon, they have been submerged in the world of playwriting and theatre. They wrote every day and worked with mentor/teachers. 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 5-minute plays that you will see today were written this week as a part of their residency at Horizon.**

THE PLAYS

RULES • by Samantha Griffin *Columbia College Chicago*

Ava: Jasmine Thomas • Beth: Kelly Criss • Connor: Marcus Hopkins-Turner
Damian: Cameron Smith • Stage Directions: Grace Davenport
(Mentor: Ro Reddick; Director: Jeff Adler)

THE NIGHT WE MET • by Nicole McKinney *University of Florida*

Richard: Ian Blanco • Sophia: Tequilla Whitfield • Stage Directions: Brad Raymond
(Mentor: Jen Blackmer; Director: Justin Anderson)

UNSTABLE • by Susan Huanjian Li *Emory University*

Tree: Enoch King • Cardinal: Matt Mercurio • Stage Directions: Libby Williams
(Mentor: Emily Elyse Everett; Director: Marguerite Hannah)

you already have one • by Tara Carroll *University of Florida*

Ben: Brad Raymond • Rachel: Alia Shakira • Zoe: Tequilla Whitfield • SD: Ian Blanco
(Mentor: Jen Blackmer; Director: Justin Anderson)

HOMECOMING • by Camron Wright *Howard University*

Marjorie: Jasmine Thomas • David: Cameron Smith • Remi: Marcus Hopkins-Turner
SD: Kelly Criss
(Mentor: Amalia Oliva Rojas; Director: Marguerite Hannah)

FIVE-FOUR • by Jared Goudsmit *Tulane University*

Erica: Cynthia D. Barker • Beth: Libby Williams • Chuck: Enoch King
Trent: Matt Mercurio • SD: Adia Reid
(Mentor: James Anthony Tyler; Director: Jeff Adler)

THE RED, WHITE & BLUE HOUR • by Jeilianne Vázquez

University of North Georgia

Colin: Cameron Smith • Michelle: Jasmine Thomas
Jayden: Marcus Hopkins-Turner • Abby: Kelly Criss • SD: Grace Davenport
(Mentor: Amalia Oliva Rojas; Director: Jeff Adler)

HE'S WASHED • by Donnie Frazier *SUNY Albany*

Tyron Dame: Brad Raymond • Corey Gonzalez: Ian Blanco
Valentina Dame: Alia Shakira • Rose Dame: Tequilla Whitfield • SD: Karis Wymbis
(Mentor: Jen Blackmer; Director: Justin Anderson)

THE PLAYS

HEAL ME • by Talia Speak *Temple University*

Lillian: Libby Williams • Monique: Cynthia D. Barker • SD: Enoch King
(Mentor: Emily Elyse Everett; Director: Marguerite Hannah)

IN CASE OF BRUISING • by Kamila Boga *Dartmouth College*

Aris: Marcus Hopkins-Turner • Milo: Cameron Smith
Della: Jasmine Thomas • SD: Kelly Criss
(Mentor: Amalia Oliva Rojas; Director: Marguerite Hannah)

NOWHERE IS SOMEWHERE IS EVERYWHERE • by Hailey Sipes

Emory University
Maura: Alia Shakira • Connell: Ian Blanco • SD: Tequilla Whitfield
(Mentor: Jen Blackmer; Director: Justin Anderson)

MUK • by Malcolm Montgomery *University of Georgia*

Aurora Biales: Cynthia D. Barker • Chandler Biales: Matt Mercurio
Eugene Biales: Enoch King • UberEats Delivery Girl/SD: Libby Williams
(Mentor: James Anthony Tyler; Director: Marguerite Hannah)

—10-MINUTE INTERMISSION—

MRS. ETTA'S ON AUBURN • by Kadin Smith *Howard University*

Jodie: Alia Shakira • Essence: Tequilla Whitfield
Penfield: Brad Raymond • James Cooper: Ian Blanco • SD: Karis Wymbbs
(Mentor: Jose Sebastian Alberdi; Director: Justin Anderson)

SYMPHONIES OF GRAY • by Sarah Brown *Columbia College Chicago*

B: Marcus Hopkins-Turner • Z: Cameron Smith • SD: Grace Davenport
(Mentor: Amalia Oliva Rojas; Director: Jeff Adler)

THESE SILENT CRIES • by Olivia Johnson *Dillard University*

Selene: Cynthia D. Barker • Antonio: Matt Mercurio
Conscience 1: Libby Williams • Conscience 2: Enoch King • SD: Adia Reid
(Mentor: James Anthony Tyler; Director: Marguerite Hannah)

CLARITY (OR, CLARIDAD) • by Jesús E Feliciano *Carnegie Mellon University*

Juan: Ian Blanco • Angelica: Tequilla Whitfield • Eleanor: Alia Shakira
SD: Brad Raymond
(Mentor: Jose Sebastian Alberdi; Director: Justin Anderson)

continuity error • by Adrien Kay *Kennesaw State University*

Elliot: Enoch King • Jessie: Matt Mercurio • SD: Libby Williams
(Mentor: Emily Elyse Everett; Director: Jeff Adler)

SPLIT • by Brianna White *Georgia State University*

Leah: Jasmine Thomas • Pessimism: Marcus Hopkins-Turner
Optimism: Cameron Smith • SD: Kelly Criss
(Mentor: Ro Reddick; Director: Jeff Adler)

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HEAL ME • by Talia Speak

Temple University

Lillian: Libby Williams • Monique: Cynthia D. Barker • SD: Enoch King

THE PLAYS

AT LAST • by Samantha Garcia Nuñez *Texas State University*
Ivy: Tequilla Whitfield • Henry: Ian Blanco • Stage Directions: Alia Shakira
(Mentor: Jose Sebastian Alberdi; Director: Justin Anderson)

FEEDING FRENZY • by Sarah Hall *The University of the South*
Amelia: Cynthia D. Barker • Fish 1: Matt Mercurio • Fish 2: Libby Williams • SD: Enoch King
(Mentor: Emily Elyse Everett; Director: Jeff Adler)

WHITE MAN • by De'Aveyon *University of Texas - Arlington*
Shaun: Marcus Hopkins-Turner • Deante: Cameron Smith • SD: Kelly Criss
(Mentor: Ro Reddick; Director: Marguerite Hannah)

BREAKDOWN • by Elizabeth Shannon (ELLIS)
Marymount Manhattan College
Piper: Cynthia D. Barker • Hadley: Libby Williams • Bailey: Enoch King • SD: Matt Mercurio
(Mentor: James Anthony Tyler; Director: Marguerite Hannah)

SUSAN THE REDEEMER • by Jackson Cook *University of Arkansas*
Arben: Marcus Hopkins-Turner • Toka: Kelly Criss • Jonty: Cameron Smith
SD: Jasmine Thomas
(Mentor: Ro Reddick; Director: Jeff Adler)

FESTIVAL LEADERSHIP

LISA ADLER, Artistic Director
JACK PADGETT, NSYPF Coordinator

FESTIVAL INTERNS

ADIA REID • AMBER WILLIAMS
GRACE DAVENPORT • KARIS WYMBS

FESTIVAL TEACHERS AND DRAMATURGS

Lead Mentors/Professional Playwrights:
JAMES ANTHONY TYLER
JENNIFER BLACKMER

MFA Mentors: AMALIA OLIVA ROJAS
EMILY ELYSE EVERETT
jose sebastian alberdi • RO REDDICK

SPECIAL THANKS

SUBMISSIONS READERS

Hannah Avery
LaBorn Brown
Rachel Ruff Cuyler
Maya Hodges
Amy Levin
Matt Mercurio

WEEKDAY READING

ACTORS

Enoch King, Alia Shakira
Kyla Cheniel, Jasmine Thomas
Markell Williams,
Libby Williams, Kylie Mask
Amy Levin, Akasha Nelson
Michelle Pokopac
Lindsay Bytof
Marcus Hopkins-Turner
Tonia Jackson
Cameron Smith
Jasmine Renee Ellis
Kenedi Deal, Ian Blanco
Matt Mercurio
Derrick Robertson
Tequilla Whitfield
TJ Ruth
O'Neil Delapenha

Chris Hecke
Maya Caldwell
Luis Hernandez
Patty de La Garza
Maria Rodriguez-Sager
Louis Kyper, Allie Ficken
Dan Reichard

THE PLAYWRIGHTS



ADRIEN KAY is a queer disabled artist based in Atlanta, GA. Set to graduate from the Theatre and Performance Studies program at Kennesaw State

University Summer 2023, he's excited to shift into professional theatre work. Adrien has a passion for poetry, acting, storytelling, and, of course, playwriting. Outside of theatre Adrien is a cosplayer, alternative fashionista, podcast enthusiast, and cat dad.



BRIANNA WHITE is from Conyers, Ga and currently a senior majoring in Media Entrepreneurship at Georgia State University. She enjoys listening to music, writing, learning new things, and

spending time with friends and family. She hopes to one day be apart of creating children's entertainment as well as create meaningful content that everyone can enjoy.



CAMRON WRIGHT is a recent alum from Howard University who majored in English with a concentration in Creative Writing and minored in playwriting.

Wright grew up in Daytona Beach, Florida where she developed a love for storytelling across different mediums. Wright hopes to have a career in the theater and entertainment industry.



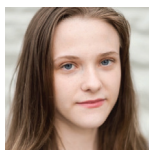
DE'AVEYON MURPHY is a recent graduate from the University of Texas at Arlington, where he earned a BFA in Theater Arts with a concentration in Acting.

While he has been writing for as long as he can remember, his venture into playwriting is a newer pursuit. Combining his passion for acting and writing, De'aveyon aims to create engaging and thought-provoking theatrical experiences.



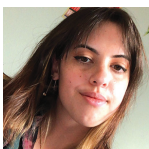
DONNIE FRAZIER is a senior at SUNY Albany, with one semester left in his undergraduate years. He is a theatre major, minoring in creative writing. He is from

Roosevelt, New York, a small town on Long Island.



ELIZABETH SHANNON is a rising junior at Marymount Manhattan College, working to obtain her BFA Acting and BA Writing for the Stage degrees. She has completed

a residency with Young Playwrights Theatre of DC and is a four-time winner of The Blank Theatre's Young Playwrights Festival. She was an inaugural winner of ENOUGH! Plays to End Gun Violence in 2020, having her play *Loaded Language* produced in 47 places across the world and counting. She is the 2023 winner of the Wichita State University Bela Kiralyfalvi National Student Playwriting Competition. She has worked with Baltimore Centerstage, Third Avenue Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, Olney Theatre of DC, and many others. She is published on Playscripts and in two Smith and Kraus monologue anthologies. Instagram: @_elizabethshannon



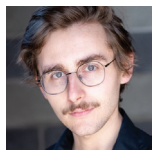
HAILEY SIPES is an aspiring playwright, dramaturg, and screenwriter. Originally from Dallas, Texas, Hailey is a rising senior at Emory University where she studies Playwriting

and Classical Civilization. Although she's been interested in storytelling from a very young age, it is through studying ancient theater that she finds a great deal of inspiration for her work, finding great inspiration from Euripides and Ovid (although a poet) in particular. She is keen on stories that explore liminality, femininity, and the human psyche, with a budding interest in horror playwriting.



JACKSON COOK is a rising senior at the University of Arkansas, pursuing a major in English with a minor in History. He is a below-average tennis player, a lover of terrible

movies, and a dedicated voicemail-leaver. Hailing from Little Rock, his writing explores the challenges of social isolation in modern America, often through the lens of absurd situations and earnest characters.

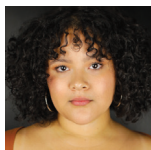


JARED GOUDSMIT is a playwright, actor, and crossword puzzle constructor from St. Louis, MO. He graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans, LA

with a double major in Theatre Performance and Political Science. Jared is a three-time winner of the Blank Theatre's Young

THE PLAYWRITERS

Playwrights Festival and a YoungArts Winner and Finalist in Film. His first play, *Derailed*, was published by Samuel French in 2018. Some of his favorite shows are *Trouble in Mind*, *Dying for It*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. He's also a runner and a proud puzzle nerd. He's very excited to meet everyone at the festival - if you spot him, come say hello!



JEILIANNE VÁZQUEZ is a Puerto Rican actor and writer at the University of North Georgia and a member of the Gainesville Theatre Alliance. She will begin at

Brenau University in the fall to finish her BA in Theatre. She has always had a passion for storytelling. Her goals and aspirations are to create roles for women, especially Latina women, that empower and break all kinds of barriers. She wants to tell stories that can still speak to all people. She is the president of the student organization Color Alliance, a Marketing team member with GTA Marketing, and an active member of The Bridge Church. Her other passions include film, her family, painting, sketching, her dog Padme, and Coffee. Mi Familia, I do this for you.



JESÚS E FELICIANO is a Puerto Rican playwright and dramaturg, attending his second year at Carnegie Mellon University, where he's studying Dramaturgy. As the

fourth of five children, Jesús grew up well surrounded by family and friends who helped and educated him. In his works, he pursues to present the world in an optimistic matter that relates the strong themes Jesús believes in. Amongst the topics and themes he has discussed are: femicide, cultural identity, family dynamics, mental health, religion, grief, and Latinx sensibilities. His works have been presented in CMU's Playground Festival and his high school's Theater Club. Moreover, Jesús has a passion and works in directing and film—he has submitted short films to numerous festivals.



KADIN SMITH is a 2023 graduate of Howard University, where he received his B.A in Media, Journalism and Film with a minor in Playwriting with summa cum

laude honors. This fall, Kadin will be entering Emerson College's MFA in Writing for Film

and Television program. Kadin believes that by studying playwriting or screenwriting at the graduate level, he will be able to refine and dedicate my time to writing, whilst expanding my network in the field and producing my first projects. After graduate school, Kadin sees himself producing a television show for HBO, developing his first motion picture, workshopping plays around the New York theater circuit, and potentially starting his own production company.



KAMILA BOGA makes theatre that explores the intricacy, beauty, and tragedy of growing up. She resides in Los Angeles, California, and developed a passion

for arts education during her time as a theatre student at Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. She is a rising junior at Dartmouth College where she studies Theatre, Psychology, and Education. Kamila is the proud Company Manager of Dartmouth's Displaced Theatre Company where she recently directed her original one-act, *Inflatable Heart*. After graduation, she hopes to continue her work in theatre as an actor, director, and playwright as well as further her studies in theatre arts as it relates to social and emotional development.



MALCOLM MONTGOMERY is a playwright, screenwriter, and journalist from Jonesboro, Georgia. He has recently graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor

of Arts in Journalism with a minor in Theatre. He is a creative storyteller with a love for both facts and fables. Through the medium of the theatre he hopes to explore the many questions, jokes, and fascinations of the human experience. He strives to both entertain and broaden the perspectives and outlooks of his audience; helping people to see what the average person wouldn't notice or think of. His inspirations are Norman Lear, Lorraine Hansberry, and Ralph Ellison.



NICOLE MCKINNEY is an actress and playwright from Miami, FL. She will be going into her third year at the University of Florida where she is pursuing a BFA degree

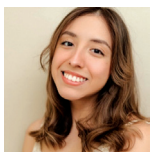
in Acting. She is passionate about storytelling and creating new and exciting stories that

THE PLAYWRITERS

feature fantasy, science fiction, and the supernatural within realism.



OLIVIA JOHNSON is from Pensacola, Florida and recently graduated as Salutatorian from Dillard University. She received her degree in theatre with a concentration in performance. Her full-length play, *The Second Prophecy*, was selected by The Black Academy of Arts and Letters for an Equity staged reading in Dallas, Texas. While at Dillard, Olivia also debuted her one-act horror comedy, *ROUGAROU*, which she also cast and directed. Earlier this year, Dillard University's production of *Yellowman*, a two person play featuring Olivia as one of the leads, was awarded New Orleans' "Big Easy's Best University Theatre Production." Olivia is excited to step into the real world as she pursues a career in acting and playwriting.



SAMANTHA GARCIA NUÑEZ is from Houston, Texas and a rising senior theatre, performance and production major at Texas State University. She first got involved in theatre in high school where she stage managed nine productions, including a UIL show. By senior year, she realized what she wanted to do was storytelling and to create worlds with her writing. In college, she found something else to be passionate about: directing. Her dream is to start her own theatre company where she is the director/producer of her plays' world premieres. She wants to bring the audience in and invite them to feel comfortable with the uncomfortable, to be vulnerable and open in the space, and to know it's okay to connect with these characters...because they are real. Theatre is real and it is the most magical thing she has ever had the pleasure to experience.

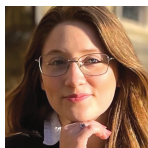


SAMANTHA GRIFFIN (she/her) is a recent graduate of Columbia College Chicago where she received her BFA in Musical Theatre Performance with a minor in Playwriting. She grew up in Southern New Hampshire and has returned to the Greater Boston area post-grad. Samantha owns over 100 books she has yet to read, loves mint chocolate chip ice cream, and listens to Taylor Swift daily.



SARAH BROWN is an Iowa native and a recent graduate of Columbia College Chicago, where she earned her degree in Playwriting and Stage Management. Her work

has been featured in several publications, including the University of Greenwich and Columbia College Chicago's playwriting anthologies entitled *When the Party's Over* and *Renaissance*. This summer she will be stage managing a new work entitled *The Fallen Angels Hotel*. She plans to stay in Chicago, where she is currently a production intern at the Chicago Dramatists. Outside of theatre she enjoys hammocking at the lakefront, catching up on *Love Island* UK, and trying to (finally) finish *Pokémon Brilliant Diamond*. She is also an avid MUNA fan, putting their music in rotation with Adam Melchor, ABBA, and Fleetwood Mac.



SARAH HALL (she/her) is a recent graduate from Sewanee, The University of the South, who studied English, Creative Writing, and dance. For most of her life,

she has lived in Spring Hill, Tennessee. She has been writing fiction for as long as she can remember, but she only recently starting writing plays in her last year of college. Her fascination with the stage started with directing performing arts shows and stage managing dance recitals. When she is not writing, she can be seen collecting tea sets, teaching dance classes, or taking her dog on long walks while listening to the same albums on repeat.



SUSAN LI is from August, Georgia and is a rising senior at Emory University, studying film and media with a concentration in business. She is honored to participate

in this festival as this was her first time writing a complete play. She feels extreme gratitude toward her playwriting professor and fellow writing peers for supporting her through writing a full narrative for the first time. She wants her writing to explore the intersectionality of being queer and Asian in a way that centers joy and fantasy. She believes that, in writing, the right amount of absurdity can be more therapeutic than one might think. She loves all things pink and watching

THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Chinese fantasy dramas with her stuffed animals.



TALIA SPEAK (Temple University) (she/her) is an actor, playwright, and director from Wilmington, Delaware. She recently graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia with a double major in Theater and English. Here, she had the opportunity to perform in several Temple Theaters productions (including *The Wolves* and *Fefu and Her Friends*) and write, direct, and produce new work through Temple Theaters Side Stage. Talia sees theater as a tool for building connection, community, and empathy, and especially enjoys consuming and creating work which explores female friendship.



TARA CARROLL is an actor and playwright from Melbourne, Florida. She has always felt passionate about the beautiful world of writing and storytelling.

As an actor, Tara has participated in multiple productions through Florida Players, the University of Florida's student-run theatre company, including *Push-Up* and *The Wolves*. For her performance in the latter, Tara was nominated for Best Leading Performance in a Play by her peers. She made her directorial debut this past spring with a production of *Chemical Imbalance: A Jekyll & Hyde Play*. Tara feels very grateful to be selected for this festival alongside these other wonderful candidates. Tara is currently finishing her undergrad in public relations and theatre at the University of Florida.

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Jackie Goodman



Kristie Madara



Kasie Slay



ACTOR BIOS & HEADSHOTS are available on our website
at www.horizontheatre.com/nsypf-2023-actors/

THE MENTORS



JAMES ANTHONY TYLER

(LEAD MENTOR) is the recipient of the 3rd Annual Horton Foote Playwriting Award and an inaugural playwright to receive a

commission from Audible. He was also recently The Playwrights Center's McKnight Fellow. His plays include *Artney Jackson* (World Premiere at Williamstown Theatre Festival, 2018 Edgerton Foundation New Play Award), *Some Old Black Man* (Berkshire Playwrights Lab at St. James Place and 59E59 Theaters), *Dolphins and Sharks* (LAByrinth Theater Company and Finborough Theatre in London). He has a MFA in Film from Howard University and a MFA in Dramatic Writing from New York University. He is also a graduate of The Juilliard School's Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program. He was the Staff Writer for the OWN Network show *Cherish the Day* and was most recently in the writers' room for a new Apple+ drama series starring an Academy Award-winning actress. Upcoming: *Some Old Black Man* in London 2024 and the world premiere of *Into the Side of a Hill* in Flint, Michigan in 2024.



JENNIFER BLACKMER'S

plays have been seen in productions across the country and include *Human Terrain*, *Unraveled*, Margaret Atwood's *Alias*

Grace (Joseph Jefferson award for Best Adaptation), *Delicate Particle Logic*, *Borrowed Babies* (David Mark Cohen National Playwriting Award) and *Predictor*, a rolling world premiere, O'Neill finalist, and finalist for the 2020 Jane Chambers Award for Feminist Playwriting. Her newest play, *I Carry Your Heart With Me*, will premiere at Third Avenue Playworks in May 2023. Jennifer's work has been developed by Seven Devils, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Nashville Repertory Theatre, The Playwrights' Center, The Lark and Activate Midwest, and she is the recipient of the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theatre Award for Emerging American Playwright, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Tribeca Film Institute award, the Indiana Women of Achievement Award, and the Gold Medallion from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Jennifer

is a Professor of Theatre at Ball State, where she also serves as Director of the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry. www.jenniferblackmer.com



AMALIA OLIVA ROJAS

(she/her/ella) is a Mexican poet, performer, and theater artist based in Nueva York. Her work centers and archives the stories,

myths, and legends told by her family, her community, and fellow immigrant women. She is a proud alumnus of the Vassar College Powerhouse Theater Apprentice Program and CUNY Lehman College. Residencies include Pen America's DREAMING OUT LOUD fellowship, New Perspectives Theater Company Women's Work Short and Full-Length Play Lab, NYU Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics, EmergeNYC Program, Culture Hub's Thriving Changemakers, Beam's Center Lighthouse Artist Residency at Governors Island, among others. In November 2022, her play *A Step-by-Step Guide on How to Succeed in the Myth-Making Business* was produced by Lehman College. Most recently, Amalia's play *How to Melt ICE (or How the Coyote fell in love with the lizard who was really a butterfly)* received the New York Women's Fund grant. *How to Melt ICE* was co-produced by New Perspectives Theatre Company and Boundless Theater Company in February 2023. She is currently pursuing her MFA in Playwriting at Columbia University.



EMILY ELYSE EVERETT

is a writer and actor living in New York. In her work, she is interested in the mysterious, bizarre, and dark, and in exploring the

complexity of human morality, womanhood, and the psychological unraveling of the contemporary world. Originally from Portland, Oregon, Emily has a BA from Brown University and is a Playwriting MFA candidate at Columbia University, where she works with Lynn Nottage, David Henry Hwang, and Chuck Mee. Emily was awarded Synecdoche Works' 2022 Frank Moffett Mosier Fellowship for Works in Heightened Language and the \$3000 winning prize for her play *Strange and Splendid*. She

THE MENTORS

was a Semifinalist for the Lanford Wilson New American Play Festival and a Winner of the Players Club of Swarthmore New Play Festival for her play *Serenity*, and was selected for the 2023 Valdez Theater Conference for her play *Tryhard*. Emily attended the 2015 New South Young Playwrights Festival and is honored to be back as a mentor!



jose sebastian alberdi is a Mexican-Basque-American playwright, born and raised in San Diego. He now lives in Brooklyn and writes plays to make sense of things he

finds interesting &/or important. sebastian has received commissions from SpeakEasy Stage for their annual Boston Project and is under commission at INTAR as their inaugural Max Ferrá Playwriting Fellow. He was a writer-in-residence at Fresh Ground Pepper's first-ever Eco Week as part of their 2022 BRB Retreat, and a playwriting fellow at Lambda Literary's 2018 Writer's Retreat. Selected plays: *bogfriends* (O'Neill NPC Selection 2023); *The Family Saves A Life* (O'Neill Semifinalist 2022); *rachel, nevada*; and *de tal palo, tal astilla, a ten-minute play* (Take Ten Theater Masters 2023, Concord Theatricals/Sam French). MFA: NYU; BA: Northeastern; @milk_jello



RO REDDICK (she/her) is a queer Black playwright/songwriter and a third year MFA Playwriting candidate at Brown University. She writes off-kilter comedies

that are the theme songs to your late capitalist nightmares. Plays: *Throwback Island* (Bushwick Starr Reading Series '22, O'Neill Finalist '23), *ROBAMA* (Williamstown Theater Festival NYC Reading '22, O'Neill Semifinalist '22), *Miss Black Syracuse* (The Duplex), *Cold War Choir Practice*, and *The History of Black People...* (co-writer Daryl Lathon). Her script *The Fam* was a semifinalist for the MACRO x Blacklist Episodic Lab, and her short *A Test in Stamina* premiered at the Big Apple Film Festival. Fellowships + other fun stuff: Venturous Fellowship Nomination 2023, Lambda Literary Writers Retreat (summer 2023), La Mama Umbria International Playwright Retreat, Miranda Theatre Company Playwright Grant. Ro has a BFA in Acting from Ithaca College and an MBA from NYU, which she has no intention of using.

ACTOR BIOS & HEADSHOTS are available on our website
at www.horizontheatre.com/nsypf-2023-actors/

DIRECTORS



JEFF ADLER is co-founder of Horizon Theatre Company. He has been a partner in creating Horizon Theatre's artistic programming since 1984.

He has directed more than 30 plays for Horizon including critically-acclaimed and popular productions of *Support Group for Men*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Sex with Strangers* by Laura Eason, *The Book Club Play* by Karen Zacarias, *Superior Donuts* by Tracey Letts, *The Santaland Diaries* by David Sedaris, *Permanent Collection* by Thomas Gibbons, *The Drawer Boy* by Michael Healey, *Madame Melville* by Richard Nelson, *The Lonesome West* by Martin McDonough, *Racing Demon* by David Hare, *All in the Timing* and *Mere Mortals* by David Ives, and *The Joy of Going Somewhere Definite* by Quincy Long. From 1995-2010, he led the Horizon Theatre Senior Ensemble, an outreach program that trained seniors in acting and playwriting and toured plays by and about seniors to locations throughout metro-Atlanta. He is in his seventh year serving as the drama teacher for The New School, a small, independent intown high school. In addition to his artistic duties, he also directs Horizon Theatre's technical and production staff and manages the facility. He studied at the Goodman School of Drama and holds a BA in Theatre from Roosevelt University.



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



MARGUERITE HANNAH

started her adventures in theatre and the arts nearly 30 years ago first as an actor then arts administrator and now director and mentor. She has served on Horizon's leadership team for the past sixteen years, first as Horizon's Business Manager and the director of the Apprentice Company and now as Associate Artistic Producer as well as Producer of Black Women Speak. She has been a professional actress and a member of Actors' Equity Association for more than 30 years working on both local and national stages, including productions at Horizon. In addition to her work at Horizon, she has worked in arts administration positions with the first National Black Arts Festival in 1988 and ART Station, a multi-disciplined art center. Ms. Hannah was a member of the 2011 class of Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta and a magna cum laude graduate of Howard University in Public Relations and Journalism. She is a member of the Board of Directors for two national organizations, the National New Play Network (NNPN) and the National Alliance for Musical Theatres (NAMT), and is past Board Treasurer of the Little 5 Points Center for Arts & Community. She was a member of Arts Leader of Metro Atlanta Class of 2011 and is a proud alumnus of Howard University. She has also been a Georgia Council for the Arts Grant Review Panelist; a Georgia High School Musical Theatre Shuler Awards Adjudicator; and a KCACTF Irene Ryan Judge & Festival Respondent.