

HORIZON

THEATRE COMPANY

2025 NEW SOUTH young playwrights festival



June 1-7, 2025
5-Minute Play Festival JUNE 7 • 2PM

A giant thank you to this year's NSYPF donors/heroes
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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

COLD FEET • by Kayla Karnesky *Columbia College Chicago*

Penny: Dionna Davis • Wally: Dane Troy • Keith: Enoch King • Marla: Alejandra Ruiz • SD: Osa Osawaru
(Mentor: France-Luce Benson; Director: Eric J. Little)

SNAKE IN THE MACHINE • Lucía Salazar-Davidson *Augsburg Univ*

Alice: Michelle Pokopac • Will: Elliott Folds • Alice Too: Kelly Criss • Brian: Marcus Hopkins-Turner • SD: Ari Rece
(Mentor: Mo Holmes; Director: Jennifer Alice Acker)

GREEN LIGHT • Aderinola Adepoju *Wake Forest Univ*

Anne: Cara Mantella • Maya: Jade' Davis • SD: Jacob York
(Mentor: Kira Rockwell; Director: Erika Miranda)

ALICE & ANNE • by Timmy Torinus *Bennington College*

Alice: Kelly Criss • Anne: Michelle Pokopac • Stage Directions: Marcus Hopkins-Turner
(Mentor: Crystal Skillman; Director: Jennifer Alice Acker)

STARLIGHT, STARBRIGHT • by Bobbi Salas *Columbia College Chicago*

Vega/Isabella: Jade' Davis • Antonio: Matt Mercurio • SD: Cara Mantella
(Mentor: Kira Rockwell; Director: Erika Miranda)

HOW THEY SEE HER • by Shahim Faircloth Jr. *NC Central Univ*

Laura: Kelly Criss • Aurora: Michelle Pokopac • Charlie: Elliott Folds
Monty: Marcus Hopkins-Turner • SD: Ari Rece
(Mentor: Mo Holmes; Director: Enoch King)

DECLINING • by Julia Shuttleworth *Univ of Virginia*

Zoey: Alejandra Ruiz • Adam: Dane Troy • Front Desk Lady: Dionna Davis • SD: Enoch King
(Mentor: Ellie Melick; Director: Eric J. Little)

ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET • by Kai Chisholm *GA State Univ*

Marcial: Matt Mercurio • Beatrice: Jade' Davis • Officer 1/News Anchor: Cara Mantella • Officer 2: Jacob York
(Mentor: M Kamara; Director: Erika Miranda)

VIEW FROM THE ROCK • by Julia Avery *Palm Beach State Univ*

Sisyphus: Marcus Hopkins-Turner • HR: Michelle Pokopac • Stage Manager: Elliott Folds
(Mentor: Crystal Skillman; Director: Jennifer Alice Acker)

THE PLAYS

WOOPSY, DAISEY • by Anthony Cosgrove *Temple Univ*

Father: Enoch King • Son: Dane Troy • Daisey: Dionna Davis • SD: Alejandra Ruiz

(Mentor: France-Luce Benson; Director: Eric J. Little)

FAILED • Amelia Milstein *Univ of Virginia*

Miss Walker: Jade' Davis • Mrs. Sanchez: Cara Mantella • Principal Ross: Jacob York • SD: Jill Hill

(Mentor: M Kamara; Director: Erika Miranda)

BREATHE IN...BREATHE OUT • by Alexis McNeal *Troy Univ*

Alejandra Ruiz: Operator • Dionna Davis: Barbra • Dane Troy: Kenny • Enoch King: Therapist • SD: Osa Osawaru

(Mentor: Ellie Melick; Director: Eric J. Little)

—10-MINUTE INTERMISSION—

THE SOUND OF THE SOUND OF MUSIC

book & lyrics by Gianni Ly *San Diego State Univ* • **music by Anh Vo** *San Diego State Univ*

Earnest "Earn": Marcus Hopkins-Turner • Peter: Elliott Folds • SD: Kelly Criss

(Mentor: Crystal Skillman; Director: Jennifer Alice Acker)

THE FUMBLE • by Niveah Glover *Howard Univ*

Moe: Enoch King • Dominique: Dionna Davis • J.R.: Dane Troy • SD: Alejandra Ruiz

(Mentor: France-Luce Benson; Director: Eric J. Little)

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE LET ME DATE A ROBOT

by Ainsley Powers *Emory Univ*

Rob: Jacob York • Sophie: Jade' Davis • Al HOTTIE: Matt Mercurio • Dr. Bot: Cara Mantella • SD: Jill Hill

(Mentor: Kira Rockwell; Director: Erika Miranda)

AND BEYOND • Carmen Foster *Ohio Univ*

Wanda: Kelly Criss • Lily: Michelle Pokopac • Stage Directions: Marcus Hopkins-Turner

(Mentor: Crystal Skillman; Director: Jennifer Alice Acker)

I'D TELL YOU, BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU

by Nevaeh Harris-Redd *Agnes Scott College*

Zachary: Dane Troy • Maura: Alejandra Ruiz • SD: Dionna Davis

(Mentor: Ellie Melick; Director: Eric J. Little)

TO THE HERE AND NOW! • by Oluwatosin Thompson *Georgia State Univ*

Curiosity: Jade' Davis • Abayomi: Matt Mercurio • The Other One: Cara Mantella • The Other Other One: Jacob York

SD: Jill Hill (Mentor: M Kamara; Director: Erika Miranda)

ROOM 327 • by La'sianna *Clark Atlanta Univ*

Dr. Johnson: Michelle Pokopac • Nurse Owen: Elliott Folds • Juliana: Kelly Criss • Andrew: Marcus Hopkins-Turner

SD: Ari Rece (Mentor: Mo Holmes; Director: Lisa Adler)

O BURRACO • by Ian Angelou Rein *Emory Univ*

João: Enoch King • Isabella: Dionna Davis • Danilo: Dane Troy • Mariana: Alejandra Ruiz • SD: Osa Osawaru

(Mentor: Ellie Melick; Director: Eric J. Little)

— CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE —

THE PLAYS

I'LL DRINK TO THAT • by Gabe Gibboni *Temple Univ*
Jacob York: Benny • Matt Mercurio: Mateo • Jade' Davis: Mali • Cara Mantella: Rita • SD: Jill Hill
(Mentor: Kira Rockwell; Director: Erika Miranda)

MY HEART SMILES • by Taufik Abdul-Jaleel *UNC-Charlotte*
Belle: Kelly Criss • Heaven: Michelle Pokopac • Raheem: Marcus Hopkins-Turner • Elias: Elliott Folds • SD: Ari Rece
(Mentor: Mo Holmes; Director: Jennifer Alice Acker)

WITHOUT A HITCH • by Eden Lipham *Oglethorpe Univ*
Mark: Matt Mercurio • Krysta: Jade' Davis • Ida: Cara Mantella • Hitch: Jacob York • SD: Jill Hill
(Mentor: M Kamara; Director: Erika Miranda)

IKU, LA LUNA AND THE LOVER • by Moyo Ifafore *Carnegie Mellon Univ*
The Narrator: Dionna Davis • IKU: Enoch King • LA LUNA: Alejandra Ruiz • The Lover: Dane Troy • SD: Osa Osawaru
(Mentor: France-Luce Benson; Director: Eric J. Little)

FESTIVAL LEADERSHIP

LISA ADLER, Artistic Director
JACK PADGETT, NSYPF Coordinator

FESTIVAL INTERNS

Emerson Brasfield, Jill Hill, Amari Lewis,
Eden Mew, Osa Osawaru, Ari Rece,
Veronica Schwab, Grace Adams Ward

FESTIVAL TEACHERS AND DRAMATURGS

Lead Mentors/Professional Playwrights:
FRANCE-LUCE BENSON,
KIRA ROCKWELL, CRYSTAL SKILLMAN

MFA Mentors:
MO HOLMES,
M KAMARA, ELLIE MELICK

SPECIAL THANKS

SUBMISSIONS READERS

Jack Padgett, Lisa, Adler, Amy Levin,
Benjamin Reilly, Chris Hampton,
Gio Tortorici, Jenn Acker, Kira Rockwell,
LaBorn Brown, Rachel Cuyler

WEEKDAY ACTORS

Enoch King, Dane Troy, Ariel Ford, Brittani
Minnieweathe, Yvonne Singh, Tonia
Jackson, Derrick Robertson, Alexandra
Ficken, Patty de la Garza, MaRah Williams,
Michelle Pokopac, Jade' Davis, Jack Ha,

Kelly Criss, Sarah Hack, Zach Olds, Maggie
Birgel Larson, Markell Williams, Cara
Mantella, Bill Murphey, Lala Cochran, Leo
Thomasian, Alejandra Ruiz, Amee Vyas,
Matt Mercurio, Suehyla Young, O'Neil
Delapenha, Brian Montemayor, Jacob York
James Donadio, Rob Cleveland, Dionna
Davis, Shannon Eubanks, Shunrodneey
Rosser, Ana Miramontes, Denise Arribas,
Joe Pendergrast, Camara Stampley,
Tyshawn Gooden

GUEST SPEAKERS

Lauren Yee
Darren Canady
Trey Anthony
Carla Ching
Tom Jones II
Lauren Gunderson
J Holtham
Jonathan Mills
Alexis Scheer
Emmanuel Wilson

THANK YOU TO OUR NSYPF DONORS!

Many, many thanks to all of our generous donors who stepped up to make this year's Festival possible when our National Endowment for the Arts grant was suddenly cancelled in May. These major donors below and over 100 additional individual donors have allowed the Festival to continue as planned!

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