



JULY 13-16

All events begin at 7 p.m., each night

HOW TO WATCH

There are a few ways to enjoy the *NEXT ACT! New Play Summit* virtually.

Tune in:

1. theREP's Facebook Page -
www.facebook.com/CapitalRep
2. Proctors Collaborative YouTube -
www.youtube.com/channel/UC-2mrbG7keINj3XOG-ltC9A
3. Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV or Roku - Download "Collaborative Studios" App
4. On-Demand- **<https://bit.ly/2Bpdq5p>**

DONATE

In cooperation with Actor's Equity Association, all readings in the 2020 *Next Act! New Play Summit* are part of a fundraiser for theREP's new work development.

No fee is required for viewing, but a donation of \$25 is recommended to help the theatre continue to develop scripts and produce the world premiere works that have appeared on theREP's stage over the past 10 years.

Text **NEXTACT** to **41444** to make a donation.

SCHEDULE

MONDAY, JULY 13

NEW VOICES: YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST READING 7:00

DIRECTED BY: BARBARA HOWARD

- *An Artist's Hand* by Grace Bombard
- *Just a Normal Friday* by Jeremiah Choudhury
- *Almost a Fairytale* by Megan Dellenbaugh
- *The Deadly Dinner Party* by Clare Reilly & Regan Roberts
- *Our New Colossus* by Maya Terry Stein
- *A Series of Unfortunate Ideas* by Jasmin VanDyke & Jonathan Jordan

TUESDAY, JULY 14

NEXTGEN: SLAM! READING 7:00

WRITTEN BY: BILLY FEERICK
DIRECTED BY: TYAELA NIEVES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

A DISTINCT SOCIETY 7:00
BY KAREEM FAHMY

DIRECTED BY MEGAN SANDBERG-ZAKIAN
DRAMATURGE: KIMBERLY COLBURN

THURSDAY, JULY 16

THE FIRST 15 7:00
DIRECTED BY: LEIGH STRIMBECK

- *The Monroe Doctrine* by Mark Scharf
- *Southern Haunt* by Kathryn Walat
- *Wheel Woman* by Vincent Delaney
- *Guenevere* by Susan Cinoman

CAST LIST

A DISTINCT SOCIETY BY KAREEM FAHMY

DIRECTED BY MEGAN SANDBERG-ZAKIAN

DRAMATURGE: KIMBERLY COLBURN

Cast:

Peyman Gilani: Barzin Akhavan*

Manon Desjardins: Heidi Armbruster*

Declan Sheehan: Ashby Gentry

Shirin Gilani: Nikki Massoud*

Bruce Laird: Johnnie MackStage

Stage Direction Reader: Mark W. Soucy*

NEW VOICES: YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST

DIRECTED BY BARBARA HOWARD

Our New Colossus by Maya TerryStein

CAST:

David: Jake Goodman

Leah: Madalyn Montgomery

Claire: Gabrielle D. Straight

Rose: Kristyn Youngblood*

Ensemble: Rebekah Brisbane, George Franklin*,
Ben Katagiri

Just a Normal Friday by Jeremiah Choudhury

CAST:

Colton Jackson: George Franklin*

Jack Evans: Jake Goodman

Mr. Robert Colins: Ben Katagiri

Violet Wilson: Gabriella Straight

A Series of Unfortunate Ideas

by Jasmin VanDyke and Jonathan Jordan

CAST:

James: George Franklin*

Janet: Madalyn Montgomery

Ensemble: Rebekah Brisbane, JJ Buechner, Ben
Katagiri, Kristyn Youngblood*

An Artists Hand by Grace Bombard

CAST:

Ruby: Rebekah Brisbane

Sunshine: Madalyn Montgomery

Doom: Gabrielle D. Straight

Content: Kristyn Youngblood*

Almost a Fairytale by Megan Dellenbaugh

CAST:

Alex: JJ Buechner

Narrator: Jake Goodman

David: Ben Katagiri

Emily: Kristyn Youngblood*

Deadly Dinner Party

by Clare Reilly and Regan Roberts

CAST:

Eleanor: Rebekah Brisbane

Frank: JJ Buechner

Oscar: George Franklin*

Walter: Ben Katagiri

Narrator: Madalyn Montgomery

Beatrice: Gabrielle D. Straight

Francine: Kristyn Youngblood*

CAST LIST

NEXTGEN

SLAM BY BILLY FEERICK

DIRECTED BY TYAELA NIEVES

CAST:

Joe: Justin Friello*

Trixy: Adrian Kiser*

Jeff: Eddie Maldonado*

Kevin: Joshua Redfield*

Robin: Ryan Gregory Thurman*

Mizz Frizz: Diaka Kaba Hill

Stage Direction Reader: Laura Crawford

THE FIRST 15

DIRECTED BY LEIGH STRIMBECK

The Monroe Doctrine by Mark Scharf

CAST:

Crane: David Socolar*

Tedward: Mark W. Soucy*

Madison: Jalissa Watson

Stage Direction Reader: Patrick White

Wheel Woman by Vincent Delaney

CAST:

Anna Kopchovsky (aka Annie Londonderry):

Erica Tryon*

The roles of John Dowe, Albert Reeder, Young

Woman, Landlady, Max Kopchovsky, Jacob

(Annie's brother) will be played by Ellen Cribbs,

Elieen Schuyler*, Jenny Strassburg*.

Stage Direction Reader: Patrick White

Southern Haunt by Kathryn Walat

CAST:

Addison: Jenny Strassburg*

Ty: Julian Tushabe

Stage Direction Reader: Patrick White

Guenevere by Susan Cinoman

CAST:

Lancelot: Kent Burnham*

Arthur: David Girard*

Guenevere: Yvonne Perry*

Stage Direction Reader: Tony Pallone*

MEET OUR ACTORS



Barzin Akhavan



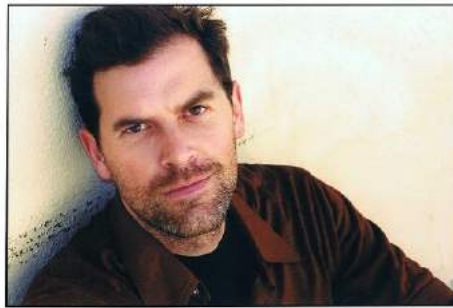
Heidi Armbruster



JJ Buechner



Rebekah Brisbane



Kent Burnham



Laura Crawford



Ellen Cribbs



George Franklin



Justin Friello



Ashby Gentry



David Girard



Jake Goodman

MEET OUR ACTORS



Diaka Kaba Hill



Ben Katagiri



Adrian Kiser



Johnnie Mack



Eddie Maldonado



Nikki Massoud



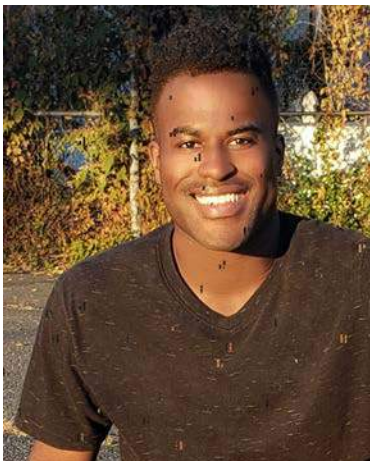
Madalyn Montgomery



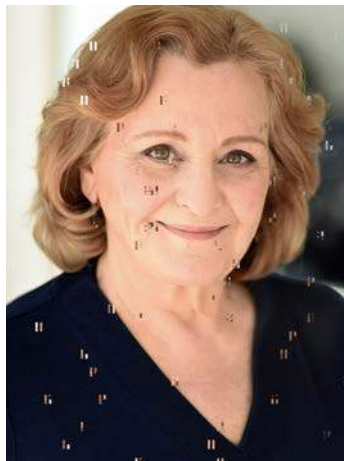
Tony Pallone



Yvonne Perry



Joshua Redfield



Eileen Schuyler



David Socolar

MEET OUR ACTORS



Mark W. Soucy



Gabrielle D. Straight



Jenny Strassburg



Ryan Gregory Thurman



Erica Tryon



Julian Tushabe



Patrick White



Kristyn Youngblood

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

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS

AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS

SAG-AFTRA

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

MEET OUR PLAYWRIGHTS

WINNING SUBMISSION OF THE NEXT ACT! NEW PLAY SUMMIT 9 *A DISTINCT SOCIETY*



Kareem Fahmy (Playwright) is a Canadian-born playwright and director of Egyptian descent. His plays, which include *A Distinct Society*, *The Triumphant*, *Pareidolia*, *The In-Between*, and an adaptation of the acclaimed Egyptian novel *The Yacoubian Building*, have been developed or presented at The Atlantic Theater Company, New York Stage & Film, Target Margin Theater, The Lark, Fault Line Theater, and Noor Theater. Kareem has directed a number of world premiere productions including James Scruggs's *3/Fifths* (3LD, New York Times Top 5 Must-See Shows), Sevan K. Greene's *This Time* (Sheen Center, New York Times Critics' Pick), Bess Welden's *Refuge*Malja* (Portland Stage), Adam Kraar's *Alternating Currents* (Working Theater), Nikkole Salter's *Indian Head* (Luna Stage), and Victor Lesniewski's *Couriers and Contrabands* (TBG Theatre, also co-creator). He has been a fellow or resident artist at the Sundance Theatre Lab, Oregon Shakespeare Festival (Phil Killian Directing Fellow), Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center (National Directors Fellow), Second Stage (Van Lier Directing Fellow), Soho Rep (Writer/Director Lab), Lincoln Center (Directors Lab), The New Museum (Artist-in-Residence), and New York Theater Workshop (Emerging Artist Fellow & Usual Suspect). He has developed new plays at theaters around the country, including MCC, Ensemble Studio Theatre, New Dramatists, The Civilians, Geva Theatre, Pioneer Theatre, Silk Road Rising, and Berkeley Rep. Kareem is the co-founder of the Middle Eastern American Writers Lab at The Lark and a co-founder of Maia Directors, a consulting group for organizations and artists engaging with stories from the Middle East and beyond. MFA: Columbia University. www.KareemFahmy.com

NEW VOICES: YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST WINNERS



Grace Bombard (Playwright of *An Artist's Hand*) is graduating from Loudonville Christian School and will be attending Hudson Valley this coming fall. She absolutely loves the arts, particularly theatre and character design. She's performed in many plays produced by her school, including the eccentric Sheriff of Nottingham's wife in *Robin Hood*, a frightening cook named Chef Lulu Fondue (with slight murderous tendencies) in *Curse of the Cobra's Kiss*, and a key performer in her last performance in *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. She is so grateful to be given this amazing opportunity and would like to thank her english teacher, Miss Nietfeld, for her support and guidance, and her family and friends for encouraging her.



Jeremiah Choudhury (Playwright of *Just a Normal Friday*) is a high school senior attending Loudonville Christian School. He has acted in multiple plays in the past but this is his first time writing a play. Other hobbies Jeremiah enjoys taking part in is Public Speaking and playing various instruments. He was so shocked when He found out that he was chosen as one of this years playwrights. He is so excited to have this opportunity and is very thankful for his family and friends that have supported and encouraged him along the way.

MEET OUR PLAYWRIGHTS

NEW VOICES: YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST WINNERS



Megan Dellenbaugh (Playwright of *Almost a Fairytale*) is in tenth grade at Bethlehem Central High School. She has loved to write since she was little. This is the second play she has written (for scoring), but she is working on several other projects too. Admittedly, this has been a strange tenth grade for her, but a fun one. When not writing, she is very busy dancing, acting, and singing, for theatre and just for fun. Some of her favorite roles: Asaka in *Once on this Island, Jr.* (BCMS), Wonka in *Willy Wonka, Jr.* (Cue Theatre), and Liz in *Museum* (TWAN).



Jonathan Jordan (Playwright of *A Series of Unfortunate Ideas*) is a student of Coxsackie-Athens High School.



Clare Reilly (Playwright of *The Deadly Dinner Party*) is a sophomore at Guilderland High School. She is involved in Symphony Orchestra, and Track and Field. She's passionate about writing, art, botany, and history. Though this is the first play she's written, she is excited to see where the skill takes her. She'd like to thank her English teachers, family, and friends for their support. She is very thankful for this amazing opportunity!



Regan Roberts (Playwright of *The Deadly Dinner Party*) is a student of Guilderland High School.

NEW VOICES: YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST WINNERS CONTD.



Maya TerryStein (Playwright of *Our New Colossus*) is a junior at Shaker High School. She is very excited to have her first short play included in this year's Young Playwright Contest. Last year she participated in the Capital Repertory Theatre's Youth Summer Stage, and is excited to explore new aspects of theatre. She would like to thank her mom, for always being an honest, yet kind, critic



Jasmine Van Dyke (Playwright of *A Series of Unfortunate Ideas*) is a finishing Junior at Coxsackie-Athens High School. All throughout her life she has been drawn towards the arts, taking up passions and hobbies such painting, drawing, and playing music with a variety of instruments. She is incredibly honored to be given such a fun opportunity to show off her creativity and to be able to work with her good friend, Jon. Many thanks to her teachers, family and friends who encourage her to have no fear with being herself and think outside of the box, no matter how strange her thoughts and ideas may be!

NEXTGEN PLAYWRIGHT



William (Billy) Feerick (Playwright of *SLAM!*) is a senior studying theatre and business at the University at Albany. He loves to act, write, and make music. *SLAM!* is his first play and he is extremely grateful to everyone involved in its production and reading. Special thanks to Savannah Lanz and professor Kate Walat for being inspiring and encouraging during the writing process.

FIRST 15 PLAYWRIGHTS



Susan Cinoman (Playwright of *Guenevere*) is a playwright and screenwriter whose work is published and produced internationally. For television, she is the creator of the recurring character, Miss Cinoman on ABC's, **The Goldbergs**, and a frequent writer and contributor. Her one-act play, **Fitting Rooms**, Applause Books, Best Short Plays and is produced internationally. Other productions are **Cinoman and Rebeck** and **Gin and Bitters**, Off Broadway. Her play **Sweet Sand**, produced by Ensemble Studio Theatre has been recently published. Two plays were made into award winning independent films. **Love and Class in Connecticut** and **All Me, All the Time** have screened at film festivals throughout New England. Cinoman is the recipient of the Maxwell Anderson Playwrights Prize, The Aristos Award, Theatre Ariel Award, Best Connecticut Filmmaker of 2007, Ivoryton Playhouse Writing Award and the Guilford Prize in Drama for her new play, **Guenevere**.



Vincent Delaney's (Playwright of *Wheel Woman*) plays have been produced, commissioned and developed at the Guthrie, Humana Festival, Florida Studio Theatre, LAByrinth, New Harmony Project, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Florida Stage, the Children's Theatre Company, the Magic, Woolly Mammoth, Shakespeare and Company, Pittsburgh Public, InterAct, the Lark, PlayLabs, and Orlando Shakespeare Festival, among others. 99 LAYOFFS premiered at ACT Theatre and Radial Theatre Project, and was produced at Orange Theatre in Amsterdam; the script was a nominee for the ATCA Steinberg Award. LAS CRUCES won the New Play Award from Premiere Stages. THE SEQUENCE has been produced around the country and as far away as Japan, Canada, and the U.K. AMPERSAND won the Reva Shiner Comedy Award from the Bloomington Playwrights Project. Other awards include McKnight and Bush Fellowships, Core Membership at the Playwrights Center, the Heideman from Actors Theatre of Louisville, and a Jerome Commission. Publications: Applause Books, Smith and Kraus, Samuel French, Heineman, Dramatics Magazine, Theatre Forum, and Playscripts.com.



Mark Scharf (Playwright of *The Monroe Doctrine*) is an award winning American playwright living in Baltimore, MD whose plays have been produced and published widely in the United States and internationally. Scharf has served as Playwright-in-Residence for Theatre Virginia's New Voices Program and taught Playwriting at the University of Mary Washington and at Howard Community College. He has also presented Playwriting seminars for the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts, The University of Mary Washington, The University of Virginia, Johns Hopkins University, the Baltimore Playwrights Festival, and the Maryland Writer's Alliance. Scharf served three terms as Chairman of the Baltimore Playwrights Festival. He has an MFA in Playwriting from the University of Virginia and is a member of the Dramatists Guild. Scharf believes in the power of the idiosyncratic voice of the playwright to move people to feel, think, remember and understand in a way no other art can.



Kathryn Walat (Playwright of *Southern Haunt*) is a playwright and opera librettist. SOUTHERN HAUNT has been workshopped at the NYS Writers Institute (Albany), Actor's Express (Atlanta), and the Playwrights' Center (Minneapolis); it was a finalist for 2019 National Playwright Conference/Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. Other plays include: SEE BAT FLY (Kilroy's List; Brown-Trinity Playwrights Rep), CREATION (Theatre @ Boston Court; Ovation Award for Playwriting nomination), BLEEDING KANSAS (Hangar Theatre; Francesca Primus Citation/American Theatre Critics Association), VICTORIA MARTIN: MATH TEAM QUEEN (Women's Project; published in "New Playwrights: The Best Plays of 2007"). She received her BA from Brown University and MFA Yale School of Drama, and is an Assistant Professor/Playwright-in-Residence at University at Albany. www.kathrynwalat.com

MEET OUR DIRECTORS



Barbara Howard (Director of *New Voices: Young Playwright Contest Readings*) has produced and directed many Community African-American Cultural Celebrations, Poetry Slam Performances, Summer Leadership Performance Competitions, The Reason for the Season Vol I & II, Christmas musicals. Tapestry, a Musical Play celebrating Womanhood. The Nub of the Issue, a civil rights statement, A Snowy Day, musical play, and The Black Snowman, a musical play. As a theater arts teacher Ms. Howard facilitates an experience for the scholars to build a foundation through community and trust-building skills, conflict resolution, improvisational acting, monologues, poetry slams, playwriting, exploring social issues and Shakespeare. Through the interpretation of dramatic literature and the creation of their own works, students engage as writers, actors, designers, directors and technicians. Students learn to use their minds, bodies, voices, emotions and sense of artistry to examine the world and its meaning. Ms. Howard believe in the power to effect change in the lives of our young people through solid education and the belief in empowering them to believe in themselves and to never give up on their dreams.



Tyaela Nieves (Director, *SLAM!*) is an actor-writer-director living in Brooklyn, NY. She is originally from Albany, NY but moved to NYC to study Drama at the Experimental Theatre Wing at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Some of her previous work at The Rep includes acting in the Next Act Play Festival, directing and assistant teaching at the summer program, along with crew and wardrobe. She is grateful for how much artistic growth she has been able to achieve with her time at the REP. To see some of her previous work, you can view her 2019 experimental documentary "La Flor de mi Madre" on YouTube.



Leigh Strimbeck (Director of *The First 15*) Plays directed include: *The Explorers Club*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Baltimore Waltz*, *Daytrips*, *Sea Marks*, and *The Nest* at the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble (BTE). *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, and *Ten by Ten*, *Stageworks*, Hudson; *On the Verge*, *Private Eyes* and *Children of a Lesser God*; one man shows: *Heavy Mettle* and *Working Class* by Richard Hoehler; *Here be Dragons* with Paul Outlaw. Plays written include: *Yours*, a 100 year celebration of Russell Sage College; devised plays *MIRROR*, *MIRROR*; *I'm Not a Feminist But..*; and *This House Buildded*. Plays co-written include: *Berwick, America!*, with Gerard Stropnick, *Here Be Dragons* with Paul Outlaw; *Letters to the Editor* with BTE. Leigh is an Associate member of BTE in Pennsylvania, where she was a member for 10 years and is a co-founder of WAM Theatre in the Berkshires. For reel and more info: leighstrimbeck.com



Megan Sandberg-Zakian (Director of *A Distinct Society*) is a theater director with a passion for the development of diverse new American plays & playwrights, and a co-founder of Maia Directors, a consulting group for artists and organizations engaging with stories from the Middle East and beyond. Her audio-play collaboration with writer Madhuri Shekar, *Evil Eye*, was the winner of the 2020 Audie Award for Original Work and the 2020 Gracie Award for Audio Drama. Recent projects include the world premieres of Madhuri Shekar's *House of Joy* at California Shakespeare Theatre, Nathan Alan Davis' *Nat Turner in Jerusalem* at New York Theatre Workshop, and Eleanor Burgess' *Chill* at Merrimack Repertory Theatre. Megan is a graduate of Brown University, holds an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College, and is a proud member of the national union for stage directors and choreographers, SDC. Her first book, *There Must Be Happy Endings: On a Theatre of Optimism and Honesty* is available from The 3rd Thing Press. Megan lives in Jamaica Plain, MA, with her wife Candice. www.megansz.com

FEEDBACK FORMS

Be a literary agent!

Attached are the feedback forms for:

NEW VOICES: YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST

NEXTGEN: SLAM!

A DISTINCT SOCIETY BY KAREEM FAHMY

THE FIRST 15

Download the forms, fill them out after viewing the event and email your thoughts back to mhall@capitalrep.org.

NEXT ACT! NEW PLAY SUMMIT 9 – Young Playwright Reading

Email your thoughts to mhall@capitalrep.org

1. **Were you interested in the story?** Yes / No
2. **Were the characters interesting?** Yes / No
3. **Was the dialogue well written/true to life?** Yes / No

4. **What was the scripts strongest quality?**

(please check one)

Character _____

Plot (theme) _____

Dialogue _____

Other _____

Other Comments:

NEXT ACT! NEW PLAY SUMMIT 9
NextGen SLAM!

Email your thoughts to mhall@capitalrep.org

1. Were you interested in the story? Yes / No
2. Were the characters interesting? Yes / No
3. Was the dialogue well written/true to life? Yes / No

4. What was the scripts strongest quality?

(please check one)

Character _____

Plot (theme) _____

Dialogue _____

Other _____

Other Comments:

Next Act! New Play Summit 9 – A DISTINCT SOCIETY

Email your thoughts to mhall@capitalrep.org

Please circle one.

1 is the lowest score, meaning not at all, and 5 is the highest score, meaning extremely well.

1. Were you interested in the story?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 extremely

2. Was the story clear?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 extremely

3. Were you touched / engaged by the story or characters?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 extremely

4. Were the characters well delineated (not stereotypes)?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 extremely

5. Was the dialogue true to life?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 extremely

6. Was the dialogue well written?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 extremely

7. Was the dialogue funny?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 extremely

8. To whom do you think this play would appeal? _____

9. Would you like to see it in a Capital Repertory Theatre Season? Yes / No

10. Was this your first time attending a Next Act event? Yes/No

Other Comments:

NEXT ACT! NEW PLAY SUMMIT 9 - FIRST 15

Email your thoughts to mhall@capitalrep.org

1. **Were you interested in the story?** Yes / No

2. **Were the characters interesting?** Yes / No

3. **Was the dialogue well written/true to life?** Yes / No

4. **What was the scripts strongest quality?**

(please check one)

Character_____

Plot (theme)_____

Dialogue_____

Other_____

5. **Acting as a Literary Manager, would you request to read the script in full?** Yes / No

6. **Would you be interested in seeing this script be given a full reading in a future summit?** Yes / No

Other Comments: