

THEREP'S NEXT ACT! NEW PLAY SUMMIT

June 10-12, 2023



theREP's 12th Annual Summit

*Lots of great info
inside this program:*

LEARN ABOUT:

- THE PLAYWRIGHTS
 - THE DIRECTORS
 - THE ACTORS
 - THE READING COMMITTEE
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

ELEVEN YEARS OF NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT!

What is the NEXT ACT! New Play Summit, you may ask? It is an expansion of Capital Repertory Theatre's (theREP) commitment to the development of new work and directly reflects the theatre's mission, "to create meaningful theatre generated from an authentic link to the community."

This annual showcase of new plays, designed to shed light on the process of new play development, brings playwrights, directors, actors and audience members together for a series of workshops and readings, with the ultimate goal of finding a play that theREP will produce. To date, theREP has selected one play to produce as a World Premiere from every single NEXT ACT! New play Summit.

Officially formed in the fall of 2012, NEXT ACT! is made possible by a generous legacy gift from Samson O.A. Ulmann – a professor of English at Union College (from 1957-92).



[CLICK HERE TO LEARN ALL ABOUT THE NEXT ACT! SUMMIT!](#)

2023 NEXT ACT! Schedule

TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE \$5.00

IN-PERSON @ PROCTORS THEATRE

432 STATE STREET, SCHENECTADY

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023

3PM - NEXTGEN: "IF THESE HANDS COULD SING"

BY JESSE HAMPSCH

(THE ADDY THEATRE (3RD FLOOR))

5PM - FIRST 15: BE A LITERARY MANAGER

(THE ADDY THEATRE (3RD FLOOR))

IN-PERSON @ THEREP

251 NORTH PEARL STREET, ALBANY

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023

2PM - NEW VOICES: YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST FINALISTS

(THEREP MAINSTAGE)

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

5PM - "HENRY JOHNSON: BALLAD OF A FORGOTTEN HERO"

BY RACHEL LYNETT

WITH DRAMATURGICAL & HISTORICAL RESEARCH BY EUNICE FERRIERA

(THEREP STUDIO THEATRE | 2ND FLOOR)

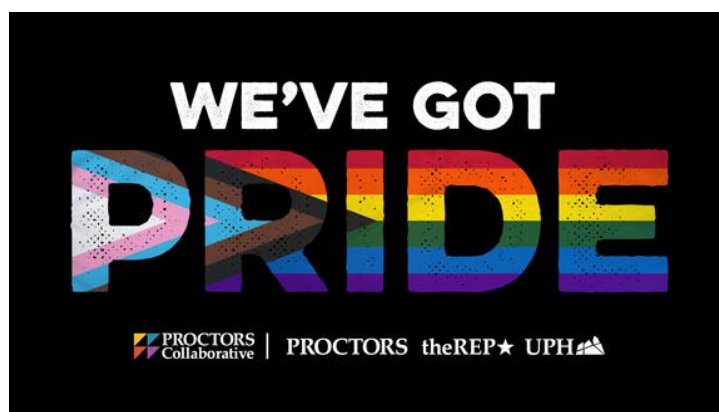
7:30PM - "GRIEF AT HIGH TIDE"

BY RICHARD WILLETT

(THEREP MAINSTAGE)

Land Acknowledgement

CAPITAL REPERTORY THEATRE (theREP)
AT 251 NORTH PEARL STREET
STANDS ON THE
TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE
MOHICAN AND MOHAWK PEOPLE



Social Justice

theREP works to build and bridge communities that welcome and affirm people to be their whole authentic selves, honoring their multifaceted identities and lived experiences. The theatre works to resist and interrupt all systems of oppression that would marginalize individuals and communities based on social identities.

With regard to the NEXT ACT! New Play Summit theREP specifically seeks scripts that use theatre to address injustices, inequities, and cultural collisions, providing a voice for the unheard on stage, in the workplace, the Capital Region and beyond.

Covid Protocol:

Effective Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022, masks are optional and vaccinations are not required but encouraged for patrons at most performances at theREP. Patrons may continue to wear masks at any time should they choose.

theREP welcomes audience members ages 5+ for all shows.

"GRIEF AT HIGH TIDE" by Richard Willett

Monday, June 12, 2023 @ 7:30pm at theREP
(251 North Pearl St.)

TICKETS ARE \$5.00 | [CLICK HERE TO BUY](#)



Richard Willett is the author of the plays "Triptych," "Random Harvest," "The Flid Show," and "Tiny Bubbles," which have been presented off-off-Broadway and at theaters across the country. Honors include an Edward F. Albee Foundation Fellowship and a Tennessee Williams Scholarship. His play "A Terminal Event" (Julie Harries Playwriting Award from the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild and finalist for the Woodward/Newman Drama Award) received its world premiere at the Victory Theatre in LA, in June 2022; "9/10" is scheduled for a world premiere in NY in 2023; and he is developing a one-woman show about Ingrid Bergman with actress Annemette Anderson and director Henning Hegland in New York, London, and Copenhagen.

GRIEF AT HIGH TIDE

This year's top honor goes to Richard Willett and his play "Grief at High Tide," which rose to the top of 400+ submissions from playwrights across the country. This contemporary drama examines the impact a published photo has on the lives of the subject(s) within the photo and the photographer who took it. When Jennifer Evers is awarded a prize for a photo she took of her husband in a very private moment of his life (but did she have the right to submit it to a contest?), her marriage hits a decidedly rough spot. In an attempt to gain perspective, Jennifer seeks out a Pulitzer prize winning veteran journalist to discuss his prize-winning photo - *Grief at High Tide*, and the effects it has had on his life - and the lives of those in the photo. Jennifer is given a window into what the potential effects ones right to capture someone else's 'private' moment can have.

Directed by Margaret E. Hall
Stage Managed
by Shayne David Cameris*

Cast:

(in alphabetical order)

Christopher Larson: Whit K. Lee*

Roy Phelps: Kevin McGuire*

Doug Windsor: Michael Pemberton*

Jennifer Evers: Angeliqe Powell

Nancy Windsor: Eileen Schuyler*

Stage Directions: Sheilah London Miller

**Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association
Company Bios start on page 10*

"HENRY JOHNSON: BALLAD OF A FORGOTTEN HERO" (working title)

by Rachel Lynett

with Dramaturgical and Historical Research by Eunice Ferreira

**Monday, June 12, 2023 @ 5pm at theREP
(251 North Pearl St. | Studio Theatre, 2nd Fl.)**

TICKETS ARE \$5.00 | [CLICK HERE TO BUY](#)



Rachel Lynett (she/they) is a queer Afro-Latine playwright, producer, and teaching artist. Their plays have been produced all over the country including Orlando Shakes Theatre, Barrington Stage Company, and Florida Studio Theatre. Rachel Lynett is also the 2021 recipient of the Yale Drama Prize for their play, "Apologies to Lorraine Hansberry (You Too August Wilson)." Lynett was 2021 recipient of the National Latinx Playwriting award and the runner-up for the 2022 Miranda Family Voces Latinx Playwriting Competition for their play, "Black Mexican." Their play, "White People by the Lake" was also a 2022 Blue Ink Award finalist They have previously taught at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Alfred University. Lynett was recently a staff writer for a Netflix series, a staff writer for *The Winchesters*, and is working on an upcoming feature with 30K FT Productions.

"HENRY JOHNSON: BALLAD OF A FORGOTTEN HERO

(working title)": Come hear a draft of the newest play to join theREP's On-The -Go! touring program. Henry Johnson has a street named for him in Albany, but why? The World War I soldier proved his bravery on the battlefield with the all-Black New York National Guard 369th Infantry Regiment. He led a victory parade through the streets of his birthplace but was scarred in body and spirit by the toils of war. For decades, he was denied his due from the United States military. Playwright Rachel Lynett, with historical and dramaturgical research by Skidmore professor Eunice Ferreira, brings Henry Johnson to life with text and music from the Jazz and Ragtime era. Discover how the fight to recognize a real hero was finally won in 2015 when Henry Johnson received the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama.

Directed by Susan Spain
Stage Managed by Kate Kern
with sound by Chad Reid

Cast:

(in alphabetical order)

*Henry Johnson: Jeremiah Packer**

*Ensemble 2: Leon Pintel**

*Ensemble 1: Calvin Thompson**

*Stage Directions: Kevin Craig West**

**Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association
Company Bios start on page 10*

NEXTGEN: "IF THESE HAND COULD SING"

By Jesse Hampsch

**Saturday, June 10, 2023 @ 3pm at Proctors, Addy Theatre
(432 State St., Schenectady)**

TICKETS ARE \$5.00 | [CLICK HERE](#) TO BUY



Jesse Hampsch is a composer, lyricist, conductor, and playwright from Northern Idaho. He holds his Bachelor's in Music Composition and Master's in Choral Conducting from the University of Idaho. He recently completed the first year of Temple University's MFA in Musical Theatre Collaboration. "If These Hands Could Sing" is Jesse's first full play, and it draws heavily on his experience as a choral conductor, as well as the effect his mentors have had on him. He is honored and excited to have his play read at theREP!

"If These Hands Could Sing" follows a young journalist, who discovers the real story behind an orchestra conductor's decision to suddenly retire.

WHAT IS NEXTGEN?

NEXTGEN is an event, done in collaboration with UAlbany's Theatre Department (through playwriting professor Kate Walat) and the Playwright Program at Temple University (through playwriting professor Jenny Stafford), that provides a young emerging ("next generation") playwright the opportunity to take part in a reading; to be able to work with a professional theatre in the developmental process of one of their new plays. theREP looks forward to how this event will evolve in years to come. Students in both programs are invited to submit a work for consideration in NEXT ACT!

Directed by David Girard
Stage Managed by KD McTeigue

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Abraham Johnson: Ethan Botwick*

Stage Directions/Waiter/Librarian: Ellen Cribbs

Stacy Hoffman: Shannon Rafferty*

Jean: Kim Wafer

The Conductor: Kevin Craig West*

**Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association
Company Bios start on page 10*

FIRST 15: Be a Literary Manager!

**Saturday, June 10, 2023 @ 5pm at Proctors, Addy Theatre
(432 State St., Schenectady)**

TICKETS ARE \$5.00 | CLICK [HERE](#) TO BUY



Bob Barnett



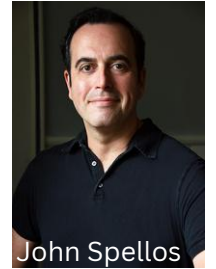
Donna Kaz



Rich Rubin



Hope Villanueva



John Spellos

What is the FIRST 15? This event is curated to mirror the reading process theREP's NEXT ACT! Reading Committee Members encounter, specifically those involved in the first round of the reading process. It also simulates what most Literary Managers encounter:

"Read a synopsis and the first 10-pages of the script, and 'decide' whether or not you want to request the full script from the playwright."

Did the plot grab you? Are the characters interesting and well developed? Does the dialogue ring true to you? Do you want to know what happens next...?

The pieces selected for the FIRST 15 are scripts that rose to the top but ultimately were not selected for a full reading this year. The event also provides theREP with the opportunity to get to know and work with more playwrights. Several pieces that have been in past FIRST 15 Readings have gone on to full summit readings, the summit's Stage2Screen Event, and several have even gone on to full productions on theREP's stage.

Directed by Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill
Stage Managed by Shayne David Cameris*

(Each cast in alphabetical order)

"Floating Naked With Piranhas" by Rich Rubin
Bill: Jovan Davis*
Stage Directions: Tony Pallone*
Ensemble #1: Bianca Stinney

"BUZZ" by Hope Villanueva
Eden: Inga Ballard*
Stage Directions: Sue Caputo*
Lizzie: Taylor Hoffman
Alicia: Bianca Stinney

"One Good Tree" by Bob Barnett
Sandy Kaufman: Sue Caputo*
David Onley: Logan Espsito
Stage Directions: Taylor Hoffman
Wellington Fisk: Tony Pallone*
Naveen Amin: Levin Valayil*

"The Docent" by Donna Kaz
Charles Calder: Shayne David Cameris*
Edna Gregory: Sue Caputo*
Stage Directions: Logan Espposito
Eddie Gregory: Taylor Hoffman

"Rosie is Red And Everybody Is Blue" by John Spellos
Rosie: Inga Ballard*
Chris: Jovan Davis*
Stage Directions: Levin Valayil*

**Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association
Company Bios start on page 10*

NEW VOICES: Young Playwright Reading 2023 @ 2pm at theREP | (251 N. Pearl St., Albany)

TICKETS ARE \$5.00 | CLICK [HERE](#) TO BUY

Directed by Dennis Schebetta

Stage Managed by KD McTeigue

Each Cast

(in alphabetical order)

"The Horror Backstage" by Madelyn McMann, Fallon Greenaway & John Kunz (Coxsackie-Athens HS)

Mary: Sivan Adler

Michael: Jovan Davis*

Mitch: Logan Esposito

Jack: George Franklin*

Stage Directions: Ben Katagiri

Alexandria: Madalyn Montgomery

Melissa: Isabel Sanchez

Mr. Cooper: Oliver Wadsworth*

"Ups and Downs; Open and Close" by Jack Bruno, Noelle Abushqeir & Hannah Richards (Coxsackie-Athens HS)

Mime: Shayne David Cameris*

Maryanne: Cate Damon*

Lenny: Jovan Davis*

Bobo the Clown: Logan Esposito

Jared: George Franklin

Stage Directions: Colin Gioia

Joe: Ben Katagiri

Julie: Isabel Sanchez

Mike: Oliver Wadsworth*

"The Shove" by Natalie Deso & Ava McTiernan (Guilderland HS)

Max: Sivan Adler

Stage Directions: Shayne David Cameris*

Alex: Jovan Davis*

Dylan: Logan Esposito

Hannah: Liesel Gerstenberger

Theo: Colin Gioia

Charlotte: Madalyn Montgomery

"The Midnight Train" by Abigail Kennedy & Chiara Cenci (Coxsackie-Athens HS)

Server: Sivan Adler

Man w/Briefcase (Lucas): Shayne David Cameris*

Mom: Cate Damon*

Train Conductor: Logan Esposito

Anonymous: George Franklin*

Old Woman: Liesel Gerstenberger

Alice: Isabel Sanchez

Stage Directions: Oliver Wadsworth*



New Voices provides a reading of the Collaborative School of the Arts at theREP's Young Playwright Contest finalists. Click [here](#) to learn more about the contest.

"The Masquerade Dance" by Emily Ramm (Coxsackie-Athens HS)

Quill Knox: Jovan Davis*

Lonny Beckett: George Franklin*

Mr. Craven: Ben Katagiri

Roxy Sorland: Isabel Sanchez

Stage Directions: Oliver Wadsworth*

"Mending Broken Hearts" by Karthik Nair & Isabella Wu (Guilderland HS)

Stage Directions: Sivan Adler

Jonathan: Shayne David Cameris*

Ava: Liesel Gerstenberger

Steve: Colin Gioia

Rob: Ben Katagiri

"Zero Gravity Woes" by Nathaniel Burk & Chloe Tyson (Guilderland HS)

Stage Directions: Cate Damon*

Skylar: Liesel Gerstenberger

Dylan: Colin Gioia

Jesse: Madalyn Montgomery

"Enemies to Lovers" by Sophie Duerr & Sean Halligan (Guilderland HS)

Angelina: Cate Damon*

Waiter: George Franklin*

Stage Directions: Colin Gioia

James: Ben Katagiri

Boss: Oliver Wadsworth*

*Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association
Company Bios start on page 10

Young Playwright Contest Workshop Lead by Jenny Stafford



Jenny Stafford, who will be leading a workshop with the finalists from the REP's 2023 Young Playwright Contest, is an award-winning bookwriter, lyricist and playwright whose works have been heard on Broadway, regionally and internationally. Broadway: Cirque du Soleil's "Paramour." Selected Regional: "The Homefront" (Village Festival of New Musicals, Village BETA series, NAMT finalist), "The Artist and the Scientist" (CAP21), "Extended Stay" (Rhinebeck Writers Retreat, Florida Festival of New Musicals), "To Have and to Hold" (Prospect Theatre Company, Barrington Stage), "Awakening," "Beating a Dead Horse" (winner of the 2017 Reva Shiner Comedy Award, produced through the Bloomington Playwrights Project and the Athena Project), "Secret Hour" (Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company, And Toto Too, Virtual New Works Festival, Prologue Theatre Workshop, finalist for the PlayPenn Conference), and "Skittles" (Woolly Mammoth). International: "Some Kind of Weasel" (2020 Edinburgh Fringe Festival), Cirque du Soleil's "Paramour" (Hamburg, Germany), "Alive" (The Space UK, Edinburgh, nominated for the Spirit of the Online Fringe Award and the Fringe Review Hidden Gem Award, published through Pioneer Drama).



Stafford's play, "Secret Hour," was produced by the REP in its World Premiere Production, this past January/February, 2023.

Summit Directors/Stage Managers



Shayne David Cameris* (Stage Manager, FIRST 15 & "Grief at High Tide"; Actor in New Voices: Young Playwright Reading): is thrilled the folks at theREP keep bringing him back for more! Credits include: Capital Repertory Theatre-"A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Understudy/2nd ASM), "The Wizard of Oz" (1st ASM), "Jersey Boys" (2nd ASM/Bob Crewe), "The Truc" (2nd ASM), "Fly" (Reynolds), "The Irish..." (2nd ASM), "Cinderella!" On the GO! (King/Puppeteer), "Sleepy Hollow" On the GO! (Brom Bones), "Camelot" (Guilliam /Percussionist), "Blue Sky Boys" (CJ Caldwell); Troy Foundry Theatre-"City of Myth: Ilium Sings," "Where There's Smoke: Ilium Burns," "The Prohibition Project: Ilium Was," "Catastrophe Carnivale" and "New World Order;" Theatre Institute at Sage-"Diary of Anne Frank" (Mr. Van Daan); Lake George Dinner Theatre-"Buyer and Cellar" (Alex More) and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (Sir Henry, et. Al); Saratoga Shakespeare-"Henry IV Parts 1 and 2" (Mistress Quickly et. Al), "The Winter's Tale" (Clown), "Love's Labour's Lost" (Dull); Theatre Voices-"The Birthday Party" (Stanley); Siena College-"Endgame" (Hamm) among others. Shayne loves video games and a good book but has come to find real comfort in writing. Much love to JSC.

David Girard (Director, NextGen: "If These Hands Could Sing"): A Capital Region native based out of Historic Troy, NY, David has been working as a professional actor, director, and theatre educator for nearly twenty years. He is the Artistic Director for the Troy Foundry Theatre, most recently co-devising and directing their World Premiere Musical, "City of Myth: Ilium Sings" and creating, as well as co-devising and curating last season's hit production and World Premiere "Where There's Smoke: Ilium Burns." David is also a Core Adjunct Professor at Siena College, and is a former Associate Artistic Director for the Saratoga Shakespeare Company, serving 8 years in that capacity and positioning it as one of Saratoga Springs' cultural pearls. David has worked with theREP in many capacities, most recently in several roles in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "The Wizard of Oz." He was also the dialect coach for last season's "The Irish and How They Got That Way" and as Burbage in their 2020 BroadwayWorld award-winning production of "Shakespeare in Love." Other favorites at theREP include "She Loves Me," "The Blue-Sky Boys" and "James Joyce's The Dead." David has his MFA in Directing from Temple University and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

MARGARET E. HALL (Director, "Grief at High Tide"): has worked internationally as a director, stage manager and drama teacher. As theREP's Associate Artistic Director, Margaret spearheads theREP's Neighbors For Neighbors Community Bridge Building Program, coordinates the annual Next Act! New Play Summit, directs on the mainstage, produces the On-The-Go! in-school touring program, and oversees the Young Playwright Contest and Summer Stage Young Acting Company. She made her mainstage debut at theREP with the 2017 production of "An Iliad," other credits include: the World Premiere of "Red Maple" (2019 BroadwayWorld Berkshire's Award for Best Director of a Play), the 2019 production of "Live From WVL Radio Theatre: It's A Wonderful Life," and the World Premiere of "Secret Hour" in 2023, to name a few. Margaret is a proud member of Actors Equity, holds a BA in Theatre Arts from SUNY New Paltz, and an MFA in Theatre Directing from the University of Essex in London.

KATE KERN (Stage Manager, "Henry Johnson: Ballad of a Forgotten Hero"): is thrilled be able to create with the wonderful people at theREP for another show. Kate is a recent graduate of Russell Sage college, and has been the Stage Manager for the Theatre Institute At Sage during the following shows: "The Diary Of Anne Frank," "Baskerville," "Tribes," and many more. She is also a company member of Troy Foundry Theatre and has worked with them on "Where There's Smoke" and "Echo Chambers: Beckett 3." Kate has worked with theREP on the OTG: "Harriet Tells It Like Is!", Pearlside, and Next Act 11. Kate would like to thank those in her life for always supporting her. She loves working on new works and hopes to be a part of more innovative projects such as this in the future.



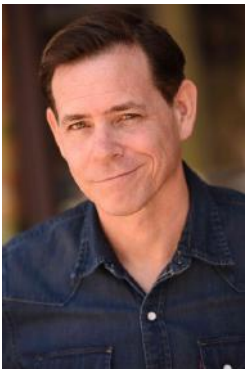
Summit Directors/Stage Managers



Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill (Director, FIRST 15): Maggie has worked on and off Broadway and in numerous regional theatres, directing more than 100 productions. As Producing Artistic Director of theREP since 1995, she directs plays and musicals each season, including "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "The Wizard of Oz," "The True," "Shakespeare in Love," "Nora," "Red," "Ring of Fire," "The Secret Garden," "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Grand View," "Metamorphoses," "Terra Nova," "The Irish And How They Got That Way," "Jersey Boys" and "The Wizard of Oz." A great proponent of history and the power of theatre to ignite young imaginations, Maggie has written and co-written several plays for theRep's On the Go Theatre for Young Audiences tours, including "Pure Poe," "They Built America: the Immigrants Who Built the Erie Canal," "Friend of a Friend" (with Jill Rafferty-Weinisch), "Alice in Wonderland" and "Cinderella!" (with Margaret E. Hall). She is the recipient of the Norman E. Rice Award for Excellence in Arts Education, the Distinguished Leadership Award from the National Chamber of Commerce and was named a Woman of Excellence by the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce. She holds an MFA in directing from Columbia University.



KD McTeigue (Stage Manager, NextGen: "If These Hands Could Sing" and New Voices: Young Playwrights Reading): (she/her) is an actor local to Albany, NY. Past credits include: theREP, WAM Theatre, Troy Foundry Theatre, the Outer Loop and the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble. KD has also appeared in TV and Film with the Investigation Discovery Channel and the American High production company. She is excited to be the Director/Teaching Artist for this year's Summer Stage Young Acting Company at theREP. Find her on socials [@kdmcteigue](https://www.instagram.com/kdmcteigue)



DENNIS SCHEBETTA* (Director, New Voices: Young Playwright Reading): is an actor, director, and writer in film and theater both with credits off-off Broadway and regionally at theatres such as Ensemble Studio Theater, 29th Street Rep, Vital Theater, City Theatre, and 12 Peers Theater. As an actor, he was most recently seen as Lord Goring in Northeast Theatre Ensemble's site specific immersive "An Ideal Husband" and as Stephano in Saratoga Shakespeare Company's "The Tempest." Other credits include "August: Osage County" at Pittsburgh Playhouse, "Shining City" at Off the Wall Theater, South Park Theater's "California Suite," and the world premiere of Agatha Christie's "The Stranger" at iTheater. He is Assistant Professor at Skidmore Theater and co-author of Building a Performance: An Actor's Guide to Rehearsal (with John Basil) published by Rowman & Littlefield. www.dennischebetta.com



SUSAN SPAIN (Director, "Henry Johnson: Ballad of a Forgotten Hero"): is elated to return to Capital Repertory Theatre; "Take Me With You" (Director), "Night Vision" (Ayanna) in 8:46 and "Harriet Tells It Like It Is!" (Co- Director). Susan is an award winning actor, director and writer appearing on stage, film and T.V., and has narrated hundreds of audio books, receiving the prestigious Earphones Award for her work. Susan has taught/coached students of all ages in acting and singing as well as the business of the business. Check her out in FOX's Our Kind Of People (Rose Franklin) and in the world renowned Motown tribute group, Shadows Of The 60s. Visit her at www.susanspain.net

Summit Acting Company



SIVAN ADLER (Actor, New Voices: Young Playwright Reading): (She/her) is a rising sophomore at SUNY Fredonia, getting her BFA in Acting. Recent credits include Ensemble/US Friar Laurence in "Romeo and Juliet" (SUNY Fredonia Mainstage), and Amy March in "Little Women" (HVCC). You can see her in "MacWreck!" (Confetti Stage) as Ann later this summer. She'd like to thank all involved for this amazing opportunity.

INGA BALLARD* (Actor, FIRST 15): Recent credits include Baneatta in "Chicken & Biscuits" at Crossroads Theatre Company, Marvelous in "Familiar" at the Woolly Mammoth Theatre.

Additional credits include 1st and 2nd National Tour of "Ragtime" as Sarah's Friend. Inga has performed regionally in multiple productions of "Hairspray" as Motor Mouth Maybelle. Those theatre's include, Sacramento Music Circus, Norths Shore Music Theatre, Houston's TUTS, The Cape Playhouse, The Lyric Theatre, The New Theatre, Westchester Broadway and the Argyle Theatre. Inga has also performed at the Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Syracuse Stage, the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Weston Playhouse and Goodspeed Opera House. TV credits: Amazon's Marvelouse Mrs. Maisel, HBO's Love Life 2, Starz Power, Power Productions LLC., NBC's 30 Rock and Law & Order Criminal Intent, and ABC's All My Children. Numerous commercials and voice overs. Inga received her BA in Drama from UC Davis and her MFA in Acting from USC. Inga is a member of Quick Silver Theatre Company, Actors' Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA.



Inga Ballard

ETHAN BOTWICK* (Abraham "Abe" Johnson, NextGen: "If These Hands Could Sing"): is graduate of Russell Sage college in Troy New York, and Associate Artistic Director of Troy Foundry Theatre. Recent credits include: "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Capital Rep) "City of Myth: Ilium Sings," "Yellow," "The Prohibition Project: Ilium Was" and "La Ronde" (Troy Foundry Theatre/Die-Cast); "Catastrophe Carnival: A Night Of Becket Shorts" (Troy Foundry Theatre), "Proof" (Old Castle Theatre), "Romeo & Juliet" and "As You Like It" (Saratoga Shakespeare Company); "Julius Caesar" (The Public Theatre); Films include: Super Dark Times and Highwaymen from Troy's own Chromoscope Pictures



SUE CAPUTO* (Actor, FIRST 15): is thrilled to be back at the REP's NEXT ACT! New Play Summit! Previously she's been on stage in Capital Rep's "The Full Monty" & "M. Butterfly" as well as various NEXT ACT! New Play Summit staged readings including Gino Dilorio's "Crib" (Lisa). Sue is especially grateful to Margaret and Maggie, for continuing to bring exciting new works to the Capital District and to her husband, Ralph, who continues to bring exciting new experiences to her life. Next up, Sue will perform at the Fort Salem Theater in July in a concert version of "Corn!- A New Musical."



Sue Caputo

ELLEN CRIBBS (Waiter/Librarian/Stage Directions, NextGen: "If These Hands Could Sing"): has appeared at the REP as Anne de Bourgh in "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley," the Nurse in "Shakespeare in Love," and Helena in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." She is a local actor, director, playwright, voiceover artist, and proud mother of two daughters. Ellen is also the Artistic Director at Albany Civic Theater and co-hosts the weekly podcast "Everything Theater" with Benita Zahn, where you can hear about all aspects of theater in the Capital Region and beyond.



Summit Acting Company Con't.



CATE DAMON* (Actor, New Voices: Young Playwright Reading): is a recent transplant to the Albany area from Massachusetts, where she has spent the last 25 years acting and directing. Most recently, Cate was at Martha's Vineyard Playhouse ("Miss Maybelline's Nocturnal Flights of Fancy"--Elaine) and the Majestic Theater in West Springfield ("The Glass Menagerie"--Amanda; ("MAMMA MIA"--Donna). Some of her favorite roles include Martha in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" (New Century Theatre), Sonia in "Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike" (MV Playhouse), Pam in "Rancho Mirage" (New Rep Boston) and Becca in "Rabbit Hole" (New Century). Cate is very happy to have the opportunity to share with you the incredible work of these young playwrights!



JOVAN DAVIS* (Actor, FIRST 15 & New Voices: Young Playwright Reading): is an actor and a writer based in Brooklyn, NY. He has written several poems as well as a full length play, and is currently working on his first TV pilot! Jovan made his debut at theREP this past Spring as Flute/Thisbe in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and is happy to return. He is grateful for the opportunity to participate in the support of new works!. He would like to thank his friends and family for their unrelenting love and support. Some memorable credits include: Othello in "Othello," Oberon in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Jim Fingal in "Lifespan of a Fact," and Hotspur in "Henry IV." He can also be seen on TV in Season 5 of New Amsterdam, as well as Season 1 of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, coming to Amazon Prime.



LOGAN ESPOSITO (Actor, FIRST 15 & New Voices Young Playwright Reading): is finishing up his senior year at Voorheesville High School in Upstate New York. This fall, Logan will attend State University of New York at Cortland. He will be majoring in Musical Theatre. When not on stage, he enjoys playing football and basketball, and going to the gym. He is the recent recipient for the 2023 Proctors High School Musical Theater best actor award. He thanks his family, friends, and his network of coaches and directors for all of their love and support.



LIESEL GERSTENBERGER (Actor, New Voices Young Playwright Reading): is very excited to be back at theREP performing. Some of her past credits include the 25th Anniversary Broadway event of "Secret Garden," Sherlock Holmes in "Baskerville," Mrs. Frank in "The Diary of Anne Frank," Meg in "Brigadoon" and Peter Quince in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." She would like to thank her family, friends and fiancé for their love and support.



COLIN GIOIA (Actor, New Voices: Young Playwright Reading): is thrilled to performing with Capital Repertory Theatre. Some of his past credits include "A Killer Party," "Love & Other Destinations," The Phantom in "Phantom," Jesus in "Godspell" and Grandpa in "You Can't Take it With You." Colin would like to thank his fiancée and family for their continued love and support.

Summit Acting Company Con't.



GEORGE FRANKLIN* (Actor, New Voices: Young Playwright Contest): (he/him/his) is thrilled to be back at theREP again! He has performed at theREP many times since 2010 when, at the age of 10, he starred in "A Christmas Story." Other credits include "OBC-"A Christmas Story," National Tour-"Elf," and most recently Franklin Hart in "9 to 5" at Pace University, where he will be a senior in the BFA Musical Theater program.



TAYLOR HOFFMAN* (Actor, FIRST 15): Taylor is excited to be joining NEXT ACT! for the first time! Some of her favorite credits include Karen Snout/Wall in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Ensemble Swing in "The Wizard of Oz" (Capital Repertory Theatre) and Small Alison in "Fun Home" (Yale School of Drama). BS: RSC. Much love.




BEN KATAGIRI (Actor, New Voices: Young Playwright Reading): is an Albany based actor, writer, producer and educator. He has participated on the reading committee for NEXT ACT! since 2015 and is especially proud to be a co-creator and co-producer of the NEXT ACT! event Stage 2 Screen which transitions new plays into short films and other new media. Eternal thanks to Margaret and Maggie for their partnerships and enduring creative mettle.




WHIT K. LEE* (Actor, "Grief at High Tide"): OFF-BROADWAY: Atlantic Theatre Company - "The Far Country," Pan Asian Repertory - "Citizen Wong," Classic Stage Company - "Assassins." REGIONAL: Capital Rep - "Secret Hour," Steppenwolf - "The Doppelgänger," Actors Theatre of Louisville - "A Christmas Carol," Adirondack Theatre Festival - "The Chinese Lady." TELEVISION: Wall Street English, Kaleidoscope, Orange Is the New Black, Law & Order SVU, FILM: Grounded. Thank you to my family and my dream team, Susan Campochiaro Confrey - CBU Mgmt. & Padraic - JC William Agency for their love and support.


Summit Acting Company Con't.



SHEILAH LONDON MILLER (Stage Directions, "Grief at High Tide"): is Board President with the Black Theater Troupe of Upstate New York (BTTUNY). Sheilah has participated in various roles from stage actor, singer, make-up, stage management/props, assistant director, mistress of ceremonies, hostess, set design, production crew and voice over. Sheilah has performed throughout the Capital Region, surrounding cities, and in New England markets both on and off stage. Most recently set decoration & make up for BTTUNY's "Camp Logan." Credits include: "PLS" (stage reading 2019, BTTUNY), "A Lesson Before Dying" (BTTUNY Assistant Director), "Why I Sang the Blues" (Alberta Hunter, Monologue) & MC), "The Trip To Bountiful," (Capital Repertory Theatre, Miss Royana, Bus Passenger, Soprano on vocal soundtrack), "Zora Neal Hurston" (DHY Productions, Cosmic Zora), "Trane Trax" (Alice Coltrane), "Lady Holiday" (Billie's tour pianist), "Secret Lives of Church Girl" (Melinda), "Does Your House Have Lions" (Assistant Director), "The Wedding" (Choir Director, DMO Music & Creative Arts), "Resurrection Song" (Woman Monologue), "Wedding Band" (Fannie Johnson, BTTUNY), "Reunion in Bartersville" and "Camp Logan" (Stage Management, BTTUNY). Sheilah has a love for the arts, a respect for her fellow actors and everything related to theater. She is also a motivational speaker for cancer survivors and families. Sheilah is grateful, humbled and excited to once again to work with the Capital Repertory family!




MADALYN MONTGOMERY (Actor, New Voices: Young Playwright Reading); is a Senior BFA Musical Theater Major at Nazareth University and is so ecstatic to be a part of NEXT ACT! New Play Summit at theREP! Recent Credits: "Reframe of The Last Five Years" at NazU, Selections of "The Tempest" at Shakespeare's Globe, "Jersey Boys" at theREP. Love and thanks to family, friends and theREP family! [@madalyn.a.montgomery](https://www.instagram.com/madalyn.a.montgomery)



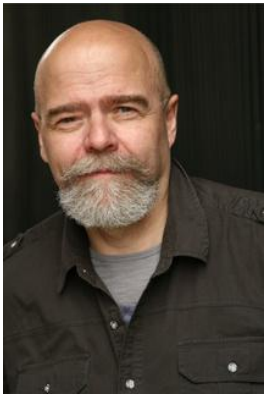
JEREMIAH PACKER* (Henry, "Henry Johnson: Ballad of a Forgotten Hero"): is a New York based actor who hails from Fayetteville, N.C. and is thrilled to be back at theREP after his turn as Chet in last year's production of "Fly." He holds a B.A. in Theatre from Fayetteville State University and an M.F.A. in Acting from The University of Alabama. Regional Credits: Snow Camp Theatre: "Pathway to Freedom "(Aaron); Cape Fear Regional Theatre: "Henry V" (Grey/York), "Disney's The Little Mermaid" (Flounder); Syracuse Stage: "Salt/City/Blues" (Malcolm/Malik); A.D. Players: "Miss Maude." He is grateful to God, his family, friends, and all involved, for this opportunity to continue working in his craft and sharing in the process of bringing to life great stories.

www.jeremiahpacker.com [@iamjeremiahpacker](https://www.instagram.com/iamjeremiahpacker)



TONY PALLONE* (Actor, FIRST 15): counts his experiences at theREP among his most rewarding theatrical work. Past productions include "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Gypsy" and "The Trip to Bountiful" on the main stage, as well as previous work on NEXT ACT!. Offstage, he wears many hats, including as a writer for numerous media outlets and as a consulting art director for the Capital District's 55+ Life magazine. Proud member of Actors' Equity.

Summit Acting Company Con't.



MICHAEL PEMBERTON* (Doug Windsor, "Grief at High Tide") Michael was thrilled to make his Capital Repertory Theater debut last season in Sharr White's "The True." Credits include: BROADWAY: "The Farnsworth Invention," "I'm Not Rappaport," "Not About Nightingales," "Mamma Mia," "Hedda Gabler." OFF BROADWAY: "Sundown/Yellow Moon," "Dinner With Friends," "Saturday Night," "Black Snow." REGIONAL THEATER: Capital Rep ("The True") The Alley Theatre, The Old Globe Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse, Alabama Shakespeare, Geva Theater, The Wilma Theater, FILM: Paint, Bridge of Spies, Brooklyn's Finest, The Family Stone TELEVISION: The Equalizer, The Blacklist, New Amsterdam, Madame Secretary, The Punisher, The Affair, The Good Wife, Veep, Blue Bloods, Sleepy Hollow, Law & Order.



LEON PINTEL* (Ensemble 2, "Henry Johnson: Ballad of a Forgotten Hero"): is delighted to join "Henry Johnson: Ballad of a Forgotten Hero". She most recently guest starred as the spunky and outgoing Cory on Season 2 of Gossip Girl (HBO Max) and co-starred on CBS Television's Evil. She also appears in the short film Request for Proposal (Tubi), which premiered last month. Additional short film credits include Joshua Downes's Midnight Fairy Expression and Neena Bousquet's 11-16-2002. Select theatre credits include "Peter and the StarCatcher" (Pace University), "Macbeth" (Pace University), and Sarah in "Ragtime" (Cherry Hill School). She holds a BFA in Acting from Pace University. She would like to thank Stephanie Klapper, Susan Spain, John Mara Jr. and Ellen Gilbert and Rachel Altman at Paradigm.



ANGELIQUE POWELL (Jennifer Evers, "Grief at High Tide"): is a fervent supporter of the arts, a mischievous dreamer, arts administrator, educator, and actor. She is extremely passionate about arts inclusivity and representation. She believes that as an artist, her purpose is to give others permission to heal and permission to be. Angelique is a voracious advocate for arts accessibility to all and has prioritized, both professionally and in her personal creative work, giving a voice and a dialogue to those who have otherwise not been heard. Angelique has several years of experience as an arts administrator and community organizer at various local theatres and uses theatre as a vehicle to support, heal, educate, and mobilize her community.



SHANNON RAFFERTY* is thrilled to be back at theREP! Previous Cap Rep credits include "Jersey Boys" (Mary Delgado), "The Crucible" (Abigail), "Man of La Mancha" (Antonia), "The Wizard of Oz" (Ensemble), and "The Marvelous Wonderettes." Shannon is a resident company member of Troy Foundry Theatre (TFT) where she most recently appeared in their original musical "City of Myth; Ilium Sings." Some other favorite stage credits include "The Mouth, Not I" (TFT) "The Damned, Where There's Smoke; Ilium Burns" (TFT); Annie Sullivan, "The Miracle Worker" (NYSTI); Sally Bowles, "Cabaret" (Park Playhouse); "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" (Walnut Street Theatre/ Riverside Theatre.) Shannon is a member of Hold on Honey's, an indie-folk vocal trio and is a proud member of Actors Equity.

www.shannonrafferty.com @holdonhoney's

Summit Acting Company Con't.



CHAD REID (Sound Designer, "Henry Johnson: Ballad of a Forgotten Hero"): Chad is a local sound designer who is so excited to be contributing to NEXT ACT! for the first time! Previous favorite sound designs include "Topdog/Underdog" with BTTUNY, "The Cake" with Schenectady Civic Players, and "Gloria" at Albany Civic Theater. Chad will also be appearing in SLOC's "Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged" this summer! Chad would like to thank Stephanie Saint Germain for her constant support.



ISABEL SANCHEZ (Actor, New Voices: Young Playwright Reading): is an actor and a full-time student. She is currently a senior studying Theater, Acting, and Education at the University at Albany. Her recent theater credits include: "The Wolves" (#46), "How We Survived" (Dana), "Emotional Assortment" (Salem), "Sixty Seconds to Midnight" (Ruth), "Twelfth Night" (Maria), and "There Was a Dent Here, It's Gone Now" (Sue Newman). Her recent short film credits include: Al Otro Lado, C- Student, Rookie Card, and Unconditional. Isabel is very excited to be performing in this year's NEXT ACT! New Play Summit. <https://www.theisabelsanchez.com/>



Eileen Schuyler

EILEEN SCHUYLER* (Nancy Windsor, "Grief at High Tide") is delighted to return to Capital Rep, where she most recently appeared in "4000 Miles," "33 Variations" and "Blithe Spirit." She's also performed at Studio Arena Theater; Fulton Opera House; Soho Rep; WAM Theatre; HRC Showcase Theatre; eight seasons with Stageworks/Hudson; Proctors Theatre; Queens Theater in the Park, and 25 shows with New York State Theater Institute. Eileen is Artistic Director of Theater Voices, now in its 36th season, where she frequently acts and directs. She teaches acting at Russell Sage College, where she directed "Our Town," "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "The Laramie Project." Eileen created an original adaptation of "Spoon River Anthology" at Siena College, as well as writing and directing an adaption of Isaac Metzker's A BINTEL BRIEF: Sixty Years of Letters from the Lower East Side to the 'Jewish Daily Forward' for The Yiddish Book Center, Amherst. An AUDIE winner for Sherlock's Secret Life, she is a proud member of Actors' Equity and SAG/AFTRA.



BIANCA STINNEY (Actor, FIRST 15): is a proud native of Albany's Arbor Hill community. She received her BA from Barnard College of Columbia University and her MA from UAlbany. Bianca is an elementary school teacher in the Capital Region. Credits include: On-The-Go! Tours of "Shakespeare: the Remix" and "Friend of a Friend: Tales of the Underground Railroad" (Capital Rep), "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf" (State Street Theater Company), "The Light" (Black Theatre Troupe of Upstate NY) and an original devised musical, "City of Myth: Ilium Sings" (Troy Foundry Theater).

Summit Acting Company Con't.



CALVIN M. THOMPSON* (Ensemble 1, "Henry Johnson: Ballad of a Forgotten Hero"): is a native of South Carolina, he is an alum of University of South Carolina-Aiken and AMDA. Recent Credits: The Off-Broadway staged reading of "The Falling Season and The Hot Wing King" (Alliance). Mr. Thompson was also a semi-finalist in the 2019 American Black Film Festival Star Project. Gratitude to God for abundant blessings and to my loved ones for support. Off-Broadway: "Harlem Hellfighters On A Latin Beat," "Couriers & Contrabands," "Two Roberts," "At Buffalo." NY Theatre: "A Soldier's Play," "Staged," "FLY." Regional: "The Mountaintop," "Esai's Table," "The Bluest Eye," "Raisin In The Sun," "The Royale," "Joe Turner's Come And Gone," "Seven Guitars," "The Piano Lesson," "Voodoo Macbeth." Film/TV: Ophelia, Ying-Yang, City Of Dreams. IG: @mr.callycal, www.calvinmthompson.com



LEVIN VALAYIL* (Actor, FIRST 15): is thrilled to be here presenting new work at Capital Rep! He just played John Smythe and Abdul Karim at the Alley Theater in "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily." He also just played Matt in "The Fantasticks" at the Cape Playhouse and Fakir in "The Secret Garden" at Broadway Music Circus in Sacramento. Levin also has been a part of "Bhangin It" at the La Jolla Playhouse and "Monsoon Wedding" at Berkeley Repertory Theater. For film he recently played Aladdin in "The Descendants: Rise of Red" for Disney + streaming, which will be coming out next year. You can check out more of his work at www.levinvalayil.com or follow him [@lvalayil](https://www.instagram.com/lvalayil)



KIM WAFER (Jean, NextGen: "If These Hands Could Sing") has had the pleasure of working with various theater groups throughout New York State. Some of her favorite performances and portrayals include: Ruth - "Raisin in the Sun," "Ragtime," Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Shirley Chisholm, Della - Greenwood: "An American Dream Destroyed," Vivian Baptiste- "A Lesson Before Dying," Mrs. Birling- "An Inspector Calls," Billie Dawn in "Born Yesterday" and Sophie Washington in "Flying West." She is very excited to be a part of 2023 NextGen reading with theREP!

Summit Acting Company Con't.

OLIVER WADSWORTH* (Actor, New Voices: Young Playwright Reading): is thrilled to be back at theREP where he has appeared in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Red Maple" (BroadwayWorld Berkshires Best Actor Award), "Fully Committed" (Metroland Best Performance), "The Taming of the Shrew," and "Take Me Out." He has worked extensively throughout the country. He was in the first National tour of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang." OFF BROADWAY: "Sideways" (Pecadillo Theatre), "Endpapers" (Variety Arts); "Well" (The Public Theater); "Bread and Roses" (New York Theatre Workshop). REGIONAL credits: "Fall River" (Penguin Rep); "Peter and the Starcatcher" (Pioneer Theatre); "Mystery of Irma Vep" (Arizona Theatre Company); "Misalliance" (Old Globe and Seattle Repertory); "An Enemy of the People" (Long Wharf Theatre); "Santaland Diaries," "Dracula" and "Christmas Carol" (Actors Theatre of Louisville); "Santaland Diaries," "Velocity of Autumn" and "A Nantucket Christmas Carol" (White Heron Theatre); "Peter Pan" (Denver Center Theatre); "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Syracuse Stage); "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (Fulton Theater); "Shipwrecked" (AriZoni Award, Actors Theatre of Phoenix); "Sherlock Holmes" and the "Jersey Lily," "Noises Off" and "Murder on the Nile" (Dorset Theatre Festival); "Stones In His Pockets" (Metroland Best Performance, Adirondack Theatre Festival). TV & FILM: "Deliver Us from Evil", "Ed's Next Move", "Dotty Gets Spanked", "Blacklist", and "Law and Order SVU". MFA NYU Graduate Acting Program. Oliverwadsworth.com



KEVIN CRAIG WEST* grew up in the Arbor Hill section of Albany, NY is always delighted to return home to theREP where his professional career began. Favorites of his @theREP are "Metamorphoses," "RACE," "Take me Out," "Shakespeare in Love" and "Trip to Bountiful." Nationally Kevin has been seen on Terrance Bryant on NBC's hit series Law & Order- Organized Crime. He's also been spotted in an episode of NBC's series', The Blacklist, New Amsterdam, CBS's series', The Good Fight, FBI Most Wanted, AppleTv+'s Extrapolations and Netflix's Oscar nominated film, DON'T LOOK UP working with Meryl Streep as her Secretary of State. West has received multiple nominations for Best Actor for his starring role in the feature film THE WAY FORWARD, which won Best Feature Film at the 2021 World Independent Cinema Awards in London. He also received an Actor of the Year nomination from the 2021 International Christian Film and Music Festival and received the inaugural 'Greatness in the Arts' award from the 2023 Kuumba Film Festival. As a filmmaker, Kevin Craig West's award winning and controversially titled, short film, I HATE BEING BLACK (of which he does not) was acquired by Indieflix and is playing on Magic Johnson's, AspireTV. A random credit of Kevin's is that he is the illustrated father of Addy Walker in the American Girl Book Series. Visit him on social media [@KevinCraigWest](https://www.instagram.com/KevinCraigWest)



Click here for more information on NEXT ACT!

2023 Summit Reading Committee Members



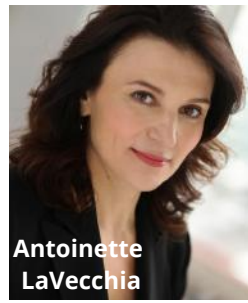
Angelique Powell



Yvonne Perry



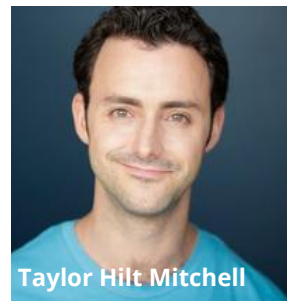
Karen Good



Antoinette LaVecchia



Susan Spain



Taylor Hilt Mitchell



Kevin McGuire



Bianca Stinney



Rachael Yoder



Kait VanHeusen



Kate Kern



Kevin Craig West



Eileen Schuyler



Charlie Owens



Gabrielle Rasmundar



David Kenner



Ben Katagiri



Ellen Cribbs



Jean Leonard



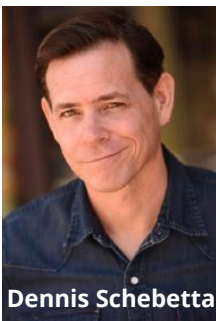
Victoria Benkoski



Margaret E. Hall



Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill



Dennis Schebetta



Jeremy Anderson-Ward



Justin Knudsen



Carolyn Anderson



WYNN HARMON



Sadrina Renee



kris Anderson



Shayne David Cameris



Claudia Bertasso



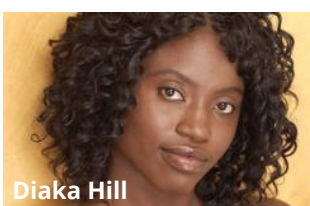
Peggy Becker



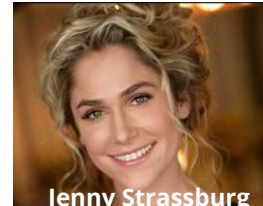
Michael Pemberton



Mike McCord



Diaka Hill



Jenny Strassburg

Playwrights of the Summit

(in alphabetical order)

ROBERT BARNETT (Playwright, "One Good Tree") Mr. Barnett's work has been produced or developed at Yale Rep, Victory Gardens, Walnut Street Theater, Mark Taper Forum, Ashland New Plays Festival, the Sundance Playwrights Lab, and the New York Fringe Festival. His plays include "Sleeping With the Dead," "A God By Another Name," "One Good Tree," "Colors at Sunset," "Summer Crossing," "The Hiroshima Daughter," "Olympic Notions & Supply," and "Symphony Pastorale." He also wrote the libretto for the opera "Crazy Nora" based on his radio drama. As Danceteller's Playwright in Residence, Mr. Barnett collaborated on "Before Forever," a dance performance work that toured Russia and Lithuania. He is the recipient of three L.A. Dramalogue Awards, a Pennsylvania Arts Council Fellowship, and a Yaddo arts residency. He is a graduate of the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale where he was a swimming, singing frog in the world premiere of Stephen Sondheim's musical adaptation of Aristophanes' The Frogs.



JACK BRUNO (Co-Playwright, "Ups and Downs: Open and Close"): a queer student from Coxsackie-Athens High school. I enjoy writing and reading. I'm hoping to study law in the future.



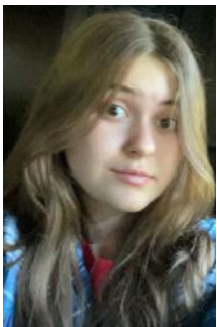
NATHANIEL BURKE (Co-Playwright, "Zero Gravity Woes"): is am a tenth grader at Guilderland high school. Nathaniel runs Cross Country and Track, and is also a Nordic Skier. He plays double bass and electric bass in orchestra and a jazz band. In his spare time, Nathaniel likes to do carpentry and mountain biking.



CHIARA CENCI (Co-Playwright, "The Midnight Train"): is currently a junior in High School at Coxsackie-Athens. She is involved in several clubs and going into the New Visions Program next year. Chiara is passionate about art and in her free time she enjoys doing arts and crafts.




NATALIE DESO (Co-Playwright, "The Shove"): is a sophomore at Guilderland High School. She's loved theatre and writing ever since she was little and her my dream to become a bestselling novelist when she's older.



Playwrights of the Summit



SOPHIE ROSE DUERR (Co-Playwright, "Enemies to Lovers") is a junior at Guilderland High School. She loves to read and write, with this being her first play, and she is super excited to hear the play read aloud during the summit. Creative is where she shines. Sophie has a passion for art and music and plays bass guitar in her High School Pep band.

A black and white portrait of Eunice Ferreira, a woman with dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark top.

EUNICE FERREIRA (Dramaturg & Historian, "Henry Johnson: Ballad of a Forgotten Hero") is a scholar artist whose research, teaching, and directing focus on and amplify stories and artists of the global majority. She brings her experience in diversity efforts, cultural competencies, dramaturgy, and antiracist theatre practices to her work in and out of the classroom, often sharing in organizational settings and as a guest scholar artist at other institutions. She has produced, directed, and choreographed a variety of plays and musicals, including the multilingual premiere of "The Orphan Sea" by Caridad Svich. As a dramaturg, she most recently worked on the development of a new musical and created materials for the longest-running theatre troupe from Cabo Verde, West Africa. She has published in U.S. based and international journals, including the first English translation (with Christina S. McMahon) of a play from Cabo Verde. Her forthcoming books include her monograph *Crioulo Performance: Remapping Creole and Mixed Race Theatre* (Vanderbilt Press) and *Applied Theatre and Racial Justice: Radical Imaginings for Just Communities* (Routledge), co-edited with Lisa L. Biggs (Brown University). She is President of the Black Theatre Association, member-at-large for focus groups on the governing council for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, and board member of several arts and civic organizations including The Orchard Project, MIT Catalyst Collaborative, and Greatest Minds. She is Associate Professor of Theater at Skidmore College and spent the 22-23 academic year as a MLK Visiting Professor in Music & Theater Arts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She invites you to follow [@BIPOCTheatre](#), her Instagram teaching account to center and amplify BIPOC theatre artists and scholars.



JESSE HANPSCH (Playwright, "If These Hands Could Sing"): is a composer, lyricist, conductor, and playwright from Northern Idaho. He holds his Bachelor's in Music Composition and Master's in Choral Conducting from the University of Idaho. He recently completed the first year of Temple University's MFA in Musical Theatre Collaboration. "If These Hands Could Sing" is Jesse's first full play, and it draws heavily on his experience as a choral conductor, as well as the effect his mentors have had on him. He is honored and excited to have his play read at theREP!

Playwrights of the Summit



DONNA KAZ (Playwright, "The Docent") is a multi-genre writer and the author of "UN/MASKED, Memoirs of a Guerrilla Girl On Tour." Her plays/musicals have been produced at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Harlem Stage, Lincoln Center, Women's Arts International Festival, City of Women Festival, Northeast Theatre Ensemble, ARTC and Live Girls Theatre. Kaz has received the Jerry Kaufman Playwriting Award, Henley Rose Playwriting Award and the Yoko Ono Courage Award for the Arts. She is currently a 2023 Winterthur Research Fellow. donnakaz.com



ABIGAIL KENNEDY (Playwright, "The Midnight Train"): currently attends Coxsackie-Athens High school. She participates in multiple clubs such as National Honor Society, Spanish clubs and tennis. She enjoys literature and crafting. In her free time, she helps care for the animals at her family's farm. When Abigail graduates, her plan is to study abroad in Italy.



RACHEL LYNETT (Playwright, "Henry Johnson: Ballad of a Forgotten Hero") (she/they) is a queer Afro-Latine playwright, producer, and teaching artist. Their plays have been produced all over the country including Orlando Shakes Theatre, Barrington Stage Company, and Florida Studio Theatre. Rachel Lynett is also the 2021 recipient of the Yale Drama Prize for their play, "Apologies to Lorraine Hansberry (You Too August Wilson)." Lynett was 2021 recipient of the National Latinx Playwriting award and the runner-up for the 2022 Miranda Family Voces Latinx Playwriting Competition for their play, "Black Mexican." Their play, "White People by the Lake" was also a 2022 Blue Ink Award finalist They have previously taught at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Alfred University. Lynett was recently a staff writer for a Netflix series, a staff writer for The Winchesters, and is working on an upcoming feature with 30K FT Productions.



RICH RUBIN (Playwright, "Floating Naked With Piranhas") Rubin's plays have been staged throughout the U.S. as well as in Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Mexico. Full-length plays include *Picasso in Paris* (winner, Julie Harris Playwright Award); "Swimming Upstream" (winner, Todd Mc Nerney Playwriting Award; finalist, Reva Shiner Comedy Award); "Caesar's Blood" (finalist, Oregon Book Award, finalist, Ashland New Play Festival); "Shakespeare's Skull" (winner, Portland Civic Theatre Guild New Play Award); "Left Hook" (finalist, Woodward-Newman Drama Award; semifinalist, O'Neill Conference); "Assisted Living" (winner, Neil Simon Festival New Play Award); "One Weekend in October" (winner, Playhouse Creatures Emerging Playwright Award; semifinalist, O'Neill Conference); "Cottonwood in the Flood" (winner, Fratti-Newman Political Play Award); "Costa Rehab" (finalist, Oregon Book Award); "September Twelfth" (finalist, Oregon Book Award; finalist, Playwrights First Award); "Marilyn/Misfits/Miller" (finalist, Julie Harris Playwright Award; semifinalist, O'Neill Conference); "Kafka's Joke" (finalist, Woodward International Playwriting Prize; semifinalist, Jewish Plays Project); and "Class Act" (semifinalist, O'Neill Conference). Member: Dramatists Guild, New Play Exchange and Portland's Nameless Playwrights and LineStorm Playwrights. www.richrubinplaywright.com

Playwrights of the Summit



CHLOE TYSON (co-Playwright, "Zero Gravity Woes"): is a 10th grade student at Guilderland High School. She enjoys dancing, reading, writing, listening to music and hanging out with her friends.

HOPE VILLANUEVA (Playwright, "BUZZ") is a current resident of the Washington, DC area where she is an AEA Stage Manager by day and playwright by night. "The Veils," a full-length play about a female Marine coming home to get married, was produced as part of the Women's Voices Theatre Festival 2018. "The Veils" previously received a reading at the Kennedy Center, an audio podcast recording, The Black and Latino Playwrights' Conference 2016, at Texas State University, at the Discovery New Play Festival at Ball State University in and The Kitchen Dog New Play Festival in 2017. "The Head That Wears the Crown," was a part of the 2018 Kennedy Center Page to Stage Festival and received a developmental production in 2019 by Ally Theatre Company. It tells the story of high school queen bees who do the unthinkable to one of their own. The play was also featured as a 'Play That's Filling Me Up' on The Subtext podcast, hosted by Brian James Polack and American Theatre. Ms. Villanueva was selected as an O'Neill Conference 2021 Finalist for "The QoL Mandate," a story of bodily autonomy spun on its head and Mexican American identity. It was digitally produced during the pandemic the New Works Virtual Festival to benefit the Actors' Fund. "The QoL Mandate" was previously developed by NextStop Theatre as a part of their New Play Festival in summer 2019 and was read by The Quarantine Players of NYC in 2020. Set in Bangkok, her movement driven work about grief, "Her, Across the River," was produced by Rapid Lemon in Baltimore, MD. Previously it was workshopped by DC's Avant Bard, INKubator podcast, and The Women's Theatre Festival's Occupy the Space 2020. Brackish tells the story of a Vietnamese American family coping with an ever-shifting definition of home. Written during the pandemic, "Brackish" was produced to packed houses in Southern California in the summer of 2022. Most recently, "BUZZ," a play about women scientists hunting murder hornets has been selected for presentation at 2023 The Valdez Theatre Conference in Alaska. Several of her short plays are published by YouthPlays, including "Tidal" and "Anatomy," and she has several ten-minute plays included in the Code Red Playwrights series, a collaboration of writers responding to gun violence in America. Ms. Villanueva is the current literary manager for Bay Street Theatre in Sag Harbor, NY and is pursuing her second master's degree in Lesley University's Writing for Screen and Stage program. She is working on her first TV pilot and is represented by IPEX Artists' Agency.



Playwrights of the Summit

Richard Willett (Playwright, "Grief at High Tide"): is the author of the plays "Triptych," "Random Harvest," "The Flid Show," and "Tiny Bubbles," which have been presented off-off-Broadway and at theaters across the country. Honors include an Edward F. Albee Foundation Fellowship and a Tennessee Williams Scholarship. His play "A Terminal Event" (Julie Harris Playwriting Award from the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild and finalist for the Woodward/Newman Drama Award) received its world premiere at the Victory Theatre in Los Angeles in June 2022; "9/10" is scheduled for a world premiere in New York in 2023; and he is developing a one-woman show about Ingrid Bergman with actress Annemette Andersen and director Henning Hegland in New York, London, and Copenhagen. Richard is also an optioned screenwriter who has twice been in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Nicholl Fellowships Top 50 and a finalist for both the Sundance Feature and Episodic Labs. He was also a finalist for the Cynosure Diversity Screenwriting Awards, the Stage 32 Diverse Voices Springboard, and won the Lonely Seal Film Festival award for the best script with a disabled lead character. He lives in Los Angeles.



ISABELLA WU (co-Playwright, "Mending Broken Hearts"): is a sophomore at Guilderland High School. She runs cross country and plays the cello. She spends her free time on Spotify.



Click here for more information on NEXT ACT!

at the REP ★

 **PROCTORS**
Collaborative

theREP's 2023-24 Season

World Premiere from NEXT ACT!

Ajene D. Washington's "THREE MOTHERS"

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!!!

HEAR HOW OUR BROTHERS
Died For Freedom
AND HOW WE ARE CARRYING
ON THE FIGHT IN MISSISSIPPI

HEAR
Fanny Chanty
Mother of James Chaney
on Baptists Church

THIRD ST
AUG 1964
30 P. M.

Three Mothers
WORLD PREMIERE

By Ajene D. Washington

APR. 26 - MAY 12, 2024
at theREP★



Ajene D. Washington

AJENE D. WASHINGTON (Playwright, "Three Mothers") is an award-winning playwright, director, actor and set designer that resides in Bronx, New York. He received a B.S. degree in Speech and Drama from Lincoln University and a M.A. from Northern Illinois University. He has directed many plays and readings, such as "Adam," "American Menu," "Slapped," "Family Night," "The Old Settler" and many others. His plays have received readings and performances in New York, California, Arkansas, Missouri and Nashville, Tenn. He received the BRIO award from the Bronx Council of the Arts for playwriting in 2012 and 2020. His play "I Can See, a Raging Revolt" was a finalist in the TRUSpeak festival. The Arkansas Repertory Theatre selected his play *Almost September* for its "Voices at the River" series. He received an AUDELCO Award for Best Director and Best Set Design, also a nomination as Best Actor. He received a nomination for Best Set Design by Lucille Lortel committee. Ajene is a member of AEA, SAG, SSDC, AFTRA, Black Theatre Network and The Dramatist Guild.

theREP's Story Hour

STORY HOUR

Featuring
Barbara Howard

Hosted by
Barbara Howard
Singer, Actor, storyteller,
and educator

11:00 a.m.

at theREP ★
251 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207

**FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC!**

2023 Dates:
Saturday, May 13
Saturday, June 10
Saturday, July 8
Saturday, August 12

FREE SNACKS AND ACTIVITIES

Bring your family and friends to hear theREP's Associate Artist, Barbara Howard, read three stories - including an original story written by the storyteller herself!

**Saturday, June 10, 2023 at
11am at theREP (251 N. Pearl St.)**

Click here to learn more about [Neighbors For Neighbors](#)

A QUICK LOOK AT THE PAST ELEVEN SUMMITS!

PLAYWRIGHTS

Michael Amon

Brent Askari

AJ Baker

Michael Barakiva

Cris Eli Blak

Suzanne Bradbeer

Joe Breen

Joe Borini

Alan Brody

Stephen Brown

David Bunce

Catherine Butterfield

David Buskin

Zach Calhoun

Christin Eve Cato

Makasha Copeland

Patricia Cotter

Lynda Crawford

Lisa Dellagiarino

Gino Dilorio

Jared Eberlein

Michael Erickson

Kareem Fahmy

John Fiorillo

Meridith Friedman

Seth Greenland

Dave Valdes Greenwood

Christina Gorman

Diane Baia Hale

Holly Hepp-Galvan

Michael Hilton

Michael Hollinger

Jake Holmes

Terrence Patrick Hughes

Marcus Hummon

John Kane

William Kennedy

Robert Kerr

G.D. Kimble

Barbara Kingsley

Sherry Kramer

Judith Leora

Paul Lewis

Carole Lockwood

Deb Lucasta

Rachel Lynett

Brian O'Neill

Emily Mikesell

Nancy Moss

Bob Morris

Lewis Morrow

Tira Palmquist

Steven Peterson

Jordan Ramirez Puckett

Joshua Rebell

Mark Rigney

Rich Rubin

Caroline Sherman

Peter Snoad

Susan Spain

Jenny Stafford

Blaine Teamer

Tommy Trull

Hope Villanueva

Michael Walker

Ajene D. Washington

Deborah Yarchun

Desiree York



NEXT ACT

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS

Noelle Abushqeir
Jessica Airhienbuwa
Leanne Airhienbuwa

Maxine Alpart
Jayleigh Bellefeuille
Quincy Brown
Saaleha Brown
Kaliana Burnell
Jack Bruno
Chiara Cenci
Meghan Cenci
Rachel Covey
Jamie Curcio
Derick Edgren
Sydney Elmore

Amita Ganeshkumar
Samantha Callaghere
Jaimie Gaskell
Jashton Gieser
Abigail Guenther
Alyssa Haddad
Morgan Hughes
Lily Jandrisevits
MJ Johnson
Wisdom Johnson
Joshua Kema
Madaleine Kotary
Violet Kreifels
Olivia Lawrence
Isabella Libby
Seamus Madden
Sylvia Mattraw-Johnston

Sarah McCollum
John McCorkle
Amara Mitchell

Jordan Moses
Samuel Mozzillo
Jyasi Nagel
Elizabeth Novak
Emily O'Brien
Jamie O'Brien
Ava O'Dea
Ema Pelton
Lindsey Penet
Oliver Price
Amanda Recine
Hannah Richards

Ana Roberts
Merryn Rositzke
Straton Rushing
Aden Suchak
Resse Taylor
Nina Tuxbury
Lydia Valentino
Rya Vallabhaneni
Jonathan Van De Loo
Nicholas Vanhoesen
S.E. Vatalaro
Steven VenDenburgh
Ampa Wingfield
Amy Zhang
Paige Zubel
Ava Zuelsdorf



The Proctors Collaborative Staff

Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill, theREP's Producing Artistic Director
Margaret E. Hall, theREP's Associate Artistic Director | NEXT ACT! Producer
Kait VanHeusen, theREP's Company Manager
Brandon Curry, theREP's Production Manager
Luke Krauss, theREP's Assistant Production Manager
Kaitlyn Kern, theREPs Assistant Company Manager
Andrea Adameczyk, Costume Shop Manger
Vanessa VanZandt, Prop Supervisor
Jen Anstey, theREP's Operations Manager
Letisha Johnson, Facilities Specialist
Terry White, Facilities Specialist

theREP's Associate Artists: Gordon Greenberg, Barbara Howard, Stephanie Klapper, Kevin McGuire, Jean-Remy Monnay, Yvonne Perry, Freddy Ramirez and Josh D. Smith

Stephanie Klapper/Klapper Casting CSA

Philip Morris, CEO Proctors Collaborative
Jean Leonard, Chief of Staff at Proctors Collaborative
Chris Musto, Chief Finance Officer at Proctors Collaborative
Leesa Oliver, Human Resources Director at Proctors Collaborative
Dan Hanifin, Development Director at Proctors Collaborative
Michael McCord, Capital Campaigns Director at Proctors Collaborative
Jim Murphy, Marketing Director at Proctors Collaborative
Amanda Ahlemeyer, Marketing Campaign Strategist at Proctors Collaborative
Jessica Sims, Marketing Specialist, Content Creation & Press at Proctors Collaborative
Kelly Auricchio, Marketing Account Specialist at Proctors Collaborative
Christine Sheehan, Director of Education at Proctors Collaborative
Teddy Foster, Director at UPH

Tech/Crew for NEXT ACT!
Brandon Curry, Luke Krauss, Mark Norfolk and James Peterson

The Collaborative Scene Shop
The Box Office Staff

The Full Staff of Proctors Collaborative (which includes theREP, Proctors and UPH)

[Click here for more information on NEXT ACT!](#)