

# THEREP'S NEXT ACT! NEW PLAY SUMMIT

*April 15, 17, 19 and 20, 2024*



## theREP's 13th Annual Summit

*Lots of great info  
inside this program:*

### LEARN ABOUT:

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

### NEW PLAYS BEING AT THEREP!

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!](#)**

## 2024 NEXT ACT! Schedule

TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE \$5.00

*(not including Three Mothers)*

**ALL EVENTS ARE IN-PERSON @ THEREP  
(251 NORTH PEARL STREET, ALBANY)**

### MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

**7:30PM - “ALL THE EMILIES IN ALL THE UNIVERSES”**

by Ian August

*(On the mainstage)*

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

**6-7PM - PAGE TO STAGE: SCREENING OF**

**“CONSIDER THE SPARROW” BY SUZANNE BRADBEER**

*This 25-minute film will be followed by a panel discussion.*

*The film is an adaptation of Bradbeer’s play, “The God Game,” which won the inaugural NEXT ACT! Summit in 2012; and was given its world premiere production, at theREP, in 2013.*

*(On the mainstage)*

**7:30PM - “UNRECONCILED”**

by Jay Sefton and Mark Basquill

*(Workshop Performance on the mainstage)*

*“Unreconciled” will be receiving its world premiere production with Chester Theatre, in the Berkshires, this season.*

## 2024 NEXT ACT! Schedule, con't.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024

5PM - NEXTGEN READING: "TURN TO THE BEAN"

by Peter Chansky

(In the Studio Theatre, 2nd floor)

7:30PM - YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST READING EVENT

(In the Studio Theatre, 2nd floor)

### SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2024

4PM - FIRST 15: BE A LITERARY MANAGER EVENT

(In the Studio Theatre, 2nd floor)

### 7:30PM - POETRY SLAM

Emcee'd by Capital Region Artist and Poet, D. Colin

(On the mainstage)

## WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION OF "THREE MOTHERS"

by Ajene D. Washington

Directed by Petronia Paley

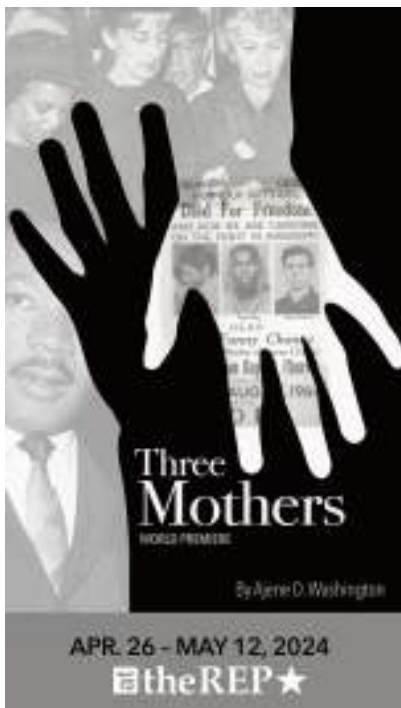
at theREP

May 26-April 12, 2024

Click [here](#) for tickets.

*(Please note tickets for "Three Mothers" are regularly priced.)*

*"Three Mothers" is the winning script from the 2022 Summit. The script has been in development with theREP since shortly thereafter, in preparation of this World Premiere Production.*



## 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.

**New Plays Being at theREP!**  
**Monday, April 15, 2024 @ 7:30pm**  
(on the mainstage)

**“ALL THE EMIIES IN ALL THE UNIVERSES” BY IAN AUGUST**

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



**Ian August** is a founding member of the American Theatre Group’s Playwrights Lab, and a graduated member of PlayPenn’s playwriting lab, The Foundry. Several of Mr. August’s plays have been published by Sam French Inc., Smith and Kraus, and Pipeline / mApplause Books. He was a 2019 Playwright in Residence at the William Inge Center for the Arts in Independence, Kansas, and a recipient of a 2021 Independent Artist Fellowship from the NJ Council for the Arts. And his plays have been read, workshopped and performed across the Nation. (Full bio on page XX.)

**“All the Emilies in All the Universes”**

Emilie struggles with the devastating loss of her stillborn child in four distinct parallel timelines. But when an unexpected bend in the space / time continuum brings these four grieving Emilies together, they realize that infinite possible realities means that somewhere, somewhen, their lost son was born alive. Emilie, Emilie, Emilie, and Emilie vow to travel through infinite dimensions, risking permanent erasure from the multiverse, to find the baby boy they thought they’d lost forever. “All the Emilies in All the Universes” is a play about coping with grief, the act of pursuing self-acceptance, and finding the truth hidden in yourself in the ever-expanding multiverse around you.

**Directed** by Margaret E. Hall++  
**Stage Managed** by Shayne David Cameris\*  
& Kate Kern\*

**Cast:**

*(in alphabetical order)*

Emilie (Black): Kathleen Carey  
Jeff: David Girard\*

Emilie (Yellow): Diaka Kaba Hill\*  
Stage Directions: Tony Pallone

The Presenter: Yvonne Perry\*

Emilie (Red): Shannon Rafferty\*

Emilie (Blue): Eliana Rowe\*

*\*Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association  
++Denotes a member of Stage Directors & Choreographers Society  
Full Company Bios start on page 12*

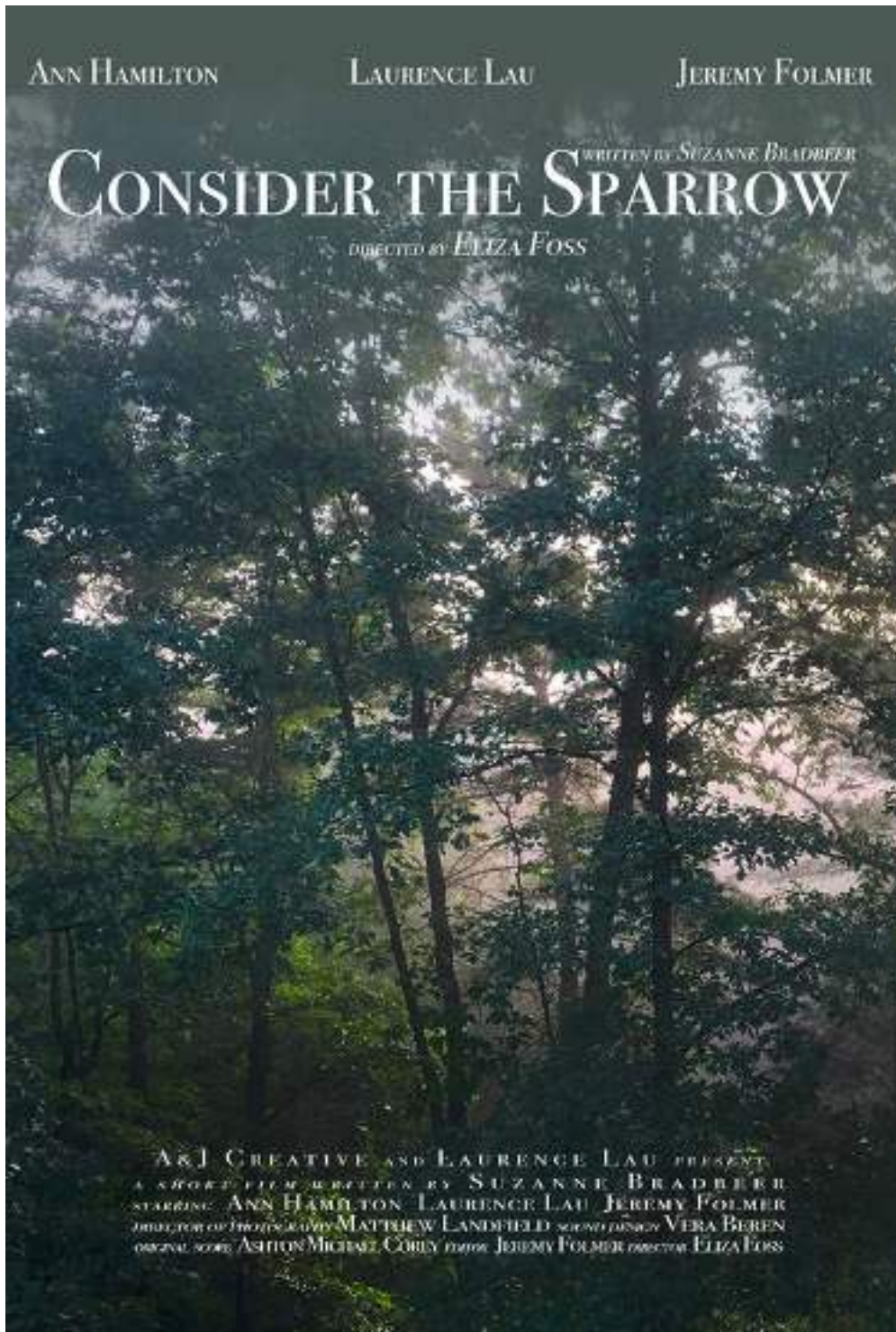
**From theREP's Stage to the Silver Screen**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024 @ 6pm**

(on the mainstage)

**Page to Stage: "Consider the Sparrow"**  
by Suzanne Bradbeer

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



**New Work Starts at theREP!**

Join theREP in viewing this short, 25-minute film, which will be followed by a panel discussion tailored to how Suzanne Bradbeer's play, "The God Game" became the short film "Consider the Sparrow."

**"Consider the Sparrow" Synopsis**

Differences in faith can be hard enough in a marriage yet Tom and Lisa have made it work for twenty years. But when estranged friend Matt arrives presenting the opportunity of a lifetime and the only condition is a lie about God, well, what's an American politician to do?



**Suzanne Bradbeer** is the winning playwright from theREP's inaugural NEXT ACT! New Play Summit in 2012. Her play, "The

God Game," which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in Drama, and has had over a dozen productions across the nation, including the co-World Premiere at Capital Repertory Theatre and Gulfshore Playhouse, came through that inaugural summit. theREP is thrilled to have the next iteration of this story unfold on the mainstage.

*Full Company Bios start on page 12*

**theREP, where to go to further develop a new script!**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024 @ 7:30pm**

(on the mainstage)

## **New Play Development - A Workshop Performance**

### **"UNRECONCILED"**

by Jay Sefton & Mark Basquill

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



“**Unreconciled**” is the true story of an adolescent actor cast as Jesus in a school play directed by a parish priest. The story chronicles a survivor’s journey as he confronts his past and discovers the courage to use his voice. This 80-minute piece is a poignant and at times humorous exploration of family, place, and the meaning of reconciliation.

**Directed by James Barry**  
**Stage Managed by Kate Kern\***

**Cast**  
*(in alphabetical order)*  
**Jay Sefton\***

*\*Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association  
Full Company Bios start on page 12*

**Jay Sefton** (co-author and performer) is an actor and licensed mental health counselor, originally from Philadelphia, and currently based in Easthampton, MA. Jay is the recipient of the LA WEEKLY Award for Best Solo Performance for “The Most Mediocre Story Never Told.” And is a member of Actors’ Equity and SAG-AFTRA.

**Mark Basquill** (co-author) was raised in South Philadelphia and practices clinical psychology in Wilmington, NC, where he helps veterans recover from the wounds of war, often using writing to promote healing.

**theREP, where the Next Generation of Playwrights Gains Experience!**

**Friday, April 19, 2024 @ 5pm**  
(In the Second Floor Studio Theatre)

## **NEXTGEN: "Turn to the Bean"**

By Peter Chansky

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



**Peter Chansky:** is a Philadelphia-based playwright currently enrolled in the MFA in Playwriting program at Temple University. His work explores the existential foundations of identity and performance through heightened realism bordering on the absurd. His short film *We're All Fine* was awarded at Couch Film Festival, Mindfield Film Festival, and NYLIFF. His play "The Baby Shower" has been performed at 61 Local and Wild East Brewing Co. in Brooklyn, NY. His short play "Camouflage" premiered at the 48th Annual Samuel French OOB Short Play Festival. He received his undergraduate degree in Philosophy and Theater from Trinity College in Hartford, CT.

### **"Turn to the Bean"**

Daniel and Becca are baristas at True Roast, a coffee shop that's organizing to form a union. On the day of the union vote, they have to train a mysterious new co-worker who threatens not only their jobs, but their friendship.

### **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 Kevin McGuire**  
**Stage Managed by Caspian O'Keeffe**

#### **Cast**

*(in alphabetical order)*

*Jo: Lancelot Douglas*

*Liz: Kitt LaPaix*

*Stage Directions: Kitt LaPaix & Tony Pallone*

*Jeff: Tony Pallone*

*Daniel: Matthew Winning\**

*Becca: Nicole Zelka*

*\*Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association  
Full Company Bios start on page 12*



**Friday, April 19, 2024 @ 7:30pm**  
(In the Second Floor Studio Theatre)

## **NEW VOICES: Young Playwright Reading**

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



Haley Jones



Eleonora Catalano



Frederick Durocher, Jr.



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

**Directed by Yvonne Perry**  
**Stage Managed by Regina Derosiers**

### **Cast con't.**

#### **Each Cast**

*(in alphabetical order)*

**“Morning Ritual”** by Frederick Durocher, Jr. (Schenectady HS)

Stage Directions: Sadrina Renece

Jen: Isabel Sanchez

Allen: John Martinez Soliz

Thai: Otto Vaval

Lacy: Jewel Winant

**“The Sampling Party”** by Dorian Harding (Shenendehowa HS)

Albert Cavendish: Richard Lounello\*

Vera Cavendish: Sadrina Renece

Stage Directions: Isabel Sanchez

Mr. Wells: Dennis Schebetta\*

Chauncey: Miles Wilkie\*

**“Day Nine”** by Eleonora Catalano (Augustine Classical Academy)

Narrator/Colin Ashwood: Richard Lounello\*

Jaquelyn Pace: Sadrina Renece

Claire Barlow: Isabel Sanchez

Eddy Douglas: Dennis Schebetta\*

Ryan Reeves: John Martinez Soliz

Stage Directions: Jewel Winant

**“Tackled”** by Georgia O’Dell, Alexia Strom-Warren & Angeleena

VanSlyke (Coxsackie-Athens HS)

Lenard: Khamani Ambrose

Mateo: Jake Bell

Principal Nancy: Sadrina Renece

Stage Directions: Dennis Schebetta\*

Football Player 1: John Martinez Soliz

Football Player 2: Otto Vaval

Alan: Miles Wilkie\*

Heidi: Jewel Winant

**“The Secrets Within”** by Claire Hubert, Danielle Deering &

Payton Slater (Coxsackie-Athens HS)

Amir: Khamani Ambrose

Cole: Jake Bell

Stage Directions: Sadrina Renece

Elijah: John Martinez Soliz

Enzo: Otto Vaval

**“Gotham Isekai”** by Haley Jones & Eren Slatcher-Burby

(Guilderland HS)

Flash: Jake Bell

Barbara Gordon: Sadrina Renece

Daunis Fontaine: Isabel Sanchez

Jason Todd: John Martinez Soliz

Stage Directions: Miles Wilkie\*

*\*Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association*

*Full Company Bios start on page 12*

**Saturday, April 20, 2024 @ 4pm**  
(In the Second Floor Studio Theatre)

## FIRST 15: Be a Literary Manager!

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



Vincent Delaney



David A. Gregory



Cary Gitter



Anthony T. Goss



Jenny Stafford

**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** Caspian O'Keeffe

*(Each cast in alphabetical order)*

**"Eleanor and Dolly"** by Jenny Stafford  
Jana: Aaliyah Al-Fuhaid  
Ellie: Isabel Sanchez  
Stage Directions: Godswill Utionkpan  
Claire: Kim Wafer

**"The Steel Man"** by Cary Gitter  
Stage Directions: Aaliyah-AlFuhaid  
Jake Gellert: Ethan Botwick\*  
Leo Gellert: David Bunce\*

**Con't...**

**"The Mallard"** by Vincent Delaney  
Davis: Ethan Botwick\*  
Stage Directions: Hayes M. Fields II  
Gillian: Kim Wafer  
Freya: Benita Zahn\*

**"Castling"** by Anthony T. Goss  
Dajuan - Hayes M. Fields II  
Byron: Michael Lake  
Stage Directions: Isabel Sanchez  
Justin: Godswill Utionkpan

**"Barb Goldfarb Didn't Make It"** by David A. Gregory  
Stage Directions: Michael Lake  
Paula: Kim Wafer  
Barb: Benita Zahn

*\*Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association  
Full Company Bios start on page 12*

## Poetry Slam Emcee'd by D. Colin



**D. Colin (Emcee/Poet)** is a multidisciplinary artist in poetry, visual and theater. Her poems have appeared in Trolley Literary Journal, Jaded Ibis Press, Porter Gulch Review, and forthcoming in Eco Theo Collective. She is the author of two poetry collections, *Dreaming in Kreyol* and *Said the Swing to the Hoop*. She is a NYS Writers Institute Fellow and Cave Canem alumna and has performed for The Moth, PBS, NPR among others both nationally and abroad. She has competed at the National Poetry Slam and the Womxn of the World Poetry Slam among others. She is currently working on a forthcoming body of work including poetry and visual art to be released in 2025.

### The Poets

1. **Tarishi MIDNIGHT Shuler @13thmidnight**
2. **EL @timber\_mayhem**
3. **Courtney Symone @symonesees**
4. **Olivia Hadams or Liv @liviypoetry**
5. **Adonis Richards @lucidvoicesmovement**
6. **Brendon or Balanc3 @Balanc3**
7. **Yexandria Diaz or Yex @yasss\_yex**
8. **GodIs Tymani Rain @godistymanirain**
9. **Sheldon Alexander @shelxander**
10. **Laney Jade or Laney TheePoet @laneytheepoet**
11. **Luis "L-Majesty" Pabon @lmajesty1**

## Summit Directors/Stage Managers



**JAMES BARRY** (Director, “Unreconciled”) is proud to return to theREP after having directed “Million Dollar Quartet Christmas” here this past holiday season. Other recent directing credits include the 2023 workshops of “Unreconciled” at Chester Theatre Company, Easthampton City Space, and The Arden in Philadelphia; “The Making of a Great Moment” (Chester Theatre Company & subsequent Off-Broadway transfer to Urban Stages); “Working: A Musical” (Berkshire Theatre Group, BroadwayWorld Best Direction of a Musical award, 2019); “Million Dollar Quartet” (Berkshire Theatre Group, Berkshire Theatre Critics Association Outstanding Director of a Musical, 2017); and “Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson” and “Working: A Musical” for Wagner College Theatre. James and his wife Tara Franklin have served as the Co-Producing Artistic Directors of Chester Theatre Company since the fall of 2022 where James looks forward to directing the world premiere of Unreconciled this summer. [www.chestertreatre.org](http://www.chestertreatre.org)



**SHAYNE D. CAMERIS\*** (Stage Manager, “All the Emilies in All the Universes”) originally hailing from the Adirondacks, is a theatre practitioner based in the Capital Region. He’s been on and off stage with some of the area’s leading professional arts organizations. Some credits include: Capital Repertory Theatre - What the Constitution Means to Me (PSM), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (2nd ASM/Mechanical Understudy), The Wizard of Oz (1st ASM), Jersey Boys (2nd ASM/Bob Crewe), Fly (Reynolds), 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 Company - Twelfth Night (Antonio/ASM), Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 (Mistress Quickly et. Al), The Winter’s Tale (Clown); Theater Voices - The Birthday Party (Stanley); Siena College - Endgame (Hamm) among others. Shayne is also continuing to create and develop his own work. Proud member of Actors’ Equity Association. Love to JSC.



**REGINA DEROSIER** (Stage Manager, Young Playwright Contest) is a recent graduate of Russell Sage College’s Musical Theatre performance program. Recent onstage credits include: “Happy Days,” “Junie B. Jones The Musical,” “The Laramie Project” and “Stupid F\*\*king Bird” (Theatre Institute at Sage). Tech and ASM credits include: “Thanksgiving Play,” “Still,” “Misery,” “Thirst” (Dorset Theatre Festival). Stage Manager credits include “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily,” “Benjamin Franklin The Musical” (Russell Sage College). She would like to thank her family, Vinny, and Kate for their support.



**ELIZA FOSS** (Director, “Consider the Sparrow”) is an actor and director living and working in New York City for over twenty years. As an actress she has been seen on stages in New York City and in regional theaters across the country including a reading at Capital Rep last year of Three Mothers, a wonderful play in Capital Rep’s current season. She has recorded over a hundred and fifty audiobooks and received numerous “earphones” awards. Her most recent audiobook is a multicast audiobook called The Heiress by Rachel Hawkins playing the role of Ruby. She also directs audiobooks for Audible and other publishers. This is her directorial debut in film.



**MARGARET E. HALL (Director, "All the Emilies in All the Universes")** has worked internationally as a director, stage manager and drama teacher. As the REP's Associate Artistic Director, Margaret spearheads the REP'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 the REP with the 2017 production of "An Iliad," other credits include: the World Premiere of "Red Maple" (2019, Winner of BroadwayWorld Berkshire's Award for Best Director of a Play), the 2019 production of "Live From WVL Radio Theatre: It's A Wonderful Life," the World Premiere of "Secret Hour" in (2023), and the 2024 production of "Sweat," to name a few. Margaret is a proud member of SDC and AEA, 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, "Unreconciled" and "All the Emilies in All the Universes")** is absolutely thrilled to be working with Capital Repertory Theatre for another Next Act. Kate loves working with this theatre and has worked as a Stage Manager and Assistant Company Manager for the past few years, working on shows such as Sweat, Million Dollar Quartet Christmas and Honky Tonk Angels. Kate is also a company member of Troy Foundry Theatre, where she has worked as the Stage Manager for shows such as Ilium Burns: Where There's Smoke and City Of Myth: Ilium Sings. She is also proud to have worked with wonderful companies such as Black Theatre Troupe, Proctors, and the Theatre Institute At Sage. Kate is a recent graduate from Russell Sage College majoring in Business Administration and Theatre, where she was the Stage Manager for 4 years at the Theatre Institute At Sage: Stupid F#cking Bird, The Diary of Anne Frank, Oliver, Tribes, and many more. Kate loves working with the people at Capital Repertory Theatre, and she wants to thank her family, friends, all the wonderful people at Capital Repertory Theatre, and NJH for all their support.



**WYNN MACKENZIE (Technical Director, "Unreconciled")** [he/they] is a freelance theater maker and artist living and working on unceded Nonotuck land in western Massachusetts. He created the lighting design used in the Easthampton and Philadelphia performances, and is delighted to be supporting "Unreconciled" for its upcoming tour dates in the next year. In addition to freelancing and solo work, he is a proud member of local theater company Theater Between Addresses, currently producing new experimental/immersive work in connection with land and memory. You can find more of his work at [wynnmackenzie.com](http://wynnmackenzie.com).



**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 the REP 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 the REP'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.

**KEVIN MCGUIRE (Director, NextGen “Turn to the Bean”)** Broadway National, International Tours: "Les Miserables" (Jean Valjean), "The Phantom Of the Opera" (M. Andre, Phantom), "The Secret Garden" (Uncle Archie), "Jayne Eyre" (John Eyre, Assistant to Director John Caird). Kevin was named the First Associate Artist at Capital Repertory Theatre. At theREP: "Man of La Mancha," "Red," "A Christmas Carol," "Other Desert Cities," "Camelot," "She Loves Me," "The Secret Garden," "Shakespeare In Love," "The Full Monty," "The Irish And How They Got That Way," "The True," "Wizard of Oz," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." In 2015, Kevin directed the critically acclaimed "Hamlet" at theREP. In New York, 2019 (pre-pandemic) Kevin appeared in the Heartbeat Opera's "Der Freischutz" as Kuno, receiving rave reviews from the New York Times for his first opera ever! Off-Broadway: "Forbidden Broadway" (original cast), "Big Maggie" (original cast), "The Seagull," "Hamlet" (Csc), "Much Ado About Nothing," "The Gilded Age," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Goldoni's Il Campiello," "Waiting For Godot" (directed by Alan Schindler), "Romeo And Juliet" (New York Shakespeare Festival). Kevin is a company member at the Irish Repertory Theatre in New York. Denver Center Theatre Company in the American Premiere of Nick Dear's "Frankenstein" and "Sweeney Todd". Shakespeare Theatre "DC Henry IV Part One," "Henry IV Part Two" (directed By Michael Kahn). Hartford Stage, Arizona Theatre Company, Williamstown Theatre Festival, (receiving his equity card in 1979) Troy Foundry Theatre (American premiere of Richard Dresser's "100 Years"). Edna Trunblat in "Hairspray." Kevin played George in "Sunday In The Park With George" and to this day is his favorite role. Kevin was the Artistic Director of The Theatre Company at Hubbard Hall in Cambridge, New York. Three seasons with the Julliard Acting Company on Tour America. Born and raised in the Capital District. Education: St. Mary's Academy, Hoosick Falls, NY, The Hoosac School, The Julliard School.

**CASPIAN O'KEEFFE (Stage Manager, NextGen “Turn to the Bean” and First 15)** is very excited to be working with Capital Repertory Theatre! Other Stage Management Credits Include: As You Like It (Molloy University), The Pirates of Penzance, Sweat, Fun Home, Proof (Ithaca College), and Charlotte Lucas is 27 and Not Dead, Bomba and the Coquí, Prospect Hill (Piper Theatre). Thank you to my family and friends for their love and support!

**YVONNE PERRY (Director, Young Playwright Contest)** is a professional actress based in both the Capital District and New York. As a director, her credits include shows at UAlbany (The Wolves; My First Time; Circle Mirror Transformation); Siena (How I Learned To Drive; Tartuffe; Spike Heels); and Union College (Boeing Boeing). She has directed many Theatre Voices productions, including Defiance, Rogues Gallery and Outside Mullingar, all by John Patrick Shanley. Yvonne is a guest lecturer in Acting at UAlbany, and has also taught and/or guest lectured at Skidmore, Union, Siena and Adelphi University. She is a certified Consent Forward Artist with IDC, and has directed moments of intimacy at Skidmore, Syracuse U and Capital Repertory Theatre, where she is also an Artistic Associate. You can learn more about Yvonne's performance, teaching and directing work on her website at [www.yvonneperry.com](http://www.yvonneperry.com). Proud member AEA, where she is The Greater Albany Area Liaison Co-Chair, and SAG-AFTRA.

## Summit Acting Company

**AALIYAH AL-FUHAID (Actor, First 15)** is thrilled to be back on the Capital Rep stage! A Theatre major at SUNY Albany, Aaliyah's favorite credits include "In the Blood" (Amiga Gringa), "The Nether" (Iris), "And then there were None" (Vera Claythorn), and her voiceover work on the video game *KnockOut City*. She would like to thank family and friends who have supported her throughout the years.



**KHAMANI AMBROSE (Actor, Young Playwright Contest)** is a Freshman at UAlbany heading into his sophomore year. He has been working on his skills in his Acting 1 class. Although with no experience as a professional Khamani is eager to step into the acting world.



**JAKE BELL (Actor, Young Playwright Contest)** is very excited to be participating in his first show at Capital Repertory! Jacob is a Junior Theatre major at the University at Albany. He would like to thank his family and would like to dedicate this and every performance to his Uncle Jim. Select past performances include Tom Wingfield (“The Glass Menagerie”), Mark Cohen (“Rent”), Christopher Sly (“Taming of The Shrew”).



**ETHAN BOTWICK\* (Actor, First 15)** 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 Repertory); “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.



**DAVID BUNCE\* (Actor, First 15)** 27 years with New York State Theatre Institute; London, West End; “The Snow Queen,” Off Broadway; “American Enterprise, Moscow;” “Rag Dolly,” “Peter Pan,” Middle East; “Aladdin.” NYC; “A Tale of Cinderella,” “Beauty and the Beast.” 9 years Teacher/Artist-in-Residence at Theatre Institute at Sage; “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?;” “Dogs of War;” “Shakespeare’s Soldiers” and “Les Miserable.” Adirondack Theatre Festival; “Black Tie.” Saratoga Shakespeare and Last of the Mohicans Outdoor Drama. David’s play, “Red Maple,” won the 2018 NEXT ACT! Summit and received its world premiere at theREP in February of 2019. Member AEA, SAG/AFTRA, Dramatists Guild and Society of American Fight Directors. [Davidmbunce.com](http://Davidmbunce.com)



**KATHLEEN CAREY (Actor, All the Emilies in All the Universes”)** Active in the Capital District theater community for more than 30 years, Kathleen has worked at most area theaters, recently making her mainstage debut at theREP as Jessie in “Sweat.” Other appearances include the title role in Harbinger Theatre’s acclaimed production “Mrs. Packard,” Mary Mallon in “Typhoid Mary” (Theater Voices), Carol in “Hurricane Diane” (Harbinger) and Margie in “Good People” at her beloved Theater Barn, for which she won the Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play Award from the Berkshire Theater Critic’s Association. Happy to be back to the NEXT ACT! New Play Summit celebration!



**LANCELOT DOUGLAS (Actor, NextGen “Turn to the Bean”)** (they/them) is an Albany local performer and drag artist. They studied Musical Theatre at Rider University. Recent credits include “Something Rotten” and “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” with Playhouse Stage Co. They can also be seen at venues across the Capital District performing as Portabella. When not performing, they are making bagels for their Troy-based business, Bae Goals.



**HAYES M FIELDS II (Actor, First 15)** Award Winning Performer, Musical Artist, and Composer. Hayes made his first "guest" performance at the tender age of 4, with "The Fields Singers," a family group with his mother and 3 sisters. This began a career spanning over 50 years! He starred in The Harlem Children's Theater Production: "The Liberation of Mother Goose." Albany's Civic Theater: "Ain't Misbehavin," and theREP's "City Séance: Ghost Tour." Hayes is a founding member of gospel group, "Higher Calling." Currently performs with Albany gospel group, "Restored," and is currently a member of the MOPCO Improvisational Theatre, in Schenectady New York. Hayes has also performed with Gospel Greats including Shirley Caesar, and Fred Hammond.



**JEREMY FOLMER (Actor, "Consider the Sparrow")** was born and raised in Northern California. At the age of 18 he moved to LA to study acting at University of Southern California in their esteemed BFA program. His big move came in 1992 when he drove across the country to pursue his dreams in NYC. He soon became the artistic director of Microscopic Theater Company where he produced and acted in many shows. His professional TV career began on the Guiding Light, All My Children, and As the World Turns. Jeremy has studied with The Barrow Group (since 1997) and has acted in many Off-Broadway shows there. He was last seen in the world premiere of Enemy of the People, a new work by Artistic Director Seth Barrish. Other productions at TBG include Art, Dying City, The Fear Project, Short Stuff II and III and The Unrepeatable Moment to name a few. Jeremy's film directorial and editing debut was with the award winning short film Plot! a mockumentary about a garden club in a NYC Co-op. He was also an actor in the film and starred alongside his wife Ann Hamilton. He has a new film (director, editor) in post production written by Laurence Lau called The Long Walk Home soon to hit the festival circuit. Most recently as an actor Jeremy can be seen on episodes of FBI, The Partner Track and Dead Ringers.



**DAVID GIRARD\* (Actor, "All the Emilies in All the Universes")** A Capital Region native based out of Historic Troy, NY, David has been working as a professional actor, director, and theatre educator for over twenty years. He is the Artistic Director of Troy Foundry Theatre, co-devising and directing original works such as City of Myth: Ilium Sings and Where There's Smoke: Ilium Burns, as well as directing several works by Samuel Beckett including Not I and Krapp's Last Tape. David is also a Core Adjunct Professor at Siena College, and is a former Associate Artistic Director for the Saratoga Shakespeare Company. David has worked with Capital Repertory Theatre in several capacities, most recently appearing in productions of The Wizard of Oz and last season's award-winning A Midsummer Nights' Dream. David has his MFA in Directing from Temple University and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.



**ANN HAMILTON (Actor, "Consider the Sparrow")** was born in Northern California and moved to Louisiana when she was 5, so she considers herself a transplanted southerner as well as a Californian, but she has called NYC her home for 20 years now. She has been a working actor since the early 1990s, her first major acting role was as a contract player on Guiding Light. She has been on camera in dozens of television commercials and also works as a voice-over artist. Other acting roles include Magic Mike XXL, A&E's Roots, Steven Soderbergh's Schizopolis, and numerous television shows. Five years ago she co-wrote, produced, and acted in the award-winning short Plot, directed by her husband Jeremy Folmer. That project instigated the desire to collaborate on another project, and thankfully Jeremy and Laurence Lau were developing a short from the play The God Game and invited her to join them in producing and acting in the film. Up next—Ann can be seen in a new Amazon television series called Cross, based on the James Patterson character Alex Cross.



**DIAKA KABA HILL\*** (Actor, *All the Emilies in All the Universes*) is a Malian-American actress. Diaka arrived in Albany in 2018, quickly earning roles in a range of regional productions. She is the Assistant Artistic Director of the Black Theatre Troupe of Upstate NY (BTTUNY). Favorite credits include: “All in the Timing” (Theater Voices / Steamer N. 10 Theatre), “The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat” (Albany Barn, Inc.), “Hard Candy & Misdemeanors” (Troy Foundry Theatre), “Whitewashed: the racism project” (Creative Action Unlimited), “The Treasurer” (Theater Voices / Steamer N.10 Theatre), “Shakespeare In Love” (Capital Repertory Theatre), “Platanos y Collard Greens” (Palace Theatre), “The Last Days of Judas Iscariot” (Edinburgh Fringe Festival). <http://www.diaka.com>



**MICHAEL A. LAKE** (Actor, *First 15*) is an artist and theatre-maker and active theatre community contributor of and from the NY Capital District. His directorial credits include “The Mountaintop” (BTTUNY) the multimedia production entitled “POV” (CAU), and “Happy Birthday Wanda June” (WKP). His acting credits include “Topdog/Underdog” (BTTUNY), “Hard Candy and Misdemeanors” (TFT) “Release, Sides” (CAU), “The Tragedy of Othello,” “A Midsummer Night's Dream” (WKP), “Fireflies,” and “The Wiping Man” (CCT) to name a few. His film credits include *The Climb* (CAU 2020), *Welcome Home* (Next Evolution Media 2019), and *The Inheritance* (2020). Michael would like to thank his family for their constant love and unwavering support.



**KITT LAPAIX** (Actor, *NextGen “Turn to the Bean”*) A Speech and Theater major at SUNY Oswego and graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, NYC in the 1970’s, Kitt spent the next two decades performing on stage in productions in and around Manhattan and Westchester while designing large event balloon sculpture for her Westchester company *Where’s the Party?*. She joined her local volunteer Fire Department after 9/11 and turned to a career in healthcare, most recently as a Registered Nurse in the operating room at Albany Medical Center. Having retired from nursing in November of ’23, she has returned to her first love, the stage, and is looking forward to getting reacquainted with audiences in the Capital District.



**LAURENCE LAU** (Actor, *“Consider the Sparrow”*) Since 2003 Larry has been actively pursuing his passion for stage acting in addition to his long time career in television and film. In 2018 he performed the lead role in The Keen Company’s critically acclaimed *LATER LIFE* Off Broadway. Other New York credits include *Cherry Lane Psycho Therapy*, *Bleecker Street Theatre* and National Tour *The Exonerated*, and Lincoln Center *Dada Woof Papa Hot*. He was in the First National Broadway tour of *August: Osage County*, starring Estelle Parson as well as the European premiere of *The Goat or Who is Sylvia?* directed by Pam MacKinnon at the Vienna English Theatre. He has played numerous roles at regional theaters throughout the U.S. Larry was born in Long Beach California, grew up in Oregon, and finished high school in New York City. He began his television career with appearances on such classics as *Happy Days*, *Eight is Enough*, and *The Waltons*. More recent credits include *Blue Bloods*, *Elementary*, *Law & Order*, HBO’s *Too Big to Fail*, *JAG*, *Frasier*, *Upstate* (pilot, lead). He first became known as good guy Greg Nelson on *All My Children*, and was also a contract player on *Another World*, *Jamie Frame*, and *One Life to Live*, *Sam Rappaport*. On *As The World Turns* he played the popular and controversial recurring role, *Brian Wheatley*.



**RICHARD LOUNELLO\*** (Actor, Young Playwright Contest) Recent performances : Matt Drayton in “Guess Who's Coming To Dinner” (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina), Carlos in “In Darfur” (WAM Theatre /Shakespeare & Co.), Kenny in “Laughter On The 23rd Floor” (Oldcastle Theatre), Toddy Koovitz in “Take Me Out,” Marc in “M. Butterfly” (Capital Rep), Biff in “Death Of A Salesman,” Vito Pignoli in “It Had To Be You” (Theater Barn), Mitch Albom in “Tuesdays With Morrie” (Curtain Call), Alan in “The Boys In The Band” (Chandler Theater for the Arts). FILM Lead roles: *A Mother's Revenge*, *4th Man Out*, *A Prince For Christmas* and the just released *Assault on Hill 400*. TELEVISION: *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *BULL*, *The Sopranos*, *Saturday Night Live* and the Emmy nominated *Prohibition Story: Legs Diamond* playing Legs Diamond. Also a writer and director of several short films the latest, *LifeQuest*, is finishing up its film festival run having won over 30 Best Sci-Fi short awards as well as a number of Best Screenplay and Best Director Awards.



**TONY PALLONE** (Actor, “All the Emilies in All the Universes” and NextGen “Turn to the Bean”) is an actor and director who manages to find his way onto most of the region’s stages one way or another, but theREP will always be his favorite place to work. Previous credits at theREP include “The Trip to Bountiful,” “Gypsy,” “To Kill a Mockingbird” and multiple appearances in “NECT ACT!” In June, he’ll be directing for the Black Theatre Troupe’s One-act Jamboree festival. Love to Colleen.



**YVONNE PERRY\*** (Actor, “All the Emilies in All the Universes”) is an actor/director/educator who splits her time between the Capital Region and NYC. She serves as an Artistic Associate at The Rep in Albany, NY, where she has appeared in numerous shows. Other regional credits include Gulfshore Playhouse, Oldcastle Theatre Company, Saratoga Shakespeare, Hubbard Hall, Stageworks Hudson, River Valley Rep, NYSTI, Hudson Stage, and the NY Fringe. TV credits include Rosanna Cabot on the CBS soap *As The World Turns* (Soap Opera Award); *Law & Order*, (CI and SVU) ; *Silk Stalkings*, *Candid Camera*, *Guiding Light*, *All My Children* and the sit-com pilot *Dads* for ABC. Yvonne also appears in corporate training videos, web series, & many short films. Yvonne frequently does commercials, both on-camera and off - (as a voice over talent) - and she specializes in long-form industrial film narration. She has taught and directed shows at area colleges for nearly 20 years. Adelphi University(BFA), UAlbany (MA). She is a proud member AEA and SAG-AFTRA, and serves as Co-Chair for the Greater Albany Area Liaison of Actors’ Equity. You can learn more about Yvonne at her website: [www.yvonneperry.com](http://www.yvonneperry.com)



**SHANNON RAFFERTY\*** (Actor, All the Emilies in All the Universes”) is thrilled to be back at theREP! Previous Capital Rep credits include “Jersey Boys” (Mary Delgado), “The Crucible” (Abigail), “Man of La Mancha” (Antonia), “The Wizard of Oz” (Ensemble), and “The Marvelous Wonderettes.” 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 resident company member of Troy Foundry Theatre (TFT) as well as a member of Hold on Honeys, an indie-folk band. She is a proud member of Actors Equity. [www.shannonrafferty.com](http://www.shannonrafferty.com) @holdonhoneys





**SADRINA RENEE (Actor, Young Playwright Contest)** is thrilled to be back at theREP and in another NEXT ACT! New Play Summit Reading, having also tread the boards in “The Trip To Bountiful.”

**ELIANA ROWE\* (Actor, “All the Emilies in All the Universes”)** is a Theatre Artist/Storyteller based in Albany, NY. Rowe has appeared in local and regional productions across the country, writes and performs their own solo work, and occasionally moonlights in princess cosplay. Regional Credits: “Imbroglia” (Betty) and “As You Like It” (Celia) at The Great River Shakespeare Festival, “Twelfth Night” (Viola) at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. Educational Credits: “Harriet Tells It Like It Is!” (Harriet) with Capital Repertory Theatre, “Shakespeare LIVE! 2022” with The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and “Shakespeare and the Language That Shaped the World” (Ensemble) with Shakespeare & Company. Other recent credits include “Twelfth Night” with The Rooted Voyagers, “The Tempest: Just(ice) like Waters” with Black Shakespeare Project, “A Deed Without a Name,” “Beckett3 Echo Chambers,” and “City of Myth: Illium Sings” all with Troy Foundry Theatre. Rowe is a 2024 Semifinalist for the National Playwright’s Conference (“My Papier Mâché Monster”). They’re also a proud alumni of Fordham University. Let’s Connect: [@simply\\_eliana](mailto:@simply_eliana) | [elianarowe.com](http://elianarowe.com)



**ISABEL SANCHEZ (Actor, Young Playwright Contest and First 15)** is super excited to be back at Capital Repertory Theater! She is an actor and a soon-to-be college graduate from the University at Albany. Her recent theater credits include: “Far, Far Better Things” (Dani, WAM Theater), “The Taming of the Shrew” (Petruccio, UAlbany Theater), “What the Constitution Means to Me” (Debater, Capital Repertory Theater), and “The Wolves” (#46, UAlbany Theater). Her recent short film credits include: *Laser-Focused*, *Al Otro Lado*, *C- Student*. She wants to thank her family and friends for their unwavering support.



**DENNIS SCHEBETTA\* (Actor, Young Playwright Contest)** is excited to work on NEXT ACT! at theREP again after directing the Young Playwright Contest Reading last year and as an actor in “Yartsy on Division.” He is an actor, director, and writer with credits off-off Broadway and regionally. Earlier this year he was seen in “The Hatmakers Wife” at Theatre Voices and as Sir Toby in “Twelfth Night” at Saratoga Shakespeare Company. Other credits include off-off Broadway’s “Where are you” at Ensemble Studio Theater, “An Ideal Husband” at Northeast Theatre Ensemble, “August: Osage County” at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, “Shining City” at Off the Wall. His award-winning short *My Date with Adam* was selected for several film festivals around the globe. He is Assistant Professor at Skidmore College and co-author of *Building a Performance: An Actor’s Guide to Rehearsal* (with John Basil). [www.dennischebetta.com](http://www.dennischebetta.com)



**JAY SEFTON\* (Co-Author/Performer “Unreconciled”)** is an actor and licensed mental health counselor, originally from Philadelphia, and currently based in Easthampton, Massachusetts. Selected theatre credits include: “Unreconciled” (Writer/Performer, Chester Theatre Company), “What the Constitution Means to Me” (WAM Theatre/Berkshire Theatre Group and Capital Rep, Albany), “Honor Killing,” “Paradise” (WAM Theatre, Fresh Takes Reading Series), “The Lady Slipper,” “Million Dollar Quartet,” “Outside Mullingar” (The Majestic Theater), “Two Rooms” (Silverthorne Theatre Company), “The Most Mediocre Story Never Told” (Writer/Performer), “A Life in the Theatre,” “Dark Rapture” (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre), “King Lear” (Theatricum Botanicum, Los Angeles). Jay is the recipient of the LA WEEKLY Award for Best Solo Performance for “The Most Mediocre Story Never Told.” Film/TV: *The Wire*, *Grey’s Anatomy*, *The Shield*, *Summerland*, *Providence*. He is a member of Actors’ Equity and SAG-AFTRA.



**JOHN MARTINEZ SOLIZ (Actor, Young Playwright Contest)** is thrilled to be back at Capital Repertory Theatre so soon after the closing of “Sweat” where he played Oscar. Previous credits include: “Clyde’s” at UAlbany, directed by Jean-Remy Monnay. John is a Senior at UAlbany, majoring in English, and excited to graduate.



**GOODSWILL UTIONKPAN (Actor, First 15)** is a senior at UAlbany, excited to graduate and begin life as a professional. His first role was being a part of the cast for the 2022 Spring Semester's production of the Fresh Acts festival at UAlbany and was also the Assistant Director of “The Piano Lesson” in the fall of 2022. Recent credits include Benny in “Rent,” Montrellous in the regional premiere of “Clyde’s” last November, and Lord in the :Taming of The Shrew” this March!



**OTTO VAVAL (Actor, Young Playwright Contest)** is a student at UAlbany, currently studying English and Theatre. Having done theatre for the past 8 years, this is Otto’s first Albany theatre opportunity, and their first time reading for Capital Repertory Theatre. Otto is very excited to participate in the Next Act! New Play Summit readings, reading for the Young Playwright Contest. Otto would like to thank Yvonne Perry, Capital Repertory, and their family and friends for all of their continuous support over the years.



**KIM WAFER (Actor, First 15)** has had the pleasure of working with various theater groups throughout New York State. Some of her favorite performances and portrayals include: Ruth in “Raisin in the Sun,” “Ragtime,” Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Shirley Chisholm, Della in “Greenwood:An American Dream Destroyed,” Vivian Baptiste in “A Lesson Before Dying,” Mrs. Birling in “An Inspector Calls,” Billie Dawn in “Born Yesterday,” Sophie Washington in “Flying West” and Mrs. Cecil Ackroyd in Agatha Christie’s, “The murder of Rodger Ackroyd.” She is thrilled to be a part of theREP’s NEXT ACT Summit again this year!





**MILES WILKIE\* (Actor, Young Playwright Contest)** is an actor and musician hailing from small town Decorah, Iowa. Favorite credits include “Working: A Musical” at Berkshire Theatre Group, “Orphan” in Celebration, and Virginia Repertory Theatre’s 2022 Tour. Keep up with him at [mileswilkiemusic.com](http://mileswilkiemusic.com)



**JEWEL WINANT (Actor, Young Playwright Contest)** is thrilled to make her debut at Capital Repertory Theater in their NEXT ACT! New Play Summit. She is currently double majoring in psychology and theater and minoring in acting at UAlbany. Some of her past roles include Katherine in “The Taming of the Shrew,” Amanda in “The Glass Menagerie” and Sherlock Holmes in “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose.” She would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her pursuits in theatre.



**MATTHEW WINNING\* (Actor, NextGen “Turn to the Bean”)** is a Syracuse NY based director, actor, and educator. He currently serves as an acting instructor for the BFA program at Syracuse University Department of Drama. Matthew is no stranger to theREP both on and off stage. His last appearance on stage was as ‘Nol’ in theREP’s production of “Shakespeare in Love,” he Assistant Directed “Camelot,” co-directed the “theREP’s On-The-Go! production of “They Built America,” has served as a House Manager, and occasional crew stand in, just to name a few of the many roles he’s filled. Other notable regional acting credits: Joe Pitt, “Angels in America: The Millennium Approaches,” Paul Sheldon, “Misery”(Redhouse Arts Center); Puck, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” (NC Stage CO); Riff, “West Side Story” (Park Playhouse). Notable directing credits: “The Moors,” “In Love And Warcraft,” “Everybody” (Syracuse University); “As You Like It,” “Two Gentleman of Verona” (UnCovered Theatre); “Jane Eyre,” “Glass Menagerie,” “South Pacific,” “Medea,” and “Godspell” (Sterling College).



**BENITA ZAHN\* (Actor, First 15)** is a health and wellness coach by day and actor by night following an Emmy award winning career as a journalist at WNYT. Benita was most recently seen at The Fort Salem Theater in “Agnes of God.” Other productions there include “Steel Magnolias” for which she won a 2023 Broadway World CNY Best Actress Award, “They’re Playing our Song.” Playhouse Stage Company: “Assassins,” “Ragtime,” “Hands on a Hard Body,” “Always, Patsy Cline.” Capital Repertory Theater: “Shakespeare in Love,” “Gypsy.” The Two of Us Productions: “Cabaret,” “Sweeney Todd.” Benita has appeared in a number of independent films, background in The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel and co-hosts the bi- monthly podcast Everything Theater. Benita also performs a one woman cabaret Always Asking Questions. A proud member of Actors Equity and SAG-AFTRA. As always, love to Bob.



**NICOLE ZELKA (Actor, NextGen “Turn to the Bean”)** Celebrating her 5th time at theREP since beginning her professional career here at 18 years old as Lisa in “Mamma Mia!” Other credits at theREP include: “Jersey Boys” (Lorraine/Others), “The Full Monty” (Estelle), and “Honky Tonk Angels” (Swing/Dance Captain). National Tour: “R&H’s Cinderella” (Gabrielle, u/s Marie), “Elf” (Ensemble, u/s Emily, u/s Deb), “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” (Ensemble, u/s Mrs. Teavee, u/s Mrs. Gloop). Proud LDC artist. Major love + thanks to Maggie, Margaret, and Kevin. [@nicolezelka / nicolezelka.com](http://nicolezelka.com)

# Playwrights of the Summit

(in alphabetical order)

**IAN AUGUST (Playwright, “All the Emilie in All the Universes”):** August’s plays include: All the Emilies in All the Universes (Runner Up, Judith Royer Award; Selection, PlayPenn 2022), Zero (Winner, 2020 Ashland New Plays Festival; Semi-Finalist 2020 BAPF), Everything You Can Do (to Make the World a Better Place) (Selection, Catalyst: A Theatre Think Tank 2020; Semi-Finalist Blue Ink Prize), The Excavation of Mary Anning (Selection, 2019 Powerhouse Theater; 2018 Ashland New Plays Festival; 2018 DVRF New Playwright Program), Brisé (Selection, 2019 Great Plains Theatre Conference; Finalist, 2019 Seven Devils Playwrights Conference; Finalist, 2020 Lark Playwrights Week), Donna Orbits the Moon (Scripps Ranch Theatre; Tiny Dynamite Productions; NJ Repertory Company; Utah Contemporary Theatre), Interviewese (Winner, Garry Marshall Theatre New Works; Finalist, B Street Theatre New Comedy Fest), The Goldilocks Zone, (Passage Theatre Company; Semi-Finalist, 2015 O’Neill Conference), and Missing Celia Rose (NYC Summer Play Festival; Orlando Shakespeare Theater’s “Playfest 2009”; Bermuda Musical and Dramatic Society). Mr. August’s newest YA play, Stay Safe!, premiered at the 75th Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August, 2022. He is a founding member of the American Theatre Group’s Playwrights Lab, and a graduated member of PlayPenn’s playwriting lab, The Foundry. Several of Mr. August’s plays have been published by Sam French Inc., Smith and Kraus, and Pipeline / Applause Books. He was a 2019 Playwright in Residence at the William Inge Center for the Arts in Independence, Kansas, and a recipient of a 2021 Independent Artist Fellowship from the NJ Council for the Arts. Mr. August lives at a boarding school with one husband and four cats.

[ianaugustplaywright.com](http://ianaugustplaywright.com)

**MARK BASQUILL (Co-Author, “Unreconciled”)** was raised in South Philadelphia and practices clinical psychology in Wilmington, NC, where he helps veterans recover from the wounds of war, often using writing to promote healing. Recent essays, stories, and poems can be found in *Cirque: A Literary Journal for the North Pacific Rim*; *Consequence Forum*; and *Snapdragon: A Journal of Art and Healing*. Mark has also written two full-length dramas about his own family’s unfinished struggles to heal from impact of childhood clergy abuse. Each play was produced locally and well-received.

**SUZANNE BRADBEER (Writer of “Consider the Sparrow”)** Produced plays include: “The God Game” (Pulitzer nomination and over a dozen productions including the co-premiere at theREP and Gulfshore Playhouse); “Confederates” (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley - seven Bay Area Critics Circle nominations including Best Production); “Naked Influence” (theREP); “Shakespeare in Vegas” (TheatreWorks - Silicon Valley Play Festival starring Patrick Page and Karen Ziemba; Houston’s 4th Wall Theatre, Dreamcatcher Rep/PTNJ); “Full Bloom” (Barrington Stage - Elizabeth Osborn New Play nomination from the American Theatre Critics Association; Hudson Stage, etc.). Honors include: NYFA Fellow, Lark Fellow (and featured writer), the Ashland New Plays Festival, the Berrilla Kerr Foundation Grant, the Coe College Playwriting Prize, a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council, and the BMI Foundation’s Harrington Award. Suzanne was twice the winner of the NEXT ACT! New Play Summit at theREP, twice an Honorable Mention for the Kilroy’s List, and was the silver prize winner for the Hart New Play Initiative. Publications: Playscripts, Samuel French, Applause Books, the Connotation Press, HowlRound, multiple Smith & Kraus anthologies.





**ELEONORA CATALANO (Playwright, “Day Nine”)** is an avid story teller and has known she wanted to be a writer ever since she had a crazy dream one night and thought, that would make a really good book . She’s written several short stories, though not nearly as many as she wants. She currently attends Augustine Classical Academy as a junior, and is now very grateful for the grammar classes that were once the bane of her existence. Other than writing stories, her hobbies include reading stories, acting out stories, and telling her animals she loves them very much.



**PETER CHANSKY (NextGen Playwright, “Turn to the Bean”)** is a Philadelphia-based playwright currently enrolled in the MFA in Playwriting program at Temple University. His work explores the existential foundations of identity and performance through heightened realism bordering on the absurd. His short film We’re All Fine was awarded at Couch Film Festival, Mindfield Film Festival, and NYLIFF. His play The Baby Shower has been performed at 61 Local and Wild East Brewing Co. in Brooklyn, NY. His short play Camouflage premiered at the 48th Annual Samuel French OOB Short Play Festival. He received his undergraduate degree in Philosophy and Theater from Trinity College in Hartford, CT.



**VINCENT DELANEY (Playwright, “The Mallard”)** Delaney’s 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, the Lark, PlayLabs, Capital Rep and Orlando Shakes, among many others. “Las Cruces” won the New Play Festival from Premiere Stages. “Foreclosure” and “The Ansel Intimacy” were featured in the same festival. “The War Party” was developed through the National New Play Network, and had simultaneous world premieres at Seattle Public Theatre and Philadelphia’s InterAct. It was selected to the New York International Fringe Festival. “Fire Station 7” was commissioned by Seattle Children’s Theatre, where it had its world premiere. “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. “The Sequencwe,” commissioned by the Guthrie, has been produced around the country and in Japan, Canada, Australia and the UK. “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. Vince is a proud alum of the Seattle Rep Writers Group and a two-time Gregory nominee.

**FREDERICK DUROCHER, JR. (Young Playwright Contest, “Morning Ritual”)** is a senior at Schenectady high school. He has been acting since 4th grade and started screenwriting in high school. He wrote two short plays for the 2023 Schenectady high school student written plays, “Tying the knot” and “One and a half stars.” He has also written several short films for school. He was also nominated for best supporting actor last year at the Proctors high school theater awards for the role of Orin in “Little Shop of Horrors.” Currently he is writing, directing and acting in the 2024 Schenectady high school student written plays which are premiering at the end of May. He is also co running a student run Sketch comedy night with fellow amazing screenwriter Ashley Zeissler which will have a one night showing on May 3rd. He is also part of the SCSD musical theater at Proctors and a part of the theater company “Blue Roses.” Finally, he is going to SUNY Purchase for screenwriting. He would like to thank everyone who’s supported him, from his family to fellow Blue Roses members. He would like to give special shoutouts to his older sister Mary for helping him get into writing and his screenwriting teacher Mr. Muste who has always helped him push himself beyond what he thought he could do.



**David A. Gregory (First 15 Playwright, “Barb Goldfarb Didn’t Make It”):** Hailing from Fairbanks, Alaska, David is an actor and writer currently based out of New York. He wrote the scripted podcast Powder Burns which starred John Wesley Shipp, Robert Vaughn, and Edward Asner, winning a Voice Arts Award and a nomination at Austin Film Festival for their inaugural Fiction Podcast prize. His plays have been performed and supported by The Bechdel Group, Urban Stages, Last Frontier Theater Conference, Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, Shawnee Playhouse, Manhattan Rep, and Bobby Moresco’s The Actor’s Gym in New York. He’s played recurring characters on The Good Fight, Insatiable, Constantine, & Deception; and was a series regular on ABC’s One Life to Live.



**Cary Gitter (First 15 Playwright, “The Steel Man”)** is the playwright-in-residence at Penguin Rep Theatre in Stony Point, New York. His plays include Gene & Gilda (upcoming, George Street Playhouse; Penguin Rep); The Virtuous Life of Joseph Andrews (Penguin Rep), adapted from the Henry Fielding novel; and The Sabbath Girl (off-Broadway, 59E59 Theaters; Penguin Rep; Invisible Theatre; Theatre Ariel; published by Stage Rights). His musicals include The Sabbath Girl (upcoming, 59E59; Penguin Rep) and How My Grandparents Fell in Love (upcoming, New Jersey Repertory Company), both written with composer/co-lyricist Neil Berg. He is a three-time O’Neill semifinalist, a two-time Jewish Plays Project finalist, and a finalist for the Arts Council of Rockland’s Literary Artist Award, and he was an artist-in-residence at the James Stevenson Lost and Found Lab. Two of his short plays have been recorded for the acclaimed podcast Playing on Air, and his work is published in anthologies from Applause Books and Smith & Kraus. BFA, MA: NYU. [carygitter.com](http://carygitter.com)



**Haley Jones (Young Playwright, Co-Author “Gotham Isekai”):** Is a 16 year old, in their Junior Year at Guilderland High School. Their hope is to be a dramatic writer and novelist upon graduating from college.







**ANTHONY T. GOSS (Playwright, “Castling”)** is a former 'hooper' turned actor and writer based in New York City. He most recently appeared in the Gamm theatres production of TopDog/UnderDog and the Actors Shakespeare Projects Seven Guitars, for which he won the Elliot Norton Award for best lead actor. He next can be seen @ the Huntington Theatre Company in the play ' Toni Stone', directed by Lydia Diamond. His play ' Out of Bounds' is a current semi-finalist with the Eugene O'neill playwrights conference. He is a current resident writer with Liberation theatre company for which he continues to develop the play 'Castling'.



**Jenny Stafford (First 15 Playwright of “Eleanor and Dolly”)**: is an award-winning playwright, bookwriter, and lyricist whose works have been heard on Broadway and beyond. Her works include The Homefront (Village Theatre Originals, Beta Series), Secret Hour (Capital Repertory Theatre, The Public Theatre), Extended Stay (Florida Festival of New Musicals, Rhinebeck Writer’s Retreat), Prodigy (CCU, CDP, Two Rivers, Indiana University), The Artist and the Scientist (CAP21), Awakening, Beating a Dead Horse (Bloomington Playwrights Project), The Goree All-Girl String Band, and Eleanor and Dolly. Her work has been featured at Lincoln Center, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Joe’s Pub, Ars Nova, 54 Below, Prospect Theatre, Barrington Stage, and elsewhere. Awards include the 2017 Reva Shiner Comedy Award, the Paulette Goddard Award, and multiple ASCAP Plus Awards. Three-time finalist status for the Kleban Prize for Musical Theatre, and a finalist for the McKnight Fellowship, the PEN Writing for Justice Fellowship, the Yale Institute for Music Theatre, the Eugene O’Neill Musical Theatre Conference, and the Ronald M. Ruble New Play Competition. Nominee for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Artist in Residence at the Rhinebeck Writer’s Retreat, Goodspeed Musicals, Johnny Mercer Writers Colony. Dramatists Guild member; MFA NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts.

[www.jennystafford.net](http://www.jennystafford.net)

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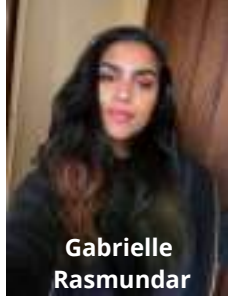
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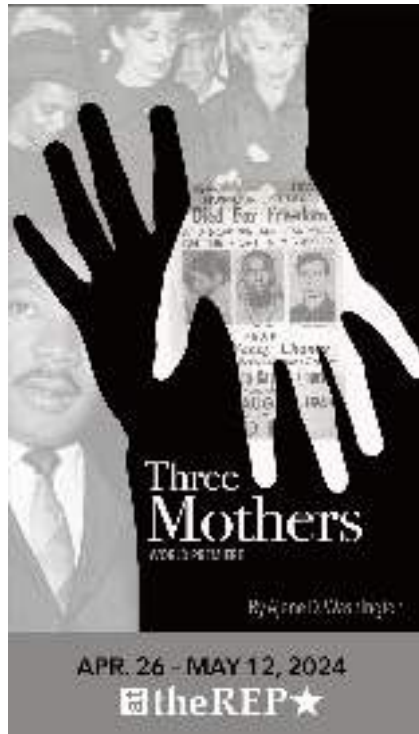
**And...** Stephen Pellitier, Jennifer MacDonald, Candice Hewit, Earlene Hyman-Payne, Kent Burnham, Hilary Parker, Zeb Schmidt (*photos coming soon...*)

## theREP's 2023-24 Season

World Premiere from NEXT ACT!

“Three Mothers” by Ajene D. Washington

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### “Three Mothers”

June 21, 1964. Three college students, James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, were tortured and murdered by the KKK in Neshoba County, Mississippi. Their crime: registering Black Americans to vote and being Black or Jewish. Taking inspiration from the 1964 photo of their bereft mothers leaving the final funeral together, “Three Mothers” is the imagined moment afterward, in Carolyn Goodman’s home on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, when the three women forged an unbreakable bond and commitment to the Civil Rights Movement. Don’t miss this stirring!

### The Cast ...



Judith Lightfoot Clarke\*  
as Carolyn Goodman



Trisha Jeffrey\*  
as Fannie Lee Chaney



Cheryl Stern\*  
as Anne Schwerner

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World Premiere from NEXT ACT!

# "Rosie is Red And Everybody is Blue"

by John Spellos

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**John Spellos** is a local playwright, having grown up in the Capital Region, and is thrilled to return to his "home town" for the 2025 World Premiere of his play!

### "Rosie is Red And Everybody Is Blue"

Family is everything. However, when everybody needs something and nobody wants to listen, something has to give, and Rosie is about to give it to all of them, with no holes barred.

Rosie seems to be living the proverb "when it rains, it pours." Her brother-in-law is living in her small house, driving her up one wall and down the other. To make matters worse, her down-and-out adult son has moved in too. All this while Rosie secretly battles her own problems and emotions, just trying to make it through each day.

Filled with sharp, witty banter, this fast-paced and heartfelt comedy about family will have you in tears...both happy and heartwarming.

**A QUICK LOOK AT THE PAST ELEVEN SUMMITS!**

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**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**

**Richard Willet**

**Deborah Yarchun**

**Desiree York**



**YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS**

Noelle Abushqeir  
Jessica Airhienbuwa  
Leanne Airhienbuwa  
Maxine Alpart  
Jayleigh Bellefeuille  
Quincey Brown  
Sonalcha Brown  
Nathaniel Burk  
Kaliana Burnell  
Jack Bruno

Sylvia Mattraw-Johnston

Sarah McCollum  
John McCorkle  
Madalyn McMann  
Ava McTiernan  
Amara Mitchell  
Jordan Moses  
Samuel Mozzillo  
Jyasi Nagel  
Karthik Nair



Chiara Cenci  
Meghan Cenci  
Rachel Covey  
Jamie Curcio  
Natalie Deso  
Sophie Duerr  
Derick Edgren  
Sydney Elmore  
Yamita Ganeshkumar  
Samantha Gallaghery  
Jaimie Gaskell  
Jashton Gieser



Elizabeth Novak  
Emily O'Brien  
Jamie O'Brien  
Ava O'Dea  
Ema Pelton  
Lindsey Penet  
Oliver Price  
Emily Ramm  
Amanda Recine  
Hannah Richards  
Ana Roberts  
Merryn Rositzke



Fallon Greenaway  
Abigail Guenther  
Alyssa Haddad  
Jesse Hampsch  
Sean Halligan  
Morgan Hughes  
Lily Jandrisevits  
MJ Johnson  
Wisdom Johnson  
Joshua Kenna  
Abigail Kennedy

Straton Rushing  
Aden Suchak  
Resse Taylor  
Nina Tuxbury  
Chloe Tyson  
Lydia Valentino  
Rya Vallabhaneni  
Jonathan Van De Loo  
Nicholas Vanhoesen  
S.E. Vatalaro  
Steven Vendenburgh



Madaleine Kotary  
Violet Kreifels  
John Kunz  
Olivia Lawrence  
Isabella Libby  
Seamus Madden



Amina Wingfield  
Isabella Wu  
Amy Zhang  
Palge Zubel  
Ava Zuelsdorf



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