NEXT ACT!
Stay Up To Date on NEXT ACT! New Play Summ

JULY 13-16
All events begin at 7 p.m., each night
HOW TO WATCH

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

Tune in:

1. theREP's Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/CapitalRep
2. Proctors Collaborative YouTube - www.youtube.com/channel/UC-2mrbG7keINj3XOG-ItC9A
3. Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV or Roku - Download "Collaborative Studios" App

DONATE

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

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

Text NEXTACT to 41444 to make a donation.
SCHEDULE

MONDAY, JULY 13
NEW VOICES: YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST READING
7:00
DIRECTED BY: BARBARA HOWARD
• An Artist’s Hand by Grace Bombard
• Just a Normal Friday by Jeremiah Choudhury
• Almost a Fairytale by Megan Dellenbaugh
• The Deadly Dinner Party by Clare Reilly & Regan Roberts
• Our New Colossus by Maya TerryStein
• A Series of Unfortunate Ideas by Jasmin VanDyke & Jonathan Jordan

TUESDAY, JULY 14
NEXTGEN: SLAM! READING
7:00
WRITTEN BY: BILLY FEERICK
DIRECTED BY: TYAELA NIEVES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15
A DISTINCT SOCIETY
7:00
BY KAREEM FAHMY
DIRECTED BY MEGAN SANDBERG-ZAKIAN
DRAMATURGE: KIMBERLY COLBURN

THURSDAY, JULY 16
THE FIRST 15
7:00
DIRECTED BY: LEIGH STRIMBECK
• The Monroe Doctrine by Mark Scharf
• Southern Haunt by Kathryn Walat
• Wheel Woman by Vincent Delaney
• Guenevere by Susan Cinoman
CAST LIST

A DISTINCT SOCIETY BY KAREEM FAHMY
DIRECTED BY MEGAN SANDBERG-ZAKIAN
DRAMATURGE: KIMBERLY COLBURN

Cast:
Peyman Gilani: Barzin Akhavan*
Manon Desjardins: Heidi Armbruster*
Declan Sheehan: Ashby Gentry
Shirin Gilani: Nikki Massoud*
Bruce Laird: Johnnie MackStage
Stage Direction Reader: Mark W. Soucy*

NEW VOICES: YOUNG PLAYwright CONTEST
DIRECTED BY BARBARA HOWARD

Our New Colossus by Maya TerryStein
CAST:
David: Jake Goodman
Leah: Madalyn Montgomery
Claire: Gabrielle D. Straight
Rose: Kristyn Youngblood*
Ensemble: Rebekah Brisbane, George Franklin*, Ben Katagiri

Just a Normal Friday by Jeremiah Choudhury
CAST:
Colton Jackson: George Franklin*
Jack Evans: Jake Goodman
Mr. Robert Colins: Ben Katagiri
Violet Wilson: Gabriella Straight

A Series of Unfortunate Ideas
by Jasmin VanDyke and Jonathan Jordan
CAST:
James: George Franklin*
Janet: Madalyn Montgomery
Ensemble: Rebekah Brisbane, JJ Buechner, Ben Katagiri, Kristyn Youngblood*

An Artists Hand by Grace Bombard
CAST:
Ruby: Rebekah Brisbane
Sunshine: Madalyn Montgomery
Doom: Gabrielle D. Straight
Content: Kristyn Youngblood*

Almost a Fairytale by Megan Dellenbaugh
CAST:
Alex: JJ Buechner
Narrator: Jake Goodman
David: Ben Katagiri
Emily: Kristyn Youngblood*

Deadly Dinner Party
by Clare Reilly and Regan Roberts
CAST:
Eleanor: Rebekah Brisbane
Frank: JJ Buechner
Oscar: George Franklin*
Walter: Ben Katagiri
Narrator: Madalyn Montgomery
Beatrice: Gabrielle D. Straight
Francine: Kristyn Youngblood*
CAST LIST

NEXTGEN
SLAM BY BILLY FEERICK
DIRECTED BY TYAELA NIEVES

CAST:
Joe: Justin Friello*
Trix: Adrian Kiser*
Jeff: Eddie Maldonado*
Kevin: Joshua Redfield*
Robin: Ryan Gregory Thurman*
Mizz Frizz: Diaka Kaba Hill
Stage Direction Reader: Laura Crawford

THE FIRST 15
DIRECTED BY LEIGH STRIMBECK

The Monroe Doctrine by Mark Scharf
CAST:
Crane: David Socolar*
Tedward: Mark W. Soucy*
Madison: Jalissa Watson
Stage Direction Reader: Patrick White

Southern Haunt by Kathryn Walat
CAST:
Addison: Jenny Strassburg*
Ty: Julian Tushabe
Stage Direction Reader: Patrick White

Wheel Woman by Vincent Delaney
CAST:
Anna Kopchovsky (aka Annie Londonderry): Erica Tryon*
The roles of John Dowe, Albert Reeder, Young Woman, Landlady, Max Kopchovsky, Jacob (Annie’s brother) will be played by Ellen Cribbs, Elieen Schuyler*, Jenny Strassburg*.
Stage Direction Reader: Patrick White

Guenevere by Susan Cinoman
CAST:
Lancelot: Kent Burnham*
Arthur: David Girard*
Guenevere: Yvonne Perry*
Stage Direction Reader: Tony Pallone*
MEET OUR ACTORS

Barzin Akhavan
Heidi Armbruster
JJ Buechner
Rebekah Brisbane
Kent Burnham
Laura Crawford
Justin Friello
Ellen Cribbs
George Franklin
Ashby Gentry
David Girard
Jake Goodman
MEET OUR ACTORS

Diaka Kaba Hill
Ben Katagiri
Adrian Kiser
Johnnie Mack
Eddie Maldonado
Nikki Massoud
Madalyn Montgomery
Yvonne Perry
Joshua Redfield
Eileen Schuyler
David Socolar
MEET OUR ACTORS

Ryan Gregory Thurman

Gabrielle D. Straight

Erica Tryon

Jenny Strassburg

Patrick White

Kristyn Youngblood

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions:
ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS
AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS
SAG-AFTRA
through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.
MEET OUR PLAYWRIGHTS

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

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

NEW VOICES: YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST WINNERS

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

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

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

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

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

Regan Roberts (Playwright of The Deadly Dinner Party) is a student of Guilderland High School.
NEW VOICES: YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST WINNERS CONT'D.

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

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

NEXTGEN PLAYWRIGHT

**William (Billy) Feerrick** (Playwright of *SLAM!* ) is a senior studying theatre and business at the University at Albany. He loves to act, write, and make music. *SLAM!* is his first play and he is extremely grateful to everyone involved in its production and reading. Special thanks to Savannah Lanz and professor Kate Walat for being inspiring and encouraging during the writing process.
FIRST 15 PLAYWRIGHTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be a literary agent!

Attached are the feedback forms for:

NEW VOICES: YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST

NEXTGEN: SLAM!

A DISTINCT SOCIETY BY KAREEM FAHMY

THE FIRST 15

Download the forms, fill them out after viewing the event and email your thoughts back to mhall@capitalrep.org.
1. **Were you interested in the story?** Yes / No

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

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

4. **What was the scripts strongest quality?**  
   *(please check one)*
   - Character________
   - Plot (theme)______
   - Dialogue________
   - Other____________

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

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

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

4. **What was the script's strongest quality?**
   *(please check one)*
   - Character
   - Plot (theme)
   - Dialogue
   - Other

   **Other Comments:**
Please circle one.  
1 is the lowest score, meaning not at all, and 5 is the highest score, meaning extremely well.

1. Were you interested in the story?
Not at all  1  2  3  4  5 extremely

2. Was the story clear?
Not at all  1  2  3  4  5 extremely

3. Were you touched / engaged by the story or characters?
Not at all  1  2  3  4  5 extremely

4. Were the characters well delineated (not stereotypes)?
Not at all  1  2  3  4  5 extremely

5. Was the dialogue true to life?
Not at all  1  2  3  4  5 extremely

6. Was the dialogue well written?
Not at all  1  2  3  4  5 extremely

7. Was the dialogue funny?
Not at all  1  2  3  4  5 extremely

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

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

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

Other Comments:
Email your thoughts to mhall@capitalrep.org

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

2. Were the characters interesting? Yes / No

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

4. What was the script's strongest quality?
   (please check one)
   Character ______
   Plot (theme) ______
   Dialogue ______
   Other ______

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

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

Other Comments: