

THEREP'S NEXT ACT! NEW PLAY SUMMIT

The 10th Anniversary



Ten Years of New Play Development

*Lots of great info
inside this program:*

LEARN ABOUT:

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

WITH THE NEXT ACT! NEW PLAY SUMMIT!

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, the Next Act! New Play Summit 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!](#)

The 2021 Next Act! Schedule

ALL EVENTS ARE VIRTUAL | FREE | WITH A SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$25.00

MONDAY JUNE 7, 2021

5pm THE LUCKIEST PEOPLE TRILOGY, by Meridith Friedman

(The three plays are: "The Luckiest People," "Your Best One," and "I Can Go")

The Luckiest People Trilogy runs from 5pm on June 7 through 10pm on June 10, 2021

TUESDAY JUNE 8, 2021

5pm SYNOPSIS CLINIC, led by Aoise Stratford - **registration required, see pg. 8**

(This is a live Zoom event, you must register to participate.)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 9, 2021

5pm YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT WORKSHOP, led by Suzanne Bradbeer - by invitation only.

7pm SECRET HOUR by Jenny Stafford

Secret Hour runs from 7pm on June 9 through 10pm on June 11, 2021

THURSDAY JUNE 10, 2021

5pm THE FIRST 15: BE A LITERARY MANAGER

7pm STAGE2SCREEN featuring EVERYTHING MUST GO by Mark Rigney

First 15 and Stage2Screen run from 5pm and 7pm (respectively) on June 10 through 10pm on June 11, 2021

FRIDAY JUNE 11, 2021

5pm NEW VOICES: Winning Scripts from the Young Playwright Contest

New Voices will run from 5pm on June 10 through 10pm on June 12, 2021

SEPTEMBER 2021 DATES COMING SOON

HOW TO WATCH:

- [1. theREP's Facebook Page](#)
- [2. Proctors Collaborative YouTube](#)
- [3. On Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Roku - search and download the Collaborative Studios app.](#)
- [4. Open Stage Media On-Demand Channel](#)

TEXT NEXTACT TO 41444 TO MAKE A DONATION

SUGGESTED
DONATION
\$25.00

ALL DONATIONS GO TO
THEREP'S NEW PLAY
DEVELOPMENT WORK

The Luckiest People Trilogy

by Meridith Friedman

June 7, 2021 at 5pm

ALL EVENTS ARE VIRTUAL | FREE | WITH A SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$25.00

The Luckiest People Trilogy runs from 5pm on June 7 through 10pm on June 10, 2021



Meridith Friedman was born in Madison, Wisconsin, and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. She received her BA from Connecticut College, and her MFA in Writing for the Stage & Screen from Northwestern University. The recipient of a Dramatist Guild Writers Alliance Grant and a former Dramatist Guild fellow, Meridith is also a National New Play Network affiliated artist and has participated in numerous NNPN programs and initiatives including the Playwright-in-Residence program, Rolling World Premieres, MFA Playwright's workshop, Collaboration Fund, Commissions Program, and the National Showcase of New Plays. Meridith resides in Los Angeles and writes for television. An episode she wrote of NBC's Chicago Med received a 2018 Sentinel Award from Hollywood Health & Society.

*Full Bio on Page 19**

The Luckiest People

After the matriarch of the Hoffman family passes away, Richard is blindsided when his elderly father, Oscar, demands to leave his assisted living facility. With his sister Laura living in Shanghai, and Richard soon to become a first-time father with his partner David, he is less than thrilled at the prospect of housing his-to put it mildly-difficult father. Accusations begin to fly and defenses are drawn, spiraling father and son, brother and sister, and spouses into a heated game of finger pointing with unintended consequences. The first in a trilogy of plays about the Hoffman family.

Your Best One

Eight-years since the death of their beloved matriarch, the Hoffman family rallies together-and against each other-when one of their own is confronted by a sudden health crisis. With their trademark wit and inherited neurosis, they wage battles over health insurance, child custody, inheritance, and superfoods. The second play in The Luckiest People trilogy, Your Best One is a rich exploration of our capacity to continue "growing up" while past adolescence.

I Can Go

The Hoffman family returns in this poignant conclusion to the three-play series that began with The Luckiest People and Your Best One. Richard and David are (finally) tying the knot! On the eve of their wedding weekend, the couple fret over floral arrangements and seating lists. As their families descend to witness the impending nuptials, a secret hangs over the festivities that will drastically alter the trajectory of the couple's future.

Directed by Gordon Greenberg
Stage Managed by Conway Hahne

Cast (for the full trilogy):

(in alphabetical order)

Laura - Jill Abramovitz*

Stage Directions - Gabby Franco Ferro

Matt - William Poon*

Nancy - Barbara Robertson*

David - Michael McCorry Rose*

Josh - Justin Sturgis

Richard - Jeremy Webb*

Oscar - Lenny Wolpe*

**Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association
See Cast Page 12**

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Secret Hour

by Jenny Stafford

June 9, 2021 at 7pm

ALL EVENTS ARE VIRTUAL | FREE | WITH A SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$25.00

Secret Hour runs from 7pm on June 9 through 10pm on June 11, 2021



Jenny Stafford 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).

Full Bio on page 19+

Secret Hour

Married couple Kate (who is an ethics professor) and Ben have a difficult time communicating about difficult topics so they've come up with a game - "secret hour" - in which they must tell each other the truth, no matter what. When, as it is inevitable, the lies each character is holding onto finally come to light, Ben and Kate must wrestle with whether or not their truths make them incompatible. Together they end up faced with the question Kate poses to her students - "is your greatest ethical responsibility to yourself, or others?"

Directed by Yvonne Perry
Stage Managed by Margaret E. Hall *

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Leaf - Pun Bandhu*

Kate - Vivica Font*

Ben - Ben Katagiri

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See Cast Page 12+*

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The First 15: Be a Literary Manager

ALL EVENTS ARE VIRTUAL | FREE | WITH A SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$25.00

First Hour runs from 5pm on June 10 through 10pm on June 11, 2021



Christin Eve Cato
(Sanchocho)



Peter Snoad
(Seeing Violet)



Jordana Ramirez Puckett
(Las Pajaritas)



Michael Hilton
(Apartness)

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 Manager's 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.

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Directed by Duane Boutté
Stage Managed by Margaret E. Hall*

Cast *(in alphabetical order)*

Sanchocho by Christin Eve Cato
(in alphabetical order)
Renata De Jesús-Perez - Daniela Malave*
Caridad De Jesús - Elise Hernandez Santora*
Stage Directions - Eileen Schuyler*

Las Pajaritas by Jordan Ramirez Puckett
Stage Directions - Victoria Benkoski*
Anita - Daniela Malave*
Taylor - Alexis Papaleo
Lita - Elise Hernandez Santora*

Apartness by Michael Hilton
Stage Directions - Alexis Papaleo
Judith - Eileen Schuyler*
Caroline - Messeret Stroman Wheeler*

Seeing Violet by Peter Snoad
Imani - Victoria Benkoski*
John - David Girard*
Betsy - Yvonne Perry*
Stage Directions - Messeret Stroman Wheeler*

Stage2Screen: Everything Must Go by Mark Rigney

ALL EVENTS ARE VIRTUAL | FREE | WITH A SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$25.00

Stage2Screen runs from 7pm on June 10 through 10pm on June 11, 2021

Stage2Screen was Co-Created by Ben Katagiri (Poorductions), Russell Wilks (Frosted Lens Entertainment) and Margaret E. Hall (theREP)

EVERYTHING MUST GO:

Shelby Foster, would-be medical student, finds herself stuck managing a small-town antique shop and reeling from a devastating personal tragedy, until her life changes course the day a customer objects to the “slave shackles” the antique mall sells.



Mark Rigney's stage plays have been produced in twenty-two U.S. states plus Australia, Canada, and Nepal. In New York, his work has played off Broadway at 59e59. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild and has won multiple national playwriting contests, including the 2017 John Gassner Award, the Panowski Playwriting Award (twice), and the Maxim Mazumdar New Play Competition. His published plays are available from Playscripts, Inc. and Smith & Kraus's The Best Ten-Minute Plays. Over fifty of his short stories have found print, in venues ranging from literary (*Witness*, *The Best of the Bellevue Literary Review*) to fantasy and horror (*Lightspeed*, *Cemetery Dance*). His website is www.markrigney.net, and he maintains a lively outpost at the [New Play Exchange](#).

WHAT IS STAGE2SCREEN?

This exciting event is the brainchild of local actor, film maker and educator, Ben Katagiri, who teamed up with Russell Wilks (Frosted Lens Entertainment) and Margaret E. Hall (theREP) to highlight opportunities for playwrights beyond the stage. Stage2Screen showcases how a stage play can transition to a screenplay; how works get adapted from a theatre to a film production. An additional layer of this event is to work with these writers in the development of their scripts - be it their stage play, their screenplay or both, and to provide screen work to the immense talent that exists here in the Capital Region.

To see the short film *Broken Lilies* by Paige Zuble, adapted from her stage play *In Full Bloom* (and the first film to come from Stage2Screen.)

[Click Here To Watch](#)

Everything Must Go by Mark Rigney
Stage Play Directed by Tyacla Nieves
Screenplay Directed by Nick Herder-Dwarika
Stage Managed by Margaret E. Hall*

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Zach - Lucas Aurelio

Shelby - Emily Curro

Maureen/Eileen - Adrian Kiser*

Harold - John Romeo*

Denelle/Abby - Sandra Scoane-Seri

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See Cast Page 12+*

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New Voices Reading | June 11, 2021 at 7pm

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Isabella Libby

Maxine Aalpart

Seamus Madden

Leanne
Airhienbuwa

Amita
Ganeshkumar

Meghan Cenci

Merryn Rositzke

Isabella Libby is in the 10th Grade and goes to Guilderland HS.

Maxine Aalpart is in the 10th Grade and goes to Guilderland HS.

Seamus Madden is in the 12th Grade and attends Loudonville Christian School.

Leanne Airhienbuwa is in the 10th Grade and attends Guilderland High School.

Amita Ganeshkumar is in the 10th Grade and attends Guilderland High School.

Meghan Cenci is in the 11th Grade and attends Coxsackie-Athens High School.

Merryn Rositzke is in the 11th Grade and attends Coxsackie-Athens High School.

Directed by Margaret E. Hall

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Aaliyah Al-Fuhaid

Lucas Aurelio

Ellen Cribbs*

Gabby Franco Ferro

David Kenner*

Antonio Lacy

Eddie Maldonado*

Kevin McGuire*

Celena Vera Morgan

Alexis Papaleo

Justin Sturgis

**Denotes a member of
Actors' Equity Association
See Cast Page 12+*

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Broken Glass by Isabella Libby & Maxine Aalpart

What happens when you try to immigrate from Mexico into the USA? Well Liliana Martinez and her Aunt Carmen are going to find out.

The Flower by Seamus Madden

Marigold is living, but just barely with all the verbal abuse she receives from her father. And why won't her mother help her out?

Dream Escape by Leanne Airhienbuwa & Amita Ganeshkumar

When Linn winds up in a coma, she comes face to face with what kind of person she truly is. Will she stay that way, or will her dream escape help her onto another path?

Oh My God! by Meghan Cenci & Merryn Rositzke

What happens when a God is "Grounded" ... three unsuspecting teens, hanging out on a Friday night, are about to find out!

What is New Voices: Young Playwright Contest

The School of the Performing Arts at the REP holds an annual Young Playwright Contest for the greater Capital Region. The winners of this annual contest receive a reading of their play in the Next Act! New Play Summit's New Voices event, and work - just as professional playwrights do - in the development of their script...which starts by hearing it out loud. Contest winners are also provided with a series of workshops led by theatre professionals, and get to see their short plays professionally produced on the REP's Stage by the Summer Stage Young Acting Company.

To enter the contest, students must be 13-19 years old, live within the greater Capital Region, ensure their scripts are 10-minute plays, and every year there is a specific line they must include -- this year, "If only I'd known..."

Synopsis Clinic | June 8, 2021 at 5pm

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS CLINIC



AOISE STRATFORD's plays have had more than 100 productions internationally and around the country. Most recently, her short play *JO* was performed at the National Theatre in London. She has won several awards, including a Pinter Review Silver Medal and the Yukon Pacific Playwriting Award, and she has been a finalist for the Actors' Theatre of Louisville's Heideman Award and a nominee for The American Theatre Critics' Association New Play Award. *The Unfortunates* was a Time Out NY Critics Pick and winner of The Susan Glaspell Award. Recent commissions include an adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* for the Hangar Theatre, and two historical site specific audio plays for the Cherry Arts. Aoise is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and is represented by Beacon Artists Agency. She currently teaches playwriting at Cornell University.

Join Aoise, and fellow playwrights, for this networking event where you will learn tips on how to craft the most effective synopsis for your play possible.

- Bring a synopsis for one of your plays with you
- Hear what's worked for other playwrights
- Meet and Network with other playwrights
- This is as live - ZOOM - Event that requires registration to participate

[Click here to Register](#)

Young Playwright Workshop

BY INVITATION ONLY (FOR THE WINNERS FROM THE YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT CONTEST)



SUZANNE BRADBEER's plays have been produced across the United States. Productions include: *Confederates* (TheatreWorks - Silicon Valley, L. Arnold Weissberger and Susan Smith Blackburn nominations, Kilroy's Honorable Mention); *The God Game* (Pulitzer nomination and over a dozen productions including the co-premiere between Capital Rep and Gulfshore Playhouse); *Naked Influence* (Capital Repertory Theatre); *Shakespeare in Vegas* (Houston's 4th Wall Theatre, Dreamcatcher Rep/PTNJ, TheatreWorks - Silicon Valley Play Festival starring Patrick Page and Karen Ziemba) and *Full Bloom* (Barrington Stage - Elizabeth Osborn New Play nomination from the American Theatre Critics Association; Hudson Stage, etc.). Suzanne was twice the winner of the NEXT ACT! New Play Summit at Capital Rep, and has numerous other honors and playwright residencies to her name. A personal highlight for Ms. Bradbeer was her work as a dramaturg for Arthur Miller and Jim Houghton on Signature Theatre Company's production of *The American Clock*. <https://newplayexchange.org/users/3077/suzanne-bradbeer>

COMING SEPTEMBER 2021 - NEXT ACT! "2.0"



Extreme Home Makeover by Makasha Copeland

Every year, thousands of families apply for a reality TV show that promises a rags-to-riches transformation for America's most deserving citizens. With such steep competition, the Vega family must fight to make their video application stand out. Makasha Copeland's earnest satire *Extreme Home Makeover* begs the question - in a world where so many receive so little, how much do miracles cost?



American Fast by Kareem Fahmy

College basketball phenom Khady Salama is about to compete in the NCAA Women's Championships. But this year's March Madness coincides with Ramadan, and Khady's devout mother expects her to fast. No food, no water, no anger, not even on game days. The ambitious Khady sees only one way forward: lie and pretend to follow Ramadan. Little does Khady know her mother will go public with the story of her fast, portraying Khady as a heroine for young Muslim women everywhere. As the championship game draws near, the media spotlight threatens to expose Khady's deception. Forced to cover her tracks with more lies, Khady gambles with the trust of the people she loves most—her coach, her boyfriend, and her mother—in the name of winning at all costs.

NextGen Reading:

Two short (15-30 minute) plays by the next generation of playwrights ages 19-25, to be announced soon.

September Dates and Details Coming Soon!

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Summit Directors/Stage Managers

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DUANE BOUTTÉ (Director, First 15) is a NY based director, actor, and composer. Directing credits include the world premiere of Neil LaBute's *Appomattox* (Summer Shorts, NYC), *LOL* (Algonquin Productions, NY), *Home* (Rep Stage), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Worcester Shakespeare Festival), *Stalag 17* (Good Company Players, Fresno), *The Winter's Tale* (Brooklyn College), *Othello* (Stella Adler Cons.), and *Fences* and *Cabaret* while on faculty at Illinois State University. As an actor, Boutté performed on Broadway in *Parade* and the 1994 revival of *Carousel*. Off-Broadway appearances include *Discord* (Primary Stages), *Civil Sex* (Public Theater), *The Bubbly Black Girl*, and *The Heliotrope Bouquet* (Playwrights Horizons). He stars in films *Stonewall* (1996) and *Brother to Brother*. He has appeared in other films and tv shows, and performed at Arena Stage, Goodman Theatre, Berkeley Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and more. Boutté was composer for *Lyin' Up a Breeze* (Second Stage, Fresno), and *Caravaggio Chiaroscuro* (La Mama, Etc.).



NICK HERDER-DWARIKA (Director, Screen Play Portion of Stage2Screen) is a local filmmaker. He went to HVCC and got his associates in Theater Arts. He currently works at Filmworks109 as a editor/cinematographer, and drone pilot. Nicholas is very excited and thankful to be part of this event. Nicholas would like to thank his friends and family for constant support, and to Ben Katagiri for always thinking of him.



GORDON GREENBERG (Director, The Luckiest People Trilogy) Gordon Greenberg is a director and writer living in New York, who has directed 11 productions at the REP. He has directed on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in London's West End, written for television and stage, and developed, directed and produced new works for arts institutions across America. His acclaimed west end revival of *Guys and Dolls* was nominated for six Olivier Awards. Greenberg co-wrote and directed the Broadway stage adaptation of Irving Berlin's *Holiday Inn* at Studio 54. Current projects include directing & co-writing *The Secret of my Success*, *Dracula*, *A Comedy Of Terrors*, *Ebenezer Scrooge's Big [Your Town Here] Christmas Show!*, also directing *Piaf/Dietrich* and *Port-Au-Prince*. Gordon is a member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society, the Writers Guild of America, the Dramatists Guild, and the Lincoln Center Theatre Directors Lab.



CONWAY HAHNE (Stage Manager, Luckiest People Trilogy) Conway Hahne is a North Carolina transplant. They are ecstatic to be back home with the Capital Repertory Theatre family again. It is a joy to be a part of such a wonderful cast and crew for this year's Next Act! New Play Summit as the Stage Manager for Meridith Friedman's *The Luckiest People Trilogy*. Conway's most recent theatre credits come from Capital Repertory's 2019 - 2020 season which includes *Petticoats of Steel*, *You're Best One*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. Conway is thrilled to be taking on this position and playing their part in making the show amazing.

Summit Directors/Stage Managers

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MARGARET E. HALL (Director: *New Voices* / Stage Manager: *Secret Hour*, *First 15*, *Stage2Screen*) 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), and the 2019 production of *Live From WVL Radio Theatre: It's A Wonderful Life*, 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.



KAITE KERN (Stage Management Intern) is amazed at the opportunity to have been able to create with the wonderful people at theRep. Kate is a current Business/Theatre student at Russell Sage College and has acted as the Stage Manager for the Theatre Institute At Sage during the following shows: *The Diary Of Anne Frank*, *Oliver*, *Unofficial Transcript*, *Baskerville*, *Tribes*, and many more. Kate would like to thank those in her life for always supporting her, especially Nathan. She looks forward to continuing to work in the arts once she graduates this fall and hopes to be a part of more innovative projects such as this in the future.




TYAELA NIEVES (Director, Play Portion of *Stage2Screen*) (they/she) is an interdisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY. They grew up in the Capital District and have worked with The Rep since 2012 doing a variety of roles such as Acting, Directing, Stage Management, Crew, and Wardrobe. Tyaela graduated from NYU Tisch School of the Arts' Experimental Theater Wing in 2019 and has continued to pursue their passion for theater and film. Their most recent film, *Limon Agrio*, will be shown at the Latino Film Market Hybrid Festival at the end of July 2021.




YVONNE PERRY(Director, *Secret Hour*) is a professional actress based in both the Capital District and New York. This is the third reading she has directed for Next Act. Other directing credits include shows at UAlbany (*My First Time*; *Circle Mirror Transformation*); Siena (*How I Learned To Drive*; *Tartuffe*; *Spike Heels*); Union College (*Boeing Boeing*) and The Albany Academy for Girls (*The Lion*, *The Witch and The Wardrobe*). She has directed several Theatre Voices productions, including *RX*, *Defiance* and *Outside Mullingar* - and most recently, the ZOOM reading of Shanley's *Rogue's Gallery* (which she also cast and edited). Yvonne also Assistant Directed theREP's 2017 production of *Outside Mullingar*. Yvonne is an adjunct professor in the Theatre Department at UAlbany, and has taught and/or guest lectured at Skidmore, Union, Siena and Adelphi University. You can learn more about Yvonne's performance, teaching and directing work on her website at www.yvonneperry.com. Proud member AEA and SAG-AFTRA.


Summit Acting Company




JILL ABRAMOVITZ - BROADWAY: *Beetlejuice*, *Fiddler*, *Cinderella*, *9 to 5*, *Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me*, ALSO: *Beetlejuice* (The National), *Sweeney Todd* at Avery Fisher Hall, Papermill (*Ever After*, *Damn Yankees*), *Goodspeed* (*Emmet Otter*, *Band Geeks*), Barrington Stage, Kennedy Center, Westchester Bway (Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl*) and Capital Rep (*Breakin' Us is Hard To Do*). TV: Recurring on CHICAGO MED and THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL. Also - THE LAST OG, KIMMY SCHMIDT, BRAINDEAD, MADAM SECRETARY, GOOD WIFE, CIVIL, HOSTAGES, UGLY BETY, 30 ROCK. Also an award-winning lyricist/bookwriter, Jill is a contributing lyricist on Broadway's *It Shoulda Been You*. Jillaonline.com




AALIYAH AL-FUHAID is a sixteen-year-old actress from Upstate New York. Favorite shows she has been in include *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* at Lincoln Center, as well as *Les Miserables* at Proctors Theater. Although virtual, Aaliyah is excited to be in her first production at Capital REP!




LUCAS AURELIO is a Spanish-American actor based in London, UK. He recently finished filming for the new Amazon series THE POWER set to air early next year. Originally from Albany, NY, he has worked with such theatre organizations as The Public Theater, New York Musical Festival, Theatre Institute at Sage and the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble. Lucas attended Russell Sage College in Troy, NY where he studied Theatre and Music. He is grateful to the REP for their support and for always being a creative space/home to come back to (even if it is virtual.)



VICTORIA BENKOSKI is an actress, singer, strong mover, and teacher from Hoosick Falls, NY. A Schenectady College School of Music and the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam Alumni, favorite credits include: *Wicked Stepmother*, *Cinderella: A New Adaptation*; *Medda Larkin*, *Newsies*; *Maria*, *Twelfth Night*. Love to my family and Trippy. Thanks, Jesus!



PUN BANDHU has acted on Broadway (*Wit*), Off Broadway (Public Theater, Primary Stages, EST, Playwrights Horizons among others). He has guest starred on numerous TV shows including *NCIS: NEW ORLEANS*, *FBI*, *NURSE JACKIE*, *BLINDSPOT*, among others and recurs on *BLUE BLOODS*. He recently played John Yoo in Amazon's THE REPORT and can also be seen in the Oscar-nominated films *Michael Clayton*, *Burn After Reading*, and *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* among others. www.punbandhu.net



ELLEN CRIBBS is an actor, director, published playwright, and voiceover artist who was last seen onstage in *Sea Marks* with Theater Voices. With Capital Repertory Theatre, Ellen has played the Nurse in *Shakespeare in Love* and Anne de Bourgh in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. Currently, Ellen is directing an outdoor production of *Servant of Two Masters* with Confetti Stage.

Summit Acting Company Con't.

EMILY CURRO is an actor, creator and devising artist, as well as Producing Executive Director for Troy Foundry Theatre. She is a graduate of Russell Sage College (B.S., Musical Theatre and English) and holds an MFA in Theatre Management from Florida State University. Emily spent several years with the Tony Award-winning Williamstown Theatre Festival as Associate Director of Marketing and Development before moving on to Manager of Marketing and Development with the Academy of Music Theatre in Northampton, MA. She believes the arts are an integral part of how we form communities; how we perceive and communicate with the world around us and with each other. Emily would like to thank her family, Ethan and Clarence for being her rocks in life.



VIVIA FONT: NYC: *villa* (wild project), *underneathmybed* (Rattlestick), *PlayOn!* (Classic Stage), *Recent Alien Abductions* (Soho Rep, New York City), *Romeo & Juliet* (NYClassical). Regional: *Bad Dates* (Cincinnati Playhouse), *The Tenth Muse*, *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*, and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Richard III*, *As You Like It*, *Inherit the Wind*, *All's Well that Ends Well*, and *Six Degrees of Separation* (The Old Globe, San Diego), Mariela in the *Desert and Map of Heaven* (Denver Center), and more. Film includes *Love, Repeat* and *Sarban's Oxley*. Television includes *FOR LIFE* and *ONE LIFE TO LIVE*. She is a member of The Actors Center, and an Associate Artist at NYClassical. Trained at NYU Playwright's Horizons (BFA) and USD/The Old Globe (San Diego) (MFA). www.viviafont.com



GABBY FRANCO FERRO is thrilled to return to Capital Rep virtual stage after taking part in the 2020 & 2021 Next Act! Young Playwrights Summit, and the 2021 Behind the Scenes series as a Roving Reporter and discussion moderator. She has also appeared on the mainstage in *Shakespeare In Love* and *A Christmas Story* (the play)! Select credits also include: Tracy Turnblad in *Hairspray*, Addaperle in *The Wiz* (Barrington Stage), King Claudius in *Hamlet*, Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare and Co's Fall Festival), Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Saratoga Shakespeare Company), and Helena in *All's Well That Ends Well* (Classic Theater Guild). She is a 2021 graduate of the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre in NYC. Many thanks to Maggie and Margaret for another amazing opportunity! For Nana with love, always and forever. [@GabbyFrancoFerro](https://twitter.com/GabbyFrancoFerro)



Gabby Franco Ferro

DAVID GIRARD is the Artistic Director of Troy Foundry Theatre. He has worked with the REP in several capacities, most recently appearing in last years Next Act (Arthur in *Guinevere*) and as Burbage in their award winning production of *Shakespeare in Love*. David is a proud member of AEA and proud citizen of Troy.



BEN KATAGIRI 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, Maggie, & Russ for their partnerships and enduring creative mettle.



Ben Katagiri

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ADRIAN KISER is a country girl from Pike Road, Alabama. She received her BA in Theater Arts from Alabama State University and MFA from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University with a conservatory program extension at Shakespeare's Globe in London. Some of her favorite roles have been Antigone, Pistol, Angelo, Ruth Younger, and the many historical roles played in the REP's amazing On-The-Go! in-school tours for the past two years! She is thankful for this opportunity and looks forward to a new, thriving theater world!



DAVID KENNER is excited to be a part of the Young Playwright Readings. Other credits at the REP include *Hamlet*, *Red*, *Outside Mullingar & Shakespeare in Love*. NYC: *Othello* directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson & *Twelfth Night* directed by Dan Sullivan (The Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park), *Julius Caesar*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *An Enemy of the People* (Wheelhouse Theater Company) Regional: *Caravan Man*, *Help Yourself* (Williamstown Theater Festival) along with dozens of other productions around the country. Co-founder of the critically acclaimed Wheelhouse Theater Company which received 2 Drama Desk nominations for their production of *Life Sucks* and a Lucille Lortel nomination for *Happy Birthday*, *Wanda June*. Has taught acting at UAlbany, has a BFA from Sam Houston State University and an MFA from the NYU Graduate Acting program.



ANTONIO LACY was born and raised in Albany, NY, and recently graduated Hudson Valley as a theatre major. He has experience on stage as an actor and back stage as crew. The April Reading of the Top 10 plays from Young Playwright Contest was Antonio's first time working with the REP.



EDDIE MALDONADO From Arizona, the New York City based actor/vocalist has worked at Sea for Disney (Simba), Off--Broadway (iLLA), on the US Anniversary Tour of *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Ritchie Valens), opened for Jordin Sparks at her Superbowl XLII Pre--show, and has performed in premiere concert venues around the country. Favorite theatrical credits: Bernardo (*West Side Story*), Judas (*Godspell*), Emcee (*Cabaret*). Maldonado has features in national commercials, print, film, and television. He studied at Arizona State University and is a proud member of AEA. [@eddie_maldonado](#)



DANIELA MALAVÉ is a Venezuelan/American bilingual actor, with extensive experience in TV, Film, Stage, and Voice Over. Theatre credits include, *The Awesome 80's Prom* (Webster Hall) *Tony and Tina's Wedding* (Proctors Theatre) *Expecting Isabel*, (The Barrow Group) and *Yerma* (Teatro Del Sol, Philadelphia) to name a few...You can hear Daniela in numerous V.O campaigns all across NY state in English and Spanish, and is one of character voices for EA's Dodgeball video game, Knockout City. Her voice can also be heard as the narrator for the short film, Limon Agrio, which was recently accepted into, The Latino Film Market Festival. Daniela is thrilled to once again be a part of Capital Repertory's First 15! Next Act New Play Summit!

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KEVIN MCGURIE Broadway, National and International tours of *Les Miserables*, *The Secret Garden*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Jane Eyre*. Regional: Denver Center Theatre, The Acting Company, Hartford Stage, Williamstown theatre Festival, Arizona theater Company, Shakespeare Theater D.C. At Capital Repertory Theatre, Kevin was named the first Associate Artist and graced the REP's boards in numerous productions, including: *Man of La Mancha*, *Red*, *Camelot*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *The Irish...and How They Got That Way*. Education: Hoosac School, Circle in the Square, Juilliard School.



CELENA VERA MORGAN is a New York City based actor with a BFA in Musical Theatre from Ithaca College. Celena lives with her puppy Truly Scrumptious and two litter trained bunnies in the Big Apple! Credits include: *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Columbia), *Sister Act* (Sister Mary Robert), *Company* (Amy). Off-Broadway: *Into The Woods* (Little Red) NYC Credits: *Breaking Ground* (NYMF). website: www.celnaveramorgan.com
IG: [celnavmorgan](https://www.instagram.com/celnavmorgan)



ALEXIS PAPAEO Capital Repertory Theater: *Gypsy* (Baby June), *A Christmas Story: The Musical!* (Tap Soloist). Park Playhouse: *Little Women* (Jo), *Newsies* (Finch), *In The Heights* (Ensemble), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey). Alexis intends to pursue a career in musical theater and will be attending NYU Tisch School of the Arts this Fall!




WILLIAM POON Broadway: *The King and I*, International Tour: *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, Off Broadway: *A Hundred Dresses*, Carnegie Hall: *Tim Janis's American Christmas*, Television: THE KELLY AND MICHAEL SHOW (ABC), THE 2015 TONY AWARDS (CBS), THE PATH (Hulu), DEADBEAT (Hulu), DORA AND FRIENDS (Nickelodeon), CREATIVE GALAXY (Amazon), THE MAGIC WAND CHASE SESAME STREET SPECIAL (HBO), and SUPERWINGS (Amazon).




BARBARA ROBERTSON On March 12, 2020 when the pandemic forced theatres to close, Barbara was playing JoAnne Foster in the world premier of *The Secret of My Success* directed by Gordon Greenberg at the Paramount Theatre. Earlier that season she played Anna (Jefferson Award) in Firebrand Theatre's *Queen of the Mist*, and Anne Marie in Steppenwolf Theatre's *A Doll's House, Part 2*. Credits include tours of *Wicked* and *Angels In America I & II*; *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Jefferson Award) at Court Theatre; *life sucks.* at Lookingglass; *The Detective's Wife* (Jefferson Award) at Writers' Theatre; *A Little Night Music*, at Chicago Shakespeare; *The Goat. Or Who is Sylvia?*, (Goodman); *Grand Hotel* (Jefferson Award) and *Working* at Broadway Playhouse; *Kabuki Medea* (Helen Hayes Award) at the Kennedy Center. Film credits include *The Working Man* (Robert Jury), *The Company* (Robert Altman), and *The Straight Story* (David Lynch).

Summit Acting Company Con't.




JOHN ROMEO performed for 25 years with the resident company of the NYS Theatre Institute (NYSTI). His work in over 200 stage productions includes: London's West End production of *The Snow Queen*; George M. Pullman in the East Coast Premier and Off-Broadway production of *American Enterprise*, directed by Emmy award winning Patricia Birch; Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*; Lenny in *Of Mice and Men*; Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*; Smee in *Peter Pan in Moscow*; Il Compari in *A Tale of Cinderella*; the title character in *The Canterville Ghost*. John has also performed in tours of the Mid East, Sweden, Italy and the USSR. John's directed the *The Miracle Worker* and *Inalienable Rights: Denied*. His film work includes *Fighting For Freedom*, Cult horror films: *Ice Queen*, *Axcillator* and other independent features and shorts. He co-directed the documentary, *The Neighborhood That Disappeared*, the pilot for the middle ages and directed the short film, *Ready Or Not....* John is also a voice over actor on nearly 1000 TV and radio commercials and narrations. AEA, SAG-AFTRA.




MICHAEL MCCORRY ROSE has appeared in the REP's productions of *Your Best One*, *She Loves Me* and *How Water Behaves*. Broadway: *A Gentleman's Guide To Love and Murder* and *Wicked*, 1st National Tours: *Anastasia* and *Wicked*. Film: *Snapshots*, *Mister Softee* and *Waccabuc/Night*. Regional theatre credits include The Paper Mill Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Yale Rep and Project Shaw. michaelmccorryrose.com


YVONNE PERRY - See Headshot and Bio on page 11



ELISE SANTORA is a two-time nominee and recipient of the Henry award for Outstanding Actress as Ofelia in *Anna in the Tropics* at CSFAC. Recent guest-star appearances include FOR LIFE (ABC), BULL, TOMMY (CBS), and an Indie Series Award for her role in FABULESS (webseries). Other TV: NBC's THE MANIFEST, NEW AMSTERDAM, SHADES OF BLUE and (Netflix) IRONFIST and ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK. Broadway credits: *In The Heights* (Lin-Manuel Miranda), *The Capeman* (Paul Simon) and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.



SANDRA SEOANE-SERÍ is an actress born and based in Boston. She received her BA in Theatre and Film Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. During her time there, she discovered the importance of collaboration, discipline and humility. Sandra wants to be a part of stories that are often overlooked. Ones that challenge stereotypes and spark conversation. For Sandra, theatre is how she understands and grapples with humanity. She is excited to work with more artists, theatre folk and filmmakers. SandraSeoaneSeri.com



EILEEN SCHUYLER is delighted to be returning to Capital Rep, where she's appeared in eight mainstage productions, including *Blithe Spirit*, *4000 Miles* and *33 Variations*, as well as numerous Next Act! New Play Summits. She has performed at WAM Theatre, Stageworks/Hudson, Queens Theatre in the Park, Fulton Opera House, Studio Arena, Soho Rep and Theatre Company at Hubbard Hall, and played 25 roles at NYSTI. Eileen is Artistic Director of Theater Voices, now in its 32nd season, and an acting teacher and director at Russell Sage College. She developed and directed original stage adaptations of *Spoon River Anthology* and *A Bintel Brief: Sixty Years of Letters from the Lower East Side to the 'Jewish Daily Forward'*. An AUDIE winner, she's a proud member of Actors' Equity and SAG/AFTRA.

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JUSTIN STURGIS is a recent graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts (The New Studio on Broadway) and is excited to be a part of the REP's 2021 Next Act! New Play Summit. Some of his favorite roles include Roy Wright (*The Scottsboro Boys*), Jack (*Into the Woods*), *Sonnets and Soul* (The Seer), and *Spring Awakening* (Georg). Instagram: [@jsturge28](#)



JEREMY WEBB* Broadway: *Burn This, Broadway*/Actors Fund: *The Visit*. Off Broadway credits include: *Tabletop* (Drama Desk Award), *The Glorious Ones* (Lincoln Center Theatre, original cast recording), *Help* (The Shed), *Photograph 51* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *The Baltimore Waltz* (Signature Theatre), *BFF & Reading Under The Influence*. Also: *The Apple Family Plays* (Helen Hayes Nomination), *Camelot* (Walnut Street), *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead & A Doll's House* (Huntington), *She Stoops To Conquer* (Williamstown), *A Few Good Men* (Alley), *Don Juan* (title role, Shakespeare Theatre), *Misalliance* (The Old Globe), and *Seder* (Hartford Stage, premiere). Jeremy has appeared for six seasons at The Cape Playhouse: *Dracula*, *The Dining Room*, *Beard of Avon*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *Murder by Misadventure* and *Noises Off!* Film: *Love Walked In*. TV: *LAW AND ORDER* (guest, twice), *CRIMINAL INTENT*, *LAW & ORDER:SVU*, *GUIDING LIGHT*. Radio: *NEXT FALL* (Los Angeles Theatreworks, NPR). He is a graduate of the Drama School at The University of North Carolina School of the Arts & teaches acting at The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts.



MESSERET STROMAN WHEELER is an Actor and the Associate Producer of Judy Tate's American Slavery Project(ASP). She portrayed the historical figure Mary Church Terrell in ASP's audio dramas *Black Women and the Ballot* and can be seen as the lead character Effie in the play *Fast Blood* on ASP's YouTube Channel. Most recently in the Zoom theatrical world she played Harriet in *General Tubman*, by Lorene Cary for Cape May Stage and originated the role of Faye of Marj O'Neill-Butler's *Tiny, Secret Notes*, for Jersey City Theatre. Messeret lends her voice to *Second Sight* a short dynamic audio drama with visuals on ASP's website(June 18th - July 2nd) www.AmericanSlaveryProject.org. Some credits include TV: *LAW & ORDER*, *SOPRANOS*. Theatre: Arena Stage, Roundabout Theatre Company & Numerous National Commercials and Video Games. www.Messeret.me



LENNY WOLPE Broadway: *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Wicked*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The sound of Music*, *Mayor*, *Into The Light*, *Copperfield*, *Onward Victoria*. Off-Broadway: *Heartbreak House*, *Midnight Street*, *Marry Harry*, *Old Jews Telling Jokes*, *Company*, *Radio City Spring Spectacular*. National Tours: *Wicked*, *Little Shop*, *Forum*, *Guys & Dolls South Pacific*. Regional: Capital Repertory Theatre (*Your Best One*), Paper Mill (*Baker's Wife*, *Gypsy*), Goodspeed (*Show Boat*, *Christmas Carol*), Musical Theatre Westport, Pasadena Playhouse, KC Rep, DTC, Sacramento, Pittsburgh CLO, Cape Playhouse, Bucks County, Denver Center, TUTS, Hollywood Bowl. TV: Guest star on nearly 100 shows from ER, ALLY MCBEAL and L.A. LAW to THE GOLDEN GIRLS, CHAPPELLE'S SHOW, THE GOOD FIGHT and currently on the Emmy winning Amazon series AFTER FOREVER.

Summit Reading Committee Members



Angelique Powell



Yvonne Perry



Jean-Remy Monnay



Freddy Ramirez



Josh D. Smith



Kevin McGuire



Stephanie Klapper



Susan Spain



Kevin Craig West



Ellen Steyer



Charlie Owens



Martha Rozett



Bianca Stinney



Ben Katagiri



Victoria Benkoski



Margaret E. Hall



Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill



Jean Leonard



Justin Knudsen



Carolyn Anderson



Full Bios For Playwrights

MERIDITH FRIEDMAN was born in Madison, Wisconsin, and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. She received her BA from Connecticut College, and her MFA in Writing for the Stage & Screen from Northwestern University. She is the recipient of a Dramatist Guild Writers Alliance Grant and a former Dramatist Guild fellow. She is also a National New Play Network affiliated artist and has participated in numerous NNPN programs and initiatives including the Playwright-in-Residence program, Rolling World Premieres, MFA Playwright's workshop, Collaboration Fund, Commissions Program, and the National Showcase of New Plays. Meridith resides in Los Angeles and writes for television. An episode she wrote of NBC's Chicago Med received a 2018 Sentinel Award from Hollywood Health & Society.

Her work has received productions at Capital Rep, First Folio, Curious Theatre Company, Kitchen Dog Theater, Orlando Shakespeare Theater, LOCAL Theatre Company, Actor's Theater of Charlotte, Stage Left Theatre, Chicago's Theatre on the Lake, The Samuel French OOB Short Play Festival and The American Southwest Theatre Company at NMSU. Her work has also been developed and workshopped at The Kennedy Center, Chicago Dramatists, The Johnny Mercer Writers Colony at Goodspeed Musicals, Florida Repertory Theatre, The Ashland New Play Festival, Florida Studio Theatre, The NNPN National New Play Showcase, New Repertory Theatre, The Lark, Actor's Express, The Greenhouse Theatre Center, and The Abbey Theatre in Orlando.

Meridith was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Drama at Kenyon College from 2011-2012, and taught screenwriting at Northwestern University while completing her graduate work there. She has also taught playwriting to talented high school and middle school dramatists at Interlochen Center for the Arts, Curious Theatre Company, and Westridge School for Girls. Her insights into playwriting are featured in the newly released textbook, *The Essentials of Theater*.

JENNY STAFFORD is an award-winning bookwriter, lyricist, and playwright whose works have been heard on Broadway, regionally, and internationally. **Broadway:** *Cirque du Soleil's Paramour*. **Regional:** *The Homefront* (with Sam Salmond, Village Festival of New Musicals, Village BETA series, NAMT finalist), *The Artist and the Scientist* (with Brandon Anderson, CAP21), *Extended Stay* (with Scotty Arnold, Rhinebeck Writers Retreat, Florida Festival of New Musicals), *Prodigy* (CCU, Collaborative Development Project, Two Rivers Theatre Company, and Indiana University), *To Have and to Hold* (Prospect Theatre Company, Barrington Stage), *Cinderella* (commissioned/produced by the Spotlight Youth Theatre), *Two Bugs are Better Than One* (commissioned/produced Off-Broadway by the New York City Children's Theatre, all with Willem Oosthuisen), *The Star Child* (with Sarah Underwood and Josh Freilich, produced at French Woods), *Awakening* (with Joel B. New and J. Oconer Navarro), *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). Her work has been featured at the Lincoln Center Songbook Series (*The Lyrics of Jennifer Stafford*), Prospect Theatre Company, The National Alliance for Musical Theatre Songwriter Salon, the New York Musical Theatre Festival, 54 Below, Ars Nova, Joe's Pub, and numerous other NYC

Playwright Bios Con't.

venues, including multiple inclusions in William Finn's Ridiculously Talented concert series. Awards include the 2017 Reva Shiner Comedy Award, a 2021 ASCAP Plus Award, and the Paulette Goddard Award. Nominations for the Spirit of the Online Fringe Award and the Fringe Review Hidden Gem Award in Edinburgh. Finalist status for the Kleban Prize for Musical Theatre (2018 and 2021), the Yale Institute for Music Theatre, the Eugene O'Neill Musical Theatre Conference, and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre Conference, and the Ronald M. Ruble New Play Competition. Second prize in the McLean Drama Company Playwriting Competition. She's been an Artist in Residence at the Rhinebeck Writers Retreat, Village Theatre, the Johnny Mercer Writers Colony, the Catwalk Institute, Hypatia in the Woods, Goodspeed Musicals, CAP 21, the Ross Ragland Theatre and the Berkshire Playwrights Theatre. She is also an essayist, with essays published in the Colorado Sun, the Santa Ana Review, and the Ponder Review. Dramatists Guild member. MFA, Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

CHRISTIN EVE CATO is a playwright and performing artist from the Bronx. She holds an MFA in Playwriting from Indiana University and completed her BA degree at Fordham University. Cato is also a graduate of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School for Music and Art and the Performing Arts. She is affiliated with NYC theater companies, Pregones/PRTT (ensemble member), INTAR Theatre (UNIT 52 ensemble member), and the Latinx Playwrights Circle. Honoring her Puerto Rican and Jamaican roots, Cato's artistic style is expressed through Caribbean culture and the Afro-Latinx diaspora. She has developed her work with The Classical Theatre of Harlem, Harlem9, Pregones Theater, Milagro Theatre, Borderlands Theater, Teatro Vivo, Indiana University, Texas State University, Cardinal Stage, Conch Shell Productions, KCACTF, and The Silverton Theatre Mine. Cato is also the recipient of the 2020 Greater Good Commission for Afro-Latinx writers and the 2021 ReImagine New Plays in TYA grant. An aspiring screenwriter, she is currently repped by 3 Arts Entertainment.

PETER SNOAD is a British-American playwright and recovering actor based in Boston, Massachusetts. His plays have been produced throughout the U.S. and in Canada, the U.K., Australia, and Singapore. Theatres that have developed and/or staged his work include The Lark Play Development Centre and Mixed Phoenix Theatre in New York City, Huntington Theatre and Alarm Clock Theatre in Boston, Centre-Stage South Carolina, Outvisible Theatre in Detroit, The Landing Theatre in Houston, LiveWire Chicago Theatre, Bedlam Theatre in Minneapolis, and the Edgemar Theatre Group in Santa Monica, CA. Honors include the Stanley Drama Award; the Arthur W. Stone New Play Award; the Stratford-Upon-Avon Fringe International Short Play Award; a two-year Visiting Playwright residency at Hibernian Hall in Roxbury, MA; and writing fellowships from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Peter's most recently produced full-length play, *The Draft*, about personal experiences with the military draft during the Vietnam War, received two Best New Play nominations from New England theater critics.
www.petersnoad.com

JORDAN RAMIREZ PUCKETT is a Chicana playwright, lighting designer, and producer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her plays include *En Las Sombras*, *To Saints and Stars*, *A Driving Beat*, *Las Pajaritas*, *Restore*, and *Inevitable*. These works have been produced and/or developed by Abingdon Theatre Company (New York, NY), Goodman Theatre (Chicago, IL), Harold Clurman Laboratory Theatre Company (New York, NY), Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Playwrights Realm (New York, NY), San Diego Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, among others. She most recently participated in the 2020 Bay Area Playwrights Festival and is the Producer of the 2021 Bay Area Playwrights Festival.

Playwright Bios Con't.

MICHAEL HILTON's plays include “Blue Sky Somewhere” (Manhattan Repertory Theatre), “The Mountaineers” (T. Schreiber Studio), “Dance With Winter” (Finalist for Best Original Script, F.E.A.T.S. Festival Luxembourg 2014), “The Weary” (RPW & Stories About Humans 2018), “Phases” (Runner-Up for Best Drama at the One-Page Play Festival 2019 in Stuttgart, Germany), “Sunlight Man” (Five & Dime Theatre) and “Light Below Us” (New English and American Theatre). He is a two-time recipient of the Governor's Award for Best Play in the State of New Jersey, The Spotlight Award from True Acting Institute, as well as numerous other honors. His work has been published by Smith and Kraus in The Best Men's Monologues of 2019 & 2020 as well as the Best Women's Monologues of 2020. He studied playwriting at Fordham University. He holds a Master of Arts from the University of Tübingen. His plays have been developed and produced across Europe and the United States. He lives with his family in Germany.

MARK RIGNEY's stage plays have been produced in twenty-two U.S. states plus Australia, Canada, and Nepal. In New York, his work has played off Broadway at 59c59. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild and has won multiple national playwriting contests, including the 2017 John Gassner Award, the Panowski Playwriting Award (twice), and the Maxim Mazumdar New Play Competition. His published plays are available from Playscripts, Inc. and Smith & Kraus's The Best Ten-Minute Plays. Over fifty of his short stories have found print, in venues ranging from literary (Witness, The Best of the Bellevue Literary Review) to fantasy and horror (Lightspeed, Cemetery Dance). His website is www.markrigney.net, and he maintains a lively outpost at the [New Play Exchange](http://NewPlayExchange.com).

September Playwrights

MAKASHA COPELAND is a playwright, actor, and comedian from the Texas Hill Country. Their full-length plays Extreme Home Makeover and Fabuloso! have been developed and produced with San Diego REP, Vertigo Productions, the Agnes Nixon Festival, Theatre Lab at FAU, Teatro Espejo, and Sideshow Theatre (upcoming). Their ten minute comedy Pitbull's B-Day received a staged reading at The Tank. They are a resident artist at Ars Nova's inaugural CAMP residency, where they are co-creating a sketch comedy/play fusion, Madre Mía/ Minha Mãe, with Chase Doggett and Gabrielle Silva. They are currently working on their splits for their next project, STDYCD: So The Dance, a co-created dance-first, comedy-second spectacle. They graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in Theatre and Latine Studies.

KAREEM FAHMY is a Canadian-born playwright and director of Egyptian descent. His plays, which include American Fast, 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. 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



A QUICK LOOK AT THE PAST NINE SUMMITS!

PLAYWRIGHTS

Michael Amon

Brent Askari

AJ Baker

Michael Barakiva

Suzanne Bradbeer

Joe Breen

Joe Borini

Alan Brody

Stephen Brown

David Bunce

Catherine Butterfield

David Buskin

Zach Calhoun

Patricia Cotter

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 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

Caroline Sherman

Blaine Teamer

Tommy Trull

Hope Villanueva

Michael Walker

Deborah Yarchun

Desiree York



YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS

Jessica Airhienbuwa
 Jayleigh Bellefeuille
 Quincy Brown
 Saaleha Brown
 Kaliana Burnell
 Rachel Covey
 Jamie Curcio
 Derick Edgren
 Sydney Elmore
 Jaimie Gaskell



Jashton Gieser
 Abigail Guenther
 Alyssa Haddad
 Morgan Hughes
 Lily Jandrisevits
 Wisdom Johnson
 Joshua Kenna
 Madaleine Kotary
 Violet Kreifels
 Olivia Lawrence
 Sarah McCollum
 John McCorkle



Jyasi Nagel
 Elizabeth Novak
 Emily O'Brien
 Jamie O'Brien
 Ava O'Dea
 Lindsey Penet
 Oliver Price
 Amanda Recine
 Ana Roberts
 Straton Rushing



Aden Suchak
 Nina Tuxbury
 Lydia Valentino
 Rya Vallabhaneni
 Jonathan Van De Loo
 S.E. Vatalaro



Steven VenDenburgh
 Amina 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

Brandon Curry, theREP's Production Manager

Kaitlyn Kern, theREPs Stage & Company Management Intern

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

Next Act is Produced by Margaret E. Hall

Next Act Events Edited by Michael McCord

Stephanie Klapper/Klapper Casting CSA

Young Playwright Contest Readers: Teddy Foster, Christine Sheehan, Grace Janiszewski, Ben Katagiri, Rachael Yoder, Sadrina Renee, Margaret E. Hall, Maggie Mancinelli-Cahil, Justin Knudsen

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Jean Leonard, Chief of Staff at Proctors Collaborative

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Christine Sheehan, Director of Education at Proctors Collaborative

Jessica Cameris, Programming Assistant at Proctors Collaborative

Teddy Foster, Director at UPH

&

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

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A text graphic on a black background. The text is in a bright blue, glowing, sans-serif font. It reads: 'TEXT NEXTACT TO 47444 TO MAKE A DONATION TO THEREP'S NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT WORK!'.