Nora Montañez and the cast Pan Genesis by Marvin González De León in movement created by Pedro Pablo Lander, presented in PlayLabs 2019. Photo by Paula Keller
ROOM ENOUGH (FOR US ALL)
by Daaimah Mubashshir
Monday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. & Friday, Oct. 23 at 8 p.m.

Fatimah, a recently widowed matriarch, is determined to have it all. She wants the opportunity to set right a 10-year mistake by inviting Jamillah, her queer daughter, to return home after a long forced absence. Can she have it all when Abdullah, her son, is driven to fight against this decision even though he loves his mother deeply? Room Enough (For Us All) is centered on a contemporary African-American Muslim Family coming to terms with how to treat queerness up against long-standing ideals and faith.

we are continuous
by Harrison David Rivers
Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. & Saturday, Oct. 24 at 1 p.m.

When a son reveals that he is HIV positive, his mother must decide how far her unconditional love extends. In this tender autobiographical play, Harrison David Rivers explores how people can change and how love can evolve.

MOTHER OF EXILES
by Jessica Huang
Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. & Saturday, Oct. 24 at 8 p.m.

In 1898 California, a pregnant Eddie Loi faces deportation. In 1998 Miami, her grandson Braulio accidentally summons her spirit while patrolling the border. In 2063 somewhere on the ocean, their descendants try to survive the climate crisis. An epic multigenerational tale of sacrifice, love, and survival that spans 150 years in 90 minutes.

BEGIN, BEGIN, BEGIN AGAIN
by Erin Courtney
Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. & Sunday, Oct. 25 at 1 p.m.

In a re-imagining of The Oresteia set in an art museum in the near future, an audio tour guide voice artist is haunted by the desire to kill her husband. Is it possible to seek justice instead of revenge? In this formally inventive work, Erin Courtney invites us to see the horror behind the brutality of our current justice system and to invite change through collective imagination.

PLAYWRITING FELLOWS SHOWCASE
Friday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m.

Join us for an evening of scenes from plays in progress by our 2020-21 Playwrights’ Center fellows and mentees: Cristina Florencia Castro, Gracie Gardner, Marvin González De León, JuCoby Johnson, Candrice Jones, Shannon TL Kearns, Nora Montañez, Savannah Reich, Tylie Shider, and Katie Ka Vang.
Welcome And Thank You For Joining Us For Our 37th Annual Playlabs Festival!

We are embracing what it means to create theater during a pandemic and moving the entire process online. While we will miss those personal moments of connection by being in space together—from the warm greetings in the lobby to that collective gasp at a play’s surprise moment in the theater—we’re grateful that this year, geography will no longer limit who can experience the festival. Whether you’re joining us from across the country, around the world, or just down the street in the Twin Cities, we’re excited you’re here with us to celebrate these powerful new stories.

At Playwrights’ Center, we lead with our values, and this year we are creating even more paid artist jobs by expanding the festival. Four playwrights are currently developing their new work, partnering with the creative team of their choosing, receiving two full weeks of writing and rehearsal time, and—as always at Playwrights’ Center—being equitably compensated for their time and their artistry. Over the course of the festival, nearly 70 paid opportunities for thelemakers are being created.

At the heart of PlayLabs is the holistic incubation of new work, and this year is no exception. We are thrilled to bring you these incredible new plays by Erin Courtney, Jessica Huang, Daaimah Mubashshir, and Harrison David Rivers. Whether beautifully written family dramas or relevant reimaginings of classic tales, each story told is both unique and universal. You may see yourself in people you’ve never met or find new laughter and understanding in characters you’ve known.

These stunning plays accomplish what all good stories seek to do: bring us closer to our human connection with one another and guide our path to a more equitable, empathetic, and imaginative world.

So gather your friends or family (if you’re able to in a socially distanced way) around the Zoom screen. Sit back. Get comfortable. And experience these new plays along with the rest of the world for the very first time.

On behalf of the PlayLabs artists, the Playwrights’ Center staff and board, and the 2,200+ playwright members we serve each year, thank you and enjoy!

Jeremy B. Cohen
Producing Artistic Director

Robert Chelimsky
Managing Director
Mother of Exiles
by Jessica Huang

“"My ancestors were Russian, Chinese, and Jewish immigrants who migrated to the US and built businesses, suffered prejudices, overcame struggles, fell in love, and created new cultures. Their legacies live on in my mixed-race body and in my fourth-generation interracial marriage. Inspired by their stories of sacrifice, courage, great risks and radical empathy, *Mother of Exiles* was created in honor of them—and in honor of us, their descendants, who continue their legacy.”

—Jessica Huang

Director
Jesca Prudencio**

Sound Design Consultant
John Nobori

Stage Manager
Sequoia Hauck

Apprentice Stage Manager
Roshni Desai

Festival Producer
Hayley Finn

Associate Producer
Julia Brown

Actors
Michele Selene Ang* / Eddie Loi
Stephanie Bertumen / Stage Directions
Nicole Javier* / Midwife, Sofía, Mimi López-Loi
Tess Lina* / Missionary, Kate López-Loi
Thallis Santesteban* / Tata, Claudia López
Ricardo Vázquez* / Modesto/Braulio Loi
Stephen Yoakam* / Guard, Mick, Henry

*Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, the Playwrights' Center, and Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

**Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society
Jessica Huang (playwright) Plays include The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin, Mother of Exiles, Transmissions in Advance of the Second Great Dying, and Purple Cloud. She has commissions with Manhattan Theatre Club, TimeLine Theatre Company, Audible, Theater Masters, History Theatre, and Theater Mu. She is the inaugural recipient of the 4 Seasons Residency; a 2018 MacDowell Fellow; a three-time Playwrights’ Center Fellow, and has received awards from the National Theatre Conference, Sloan Foundation, Jerome Foundation, and Minnesota State Arts Board. She’s an alum of Page 73 Interstate 73, Ars Nova Play Group, and Foundation. BFA: NYU Tisch, MFA: UC San Diego. Jescaaprudencio.com

Jessica Prudencio** (director) is a director and choreographer focused on creating highly physical interdisciplinary work across the U.S. and internationally. Recent projects include The Interview, a virtual work by Ekaterina Avgustenyak (Arena Stage and Forum for Cultural Engagement, DC), The Great Leap by Lauren Yee (Steppenwolf) and Interstate, a new musical by Kit Yan and Melissa Yi (Mixed Blood). Other credits include Vietgone and Actually (San Diego Rep), Calling (La MaMa ETC), Man of God (East West Players), How To Use A Knife in Advance of the Second Great Dying, and Purple Cloud. Stephanie Bertumen (stage directions) is delighted to be working with the Playwrights’ Center once again. In addition to the PWC, Ms. Bertumen has acted with such companies as Theater Latté Da, Ten Thousand Things, The Old Globe, Children’s Theatre Company, Old Log Theatre, Ordway, Theater Mu, History Theatre, Backyard to Broadway, Casting Spells Productions, and Bloomington Civic Theatre. Stephanie is a proud graduate of the University of Minnesota Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program.

Michele Selene Ang* (Eddie Loi) is a Chinese-American actor, writer, and artist. She was born in Indonesia, raised in San Francisco, educated in New York, and is currently based in Los Angeles. She holds a BA degree in Theatre Performance from Fordham University, and was chosen as a 2012 YoungArts winner and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Her work can be found on Netflix’s hit drama 13 Reasons Why and CBS’ Elementary. Her latest theater credits include Bryna Turner’s Bull in a China Shop at Lincoln Center and Anna Moench’s Man of God at East West Players. When she’s not memorizing lines or tapping away at her laptop, you can find her at your local bookstore, nose deep in a novel, curled up with a cup of tea.

Sequioa Hauck (stage manager) (Anishinaabe/Hupa) is a multi-disciplinary artist in the Twin Cities focused on creating theater, film, and performance art that decolonizes the process of art-making. They make art surrounding the narratives of continuation and resiliency. Sequoia has worked on and offstage with organizations such as The Southern Theater, Exposed Brick Theatre, Turtle Theater Collective, Aniccha Arts, Art Shanty Projects, Poetry and Pie, and Patrick’s Cabaret. In 2019, they performed in Aotearoa/New Zealand at Tātau Whetū Series—Artist Floor Talks with a piece called “Te Mana o Te Wai,” a poetry and film installation surrounding Sequoia’s connection with water.

Roshni Desai (apprentice stage manager) is a recent University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program graduate, currently residing in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They are a fierce believer in theater as a way to connect communities, especially marginalized ones. Roshni also works at Project Success as a Program Coordinator and loves getting to work with students and is very passionate about helping young people obtain the skills and tools to make their dreams happen.

Stephanie Bertumen (stage manager) is currently residing in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They are a fierce believer in theater as a way to connect communities, especially marginalized ones. Roshni also works at Project Success as a Program Coordinator and loves getting to work with students and is very passionate about helping young people obtain the skills and tools to make their dreams happen.

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Nicole Javier* (Midwife/Sofía/ Mimi López-Loi) is an actor and teaching artist. She holds an MFA in Acting at University of California San Diego, and a BFA in Theatre Performance from Chapman University. Right before the pandemic, she was in Where the Mountain Meets the Moon at South Coast Repertory and is so thankful for online opportunities to find community and share stories. Regional theatre include: La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego Repertory, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Shakespeare Orange County, Aurora Theatre Company, Crowded Fire Theatre, San Jose Repertory. Nicole currently resides in Los Angeles with her pup, Zorro. Nicolejavier.com

John Nobori (sound design consultant) is a California-based sound designer and engineer. His work has been heard in plays produced by such organizations as Cornerstone Theater Company, The Getty Villa, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Other recent credits include Center Theatre Group’s production of Elliot: a Soldier’s Fugue and South Coast Repertory’s production of Orange. He has been nominated for several awards for excellence in sound design, including an Ovation Award for his work on The Golden Dragon at Boston Court Pasadena. BA University of California, Irvine.

Tess Lina* (Missionary/Kate López-Loi) is thrilled to be working on this moving play with Jessica Huang and this fantastic company of artists. Tess most recently performed in the LATW national tour of SEVEN. Theatre credits include: Mark Taper Forum, La Jolla Playhouse, San Jose Rep, Laguna Playhouse, the Guthrie Theatre, and the Denver Center in Tantalus, a co-production with the Royal Shakespeare Company, directed by Sir Peter Hall and written by John Barton. Tess has served as Associate Artistic Director of Shakespeare Orange County, where she recently performed the title role in Antony and Cleopatra. Film/TV credits include: How to Get Away with Murder, S.W.A.T., Revenge, House, CSI, CSI:Miami, NCIS, and Danika with Marisa Tomei. She is a graduate of the Juilliard Drama Division.

Thallis Santesteban* (Tata/Claudia López) Theater credits include: The Sins of Sor Juana (Ten Thousand Things); Charlie’s Aunt, Pride and Prejudice, Lion in Winter, Golden Age (Guthrie Theatre); Mermaid Hour: Remixed, DJ Latinidad’s Latino Dance Party, In the Time of the Butterflies, Minnecanos, Theory of Mind, Hijab Tube (Mixed Blood Theatre); Lone Star Spirits (Jungle Theatre); Nature (Tiger Lion Arts); Quitamitos (Teatro del Pueblo); Clandestino (Wilhelm Bros. & Co.); Breaking Ice (Pillsbury House Theatre); Our Town, Antigone (Miami New Drama); Su Nombre Será Su Sombra Para Siempre, El Amor en los Tiempos del Cárdena, En el Tiempo de las Mariposas, La Gringa (Repertorio Español NYC); La A londra (UNAM, Mexico City). Education: University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theatre BFA Actor Training Program.

Ricardo Vázquez* (Modesto/ Braulio Loi) is an award winning actor most recently seen in the Broadway production of The Inheritance. NYC: Atlantic Theater, New York Stage and Film, HERE Arts Center, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Mass MOCA Museum, and Dixon Place. Regional: Guthrie Theatre, Chance Theater, and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Films: Gets Good Light (Tribeca), Nina of the Woods (Cinequest, Philadelphia Film Festival), Farmer of the Year, and Death to Prom. Solo Work: Juracán: The Jíbaro and his Three Sons, and Escúchame. He was a Jerome Many Voices Fellow and received the Twin Cities IVEY Award for Emerging Artist. More at Ricardo-Vazquez.com

Thallis Santesteban

Stephen Yoakam* (Guard/Mick/ Henry) is a longtime member of the Twin Cities theater community. He is a founding member of the Mixed Blood Theater, appearing in over 30 productions. At the Guthrie Theater, he has performed in over 80 productions including King Lear, Othello, Burial at Thebes, An Iliad, and the History Plays. Stephen was in The Children, The Nether, The Night Alive, The Seafarer, and Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? at the Jungle Theater. He has performed at Pillsbury House Theater, the Playwrights’ Center, and at Carnegie Hall with the Minnesota Orchestra. Stephen is a recipient of the McKnight Theater Artist Fellowship.
The Playwrights’ Center gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations who have financially supported our work. The following names represent gifts given between August 1, 2019 and October 15, 2020.

### Government, Foundations, and Organizations

- **$100,000**
  - McKnight Foundation

- **$50,000–$99,000**
  - Jerome Foundation
  - Shubert Foundation
  - National Endowment for the Arts

- **$25,000–$49,999**
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  - Eric Anderson and Roger Beck
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  - MaryAnn Lippay Kanee and Stephen Kanee Family Fund
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- **$1,000–$2,499**
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- **Up to $999**
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  - Network for Good
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- **In-Kind**
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**The Ruth Easton New Play Series**

- December, 2020–April, 2021

- Dec. 9, 2020
  - No Cure
    - Jake Jeppson

- Jan. 13, 2021
  - Getting There
    - Dipika Guha

- Feb. 3, 2021
  - This Much I Know
    - Jonathan Spector

- Mar. 3, 2021
  - Pulp Vérité
    - Crystal Skillman

- Apr. 7, 2021
  - Nancy
    - Rhiana Yazzie

For Information And Tickets

pwcenter.org/ruth-easton-series

 Meghan Kreidler as Volina in Betty Shamieh’s Malvolio, during the February 2020 Ruth Easton New Play Series. Photo by Paula Keller
| $5,000-$9,999 | Anonymous
- David Chelimsky and Flor Pinho
- Barbara Davis
- Robert P. Englund
- Barbara Field
- Larissa Keknert and Karl Gajdusek*
- John Geelan and Megan Feeney
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- dink Bolger and Carmen Gutierrez-Bolger
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- Dan Hedlund and Robin Preble
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- Marlon James
- Janet Jones and Rob Reul
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- Charlie Quimby and Susan Cushman
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| $250 - $499 | Patricia Barrier
- George Brant and Laura Kepley
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- Sarah and Matt Chaplin
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- Ross Johnson
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- Robert and Lucy Mitchell
- Amy Muse
- Amy Noble Seitz
- Tonja Orr
- Timothy J. Pabst and Dana Lindsay
- Kendra Plant
- Audray Rees
- Carl Atiya Swanson and Stacy Schwartz
- Jane E. Zilch
- Laura Zimmermann |
| $100 - $249 | Monika Albrecht
- Howard Ansel
- Karen Bachman and Robert Fisch
- James Ball
- Jeannette and Jeffrey Bineham |
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- Barbara Weber
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- Jessie Houlihan*
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Angela and George Bernhardt
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AMPLIFY VITAL STORYTELLING THROUGH GIVING
Social justice is at the heart of the Playwrights’ Center’s work. We strive for it by actively supporting equitable theater-making practices that shift the paradigm, uplifting unheard stories and sharing them with the world. With your support, the Center can provide the greatest diversity of artists with the time, tools, and space to tell their truths and reshape audiences’ perspectives.

Make a gift and amplify vital storytellers today! pwcenter.org/donate
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James Anthony Tyler
Katie Ka Vang
Abbee Warmboe
Talvin Wilks
Ray Yamanouchi
Stefanie Zadravec
THEATER BEGINS HERE
“Stories give us chances to see ourselves and what we could hope to be.”
—2020–21 Jerome Fellow, Candrice Jones

We start with the storytellers.
The playwrights.
The artists.

As we continue to meet the challenges of these times, the Playwrights’ Center seeks to reimagine what is possible in theater; both in this moment and beyond. Throughout our 2020–21 Season we are intensifying our efforts, investing even more deeply in creative process, arts education, and access to opportunity. We are working to amplify unheard voices and promote equitable spaces, allowing for the greatest diversity of artists to make plays around the world. Through additional fellowships and increased public programming, we are creating new channels of support for thousands of writers—from paid opportunities that will sustain playwrights and theatermakers, to expanded educational resources that will enhance online learning tools and connect university students from around the world. We are inspiring a whole new generation of theater artists. It all begins here.

Join us!

ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION
Building on our sold-out Public Discussion series from past seasons, Artists in Conversation offers a uniquely intimate look at playwrights and their process. Unlike the Center’s many scripted events throughout the year, these conversations offer audiences a chance to connect directly with writers, hearing artists’ thoughts on craft, the field, and the world through their own unfiltered words. Past conversations have featured acclaimed theater artists, including Migdalia Cruz, Lisa D’Amour, Daniel Alexander Jones, José Rivera, and Paula Vogel, among others.

Specific participants, topics, and dates will be announced throughout the year.
Stay tuned!

IN THE LAB
New worlds require new ways.
And the Playwrights’ Center is stepping up our support to meet this moment, launching a brand new online development and performance project called In the Lab.

Through this innovative program, three writers will develop wildly experimental new works, pushing the boundaries of form and content, and revolutionizing the way we experience stories.

TOMORROW WILL BE SUNDAY
by Heather Raffo

CELL SURFACE
by Dominic Taylor

VAPOR TRAIL
by Ken Urban

Dates and times to be announced soon.
Visit pwcenter.org for more information.