

PLAYWRIGHTS'
CENTER

THE 37TH ANNUAL
PLAYLABS
FESTIVAL



OCTOBER 19–25, 2020

THE 37TH ANNUAL

PLAYLABS FESTIVAL

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.

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.

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.**

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.

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.

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 theatermakers are being created.



Jeremy B. Cohen
Producing Artistic Director



Robert Chelimsky
Managing Director

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 reimaginations 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!

PLAYWRITING FELLOWS SHOWCASE



Director

Tlaloc Rivas**

Stage Manager

Erica Christie

Showcase Producer

Martine Kei Green-Rogers

Associate Producer

Julia Brown

Festival Producer

Hayley Finn

PLAYWRIGHTS

Cristina Florencia Castro

Many Voices Fellow

Gracie Gardner

McKnight National Residency and Commission

Marvin González De León

McKnight Fellow in Playwriting

JuCoby Johnson

Many Voices Mentee

Candrice Jones

Jerome Fellow

Shannon TL Kearns

Jerome Fellow

Nora Montañez

Many Voices Mentee

Savannah Reich

McKnight Fellow in Playwriting

Tylie Shider

Jerome Fellow

Katie Ka Vang

Many Voices Fellow

ACTING ENSEMBLE

Nikomeh Anderson

Adlyn Carreras*

Cristina Florencia Castro

Donnie Cianciotto*

Vinecia Coleman

Lily Tung Crystal*

Shanan Custer

Michelle de Joya

Domino D'Lorion

Ivory Doublette*

Becca Hart

Maggie Bearmon Pistner

Carley Villanueva Rosefelt

Edwin Strout

*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

PLAY EXCERPTS

PA' FUERA PA' FUERA PA' FUERA

by **Marvin González De León**

Ana Sepulveda.....**Cristina Florencia Castro**

Doña Sarita Rosales.....**Adlyn Carreras***

Edith Gonzales González.....**Carley Villanueva Rosefelt**

Stage Directions.....**Ivory Doublette***

A.K.A. La Comadre

by **Nora Montañez**

La Comadre.....**Adlyn Carreras***

Ester.....**Ivory Doublette***

Stage Directions.....**Vinecia Coleman**

UNTITLED SPANISH CLASS PLAY

by **Cristing Florencia Castro**

Clara Jordana Ruiz.....**Adlyn Carreras***

Jan Olsen.....**Shanan Custer**

Helen Smolenski.....**Maggie Bearmon Pistner**

Kylee Anderson-Diaz.....**Becca Hart**

Ernestina Mendoza.....**Carley Villanueva Rosefelt**

Stage Directions.....**Donnie Cianciotto***

A SERIES OF MEETINGS

by **Savannah Reich**

Facilitator Lauren.....**Becca Hart**

Facilitator Corrie.....**Carley Villanueva Rosefelt**

Facilitator Jay.....**Nikomeh Anderson**

Stage Directions.....**Maggie Bearmon Pistner**

LEAVING TEACHING

by **Candrice Jones**

Janae (a.k.a. Falana on OnlyFans).....**Vinecia Coleman**

Stage Directions.....**Lily Tung Crystal***

POISON

by **Gracie Gardner**

Woman.....**Cristina Florencia Castro**

LEFT

by **Katie Ka Vang**

Ab.....**Lily Tung Crystal***

Gia.....**Michelle de Joya**

Stage Directions.....**Vinecia Coleman**

THE GOSPEL WOMAN

by **Tylie Shider**

Orpah.....**Ivory Doublette***

Ruth.....**Vinecia Coleman**

Stage Directions.....**Carley Villanueva Rosefelt**

BODY AND BLOOD

by **Shannon TL Kearns**

Si.....**Nikomeh Anderson**

Jude.....**Edwin Strout**

Joshua.....**Donnie Cianciotto***

...BUT YOU COULD'VE HELD MY HAND

by **JuCoby Johnson**

Charlie.....**Nikomeh Anderson**

Eddie.....**Domino D'Lorion**

Stage Directions.....**Edwin Strout**



Cristina Florencia Castro (Many Voices Fellow, ensemble) is a playwright/performer/teaching artist from San Antonio, Texas who has been living and working in the Twin Cities theater community since her graduation from the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program in 2011.



Gracie Gardner (McKnight National Residency & Commission) Credits include *Pussy Sludge* (Relentless Award, Theatertreffen Stückemarkt), *I'm Revolting* (Atlantic Theater Company Claire Tow Fellowship), *Athena* (New York Times Critic's Pick), *Hate Baby* (James Stevenson Prize), *The Student From New Jersey* (Manhattan Theatre Club Sloan Founda-

tion Commission), *Panopticon* (Clubbed Thumb). Development: New Dramatists, Ars Nova Play Group, SPACE on Ryder Farm, Ensemble Studio Theater's Youngblood, The Old Vic, The New Group, Two River Theater, Williamstown Theater Festival. Publications: Samuel French, S. Fischer, Cincinnati Review.



Marvin González De León (McKnight Fellow in Playwriting) is a Xicano playwright and educator. His work has been produced and developed at Teatro Bravo, Arizona State University, Teatro del Pueblo, Page 73 Productions, The Playwrights Realm, and the Playwrights' Center. His fellowships at the Playwrights' Center include: the McKnight Fellowship in Playwriting (2020-

2021), Core Writer Fellowship (2019-2023), and the Many Voices Fellowship (2018-2019). He is a member of the 2020 Interstate 73 Writers Group at Page 73 and is a 2020-2021 Virtual Realm Mentee with The Playwrights Realm. González De León teaches at ASU, where he received his MFA in Dramatic Writing in 2017.



JuCoby Johnson (Many Voices Mentee) grew up in Jacksonville, FL, moved to the Twin Cities in 2011 and has been creating there ever since. He has been seen onstage at The Guthrie Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, The Jungle Theater, Theater Latté Da, Theater Mu, Ten Thousand Things Theatre Company, and many more. His plays

include *How It's Gon Be* (Underdog Theater, 2019) and *...but you could've held my hand* (2020 O'Neill NPC Finalist). He is a 2020-2021 Many Voices Mentee at the Playwright's Center in Minneapolis and a recipient of the 2020 New Now Commissions.



Candrice Jones (Jerome Fellow) is a playwright, poet, and educator from Dermott, Arkansas. Candrice has been honored to have been a fellow at Callaloo for poetry at Brown University and in London. She has also been a VONA Playwriting Fellow and a CalArts MFA Critical Studies recipient. Candrice's primary goal as a writer is to write love

letters for and to women of the American South. She is the author of the full-length plays *Crackbaby* (2010 Wasserstein Prize Nomination) and *FLEX* (developed at the 2020 Humana Festival of New American Plays). She has been a resident fellow at Ground Floor housed by the Berkeley Rep, the Bay Area Playwrights' Festival, and MacDowell's Colony of the Arts. She is scheduled to be a resident playwright at Djerassi's Colony of the Arts in the fall of 2020. Candrice, who was a 2019-20 Many Voices Fellow, is amazed and grateful to have been chosen for a 2nd year fellow at the Playwrights' Center, this time as a Jerome Fellow. She believes that in these times of peril "story and art matter more than ever."



Shannon TL Kearns (Jerome Fellow) is a transgender man whose playwriting is obsessed with big questions told through small stories. He is the founder and Artistic Director of Uprising Theatre Company in Minneapolis, MN. Shannon is a recipient of the Playwrights' Center Jerome Fellowship in 2020-21. He is a Lambda Literary Fellow for 2019. He was awarded a

spot in the HBMG Foundations' Winter Playwright Retreat in 2018 and 2019. Shannon's plays include *Body and Blood, in a stand of dying trees, Line of Sight, Twisted Deaths, The Resistance of My Skin,* and *Who Has Eyes To See.*



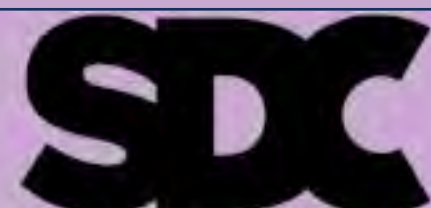
Nora Montañez (Many Voices Mentee) is an Afro-descendent Indigenous Peruvian actress, singer, educator, and playwright. She was raised in Paterson, NJ, and holds a BFA from Florida Atlantic University. In Minneapolis, Nora has worked with Theater Latté Da, Children's Theatre, Jungle Theater, the Guthrie Theater, Theater Mu, Mixed Blood, as well as been

commissioned by Penumbra Theatre (Race Workshop), Theatre 45° and Exposed Brick Theatre. In Chicago, Nora has worked with Congo Square, Chicago Dramatist, and Court Theatre. She is a teaching artist with Upstream Arts and was a 2018 Next Step Grant recipient. Nora is also the Founder of ALMA (Alliance of Latinx Minnesota Artists), which facilitates alliances among the spectrum of Minnesotan Latinx artists.



Actors' Equity Association ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and

advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks



The Director is a Member of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.

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



Savannah Reich (McKnight Fellow in Playwriting) is a playwright and screenwriter based in Minneapolis. Her screenplay “*Beebe and Barton*” was the winner of the Sloan Student Grand Jury Prize in 2015. Her plays include *Dali's Liquid Ladies* (Bedlam Theater, Truepenny Theater), *Stupid Ghost* (San Francisco Theater Pub,

Baltimore Annex Theater, Theater Vertigo), *Paradise Park Zoo* (Available Light Theater, Anam Cara, Der Vorfuhrreffekt), *Hatchet Lady* (Walking Shadow Theater, RhinoFest), and *Caveman Play* (FaultLine Theater, Exponential Festival). Her plays have been commissioned or developed by Walking Shadow Theater Company, the University of Minnesota, SuperGroup, and the Playwrights' Center. She also produces her own work with her company, Eternal Cult, and tours it to theaters, warehouses, art galleries, bars and basements across the country. She holds an MFA from Carnegie Mellon University, where she studied with Rob Handel. She is a 2020–21 McKnight Fellow at the Playwrights Center.



Tylie Shider (Jerome Fellow) is a 2020–21 Playwrights' Center Jerome Fellow and an I Am Soul Playwright Resident at the National Black Theatre. His plays include *Parable of the Backyard Roots* (2019 Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Finalist), *Bastard*, *Platform States of Mind*, and *Talk*. His work has been developed by Liberation Theatre Company, Dixon Place, La MaMa, Frank

Silvera Writers' Workshop, SPACE on Ryder Farm, Harlem 9, Homebase Theatre Collective, 3:5 Creative[s], Yendor Arts, The Classical Theatre of Harlem, Luna Stage, Joust Theatre co., New York New Works Theater Festival, and The Theater Project. Awards include: Drama Desk from Delaware State University, and The Theater Project's One-Act competition 2015 Best Play and Audience Favorite. Member: Dramatist Guild of America, 2018 Playwright in residence at the Liberation Theatre Company, 2019–20 Playwrights' Center

Jerome Fellow, and the 2020–21 The Civilians R&D Group. He holds a BA in journalism from Delaware State University and an MFA in playwriting from New York University. Instagram: @theplaywright



Katie Ka Vang (Many Voices Fellow) is a Hmong American playwright and theater artist. Her work explores the complexities of culture, identity, dis-ease, survivorship, and community. Her plays and works include *WTF* (Theater Mu), *Hmong Bollywood* (Pangea World Theater), *5:1 Meaning of Freedom*, *6:2 Use of Sharpening*, *Fast FWD Motions*, *In*

Quarantine, *FINAL ROUND*, and *Spirit Trust*. She's received support from the Jerome Foundation, Knight Foundation, NPN, MRAC, MSAB, and Coalition of Asian American Leaders. She's the Relationship Manager at Springboard for the Arts. She holds an MFA in Playwriting from Brown University.



Tlaloc Rivas** (director) creates, writes, and directs theatrical experiences. Plays: *Take What You Can Carry*; *Divisadero*; *Johanna: Facing Forward*, amongst others. Upcoming: writer/director of *Maypearl* for St. Edward's University (February 2021) and writer/director of *The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano* (based on the novel by Sonia Manzano) for New

Hazlett Theatre's CSA Season 8 (June 2021). Tlaloc is a co-founder of the Latinx Theatre Commons, a member of the Dramatists Guild, and a member of Stage Directors & Choreographers. Training: B.A. w/honors from UC Santa Cruz; M.F.A. Directing from University of Washington; Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship at Carnegie Mellon University. www.TlalocRivas.com



Nikomeh Anderson (ensemble) (also Nik) is a Multidisciplinary Theater Maker and Creative, Teaching Artist, Performer, and Twitch Streamer. They are a mover, choreographer, actor, director, facilitator, musician, vocalist, poet, and neurodiversity and healing justice advocate. They went to NYU for Drama, studying at Stella Adler, RADA in London, ITW in Amsterdam,

CAP 21, Stonestreet Studios, and Viewpoints Intensive with Mary Overlie. They were an actor and intimacy co-captain within the ensemble of Orchid Receipt Service at MITU580. They are Literary Associate at EST, and teach regularly with Stella Adler Studio and Opening Act. IG: @WickedSirNik and linktr.ee/wicked sirnik



Adlyn Carreras* (ensemble) was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She came to St. Paul, Minnesota on scholarship to study at Macalester College, where she majored in Latin American Studies with a core concentration in Latin American Literature and a Minor in Biology. After traveling and living in Hawaii, Washington D.C., and

Puerto Rico, Adlyn returned to Minnesota and began acting in the Twin Cities. She has performed at the Jungle Theater, Park Square Theater, Pangea World Theater, Mixed Blood, Penumbra Theater, and Teatro del Pueblo. She has also been in various commercials and industrial films. Adlyn is Office Manager and Ensemble Member at Pangea World Theater, a past Teaching Artist for the Neighborhood Bridges program at Children's Theater Company, and is one of the Monologue Artists for Penumbra Theater's Race Workshop. She was recently hired as Adjunct Professor at Augsburg University and is currently working on her first one-woman performance, *If My Bones Could Speak*, commissioned by the Alternate Visions program at Pangea World Theater.



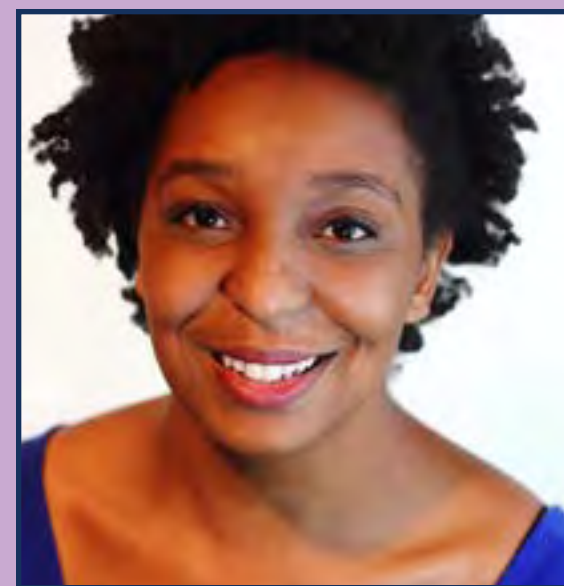
Erica Christie (stage manager) is a Brooklyn-based theatermaker and arts administrator. She recently moved from Minneapolis, where she served as an Artistic and Administrative Apprentice at the Playwrights' Center. She is on the board of Table Work Press, a play press that advocates for reading plays as a viable means of engaging with the theater.

She is a graduate of Kenyon College, where she earned a BA in Drama.



Donnie Cianciotto* (ensemble) (he/they) is the creator and director of Trans Voices Cabaret, and has been seen as Sam in *Southern Comfort* at The Public Theater, Charlie Brown in *A Charlie Brown Christmas* at The Secret Theatre, and in multiple performances at 54 Below, The Duplex, Joe's Pub, and other cabaret venues throughout NYC. He has

also been featured on *VICE News*, *Buzzfeed*, *NowThis*, and most recently in *The Washington Post*, appeared on panels at BroadwayCon and #IdentityWeek, and is the subject of an Emmy award-winning documentary about his life as a transgender man. Follow him on Instagram @thedonniecianciotto.

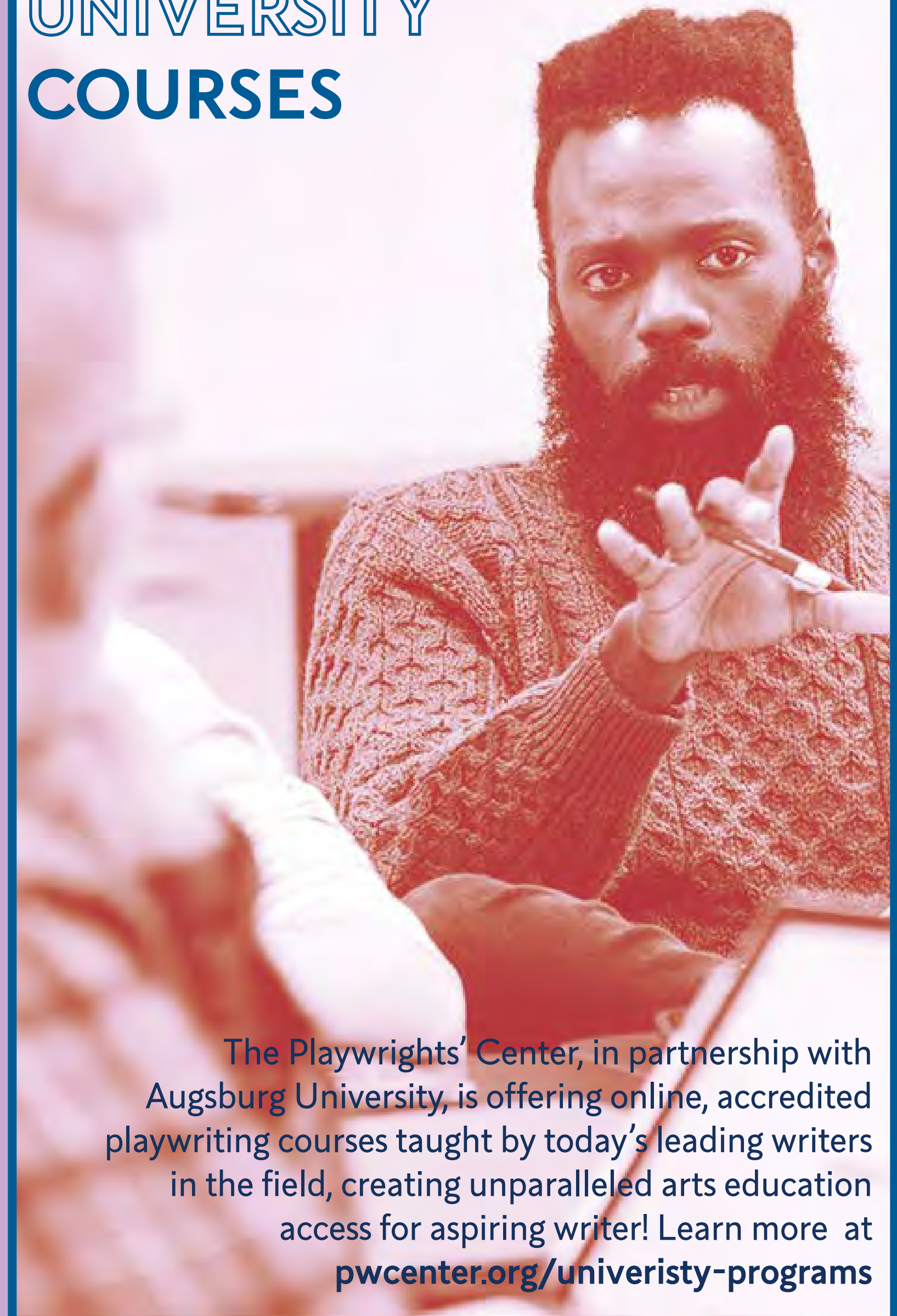


Vinecia Coleman (ensemble) *After the Fires* (Transatlantic Love Affair), *Jimmy and Lorraine: A Musing* (Pillsbury House Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Black Ensemble Players); *Antigone* (Park Square); *The Visit* (Frank Theatre); *The Odyssey* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *Love's Labour's Lost* (The Lonely Many); *Womyn's Mysteries* (See-Saw Lab

Theatre). Training: MFA Theatre Arts, University of Idaho, BS Microbiology, Iowa State University. Awards: Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Rex Rabold Acting Fellowship; KCACTF Region VII

Presenting

UNIVERSITY COURSES



The Playwrights' Center, in partnership with Augsburg University, is offering online, accredited playwriting courses taught by today's leading writers in the field, creating unparalleled arts education access for aspiring writer! Learn more at pwcenter.org/univeristy-programs

Jerome Fellow Tylie Shider teaches Playwriting II at Augsburg University. Photo Paula Keller

(Coleman cont'd) National Partners of American Theatre nomination: The Red Pen; KCACTF Region V John Cauble Short Play award national semi-finalist and Invited Production: *Home (The Place Where My Stuff Resides)*.



Lily Tung Crystal* (ensemble) (she/her) is an actor/director and the artistic director of Theater Mu. Acting credits include: Mrs. Shin/God #2/Niece (*Good Person of Szechwan*, CalShakes), Mother (*Interstate*, Mixed Blood Theatre), Prosecutor Li (*Chinglish*, Portland Center Stage/Syracuse Stage), Amanda (*Private Lives*, Whirligig Theatre), Lulu (*Cabaret*, SF Playhouse), Mrs. Park

(*Jay Kuo's Homeland*, Magic Theatre; New World Stages), Korean #2 (*Songs of the Dragons*, Crowded Fire; BATCC nomination). Lily is a 3-time Theatre Bay Area Award finalist for Outstanding Direction. She is a 2016 YBCA 100 honoree, named by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts as a "creative pioneer making the provocations that will shape the future of culture." lilytungcrystal.com, theatermu.org



Shanán Custer (ensemble) is a theater maker, writer, and improviser in the Twin Cities who has worked with Park Square Theatre, Interact, History Theatre, Frank Theater, Theatre Pro Rata, The Mystery Café, Theater Mu, and the Brave New Workshop. Shanán is a member of the Mysterious Old Radio Listening Society and an actor/writer for Sue Scott's *Island*

of *Discarded Women* podcast. Her play *Bad Things, Good Whiskey* (with Carolyn Pool) will open 2021 at Park Square Theatre or when the world is open again to play.



Michelle de Joya (ensemble) is excited to be working again with Playwrights' Center! Michelle is a Twin Cities based Actor/Playwright/Acrobat. Her past credits include Theater Latté Da: *Chicago*; Jungle Theater: *The Wolves*; Penumbra Theatre Company/Theater Mu: *The Brothers Paranormal*; Park Square Theater/Theater Mu: *Flower Drum Song*,

Park Square Theatre: *A Midsummer Nights' Dream*; Flying Foot Forum: *Heaven*, and many more. She graduated from the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program, and studied Drama at The South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. Keep up with her other projects at facebook.com/dejoya.michelle



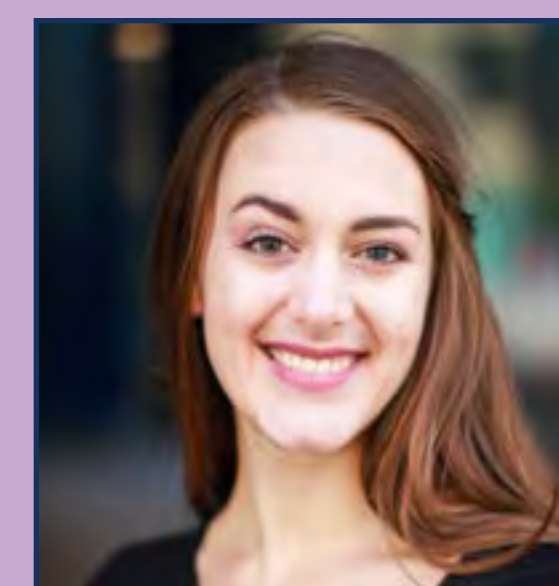
Domino D'Lorion (ensemble) (he/him/his) is an actor, writer, educator, and a drag queen in the Twin Cities. Originally from Chicago, Domino is an alum of The Chicago Academy for the Arts, Northwestern's NHSI Theater/Musical Theater program, and holds his BFA degree from the UMN/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program, with a BA in Business Management. Domino has

appeared in *Boudica* in the Dowling Studio at the Guthrie Theater, his award-winning original show *STOOPIDITY* at the Minnesota Fringe Festival, *Hit the Wall* at the Southern Theater with Mixed Precipitation, and *After The Fires* at the Illusion Theater with Transatlantic Love Affair.



Ivory Doublette* (ensemble) has performed regionally with MainStreet Theatre in Rancho Cucamonga, CA; The Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, IL; and locally with Frank Theater, Jungle Theater, Theater Latté Da, Penumbra Theatre, Ordway Center, Park Square Theatre, the Playwrights' Center, History Comes to Life, Intermedia Arts, Children's Theatre Company,

Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, Old Log Theatre, Nautilus Music-Theater, Interact Theater, and Illusion Theatre. Ivory is a Faculty member at MacPhail Center for Music. She also sings with her family's Gospel Quartet, SeVy (Say-V) sevygospelquartet.com. Ivory has a Bachelors in Theatre Arts from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She is an AEA member.



Becca Hart (ensemble) is an actor and singer in the Twin Cities. A transplant from Tulsa, Oklahoma, she attended St. Olaf College, learned of the incredible theater scene in Minnesota, and decided to stick around (much to the chagrin of her warm-weathered parents). Hart has worked with several theaters in town including The Jungle Theater and The Children's Theatre Company. Though she herself is not an author, she greatly admires the Playwrights' Center, a hub of support and resources for playwrights as they craft their stories. When Hart is not acting, she assists authors at Beaver's Pond Press, a publishing house.



Maggie Bearmon Pistner (ensemble) is excited to be part of this Playwrights' Center virtual workshop. Maggie is a local talent, having worked at the Jungle, Minnesota Jewish Theatre, Walking Shadow Theatre, Gremlin Theatre, Theatre Unbound, Theatre Pro Rata, Red Eye, PlayLabs, Park Square, and Artistry. She is also a voiceover, film,

and commercial talent.



Carley Villanueva Rosefelt (ensemble) is a Minneapolis based artist of Jewish and Mexican descent. She is a 2018 graduate of the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program. Previous credits include the *Henry VI's Trilogy*: UMN/Guthrie Program (Joan of Arc), *Agamemnon*: UMN/Guthrie Program (Cassandra), *South Pacific*: Guthrie

Theater, and *West Side Story*: Guthrie Theater. She has participated in previous readings at the Playwrights' Center and is so grateful to be back.



Edwin Strout (ensemble) is delighted to be returning to the PlayLabs Festival. In the 29 years that Edwin Strout has been performing in the Twin Cities theater community, he has worked with over 46 different theater companies in over 100 roles. Most recently, he has performed as Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Zephyr Theatre; Scheffler in *The Ugly One*

for Walking Shadow Theatre; MacDuff in *Macbeth* for Wayward Theatre Company; Bob in *Caught* for Full Circle Theater; and Robert Hooke in *Isaac's Eye* for Theatre Pro Rata.

PLAYWRIGHTS' CENTER FELLOWSHIPS

The Playwrights' Center's fellowship programs offer holistic support to some of the most talented early-to-mid-career playwrights in the country. Thanks to partnerships with the McKnight and Jerome Foundations, the Center gives over \$315,000 each season in financial support, championing over 13 playwrights a year through stipends, residencies, commissions, and development funds. The Center also works tirelessly to promote and connect these playwrights to the wider industry, helping to forge the collaborative relationships that will advance their professional careers.

"I know I've grown deeply as a person and writer this Fellowship year. I understand myself both creatively and personally in a way I've never experienced before. It feels like a rapid-pace experience of the self: the gift of solitude, searching, space to work, think, breathe, understand what I'm interested in writing and sharing with the world. The art I wish to create and consume. I've learned more about myself as a person and a writer than I have in my entire life."

—Sofya Levitsky-Weitz, *Jerome Fellow, 2018-19*

FOR INFORMATION AND TO APPLY, VISIT: pwcenter.org/programs

- Applications for the 2021-22 Jerome Fellowship are due Thur, Nov 19, 2020
- Applications for the 2021-22 Many Voices Fellowship and Mentorship are due Thur, Dec 3, 2020

Sofya Levitsky-Weitz in a rehearsal of her 2019 PlayLabs workshop of *Cannabis Passover*.
Photo by Paula Keller

PLAYWRIGHTS' CENTER MEMBERSHIP



We serve a worldwide network of over 2,250 member playwrights through a collection of robust and ever-expanding resources, including:

- Seminars and multi-week classes on craft and the industry
- Access to experienced actors for private new play development readings
- One-on-one dramaturgical support
- Member-centered play readings and feedback sessions
- Connection to the world's largest and most curated database of play submission opportunities.

Learn more at
pwcenter.org/join

THANK YOU DONORS

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.

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\$100,000

MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

\$50,000-\$99,000



\$25,000-\$49,999

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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Up to \$999

Actors' Equity Foundation, Inc.
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\$10,000+

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Barry Berg and Walter Tambor
Lee Blessing and Melanie Marnich
Jeffrey Bores* and Michael Hawkins
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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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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.

Meiyin Wang, Producing Director at The Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center joins Philip Bither, McGuire Director and Senior Curator, Performing Arts at Walker Art Center for a sold-out Public Discussion. Photo by Josh Olson