

50 YEARS OF SUPPORT

PLAYWRIGHTS'
CENTER

'21-'22 RUTH EASTON NEW PLAY SERIES

TRACES

WaxFactory + Rachel Jendrzejewski

developed in partnership with Network of Ensemble Theaters
through the Ensemble/Playwright Collaboration Grant

Ivan Talijančić and WaxFactory would like to thank the following organizations for early developmental support of TRACES:

Emily Harvey Foundation (Venice, Italy / New York, USA)
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Foundation for Contemporary Arts (New York)
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Brooklyn Arts Council / Brooklyn Arts Fund (New York)

Rachel Jendrzewski and Ivan Talijančić also extend special thanks to intrepid beta test audience members Anat Shinar, Benji Salinas, Alayna Barnes, and Philip Bither; and to Amber Brown, matt regan, and Guy Wagner for additional support during the workshop.

Traces is an immersive play inspired by French artist Sophie Calle, who often engages in controversial, "famously first-person" feats, such as impersonating fictional characters in real-life situations. In this experimental work, audiences will receive audio devices and be prompted to follow a performer through real public locations, recording and uploading their actions to a website where they can peruse and compare notes with the journeys of others.

CREATIVE TEAM

Concept/Co-Creator	Ivan Talijančić
Co-Creator	Rachel Jendrzejewski
Web design consultant	Sara Richardson
Videographer/Technical director	Peter Morrow
Dramaturgy intern (WaxFactory)	Theodor Gabriel
Apprentice stage manager	Sydni Alise

PERFORMERS

Lisa Channer
Theodor Gabriel
Alana Horton
Erika Latta

ARTIST BIOS

Rachel Jendrzejewski (co-creator) is an experimental playwright who works across the U.S. and internationally, frequently collaborating with choreographers, musicians, and visual artists to explore new performative vocabularies. Her work has been incubated/presented by Red Eye Theater, Walker Art Center, Weisman Art Museum, L.A. Performance Practice, Joe's Pub, ICA/Boston, and MASS MoCA, among others. Publications include *ENCYCLOPEDIA* (Spout Press) and *IN WHICH _____ AND OTHERS DISCOVER THE END* with SuperGroup (Plays Inverse). She is a Playwrights' Center Core Writer (former Jerome/McKnight Fellow), 1 of 7 artistic directors at Red Eye, adjunct faculty at Minneapolis College of Art and Design. MFA Playwriting, Brown.

ARTIST BIOS

Ivan Talijančić (concept/co-creator) is a time-based artist and cultural producer, working at the intersection of theater, dance, film, installation art, new media, journalism, curatorial work and education in New York and around the globe. He is the artistic co-director of the multidisciplinary art group WaxFactory. His work has been presented around the US and at numerous international venues and festivals such as the ICA/Institute of Contemporary Arts (London), Centre Pompidou (Paris), Gulbenkian Museum (Lisbon), Zürcher Theater Spektakel (Zurich, Switzerland), FIT/Festival Internacional de Teatro (Caracas, Venezuela), among others. He is currently completing post-production on his first narrative feature film, *416 MINUTES*, and developing his second screenplay, *ID*. Ivan is currently a Professor at the John Wells Directing Program at the Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama.

Theodor Gabriel (dramaturgy intern/performer) is a producer and dramaturg finishing his MFA in Dramaturgy at Columbia in New York City. He has worked as a freelance creative producer, dramaturg, and performer in Berlin (Germany), Western Massachusetts, and New York City. Before Columbia, he served as Associate Producer of Daniel's Art Party, a festival of theatrical events which took place at Bard College at Simon's Rock, where he'd received his BA in Theatre and Literature in 2016. He is also a graduate of the National Theater Institute Semester (2014) and of the London Dramatic Academy (2015). He is very grateful to Ivan and WaxFactory for this opportunity. www.theodorgabriel.com

ARTIST BIOS

Sara Richardson (web design consultant) is an actor-turned-graphic designer based in Minneapolis. She is delighted to come back to play at PWC wearing a different hat for this very fun and innovative project. More about her design work and acting past can be found at hellosaraann.com.

Peter Morrow (videographer/technical director) moved to the Twin Cities from Dublin, Ireland in 2012. Since then he has designed and composed for many companies, colleges, and artists including New Native Theatre, The Guthrie Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Yellow Tree Theatre, zAmya, Red Eye Theatre, Stages Theatre Company, Pangea World Theatre, Theatre Latte Da, Exposed Brick, Macalester College, Augsburg University, Ifrah Mansour, Akiko Ostlund, Threads, Hiponymous, and BRKFST. In Dublin he worked primarily with the company Brokentalkers devising new works.

Sydni Alise (apprentice stage manager) is a recent graduate from Iowa State University. She is an aspiring writer and stage manager from Kansas City, MO. Her personal mission statement is: To shed the weight of the past by translating my personal stories into works that can ignite a fire within young women to speak their truth.

ARTIST BIOS

Alana Horton (performer) is a performance maker with a specific interest in devised theater and ensemble-driven creation methods. She was a core company member of Umbrella Collective from 2015 to 2020, and makes new works with creative technologist Patrick Marschke. Her work has been shown at Red Eye Theater, Bryant Lake Bowl, Bedlam Theater, and LALA FESTIVAL. She makes solo ambient music under the name Alone-a, and drums in Twin Cities band The Controversial New 'Skinny Pill.'

Erika Latta (performer) is the artistic co-director of WaxFactory (NYC). WaxFactory continues to nurture a hybrid approach, based on unconventional narrative styles, original dramaturgy, visual and physical rigor, technological experimentation, and site-responsive work. She is also a member of the site-specific company Begat Theater (France). As an actor, director, sound designer, and educator, she has presented and toured work in international venues and festivals throughout Europe and Latin America, creating long-lasting partnerships with artists and designers. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Theater Performance at the School for Contemporary Arts at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada.

ARTIST BIOS

Lisa Channer (performer) is a director, actor, and producer. Co-Artistic Director, Theatre Novi Most, a Russian and American theater company based in Minneapolis. Rep Venues: New York (Public Theatre, 92nd St Y, Classical Stage, WOW Cafe), Chicago (Organic Lab Theatre), New England (Yale Rep, Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival), Amsterdam (IT's Festival), Belfast (Old Museum Arts Centre), Russia (Bodyword Festival, Osobniak Theatre, etc.), Minneapolis (Illusion Theater, Playwrights' Center, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Red Eye Theater, Park Square, etc.). Awards include Fox Foundation and Fulbright awards. MFA in Directing, Yale School of Drama. Associate Professor University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance. Upcoming: *Standoff* and *Girls of the Painted Bird*, two films by Savannah Reich and Lisa Channer (released 2022).

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT

'21-'22 PLAYLABS FESTIVAL

PlayLabs is one of the nation's most comprehensive new play festivals.

Available online May 6-12 at 7pm CST

THE PERCY MEACHAM DANCE EXPERIENCE

Darren Canady

Core Writer

DIRTY LAUNDRY

Mathilde Dratwa

Core Writer

TRAPT

Stacey Rose

Core Writer

FELLOWS SHOWCASE

Join us for an afternoon of scenes from plays-in-progress by the 2021-22 Playwrights' Center Fellows. This year's showcase will feature works by Jerome, Many Voices & McKnight Writers.

Online performance on Friday,
May 6 at 3:00pm CST

Get your tickets, find info and more.
pwcenter.org/events

See what's coming soon from the Center:

classes

Online Seminar: *Writing through Trauma*

March 28th from 7:00pm - 8:30pm CT

Lester Eugene Mayers

Many Voices Fellow

Online Workshop: *Self-Producing for Playwrights 101*

April 5th, 19th, May 3rd, and 31st from 7:00pm - 8:30pm CT

Olivia Lilley



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



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

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 writers!

Learn more at pwcenter.org/university-programs

FELLOWS & CORE WRITERS

'21 – '22

Lucas Baisch
Vivian J.O. Barnes
Lee Blessing
Trevor Bowen
Sharon Bridgforth
Carlyle Brown
Christin Eve Cato
Nathan Alan Davis
Zola Dee
Mashuq Mushtaq Deen
Mathilde Dratwa
Emily Feldman
L M Feldman
Gina Femia
Jahna Ferron-Smith
Sarahjeen François
Franky D. Gonzalez
Marvin González De León
Jeffrey Hatcher
Gethsemane Herron
Rachel Jendrzewski
Jake Jeppson
JuCoby Johnson
Sofya Levitsky-Weitz
Yilong Liu

Cristina Luzárraga
Elizabeth MacNally
Lester Eugene Mayers
Nubia Monks
Daaimah Mubashshir
Kira Obolensky
John Olive
Phanésia Pharel
T. Mychael Rambo
Atlese Robinson
Stacey Rose
Andrew Rosendorf
Riti Sachdeva
TyLie Shider
Charly Evon Simpson
Crystal Skillman
Jonathan Spector
James Anthony Tyler
P.C. Verrone
James A. Williams
Ray Yamanouchi
Deborah Yarchun
Nathan Yungerberg

Thank you to our Supporters

Giving to Playwrights' Center means supporting equitable theater-making practices. Together with our donors, we look to a future where the paradigm of how art is brought to life is fair-minded and accurately represents the diverse perspectives the world has to offer, not just the voices of a fortunate few. Our donors do more than provide financial support. Supporters partner with us to help in transforming the very world where we live, making the voices of new artists loud and clear enough for all to hear.



Actress Ruth Easton (née Edelstein) was born in North Branch, Minnesota, and graduated from North Branch High School. She attended the University of Minnesota for one year and the following year attended Macalester College before finishing her collegiate career at Cumnock School in Los Angeles. She went on to New York where she studied acting with Oliver Morosco. Mr. Morosco opened a stock theater company in upstate New York where Ms. Easton starred in several plays. After performing with other stock theater companies she returned to New York City where she appeared in five Broadway plays over a period of seven years. They included *Exceedingly Small*, *Privilege Car*, *Town Bay*, *Buckaroo*, and *Charlie Chan*. *Exceedingly Small* was directed by Ethel Barrymore and Easton played opposite Eric Dressler. New York critics praised her performance as “thoroughly touching” and “highly spirited and excellent.” She starred in radio dramas on the Rudy Vallee Hour and the Fleischmann’s Yeast Hour opposite such actors as Walter Huston, Judith Anderson, and Lionel Barrymore. She also appeared with Clark Gable, Eddie Cantor, and Al Jolson during the course of her career. Ms. Easton’s legacy, her commitment to theater, and the development of new works continue through the charitable gifts made by the Ruth Easton Fund of the Edelstein Family Foundation.



The Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust



*This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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, 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, so that we can truly say “Theater begins here.”

Find out more. pwcenter.org/about

Join us.



At Playwrights’ Center, we are working toward creating equitable, accessible spaces and experiences for all because we want everyone to feel welcome. For questions or concerns, please get in touch with us at (612) 332-7481 x1134 or jasminej@pwcenter.org. To find out more about accessibility at the Center, visit pwcenter.org/accessibility