

TheatreWorks
SILICON VALLEY

The Writers'
Retreat Showcase



Writers'
Retreat
Showcase

*Wednesday,
January 27, 2021*

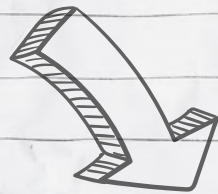
6-8pm P&T

On Zoom



Join Associate Artist and Director of New Works **Giovanna Sardelli** and the creative teams from this year's Writers' Retreat for an in-depth, insider viewing of newly written material from the playwrights and composers themselves. Working together virtually, these amazing artists are creating bold new art for all of us to share.

This year's retreat will feature short presentations of and conversations about the following exciting new creative pieces.



Pas De Deux (lost my shoe)

WRITTEN BY **Lisa Ramirez**

DIRECTED BY **Reiko Aylesworth**

ABOUT : The bonds between siblings are as layered, complex and true as all great loves. At a time when she had just overcome her own addiction, Ms. Ramirez lost her younger brother, a principal dancer with the Oakland ballet, to alcoholism. Upon his death, she enrolled in a ballet class and attempted to learn the dances he had performed. In trying to retrace his steps, she traveled through the complicated terrain of their childhood and tried to come to terms with why she survived and he didn't. A semi-autobiographical dance theater piece about memory, grief, forgiveness and freedom.

The play was originally developed at the Cherry Lane Theatre's Mentor Project in New York.

Lisa Ramirez and Reiko Aylesworth have been collaborating on various original film and TV projects recently and are looking forward to exploring **PAS DE DEUX (lost my shoe)** through a new lens and medium (Zoom).



ARTIST BIOS:

LISA RAMIREZ Exit Cuckoo (nanny in motherland), world premiere produced by the Working Theater in NYC (Colman Domingo- director), toured in various theatres throughout the U.S. and Ireland. Other writing credits include: *Art Of Memory*, a dance theatre piece commissioned by Company SoGoNo and presented at the 3-Legged Dog in NYC (Tanya Calamoneri- director); *Pas*

de Deux (lost my shoe), Cherry Lane Theatre - *Mentor Project* (Bryan Davidson Blue - director); *To The Bone*, originally a Working Theater commission, world premiere produced by the Cherry Lane Theatre (Lisa Peterson-director); *Down Here Below*, an adaptation of Maxim Gorky's *The Lower Depths*, commission and world premiere by the Oakland Theater Project (Michael French - director); *In The Mountains*, a short play commission by The Workshop Theater (Thomas Cote'-director). Currently working on two different scripts for TV and a commission of *sAiNt jOaN (burn/burn/burn)*, an adaptation for the Oakland Theater Project, where she serves as Associate Artistic Director.

REIKO AYLESWORTH (DIRECTOR) Reiko moved to NYC from Chicago, where she studied acting and began directing theater. She was soon in original productions by Eric Bogosian, Lyle Kessler, John Patrick Shanley and many others. She was recently in a play by Inda Craig-Galvan and directed by Robert O'Hare at The Geffen Playhouse. She played the role of Michelle Dessler on the TV



show "24" and has been in over a hundred episodes and films. She directed her first comedic short film, *Veronica*, in 2017 which enjoyed many awards and festivals. In 2020, she directed another short film which was just accepted to the Toronto International Women's Film Festival. She is thrilled and energized by the current demand for fresh and underrepresented stories.

The Voice Box

CREATED & WRITTEN BY **Marianne Lewis**
DIRECTED BY **Giovanna Sardelli**

ABOUT : *The Voice Box* is a story set in a very small town located deep in the mind of the author. The township is of the belief that it is a vast and powerful country, here to silence Marianne and run her life forevermore with smallness and lies. This attempt at healing through a one-woman show is a journey of self, embracing humor, songs, characters, and storytelling to expose the battling voices within to the light of truth and to reclaim the territory that is one's own right to life.



ARTIST BIOS:

MARIANNE LEWIS is a transformational artist dedicated to raising the vibration of love throughout the planet. As a vocalist, songwriter, choir director and filmmaker, Marianne channels her messages of heart, humor and truth to assist humanity in awakening to our greatness! Marianne is the Director of Music and Arts for Agape Spiritual Center. She is also the Director of the Agape

International & Global Choirs. She and her crew have shared the stage with Stevie Wonder, Will I. Am, Jordan Smith from "The Voice," Dwayne Johnson, Chaka Khan, and the Dalai Lama. Marianne is the writer, director and producer of the short film, *Go With The Fro*, which was nationally televised on BETJ and took the prize for Best Short at the Broad Humor Film Festival in 2006.



GIOVANNA SARDELLI (DIRECTOR, TheatreWorks Artistic Associate & Director of New Works) Besides Sardelli's well-received productions with TheatreWorks, she has directed and developed plays around the country, including many off-Broadway productions over the past decade. Her directing credits include Rajiv Joseph's first professional production, *Huck & Holden* (Cherry Lane), as well as the World Premieres of *The North Pool*

(TheatreWorks), and *Animals Out of Paper* (Second Stage), for which she was awarded the Joe A. Callaway Award for Best Direction, and the recent production of the Obie Award-winning play *Describe The Night* at Atlantic Theatre. Her West Coast Premiere of Mathew Lopez' *The Whipping Man* for The Globe Theatre won her an NAACP nomination for Best Director and her production of Rajiv Joseph's *Guards at the Taj* for the Geffen Theatre won the 2016 Ovation Award for Best Production of a Play. Sardelli holds an MFA in Acting from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and taught in NYU's Graduate Acting Program as well as its Dance Department. Before being invited to train at NYU's prestigious Director's Lab program, Sardelli worked as a professional actress for a decade in television and theatre.

Currency

CONCEIVED BY **Dan Wolf**

PERFORMED & WRITTEN BY: **Dan Wolf, Philip Wong, Delina Patrice, Ryan Nicole, Juan Amador**

DEVELOPED WITH & DIRECTED BY: **Sean San Jose**

COMPOSER: **Keith Pinto**

ABOUT : *Currency* breaks open *Merchant of Venice* and pieces it back together with text, music and video, telling it from the perspectives of the Shylocks of our world. Told with the energy of the marketplace, on 4 corners, in four styles, docked at the ports of our cities.



ARTIST BIOS:

DAN WOLF is a hip-hop artist who works with rap, theatre, personal narrative, and history to give voice to the problematic world we live in. His multi-sensory work draws its power from years of experience working, teaching, and performing with the critically acclaimed hip-hop music and theatre collective Felonious. His debut album "Blood and Bones, Skin and Scars" is a fearless exploration of ideals, values, and vulnerability and marks his debut as a solo hip-hop musician. His projects have travelled all around the world from concert halls to museums to schools and memorial sites where he engages history and culture as a prompt to make vital music and theatre that can only live in this moment. He is a Resident Playwright at the Playwright Foundation in San Francisco and is the co-founder of the Bay Area Theatre Cypher, a collective of performers who live on the cross fader of hip hop, theatre, activism, and community.



RYAN NICOLE AUSTIN (WRITER/PERFORMER)

Ryan's most fulfilling experiences intersect art and activism, using her career in music and media to empower community. Ryan is featured on Alphabet Rockers' Grammy-nominated album *The Love*, TEDx San Francisco, ESPN's "NBA Christmas," and has performed for such notable figures as President Barack Obama. The California State Assembly-recognized artist is the Founder of The HAVEN

Project, a cultural media housing justice initiative, and FITTRIP, a travel fitness and wellness guide. She was Executive Director of Youth Movement Records, where she supported the aspirations of thousands of young people seeking careers in the arts. Ryan has been a playwright-in-residence at New York's Public Theater through the BARS workshop, and has been selected to present original works for the National Performance Network & National American Musical Theater Festival. Ryan is the co-writer for a musical in development, CoFounders, and is engaged with several ongoing film and theatre/q1 productions both as an actress and writer.



PHIL WONG (WRITER/PERFORMER) is an actor, writer, and musician from Oakland, CA in unceded Chochenyo Ohlone territory. Bay Area credits include work with TheatreWorks, Cal Shakes, ACT, SF Shakes, Word for Word, Shotgun Players, Bay Area Children's Theater, Hillbarn Theatre, Quantum Dragon, The EXIT, Palo Alto Players, Lamplighters, Killing My Lobster, Los Altos Stage, and Ray of Light. He is a graduate of Oberlin College, a

member of the first Bay Area #BARS Cohort, and received his physical theatre training at the Accademia dell' Arte in Arezzo, Italy. Phil is also a Resident Artist with SF Shakes and co-founder of Bay Area Theatre Cypher. Phil has been active in his theatre community since he was very young and is actively working to make his art more conscious, empathetic, relevant, and revolutionary.



SEAN SAN JOSÉ (DEVELOPER/DIRECTOR) is a writer, director, performer, and co-founder of Campo Santo, a new performances company for People of Color in San Francisco. Founded in 1996, Campo Santo is an award-winning group committed to developing new performance and to nurturing People of Color centered new audiences and has premiered nearly 100 new pieces. He is hyped to return to work with longtime collaborators on Dan Wolf's piece.



DELINA PATRICE BROOKS (WRITER/

PERFORMER) is a multi-hyphenate whose work has been commissioned/presented by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, National Performance Network, CounterPulse Theater, The Black Choreographers Festival, LA Women's Theater Festival, Dance Brigade's D.I.R.T Festival, AfroSolo Festival and more. Brooks wrote and produced the Izzie-award

winning evening-length play, *An Open Love Letter to Black Fathers* and the short film series *Bare Soles Bare Soul*, whose premiere sold out at Oakland's Historic Grand Lake Theater. She's toured the U.S. and Western Europe with The Living Word Project and Youth Speaks, and choreographed and danced for Nas & Damian Marley, Kanye West's Sunday Service at Coachella and Chance the Rapper on SNL among others. A member of several Bay Area theatre and dance companies, Delina was also the movement director for *Casa de Spirits*, a play written & directed by Roger Guenveur Smith for Campo Santo. Visit her at WWW.DELINADREAM.COM



JUAN AMADOR (WRITER/PERFORMER) is an actor,

emcee, DJ, and member of Campo Santo. Regional Credits: *Between Riverside and Crazy* (San Jose Stage); *Quixote Nuevo* (Cal Shakes); *Oedipus El Rey*, *A Lie of the Mind* (Magic Theatre); *Candlestick* (ACT Costume Shop); *Casa de Spirits* (Yerba Buena Center for the Arts); *To The Bone* (Ubuntu Theater Project); *Babylon is Burning* (Z Space); *Superheroes* (Cutting Ball Theater). National Tours: *Quixote*

Nuevo (Hartford Stage/Huntington Theatre Company/Alley Theatre); *Nogales* (Borderlands Theater/Magic Theater); *Tree City Legends* (Living Word Project). Web Series: East Willy B. Film: *Side Effects* (Campo Santo). Awards: Connecticut Critics Circle; Grammy Award nominee.



KEITH PINTO (COMPOSER) is a multi-disciplinary

artist from the peninsula. He is a graduate of the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts and has been a dance instructor at San Jose State University for nearly 20 years. As an actor, choreographer, director and musician he's worked all over the Bay Area as well as out of New York. He appeared as Joey Storms in the TheatreWorks production of

Fly by Night. He has received a Critics Circle award for his role as Bil" in *Me and My Girl* at 42nd Street Moon as well as TBA awards for his role as The Emcee in *Cabaret* at Hillbarn Theater and his choreography of *Altar Boys* at CenterRep. Most recently he appeared in *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Chicago* at San Jose Stage. His choreography has also been featured in *Mamma Mia!* at San Jose Stage, Colossal (Critics Circle Award) and *Dogfight* at San Francisco Playhouse. Keith is a proud collaborator with the Bay Area Theatre Cypher as well as co-founder of the award-

winning hip hop band and theatre company, Felonious. Felonious theatre pieces, which Pinto appeared in as well as choreographed include: *Beatbox: A Raparetta* at Theatre Artaud, *Angry Black White Boy* and *Block by Block* with Campo Santo and *Stateless: A Hip Hop Vaudeville Experience* at Jewish Theater SF. Felonious has recorded numerous albums and performed with groups such as: The Black Eyed Peas, LL Cool J, The Roots, Digital Underground and De La Soul.

Braided: A Native Noh Story

A DEvised, COLLABORATIVELY WRITTEN PIECE BY

Theatre of Yugen: Shannon Davis,
Kyoko Yoshida, Miwa Kaneko, Steven
Flores, Anne Yumi Kobori

ABOUT: An intergalactic, pan-dimensional, haunted, Noh-inspired fall down the proverbial worm hole into Native American liberation and Japanese American resilience. Fates intertwined; epigenetic trauma and joy braided together through the fabric of time.



ARTIST BIOS:

SHANNON DAVIS (she/hers) (DIRECTOR/LEAD WRITER/PRODUCER) Originally from Wisconsin, Shannon is a San Francisco Bay Area-based Director/Artist. MFA in Directing & Acting from UW-Madison. Studied with The Moscow Art Theatre, and is the Former Killian Directing Fellow at The Oregon Shakespeare Festival. She has worked with the following companies: New Native Theatre

Company, American Conservatory Theatre, American Indian Community House, The American Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Theatre of Yugen, Berkeley Rep, Brava Theater, The Ashland New Play Festival, Forward Theatre, Shotgun Players, CalShakes, TheatreWorks, Theatre Bay Area, Children's Theatre of Madison, Playwrights Foundation, San Anselmo Playhouse, BACT, Vortex Rep, others. WWW.SHANNONRDAVIS.COM



KYOKO YOSHIDA (she/hers) (CO-DIRECTOR OF THEATRE OF YUGEN) Kyoko has served the performing arts field for over 30 years as a presenter, producer and consultant, with a focus on artistic and cultural exchange between the United States and Japan. She is the founder and executive director of the U.S./Japan Cultural Trade Network (CTN), which designs and implements arts and

cultural programs in both countries. Kyoko worked with Theatre of Yugen on project basis since 2005, before becoming Co-Director. She also worked with the National Performance Network, Arts Midwest, the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, and with Spiral in Tokyo. Kyoko translates theatrical scripts between Japanese and English, and holds an MFA in performing arts management from CUNY Brooklyn College.



MIWA KANEKO (she/hers) (CO-DIRECTOR OF THEATRE OF YUGEN) Miwa has worked in the arts and entertainment field since 2006. As part of the international business development division of The John Gore Organization, she facilitated Japan tours of Broadway musicals. At Gorgeous Entertainment, she organized Japan Day @ Central Park, an annual outdoor cultural festival. She helped produce the play *Kafka on the Shore* directed by Yukio Ninagawa and presented at the Lincoln Center Festival, and the musical *Prince of Broadway* directed by Harold Prince and premiered in Japan in 2015. In 2017, Miwa became associate director of the U.S./Japan Cultural Trade Network (CTN). In 2019, she worked for *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon: The Super Live* and *Japan Night* concerts, both of which were part of the Japan 2019 Initiative led by the Japan Foundation. Miwa holds a J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law.



STEVEN FLORES (he/his/they) (LEAD WRITER/ACTOR) Steven is a Bay Area-based actor, puppet creator, and visual artist that works at the intersection of traditional healing and performance. He's a descendant of the Numunuu & Mexica Indigenous peoples. He originated the role of Seketemaqua/Luke in *Manhatta* for its premiere at The Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Yale Repertory Theatre, *Menelaus* in *Helen* and *Master Puppeteer* for *Puppets & Poe* at Theatre of Yugen. Other credits: *Last of the Caucasians* (The Barrow Group Theater Company, NY) *Delusion: The Blood Rite* (Haunted Play, Los Angeles), *Jakubei in A Noh Christmas Carol* (T. of Y. San Francisco). TV/Film: **The Monster Project**, "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia." Studied at Herbert Berghof Studio, NY.



ANNE YUMI KOBORI (she/hers) (CO-WRITER) Anne is a Japanese-American theatre artist. Her plays *Seeds* and *Every Day Alice*, and her adaptation of *The Seagull*, have premiered with Utopia Theatre Project. Her pieces *The Art of Suffrage* and *Coward's Flame* have premiered at Monday Night Play Ground. Recent performance credits

include Masha in *Three Sisters*, Nina in *The Seagull* (Utopia Theatre Project), the title role in *Hamlet* (Silicon Valley Shakespeare) and Celia in *As You Like It* the musical (SF Shakespeare Festival). Her passion is the intersection of experiential theatre and reimagined mythology. BA, Santa Clara University.

WWW.ANNEYUMIKOBORI.COM



RÉAL VARGAS ALANIS (they/them | inde/ima | Elle/Elles) (CO-WRITER/ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR)

Réal Vargas Alanis is a multifaceted-indigenous-queer-artist-humanitarian-curandera from the barrio of what is currently known as Winton, CA (Yokut). Réal focuses on new works centering social justice uplifting marginalized stories and artists (pero-like, via a mystical rave). They have had the privilege of training and working both nationally

and internationally. Réal is the current Artistic Director and co-founder of In The Margin; leading an ensemble of intersectional and interdisciplinary QT, BIPOC artists. They are among the first cohort of NNPN's Bridge Program and serves on the Latinx Theatre Commons Steering Committee. They are currently a reader for multiple festivals including San Diego Rep's Latinx New Play Festival and have had the pleasure of working as an Actor, Assistant Director, and Bilingual Teaching Artist for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; Creative Producer for the Latino Theatre Company; Playwright with Theatre of Yugen; held a Residency with Yale Repertory Theatre; is a proud partner of B St. Theatre and Native Voices; and is the founder of the civic engagement coalition Central Valley vs Covid19. Réal loves to dance, turning the timeline from linear to circular, blending time into one.

IG @REALVALANIS



TY DEFOE (Giizhig) (he/they) (MOVEMENT, LANGUAGE & CULTURAL CONSULTANT) Oneida & Ojibwe Nations. As two-spirit, Ty takes an integrated approach to artistic projects, social justice, indigeneity, & environmentalism. Globally: Millennium Celebration, Cairo; Ankara International Music Festival; Festival of World Cultures, Dubai. Guest artist, the National Museum of the American Indian, Washington DC/NYC. NEA recipient

for Drum is Thunder, Flute is Wind. Awards: Grammy for "Come to Me Great Mystery"; Arts Outstanding Performance Award; Robert Rauschenberg Residency; Institute of the American Indian Arts Visiting Artist; 2017 Jonathan Larson Award winner, book/lyrics for *Clouds Are Pillows for the Moon* (w/Tidtaya Sinutoke, Yale Institute-Musical Theatre). Credits: *The Way They Lived* (Boo/lyrics w/Micharne Cloughley & *The Civilians* at Met Museum, NYC); *Ajijaak* on Turtle Island (Writer/Director La MaMa Theater, NYC); *Manhatta & Mother Road* (Movement, Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Straight White Men* by Young Jean Lee (Actor, B'way).



FREDDY GUTIERREZ (he/him), (CO-WRITER/CONSULTANT) Freddy, vato de aquellos, MFA, accomplished writer, teaching artist, and cultural worker. Freddy has taught with Youth Speaks, Chapter 510, and the Oakland Public Library. He facilitates writing and performance arts spaces with men who are policed, imprisoned, and marginalized by the prison-industrial complex. Currently he directs a performance project at San Quentin State Prison that is known as the Artistic Ensemble and will be a dance/performance artist in residence this summer (2019) at the Headlands Center for the Arts. He specializes in using the Acto & Mytho, foundations of Chicano Theatre, as catalysts for storytelling. His poetry has been widely published and is a call for positive male socialization, pro-proletariat, and anti-colonial. Freddy's work has been published by *The Acentos Review*, *POOR Magazine*, the *Nomadic Press* and University of Houston's *Arte Publico Press* and was featured as LoWriter of the Week selected by U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera.



ADRIENNE KAORI-WALTERS (CO-WRITER) Adrienne Walters is a hapa actor, writer, and teacher, born and raised in the Bay Area. Off stage, she specializes in youth theatre education and community building. She is a part of the creative team leading Hillbarn's Teen company, dedicated to providing in depth theatre education and training to teenagers, as well as a teaching artist for various arts education companies throughout the Bay Area. Past credits: Emma in *The Language Archive* (TheatreWorks), Molly Aster in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (TheatreWorks), *Blasted* (Shotgun Players), *Our Practical Heaven* (Aurora Theatre), *Spring Awakening* (Center REP), and *Beneath the Tall Tree* (TheatreFIRST) where she made her playwriting debut alongside Jeffrey Lo. She has a BA in Anthropology, a minor in Classics, and practices archaeology abroad. Proud member of Actor's Equity Association. WWW.ADRIENNEWALTERS.COM



THEATRE OF YUGEN
(CO-PRODUCER/NOH & KYOGEN CONSULTANT)

Located in the Mission District of San Francisco, Theatre of Yugen ("Yugen") has been dedicated to creating intercultural, multi-sensory, and experimental works inspired by the 600 year-old Japanese theatre traditions of Noh and Kyogen. By drawing on the Japanese aesthetics of "yugen" (otherworldly profundity), Yugen produces original works characterized by artistic hybridity and collaborates with artists of various genres to promote intercultural understanding through traditional Japanese theatre and its contemporary interpretations.
WWW.THEATREOFYUGEN.ORG

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