



BOISE CONTEMPORARY THEATER

BIPOC

5TH ANNUAL PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

The Wetlands by AriDy Nox
Jesa, or the Realm of Possibility
by Jeena Yi

AUGUST 20-23



BOISE CONTEMPORARY THEATER

BIPOC

5TH ANNUAL PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

Special Thanks to Our Festival Sponsors:



The Gladys E. Langroise
Advised Fund in the



IDAHO
COMMUNITY
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NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**



boise guest house

Our 25|26 MainStage Season can be found on page 15, or visit:
<https://bctheater.org/2526-mainstage-season/>

BCT 
BOISE CONTEMPORARY THEATER
We Tell Stories Here.

Welcome to Boise Contemporary Theater's fifth annual BIPOC Playwrights Festival! What better way to adhere to our Mission of inspiring our community to examine our perspectives and better understand ourselves, each other, and the world around us by creating thought-provoking stories of the human experience than by bringing new stories penned by artists from all over the country to Boise? We are committed to ensuring that all aspects of the human experience are explored on our stages.

This beloved Festival for Playwrights who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color is supported in part by The Morrison Center Endowment Foundation, The Gladys E. Langroise Advised Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Boise Guest House, and hundreds of generous donors. BCT is grateful for the financial support that allows this festival to bring esteemed playwrights, directors, and actors together to present stories and characters not often seen in Boise theater.

This year's BIPOC Playwrights Festival selections are:

Jesa, or the Realm of Possibility
by **Jeena Yi**
Directed by Mei Ann Teo

The Wetlands
by **AriDy Nox**
Directed by Chanel Bragg

BIPOC PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL SCHEDULE:

Reserve a Panel Ticket

- **WED, 8/20 at 7 PM:**
 - **Playwrights' Panel** – Meet these emerging playwrights as they discuss their plays, the Festival process, and answer audience questions! **Free, but seating is limited. Reserve a ticket here or call our box office at 208-331-9224.**

Buy a \$25 Festival Pass

\$25 Festival Pass includes **all** readings.

\$10 Student Festival Pass

\$10 **Student** Festival Pass **with a valid student ID.**

- **FRI, 8/22 at 2 PM:**
 - Staged reading of *Jesa, or the Realm of Possibility* by Jeena Yi
- **FRI, 8/22 at 7 PM:**
 - Staged reading of *The Wetlands* by AriDy Nox
- **SAT, 8/23 at 2 PM:**
 - Staged reading of *The Wetlands* by AriDy Nox
- **SAT, 8/23 at 7 PM:**
 - Staged reading of *Jesa, or the Realm of Possibility* by Jeena Yi

\$15 Single Event Ticket

Tickets to individual readings are \$15 each.

Jesa, or the Realm of Possibility

by Jeena Yi

Directed by Mei Ann Teo

When four estranged Korean American sisters reunite in Orange County, CA to perform their parent's Jesa—a traditional ritual honoring the dead—old wounds erupt, secrets surface, and ghosts (literal and emotional) refuse to stay buried. Watch as the sisters try to break free of the cycles of conditioning they've inherited, while simultaneously clinging to their heritage and chasing the illusive American dream. The play asks, how do we as Asian women, develop and maintain an honest sense of self in a culture that favors exceptionalism when we've been raised to simultaneously blend in AND strive for beyond what our foremothers have achieved?



Jeena Yi*

Playwright

Jeena Yi is a Korean American actor, writer, and serial DIY'er. Born and raised in Los Angeles, she now calls New York City home. Captivated by what drives us forward each day, she relishes exploring the complexities and absurdity of human nature. Whether through performing on stage and screen or crafting emotionally charged worlds in her writing. Recent credits as an actor, *Nyad* (Netflix), *The Resident* (FOX), *Only Murders in the Building* (Hulu). Jeena made her Broadway debut in *Network*, starring Bryan Cranston, directed by Ivo Van Hove. Jeena is a member of Seoulful Productions 2025 Korean Writers Lab. Her first play, *Jesa, or the Realm of Possibility*, will make its off-Broadway premiere through Ma Yi Theater Co. at The Public Theater in Spring 2026. MFA Columbia University. @JeenaYi

The Wetlands

by AriDy Nox

Directed by Chanel Bragg

Trapped in *The Wetlands*, Nita and Tara find themselves in a deadly race against time as they desperately seek a way out of their shared limbo...before it's too late. But the only way out is through, and with the audience there to bear witness, Nita and Tara bravely face what haunts them in order to make a way for a new beginning.



AriDy Nox

Playwright

AriDy Nox is a multi-disciplinary black femme storyteller with a variety of forward-thinking creative works under their belt, including the historical reimagining of the life of Sally Hemings, *Black Girl in Paris* (2020), the ancestral reckoning play *A Walless Church* (2019), the cross-generational magical realism *Freshwater Play* (2020) series, and many others. Their tales are offerings intended to function as small parts of an ancient, expansive, awe-inspiring tradition of world-shaping created by black femmes and with black femmes at the center. They have been inordinately privileged to share the workings of their imagination in collaboration with a vast array of inspiring and supportive artists of various radical backgrounds throughout the country.

Jesa, or the Realm of Possibility

by Jeena Yi



Mei Ann Teo

Director

Mei Ann Teo, Director, makes theatre at the intersection of artistic/civic/contemplative practice, across genres, including music theatre, intermedial participatory work, classics, and documentary theatre. Teo's work has been in international festivals in Europe and Asia, and has directed/developed new work across the US including The Public, Bushwick Starr, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Theatreworks Hartford, The Shed, Goodman Theatre, Public Theater, Berkeley Rep, and the National Black Theatre. Work includes Dim Sum Warriors by Colin Goh and Yen Yen Woo, composer Du Yun at Shanghai's Theatre Above and 25 city China tour, and Madeline Sayet's Where We Belong national tour produced by Woolly Mammoth Theatre and the Folger Shakespeare Library. Teo has served as the Artistic Director of Musical Theatre Factory and the Assoc. Artistic Director and Director of New Work at OSF. Teo is currently the Artistic Director, New Work at Pink Fang, formerly Ping Chong and Company.



Tina Chilip*

(TINA)

Tina Chilip is a New York based actor who has appeared Off-Broadway in Knight of the Burning Pestle (Red Bull), Twelfth Night (Classic Stage Company), both co-productions with Fiasco Theater; A Delicate Balance (Transport Group); Mothers (Playwrights Realm); Golden Child (Signature Theater); House Rules, Flipzoids (Ma-Yi Theater); A Dream Play (NAATCO). Regional: Yale Rep, Old Globe, Huntington Theatre, Guthrie, Hudson Valley Shakespeare, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Portland Center Stage, Berkeley Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, Syracuse Stage, Trinity Rep. TV: Law & Order: SVU, Jessica Jones, It's Bruno!, Law & Order: Criminal Intent, FBI: Most Wanted, Good Fight, Elementary, Deception, Madam Secretary. Feature Films: Nonnas, Miguel Wants to Fight, Doctor Doctor. Training: MFA, Brown/Trinity Rep. Proud company member of Fiasco Theater, and The Actors Center

Jesa, or the Realm of Possibility

by Jeena Yi



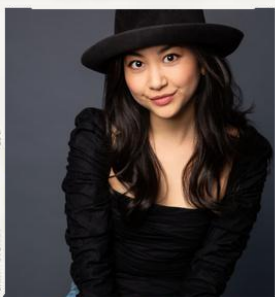
Narea Kang*
(BRENDA)

Narea Kang (she/her) is a Korean American actor based in LA. Off Broadway/New York: Cymbeline (NAATCO), Madonna col Bambino (Ars Nova & New Ohio Theatre), Salty (Lyra Theater). Select Regional: world premier of Lloyd Suh's The Heart Sellers (Milwaukee Rep), The Chinese Lady (Denver Center), White Pearl (Studio Theatre), The Hard Problem (American Conservatory Theater). TV: "Law & Order: SVU" (NBC), "Betty" (HBO). Film: Jules. Training: MFA Acting, American Conservatory Theater.



Sami Ma*
(GRACE)

Sami Ma is a queer, first-gen kid enjoying the messy terrain between her Chinese culture and American upbringing. Select credits: Once Upon A (Korean) Time (Ma-Yi Theatre); Soft Magic Tofu Boy(s) (Eugene O'Neill NMTC); Hello Kitty Must Die (Edinburgh Fringe); RENT (Paper Mill Playhouse); The Chinese Lady (Cincinnati Playhouse, Adirondack Theatre Festival); Christmas Carol (Indiana Repertory Theatre); Nativity Variations (Milwaukee Rep); The Great Leap (Portland Center Stage); and 4,000 Miles (Gloucester Stage Company). TV/film credits: Tender Ears and Death Saved My Life. Thank you to everyone at BCT, the Jesa crew, their family, and Lohne/Graham Management. For her guardian angel, Jason Ma.



Laura Sohn *
(ELIZABETH)

Laura Sohn was born and raised in New Jersey. Stage Credits: Peerless (Barrington Stage Theater), Love Labour's Lost (Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis). TV Credits: "God Friend Me," "NCIS: New Orleans," "Instinct," "The Blacklist." BFA, Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts.

Jesa, or the Realm of Possibility

by Jeena Yi



Elena Maddy
Stage Manager

Elena Maddy (she/her/hers) is a stage manager and artist across disciplines based in Boise, Idaho. She is honored to be Boise Contemporary Theater's resident stage manager and Alley Repertory Theater's production manager, as well as to have worked with artists and companies throughout the Treasure Valley and beyond. She is extremely grateful for the opportunity to support the work of the artists in this year's BIPOC Playwrights Festival! All her love to Tris, in every timeline.

The Wetlands

by AriDy Nox



Chanel Bragg
Director

Chanel Bragg is thrilled to return to Boise Contemporary Theater's BIPOC Playwrights Festival for a second season. Regional directing credits include Clyde's (Boise Contemporary Theatre), Stick Fly (St. Louis Rep), Reggie Hoops (Profile Theatre), Newsies (Fort Peck Summer Theatre), Waitress, Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill, Looking Over the President's Shoulder (The Phoenix Theatre Co), The Glass Menagerie (Arizona Theatre Co), The Hula-Hooping Queen (Childsplay), Sweat (Stray Cat Theatre), and The African Company Presents Richard III (Black Theatre Troupe). Educational credits include The Piano Lesson (Pima Community College), Hair, Six, Lizzie, The Wolves, and School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play (Spotlight Youth Theatre). Chanel co-produced The Alexander Project (a Hamilton revue with Live Nation), founded United Colours of Arizona Theatre, and served three seasons as Associate Artistic Director at Arizona Theatre Company. Her honors include PHOENIX Magazine's "Great 48," AZ Capitol Times "Arts Leader of the Year," and American Theatre Magazine's "10 Rising Black Women to Watch."

*Member of Actors' Equity Association,
the Union of Professional Actors and
Stage Managers in the United States.

The Wetlands

by AriDy Nox



Cynnita Agent
(TARA)

Cynnita Agent is a proud graduate of Texas Southern University's theatre and performing arts program. She made her Phoenix debut as Addaperle in Black Theatre Troupe's stunning 2018 Production of The Wiz. Some of her most pivotal roles include Cleopatra in Antony and Cleopatra, Goneril in King Lear, Dora Strang in Equus, Felicity in The Shadow Box, Lady Blue in For Colored Girls, Blue Daniels in Steal Away, Rita in the OCTC production of Educating Rita and Mary Girard in The Insanity of Mary Girard. Cynnita is also the recipient of the 2024 Best Actress Arizona award for her portrayal of Lady Macbeth in the Southwest Shakespeare production of Macbeth.



Racquel McKenzie*
(NITA)

Racquel McKenzie is a Phoenix actor who hails from the beautiful island of Jamaica. She has her BA in performance from SIUC. She has been seen as Ernestine (Crumbs From the Table of Joy), SBF 2 (Single Black Female), Hermia (A Midsummer Night's Dream), and Ferdinand (The Duchess of Malfi) Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival, as Jewel (The Taste Test) and Danitra (Lines In The Dust) Black Theater Troupe, Celia (As You Like It), Gertrude (Hamlet), and Mobray/Queen (Richard II) Southwest Shakespeare Company as Sara (Stop Kiss), Shelita Burns (Bee-Luther-Hatchee), and Kanika (Permanent Collection) Emerson Theater Collaborative, as Macy (The Cake) Stray Cat Theater, and as Jo (The Legend of Georgia McBride) Arizona Theater Company. She is the Equality and Casting Director for Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival, a published cover model, published poet, dancer and frequent traveler. She is excited to be working with Boise Contemporary Theater.



John Wicks
Stage Manager

John is excited for his third year stage managing for the BIPOC festival. He works as an Actor, Stage Manager, and Director in theaters around the valley. He loves telling stories about those on the margin and is excited to continue that work during the BIPOC festival! Thank you to Ben, Lily, Elena, and the whole team at BCT for being a wonderful and supportive team.

BCT

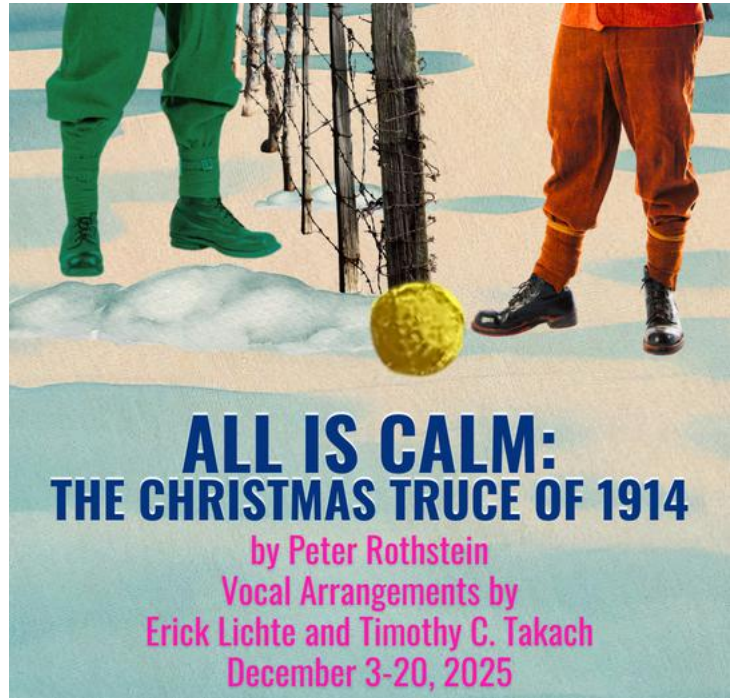
BOISE CONTEMPORARY THEATER

25|26 SEASON



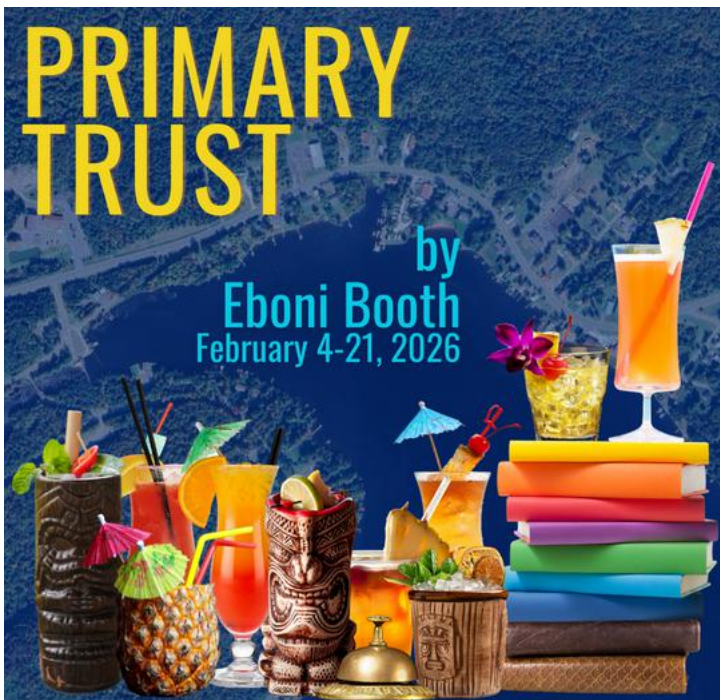
EUREKA DAY
by
Jonathan Spector
October 1-18, 2025

The poster features the title 'EUREKA DAY' in large, colorful, block letters. Below the title, the author's name 'Jonathan Spector' and the dates 'October 1-18, 2025' are written in white. The background is a light blue with faint, circular patterns. At the bottom, several hands are shown with fingers spread, each painted a different color (red, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink).



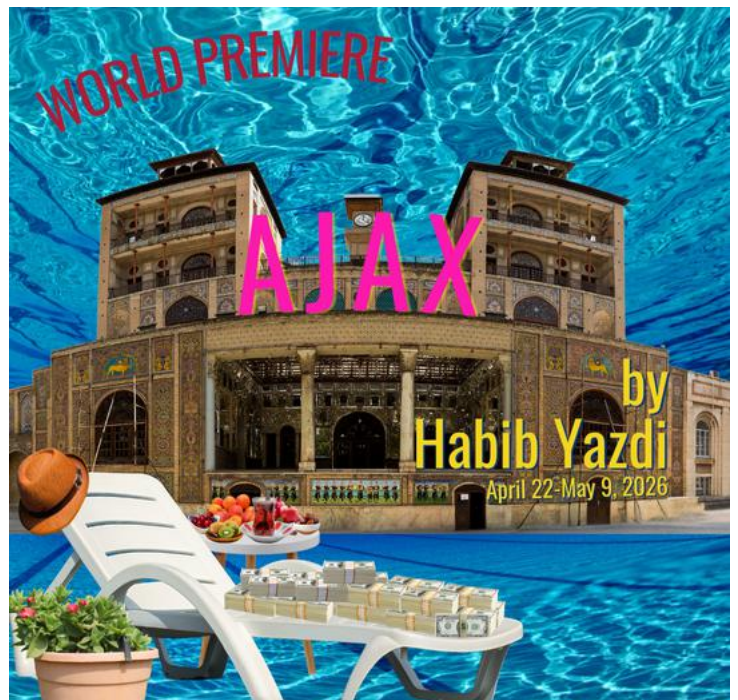
**ALL IS CALM:
THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914**
by Peter Rothstein
Vocal Arrangements by
Erick Lichte and Timothy C. Takach
December 3-20, 2025

The poster shows the lower legs and feet of two soldiers standing on a snowy field. One soldier is wearing green pants and boots, the other is wearing brown pants and boots. A yellow ball is on the ground between them. The background is a light blue and white striped pattern.



PRIMARY TRUST
by
Ebony Booth
February 4-21, 2026

The poster features the title 'PRIMARY TRUST' in large, yellow, block letters. Below the title, the author's name 'Ebony Booth' and the dates 'February 4-21, 2026' are written in white. The background is a dark blue with a faint, circular pattern. At the bottom, there is a stack of colorful books (yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, blue, green) and several tropical drinks in various containers (mugs, glasses, a pineapple).



WORLD PREMIERE
AJAX
by
Habib Yazdi
April 22-May 9, 2026

The poster shows a large, ornate building with a clock tower, set against a background of blue water. The title 'AJAX' is written in large, pink, block letters. Below the title, the author's name 'Habib Yazdi' and the dates 'April 22-May 9, 2026' are written in white. In the foreground, there is a white lounge chair, a table with a fruit basket, and a stack of money.

We Tell Stories Here.

25|26 SEASON EVENTS

This summer we kicked off our first ever first annual LOCALS ONLY Summer Series featuring all kinds of local artists. Now, our fifth annual BIPOC Playwrights Festival is back at BCT! Come back in October when we open our 25|26 MainStage Season sprinkled with our 5X5 Reading Series, Children's Reading Series, and Theater Lab performances. Our season focuses on the healing powers of laughter, reflection, and hope. Please join us often!

Theater Lab Class August 25 - October 25	AUG	5th Annual BIPOC Playwrights Festival August 20-23
Stage One Class September 9 - October 16	SEP	Annual Gala at BCT September 19
Explorations of Acting One Class September 9 – October 14		Eureka Day by Jonathan Spector October 1-18
First Thursday Happy Hour October 2	OCT	5X5 Reading Series October 13
Explorations of Acting Two Class Dates TBA		
Know the Show: Eureka Day October 19	NOV	All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914 by Peter Rothstein, Vocal Arrangements by Erick Lichte and Timothy C. Takach December 3-20
Theater Lab Performances Late October/Early November		
First Thursday Happy Hour December 4	DEC	Primary Trust by Eboni Booth February 4-21
Children's Reading Series December 14		5X5 Reading Series February 16
Know the Show: All is Calm December 21	JAN	5X5 Reading Series March 23
First Thursday Happy Hour February 5	FEB	World Premiere AJAX by Habib Yazdi April 22-May 9
Know the Show: Primary Trust February 22		5X5 Reading Series May 4
Theater Lab Class March 3 - May 17	MAR	5X5 Reading Series June 15
First Thursday Happy Hour March 5		
Stage One Class March 10 - April 23	APR	
Acting for Professionals Class March, Dates TBA	MAY	
Children's Reading Series Late Spring/Early Summer	JUN	
First Thursday Happy Hour May 7		
Theater Lab Performances Mid-May		
Know the Show: Ajax May 17		

SEASON PASSES

\$780

The BCT BOX Season Pass

One use of the BCT BOX, seating up to six, for each MainStage show during our 25|26 Season. Includes two bottles of wine and a complimentary selection of bar sponsors' goodies. *Select any performance of your choice, subject to availability.*

\$540

The BCT BOX PREVIEW Season Pass

Includes everything in our regular BCT BOX Season Pass, but is **only available on Preview Nights**. *Select any Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday Preview Night of your choice, subject to availability.*

\$120

Premium Season Pass

One ticket to each MainStage show during our 25|26 Season **in Section A**. *Select any performance of your choice, subject to availability.*

\$99

Standard Season Pass

One ticket to each MainStage show during our 25|26 Season **in Section B**. *Select any performance of your choice, subject to availability.*

\$81

Basic Season Pass

One ticket to each MainStage show during our 25|26 Season **in Section C**. *Select any performance of your choice, subject to availability.*

\$69

PREVIEW Season Pass

One ticket to each MainStage show during our 25|26 Season **only on Preview Nights in any seating section!** *Select any Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday Preview Night of your choice, subject to availability.*

\$48

Student Season Pass

One ticket to each MainStage show during the 25|26 Season **in any seating section! Must present a valid Student ID upon entry.** *Select any performance of your choice, subject to availability.*

Season Passes



SEASON PASSES DO NOT INCLUDE OUR ADD-ON PRODUCTION

ALL IS CALM: THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914

You may add it after buying a Season Pass. Once your pass purchase is complete, you'll receive an email confirmation with instructions on date and seat selection.

