



Playwrights
Foundation

PRESENTS

BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL 2022

JUL 29-AUG 7

In-Person and Streaming!

The Power
of Human
Connection



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

All shows Pacific Time



Friday, July 29th

6:30pm ... *ARAB SPRING* / Opening Reception
In-Person at Potrero Stage

Saturday, July 30th

12:00pm ... *A JUMPING-OFF POINT* In-Person at Potrero Stage
6:00pm ... *HOW TO LET YOUR LOVER DIE* Watch Party at Potrero Stage

Sunday, July 31st

12:00pm ... *SATURDAY MOURNING CARTOONS* In-Person at Potrero Stage
3:30pm ... *Courageous Joy: Finding Play in Dark Times* (Panel)
Watch Party at Potrero Stage & Online Stream
6:00pm ... *CLOSE TO HOME* Watch Party at Potrero Stage

Monday, August 1st

6:00pm ... **BAPF INDUSTRY NIGHT:**
Playslam & Theater Pro Zoom Party Online-Only Event

Friday, August 5th

6:30pm ... *SATURDAY MOURNING CARTOONS*
In-Person Reading at Potrero Stage & Online Stream

Saturday, August 6th

12:00pm ... *CLOSE TO HOME* Watch Party at Potrero Stage & Online Stream
3:30pm ... *The Power of Playwright Connection* (Panel & Mixer)
6:00 pm ... *ARAB SPRING* In-Person Reading at Potrero Stage & Online Stream

Sunday, August 7th

12:00 pm ... *HOW TO LET YOUR LOVER DIE*
Watch Party at Potrero Stage & Online Stream
3:00 pm (immediately after reading) **BAPF45 Garden Party** (Passholders only)
6:00 pm ... *A JUMPING-OFF POINT* / Closing Reception
In-Person Reading at Potrero Stage & Online Stream





Dear Playwrights Foundation Local
& National Community,

This marks my third BAPF as Executive Artistic Director at Playwrights Foundation and my first festival welcoming audiences back into the theater. We celebrate our 45th Anniversary by producing our most ambitious festival to date combining digital and in person readings while gathering our community in the theater and online to celebrate

the dynamic work of these talented artists. The pandemic has forced us to innovate. We respond by continuing to discover new possibilities that we never would have dreamed of before, leading to wider exposure around the world for these exciting plays and playwrights.

It was vital to us to create a festival that allowed for broad access and active choice, centering the needs of these playwrights and of the audiences who might join us. It began with the playwrights each deciding whether they wanted a digital or in person workshop. Now, it culminates with audience members like you being able to choose whether they want to experience our festival online or in person.

The power of human connection feels more important than ever before. For some, this time has brought a renewed focus on the relationships most dear to us; for others it has brought grief and loss; many of us have experienced all of that. Inda, Sharifa, Denmo, Elana, and Iraisia Ann are telling stories that our hearts need to hear right now. They delicately hold the grief and loss alongside hope and laughter, leading us down a path of healing, as broken imperfect people find connection with unlikely characters in five unforgettable plays.

We are honored to have you join us at the beginning of these stories' journeys. The work is alive and transforming as the playwrights learn and discover through time with their actors, directors, and dramaturgs, rewriting new pages and words every day. You are the last character added to these plays, and we are so excited to have you. Whether you are in the physical room or joining us virtually, thank you for witnessing and connecting with these five brand new plays by a powerful cohort of women.

Warmly,

Jessica Bird Beza,
Executive Artistic Director

P.S. We invite you to make an even bigger impact by donating \$45, \$145, \$245, or even \$450 in honor of our 45th Anniversary. [Click here to donate](#) and help us reach our \$35,000 goal!

PLAYWRIGHTS FOUNDATION'S PURPOSE, VISION, VALUES

PURPOSE

Playwrights Foundation supports and empowers playwrights' artistic growth and careers while championing their voices on a national level.

VISION

We imagine a future where playwrights are radically centered as visionary leaders who transform the world through storytelling.

VALUES

Playwright Centered: We center our decisions around the specific needs of the playwrights we serve and empower them to have artistic agency.

Community: We strive to create a meaningful community amongst playwrights and cultivate a constellation of creative relationships between playwrights and artists, organizations, advocates and audiences.

Equity: We seek to build flexible and adaptable systems in order to create equitable opportunities for people across differences to participate, contribute and succeed.

Inclusion: We create a culture of access, well-being and a sense of belonging across a diversity of intersectional identities and voices.

Innovation: We value artistic experimentation, risk-taking, and innovative systems that support playwrights through a mindset of creativity and abundance.

Transparency: We strive to practice clear, open, and honest communication at every level both internally and externally.

Local Commitment: We invest in relationships with Bay Area playwrights, artists, organizations and communities.

Our purpose, vision and values were recently updated and approved in June 2021 through an in depth strategic planning process supported by Hewlett Foundation.

Festival Parties and Panels

Sun July 31st 3:30pm PT

COURAGEOUS JOY:

Finding Play in Dark Times (Panel)

Watch Party at Potrero Stage & Streaming Online

Witness a conversation between diverse experts as we mix thrillingly creative joy workers from fields like clown and drag with those who fearlessly tackle the depths of grief in fields like healthcare and hospice. The scripts in this year's festival are obsessed by resilience without erasure; so are we.

Mon Aug 1st 6:00pm PT

BAPF INDUSTRY NIGHT:

Playslam & Theater Pro Zoom Party

Online-only event (Free, registration required)

Hear brief excerpts from work by our festival shortlist of BAPF45 Honorable Mention playwrights and members of PF's Resident Playwrights Initiative in a Playslam hosted by PF Playwright Alum Eugenie Chan, then mingle in breakout rooms with playwrights and partygoers.

REGISTER
HERE

Fri Aug 5th 10:00am PT

FESTIVAL PLAYWRIGHTS (Panel)

Online-only event

Join us for a streaming panel discussion with the five playwrights of the 45th Bay Area Playwrights Festival (Inda Craig-Galván, Elana Dykewomon, Denmo Ibrahim, Iraisia Ann Reilly, and Sharifa Yasmin) as they share insights, discoveries, and deep knowledge about their scripts, their stories, and the writing process.

Sat Aug 6th 3:30pm PT

The Power of Playwright Connection

w/ Zoom Afterparty

In-Person at Potrero Stage &

Online Stream with Zoom Afterparty

Hear from an inspiring group of Playwrights Foundation alumni as they share lived experiences of how their careers and creative practices are fueled by connection with theater companies, artistic collaborators, and fellow playwrights. Then, create your own new connections in a brief facilitated post-panel mixer.

FESTIVAL
PANELISTS
(SCHEDULED
TO APPEAR):

Yari Cervas,
Eugenie Chan,
Christopher Chen,
Lauren Gunderson,
Wendy Kessler,
Toby Moore,
Peter Sinn Nachtrieb,
E Hunter Spreen,
and MORE!

PF RESIDENT
PLAYWRIGHTS:

Megan Cohen,
Star Finch,
Bennet Fisher,
Nick Hadikwa
Mwaluko,
Dan Wolf

Tune into our
Panel livestreams
(no event RSVP
or Facebook
account required)
at [facebook.com/
playwrights
foundation/](https://facebook.com/playwrightsfoundation/)

INDA CRAIG-GALVÁN



A JUMPING-OFF POINT

Inda Craig-Galván

CAST

Leslie Wainwright: **Jeunée Simon** (she/her)*

Andrew Littlefield: **Jeremy Kahn** (he/him)*

Miriam Forest: **Sam Jackson** (she/they)*

*Member of Actors' Equity Association. This theater operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director: **Dawn Monique Williams** (she/her)

Dramaturg: **Leigh Rondon-Davis** (they/them)

Production Assistant: **Monique Crawford** (she/her)

Casting Director: **The Casting Collective**

(Dori L. Jacob, C.S.A. Casting Director)

Content Expert: **Jihan Crowther**

PERFORMANCES

Sat July 30th, 12:00pm PT (In Person at Potrero Stage)

Sun Aug 7th, 6:00pm PT (In Person at Potrero Stage & Online)

PRODUCER Linda K. Brewer

PLAYWRIGHT

Inda Craig-Galván's (she/her) work often explores conflicts and politics within the African-American community, with plays that are grounded in reality with a touch of magical realism that plays with time and memories. Produced plays include *Black Super Hero Magic Mama* (Geffen Playhouse, Los Angeles) and *I Go Somewhere Else* (Playwrights' Arena, Los Angeles); *The Great Jheri Curl Debate* will have its world premiere at East West Players (Los Angeles) in the Fall of 2022. Craig-Galván is the recipient of the Kesselring Prize, Jeffrey Melnick New Playwright Award, Blue Ink Playwriting Prize, Jane Chambers Student Award for Feminist Playwriting, and Stage Raw Best Playwright Award. Her plays have been included on the Kilroys List and Steppenwolf Theatre's *The Mix*. Craig-Galván holds an MFA in Theatre from University of Southern California.

ELANA DYKEWOMON



HOW TO LET YOUR LOVER DIE

by Elana Dykewomon

CAST

Susan: **Gwen Loeb** (she/her)*

Mich: **Nancy Carlin** (she/her)*

Community Members: **AJ Davenport** (she/her/diva),

Anne Hallinan (she/her), **Sharon Omi** (she/her)*,

Catherine Castellanos (she/her)*, **Anne Darragh** (she/her)*

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CREATIVE TEAM

Director: **Tracy Ward** (she/her)

Dramaturg: **Heather Helinsky** (she/her)

Production Assistant: **Tiffani Hagen** (she/her)

Casting Director: **The Casting Collective**

(Dori L. Jacob, C.S.A. Casting Director)

PERFORMANCES

Sat July 30th, 6:00pm PT (In Person at Potrero Stage)

Sun Aug 7th, 12:00pm PT (In Person at Potrero Stage & Online)

PLAYWRIGHT

Elana Dykewomon (she/her) is a long-time social justice activist, editor and teacher in Oakland, CA, she's published eight award-winning books foregrounding lesbian heroism, including the Lambda-winning *Beyond the Pale*, and received the 2018 Lee Lynch Classic Award for her first novel, *Riverfinger Women* (from 1974). Co-edited with Judith Katz, "To Be a Jewish Dyke in the 21st Century," a recent *Sinister Wisdom* special issue. Her play is about love, dementia, right to die, caretaking and community, honoring her late spouse, Susan Levinkind. She is grateful for all these years of lesbian inter-connection.

DENNMO IBRAHIM



ARAB SPRING

by Denmo Ibrahim

CAST

Dina: **Sarah Nina Hayon** (she/her)*

Yusef: **Salim Razawi** (he/him)

Sami: **Ed Keyani** (he/him)

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CREATIVE TEAM

Director: **Susannah Martin** (she/her)

Dramaturg: **Laura Brueckner** (she/her)

Production Assistant: **Monique Crawford** (she/her)

Casting Director: **The Casting Collective**
(Kieran Beccia, Casting Associate)

Content Expert: **Lauren Martin** (she/her)

PERFORMANCES

Fri July 29th, 6:30pm PT (In Person at Potrero Stage)

Sat Aug 6th, 6:00pm PT (In Person at Potrero Stage & Online)

PRODUCER Jean and Fergus Bordewich

PLAYWRIGHT

Denmo Ibrahim (she/her) is an American playwright, children's book author, and actor of Egyptian descent. Her recently released audio-immersive book *Zaynab's Night of Destiny* (Fons Vitae, Commonwealth Theatre Center) will engage thousands of elementary and middle school students throughout 25 public schools in Louisville, KY in 2022. Her plays include the hybrid experience *Brilliant Mind* at Marin Theatre Company, *BABA* at Alter Theatre, *Ecstasy / A Waterfable* at Golden Thread, *The Day Naguib Mahfouz Was Stabbed In The Neck And Almost Died a.k.a. The Selkie Play* (Finalist: Sundance Theatre Lab, Finalist: NNPN's Showcase of New Plays). Her work is currently in development with The Civilians' R&D Group (*Untitled: Little Palestine*), The Ground Floor at Berkeley Repertory Theatre (*The Dream Fugue of May Ziyadeh*), and Audible for a new ten-part historical drama on the life of Hatshepsut. Denmo holds an MFA in Lecoq-based Actor Created Physical Theater from Naropa University and a BFA in Acting from Boston University.

IRAIISA ANN REILLY



SATURDAY MOURNING CARTOONS

by Iraisia Ann Reilly

CAST

Marta: **Estrella Esparza-Johnson** (she/her)*

Jessica: **Vanessa Barrantes** (she/her)

Yolanda/Abuela: **Mary Ann Rogers** (she/her)

Benny: **Francisco Rodriguez** (he/him)

Marty: **Brady Morales-Woolery** (he/him)*

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CREATIVE TEAM

Director: **Karina Gutiérrez** (she/her)

Dramaturg: **Nicky Martinez** (they/them)

Production Assistant: **Christina Leilani Campbell** (she/her)

Casting Director: **The Casting Collective** (Kieran Beccia, Casting Associate)

PERFORMANCES

Sun July 31st, 12:00pm PT (In Person at Potrero Stage)

Fri Aug 5th, 6:30pm PT (In Person at Potrero Stage & Online)

**PRODUCER Markham Miller, Rich Martini,
Friends and Family in memory of Regina Miller-Ficklin**

PLAYWRIGHT

Iraisia Ann Reilly (she/ella) is a Jersey-born artist passionate about bilingual stories. Select full-length plays include *Good Cuban Girls* (Teatro del Sol, at The Arden Theatre), *The Jersey Devil is a Papi Chulo* (Yale Drama Series Shortlist 2022, KCACTF) *Madame Anastasia's Crystal Ball* (Semifinalist, Bay Area Playwright's Festival 2021), *One Day Old* (Philadelphia Fringe, New York Classical Theatre Finalist, Rorschach Theatre Finalist), and *A Beginner's Guide to Interpreting Aphasia* (writer/performer, Philadelphia's Solow Fest). Her work has been developed with Theatre Exile, The New Harmony Project, The Chain Theatre and The Latinx Playwright's Circle. Iraisia Ann is a Yes and Laughter Lab Finalist, 2022, and was semifinalist for the Page 73 Fellowship, 2019. As a Development Studio Fellow with NYU'S Production Lab, Iraisia Ann wrote her original screenplay, *La Reina Del Bronx* (Winner, Fusion Film Festival, 2022). MFA in Dramatic Writing, NYU, BA Theatre and English University of Notre Dame.

SHARIFA YASMIN



CLOSE TO HOME

by Sharifa Yasmin

CAST

Colt: **Liam MacDougall** (he/him)*

Kaysar: **Martin Yousif Zebari** (he/they)

Zara: **Sharifa Yasmin** (she/her)

Stage Directions: **Maisha Khan** (they/them)

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CREATIVE TEAM

Director: **Evren Odcikin** (he/him)

Dramaturg: **Adam Ashraf Elsayigh** (he/him)

Production Assistant: **Ish Muhammad** (she/they)

Casting Director: **The Casting Collective**(Kieran Beccia, Casting Associate)

Content Expert.: **Kate Boyd**

PERFORMANCES

Sun July 31st, 6:00pm PT (In Person at Potrero Stage)

Sat Aug 6th, 12:00pm PT (In Person at Potrero Stage & Online)

PRODUCER Anonymous

PLAYWRIGHT

Sharifa Yasmin (she/her) is a trans Egyptian-American director and playwright. She has completed directing fellowships with The Drama League, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Manhattan Theatre Club, Geva Theatre, and is a Eugene O'Neill national directing fellow. Sharifa's favorite directing projects include *The War Boys* (Hangar Theater), *3:59AM* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), *In the Blood* (Duende Productions), *Mosque4Mosque* (National Queer Theatre) and *Beirut* (Brown/Trinity Rep). Sharifa's playwriting focuses on the intersection of Queer and Arab identities. Her plays have been produced with Uprising Theatre, Amphibian Stage, Trans Theatre Fest, Mirrorbox Theatre, Women's Theatre Festival, taught at DePaul, Susquehanna, and Kansas Universities, and published in The Methuen Drama Book of Trans Plays. Yasmin was honored as the inaugural recipient of the SCDF Barbara Whitman Award in 2021. She currently serves as a member of The Drama League's Directors Council, and is completing her MFA in Directing with Brown/Trinity Rep.

A JUMPING-OFF POINT

Dawn Monique Williams (Director, she/her) is the Associate Artistic Director at Aurora Theatre Company in Berkeley, CA. Her recent directing credits include the world premiere production of *THE INCREMENTALIST* by Cleavon Smith, an audio version of Toni Morrison's *THE BLUEST EYE* adapted by Lydia R. Diamond, *BULL IN A CHINA SHOP* (Aurora), Lauren Gunderson's *THE HALFLIFE OF MARIE CURIE* (TheatreSquared), *SWEET WATER TASTE* (Orlando Shakespeare Theatre), *LETTERS TO KAMALA* (American Stage Company), *EARTHRISE* (Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts), *THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *MOON MAN WALK*, *TIJEAN AND HIS BROTHERS*, *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* (American Conservatory Theatre, MFA program), an audio version of Lynn Nottage's *LAS MENINAS*, *THE SECRETARIES* (Profile Theatre), *ROMEO & JULIET* (Chautauqua Theatre), August Wilson's *THE PIANO LESSON* (Le Petit and UNCO), Lynn Nottage's *BY THE WAY*, *MEET STARK* (Douglas Morrisson and UNCO), and *WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN* (Town Hall). Dawn's awards include a Princess Grace Theatre Fellowship, a TCG Leadership U Residency Grant, and a Drama League Directing Fellowship. She holds an MA in Dramatic Literature and an MFA in Directing. Dawn is a proud member of SDC.

Leigh Rondon-Davis (Dramaturg, they/them) is a theatre performer, dramaturg, director, and producer from both New York and the Bay Area. They attended Wellesley College and were a member of Oakland's Laney College Fusion Theatre Project. Leigh is on staff

as Shotgun Players' Associate Artistic Director and Crowded Fire Theater's Curator of Online Programming, where they are also a Resident Artist. They are also an Artistic Company Member at Shotgun and Oakland Theater Project, Casting Director with the Casting Collective, and Producing Director at The Forum Collective. Leigh has had the immense pleasure of working at dozens of local companies, including Aurora Theatre, Curran, Magic Theatre, New Conservatory Theatre Center, PlayGround, Playwrights Foundation, TheatreFIRST, and West Edge Opera. While Leigh wears many hats as a theatre-maker, much of their work and personal passion has been to shift the industry and its culture to be more equitable, inclusive, accessible, and sustainable.

HOW TO LET YOUR LOVER DIE

Tracy Ward (Director, she/her) is an award-winning freelance Director based in the San Francisco Bay Area, focusing on New Works for the American Theater. Recent productions include: *Fun Home* at 42nd St. Moon, *The Cake* at NCTC, and the World Premiere of *Bright Shining Sea* at PlayGround. Other work includes: *What Every Girl Should Know* (Byrne), *Shaker Chair* (Bock) at Shotgun Players/Encore Theater, and the critically acclaimed, award-winning production of *Hunter Gatherers* by Peter Nachtrieb. She is a member of PlayGround. www.tracyward.org

Heather Helinsky (Dramaturg, she/her) is the Literary Manager for Playwrights Foundation, as well as the Contest Dramaturg for Jewish Plays Project. Fifteen years of experience as a professional dramaturg. For the Kennedy Center, she has been a guest

dramaturgy teaching artist and read for various national playwriting awards. Dramaturg at Great Plains Theatre Conference for seven years and past script reader for Sundance Theatre Lab, the O'Neill, Seven Devils, Playwrights Realm and PlayPenn. Training: M.F.A. in Dramaturgy from the A.R.T./Moscow Art/Harvard ('07) and the O'Neill National Critics Institute ('16). Executive board member for LMDA and has been an organizer of the Dramaturging the Phoenix initiative.

ARAB SPRING

Susannah Martin (Director, she/her) is a director, teacher, and theatre maker of Tunisian heritage, and a Sephardic/Mizrahi Jewish feminist-activist-artist. Susannah has taught and directed for organizations throughout the Bay Area including: Shotgun Players (Company Member), A.C.T., California Shakespeare Theater, Cutting Ball Theater, Golden Thread Productions, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Mugwumpin (Company Member), Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco Playhouse, and TheatreFirst. Some recent directing credits include: Carol S. Lashof's *The Melting Pot* for Those Women Productions; Betty Shamieh's *Make No Mistake* for both *All New People* and *Golden Thread*; *Magic Fruit* as part of TheatreFirst's serial season; Elaine Magree's *pussygrabbingREVENGE* as part of TheatreFirst's *History Keeps Me Awake*; Sheila Callaghan's *Women Laughing Alone With Salad*, David Greig's *The Events*, and Christopher Chen's *Caught* at Shotgun Players; the world-premiere of Dipika Guha's *In Braunau* for the San Francisco Playhouse; and countless readings and workshops for companies

around the Bay. She believes strongly in the importance of fostering new voices and developing young storytellers to build and transform their communities.

Laura Brueckner (Dramaturg, she/her) Bio to come.

SATURDAY MOURNING CARTOONS

Karina Gutiérrez (Director, she/her) is a Bay Area-based director, dramaturg, and scholar. She has previously directed projects for Bay Area Children's Theatre, The Playwright's Foundation, Crowded Fire Theatre, Santa Clara University, and Stanford University. Gutiérrez's upcoming projects include: *Dream Hou\$e* by Eliana Pipes (Shotgun Players.) She is currently an Assistant Professor of History, Historiography, and Performance Studies at Santa Clara University. Like her artistic practice, her scholarly work concentrates on the intersection of politics and performance, social justice, with a focus on new Latinx works.

Nicky Martinez (Dramaturg, They/Them/Le) is a Latine genderfluid theatre activist who was born and raised in San Francisco. They received a BA in Performing Arts and Social Justice from the University of San Francisco in 2016. They are a solo performing artist, poet, published playwright, director, dramaturg, and visual artist. In their art they focus on social issues like having queer and trans identities, being Latine in America, racial inequities, mental health, and femme rights. Currently, they are a Development Coordinator at Berkeley Rep while being a part of several artistic and consultancy projects. Some of these projects include writing

and doing voice-over for the Harry Potter and the Transgender Witch series on YouTube with Battery Theater, directing for the "Between the Sheets" festival hosted by Left Coast Theater and being an EDI consultant with several educational organizations. Follow on Social Media: Instagram @mx.nicky @mxanxiouslyembroiderer

CLOSE TO HOME

Evren Odcikin (Director, he/him) is a theater director, writer, and arts administrator with a commitment to championing historically excluded voices in the American theater. He is the Associate Artistic Director and Director of Artistic Programming at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a founding steering committee member of the MENA Theater Maker Alliance, a founder of Maia Directors, and a member of Playwrights Foundation's Board of Directors. As a director, he has worked at OSF, Guthrie, A.R.T., Woolly Mammoth, Portland Center Stage, PlayCo, NYTW, Geva, Berkeley Rep, South Coast Rep, The Lark, Kennedy Center, InterAct, Cleveland Public Theatre, Magic Theatre, Golden Thread, Crowded Fire, and Playwrights Foundation. Recognitions include a "Theatre Worker You Should Know" feature in American Theatre Magazine; a National Director's Fellowship from the O'Neill, NNPN, the Kennedy Center, and SDCF; and a TITAN Award from Theatre Bay Area. Evren was born and raised in Turkey and is a graduate of Princeton University. odcikin.com

Adam Ashraf Elsayigh (Dramaturg, he/him) is an Egyptian writer, theater maker, and dramaturg. Adam writes theater and TV scripts that interrogate the intersections of queerness,

immigration, and colonialism from his lens as a queer, Arab, immigrant. Adam's ethos is to tell and amplify stories from communities that have been historically under and misrepresented on American television screens and stages. Adam's plays (including *Drowning in Cairo*, *Revelation*, *Memorial*, and *Jamestown/ Williamsburg*) have been developed and seen at The Lark, The Tisch School of the Arts, The LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, and Golden Thread Productions. Adam is a fellow at Georgetown University's Laboratory for Global Performance and an Alliance/Kendeda Award Finalist. He holds a BA in Theater with an emphasis in Playwriting and Dramaturgy from NYU Abu Dhabi and is an MFA Candidate in Playwriting at Brooklyn College.

PLAYWRIGHTS FOUNDATION STAFF

Jessica Bird Beza, (Executive Artistic Director, she/her) Jessica Bird Beza has served as Executive Artistic Director since October 2019 and held leadership positions at the following organizations: The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego REP, and Mo'olelo. Jessica is committed to community-building, fostering diverse artists, and advancing the new play field. She was the Associate Director on the Tony Award-winning new musical *Come From Away* and developed new work at Theatreworks Silicon Valley, American Conservatory Theatre, The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego REP, Diversionary Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Ford's Theatre, among others. M.A. in Nonprofit Leadership and Management: USD. www.jessicabird.net

Casting Collective (BAPF45 Casting)

We are a community of casting professionals with extensive experience and deep ties to the Bay Area theatre community. Casting locally should be the predominant practice, and one of our main objectives is to offer a full range of casting services which showcase our local community and encourage theatres to hire actors living and working within the SF Bay Area. In the wake of the pandemic and the massive national call for greater EDI representation and prioritization, regional theatre has fundamentally changed. Casting Collective is a response to this call for change in the way we access, promote and hire artists as we continue to foster an anti-racist, inclusive, collaborative future. Our purpose is to advance the interests of local actors in the San Francisco Bay Area and to encourage institutions to explore, engage with and hire from within this community instead of searching elsewhere for their talent. We stand for advocacy, integrity, professionalism & inclusion.

Megan Cohen (Communications & Engagement Manager, she/her) A Resident Playwright at Playwrights Foundation in addition to her staff role, Cohen is also an opera librettist and performance artist who has been called "a ruthless innovator" (SF Weekly) and "one insightful and confident woman with a devilish sense of humor" (HuffPo). Her play FREE FOR ALL: A NEW MISS JULIE FOR A NEW WORLD at Cutting Ball was lauded as "The Best Party At The End of the World" in KQED's Best Bay Area Theater of 2019, and she is under commission for Houston Grand Opera's HGOco "Song of Houston" initiative to write the libretto for TURN AND BURN, a new full-length chamber opera about cowgirl culture and the lives of female

athletes in contemporary rodeo. Her conspirators, commissioners, and artistic homes have included Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor, the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC, the San Francisco Neo-Futurists (where she was a founding member), and Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center. She also works as the Communications & Engagement Manager for Eye Zen Presents in SF. WEB: MeganCohen.com, Twitter: @WayBetterThanTV

Andrew Custer (Technical Director, he/him) is excited to be returning to the Playwrights Festival for his ninth year. His lighting design credits include Sail Away and The Boys from Syracuse (42nd St. Moon), The Turn of the Screw (Dragon Productions), and The Crucible (Foothill Theatre Conservatory). Andrew has also spent ten years at TheatreWorks and Opera San José as an electrician, carpenter and stagehand.

Jacquetta Farrar (Artistic Producer, she/ella) is an actress, writer, and producer originally from Newark, NJ who recently moved to the Bay Area to explore Bay Area Theatre. She began her Theatre journey as an undergrad at Temple University where she minored in Theatre with a concentration in Acting. After graduation, Jacquetta appeared in her first off-off-Broadway play at The Producers Club. She has starred in several short films and was the lead female actress for a feature film called "A Piece of the Action"; a modern rendition of the original legendary film starring the late Sidney Poitier, and Bill Cosby. In 2016, Jacquetta won the first red carpet host competition for the Newark International Film Festival and continued to host the red carpet until 2020. In 2019, Jacquetta traveled to Tuscany, IT Lemon Tree House Residency

where she began writing the first draft of her book "My Mother's Daughter". She has also hosted the Newark Short Film Awards. In 2021, Jacquetta launched the Newark 72 Hour Film Race. She has a passion for storytelling, social and environmental justice, education, and women's rights. www.jacquetafarrar.com @jacqueta.farrar on IG

Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin (2022 Play Selection Advisor, they/she) is a writer, producer, performer, and educator. Their plays include *Tiger Beat* (2021 Bay Area Playwrights Festival, 2021 Seven Devils Conference finalist), *Harpers Ferry 2019* (2021 Keneda Playwriting Award finalist, Alliance Theater workshop, 2022 Know Theatre production in Cincinnati), *Call Out Culture: or, the unbearable whiteness of being* (2021 NADIA Amplified Currents Festival, 2019 Ars Nova's ANTFest), and *The Well-Tempered Clavier* (2020 BAPF finalist.) Garvin is the recipient of six Kennedy Center awards and is a current member of The Coop's Clusterf**k, Playground NY, and Pipeline Theater Company's Playlab. Their plays have been developed with The Alliance Theater, Montana Repertory Theater, and College of the Holy Cross, and have been produced at New York venues including Dixon Place, the New Ohio, and Ars Nova. Garvin is a founding member of Undiscovered Countries, a Brooklyn-based incubator of new interdisciplinary art, and they currently teach playwriting and theater history at Cornish College of the Arts. MFA, Indiana University; BFA, NYU. www.kaelameishingarvin.com/ @kaemeishing on IG, twitter.

Heather Helinsky (Literary Manager, she/her) Freelance dramaturg based in Philadelphia and current Literary Manager for Playwrights Foundation. Fifteen years experience as a professional dramaturg, working with independently with 35-50 writers/year, focused on advocating for women/trans playwrights and BIPOC writers. She provides research, consultation, and workshops to playwrights, theater companies, and university programs. She's been a teaching artist for The Kennedy Center's ACTF for nine years. Summer 2020: also *Seven Devils*, *Hollins*, and *Jewish Plays Project*. Amongst other credits, original dramaturg on *JT Rogers' OSLO* for PlayPenn. Training: M.F.A. in Dramaturgy, A.R.T./Moscow Art/Harvard ('07) and O'Neill National Critics Institute ('16). Board member for LMDA.

Leanna Keyes (Streaming Producer, she/her) of Transcend Streaming is a multi-hyphenate theater professional. Her most well-known digital productions are *Today Is My Birthday* with Theater Mu in Minneapolis, *Regina Taylor's* the black album mixtape block party, *Downtown Crossing* with Company One in Boston, and the 2020 Bay Area Playwrights Festival. She specializes in shows that are fully live: the way we're meant to be. As a playwright, you can find her play *Doctor Voynich* and *Her Children* in *The Methuen Drama Book of Trans Plays* (May 2021). Leanna co-edited this first-of-its-kind anthology of trans plays by trans playwrights about trans characters.

Tessa Saito King (Operations Manager, she/her) is a Japanese American playwright, poet, and screenwriter. A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, she received her B.A. from the University

of St. Andrews in Scotland and an MFA from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London. She had her first one-act produced at the age of fourteen and her first full-length produced at seventeen. Since then, her plays and one-acts have been commissioned, staged, and performed throughout America and the United Kingdom. Most recently she was commissioned to adapt her play NOISE for the screen. She is the winner of PlayGround's Young Playwrights Festival, a two-time finalist in the Marin Young Playwrights Festival at Marin Theatre Company, semi-finalist for the Mu-Tang Clan Residency at Theatre Mu, and longlisted for the Royal Court Writer's Group at the Royal Court Theatre. Her poems "Testing" and "Killers" both won awards and received publication.

David Quang Pham (2021-22 Literary Fellow, he/him) is a science dramaturg and musical theater science communicator from Wyoming, Michigan. Due to youthful trips to operas and space camp, he now writes love letters to science and devises stories from its branches. After completing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State University, he studied playwriting under the 2020-2021 Working Title Playwrights Dramaturgy Apprenticeship in Atlanta. He is honored to continue his studies under the 2021-2022 Playwrights Foundation Literary Fellowship in San Francisco. Composer Janelle Lawrence mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including gospel, pop, punk, tango, and Xiqu. Pham's notable science musicals, respectively centered on quantum mechanics, cosmology, and dimensions, are TOUR, ELLIPSES, and PARALLEL UNIVERSITY. His songs have been showcased at the Durban

University of Technology, Musical Theatre Factory, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, and Play Cafe in Berkeley. Pham is also a proficient trombonist; a moderator with Heather Helinsky on the Dramaturging the Phoenix team at LMDA; a founding member of CreateTheater; a member of ΣΠΣ, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild.

Den Legaspi / Arc & Type (Graphic Designer, "den" - sans pronouns) is an artistic daredevil and designer extraordinaire who collaborates primarily with nonprofits, artists, dancers, musicians, theaters & performing arts, small businesses, community organizations, and POC & LGBTQ+ communities. Den has served as the Art Director at Cal Shakes under Eric Ting and is currently the Art Director of TheatreWorks Silicon Valley under Tim Bond. ARCandTYPE.com

Carla Befera Public Relations has acted as public relations counsel and created advertising and marketing plans for performing arts for over three decades. CBCO has managed public relations for over a hundred national touring Broadway productions, and hundreds of Bay Area productions and leading arts organizations. It was recognized by the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle (BATCC) in 2005 with its Barbara Bladen Porter Award for contributions to the theatrical community, and again in 2020 with the BATCC's most prestigious Paine Knickerbocker Award for continuing contributions to theatre. Info at cbpr.co

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Playwrights Foundation was founded in 1976 and is today widely recognized as one of the top organizations in the country dedicated to the creative development and career acceleration of local and national playwrights. Our programs include:

- the **Bay Area Playwrights Festival**,
- the **Resident Playwrights Initiative**, providing an array of resources for Bay Area playwrights over a four-year term, as they individually advance their professional playwriting careers,
- the **Producing Partnership Initiative**, which allows us to leverage relationships and form ongoing partnerships with producers to advance new work to full production.

Program alumni include some of the most prominent names in contemporary theatre, including Sam Shepard, David Henry Hwang, Nilo Cruz, Anna Deavere Smith, Paula Vogel, Marcus Gardley, Annie Baker, Lauren Gunderson and Naomi Iizuka. Recent alumni have won four consecutive Will Glickman Awards, multiple American Theatre Critics Association awards, a MacArthur Genius grant, and a Pulitzer Prize, among other recognition. Katori Hall and Rajiv Joseph premiered work developed at Playwrights Foundation on Broadway. These artists exemplify just a few of the many successful beneficiaries of our organization's work.

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