new work festival '22



## **NEW**STORIES

## EXCITING WORK

## STRONG VOICES

**JAMES ANTHONY TYLER** 

**BROOKE BERMAN** 

**MELISSA CRESPO** 

**SARAH SALTWICK** 

**TERRY GUEST** 

LIVE & VIRTUAL

May 16 - 22

THEATER WIRKS HARTFORD

## **NEW WORKS**

#### FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

#### THE DROP OFF

by James Anthony Tyler directed by Shariffa Ali STREAMING 5.16 – 5.22 ANYTIME ONLINE TALK-BACK 5.20 @ 7PM

#### **DEARLY BELOVED**

by Brooke Berman directed by Michael Barakiva LIVE ON STAGE READING 5.21 @ 2PM TALKBACK LIVE ON STAGE 5.21 @ 3:45PM

NEW WORK PANEL LIVE ON STAGE LIVE 5.21@ 4:30PM

**COCKTAILS IN THE LOBBY 5.21@ 5:30** 

#### **EGRESS**

by Melissa Crespo & Sarah Saltwick directed by Caitlin Sullivan STREAMING 5.16 – 5.22 ANYTIME ONLINE TALKBACK 5.21@ 7PM

ANDY WARHOL PRESENTS: THE COCAINE PLAY

by Terry Guest directed by Mikael Burke STREAMING 5.16 – 5.22 ANYTIME ONLINE TALKBACK 5.22 @ 1PM

#### NOTE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROB RUGGIERO

Our New Work Festival is an exploration and celebration of exciting new voices in American Theater. With workshops, a panel discussion and talk-backs – both live and online – the Festival is the newest arm of our commitment to the development of important new plays.

To that end, we gave five exceptional playwrights space, time and support to bring each of their projects to the next stage in its developmental journey. Immerse yourself in these extraordinary stories and be a part of the wonderfully creative process that brings them to stage — it's always better when we do it together. Thanks for being here!

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twhartford.org

#NewWorkFestival

#TheaterWorksHartford







### FESTIVAL '22

#### THE PLAYS

based on schedule

#### THE DROP OFF

by James Anthony Tyler directed by Shariffa Ali

Delphina Walker

Allain Ture

Mimi Gardner

Crystal McClain

CHERENE SNOW\*

LISAGAY HAMILTON\*

JULES LATIMER\*

C NIAMBI STEELE\*

#### **DEARLY BELOVED**

by Brooke Berman directed by Michael Barakiva

Jenny BLAIR LEWIN\*

Wes HUNTER RYAN HERDLICKA\*

Jorge DANIEL JOSÉ MOLINA\*

#### **EGRESS**

by Melissa Crespo & Sarah Saltwick directed by Caitlin Sullivan

You SARAH ELLEN STEPHENS\*

Woman DANA BERGER\*

Man ALEX MICKIEWICZ\*

#### **ANDY WARHOL PRESENTS: THE COCAINE PLAY**

by Terry Guest directed by Mikael Burke

Marilyn Monroe AYANNA BRIA BAKARI\*
Andy Warhol JONATHAN BURKE\*

Edie Sedgwick AFI BIJOU\*

Michael Vaugn Brown JOHN CLARENCE STEWART\*

## NEW WORK FESTIVAL Curator and Producer TRACY BRIGDEN

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and Stage Managers in the U.S.

#### THE DROP OFF



JAMES ANTHONY TYLER (Playwright) TheaterWorks Hartford: Talkin' To This Chick Sippin' Magic Potion. James is the recipient of the 3rd Annual Horton Foote Playwriting Award, and currently has a McKnight National Residency and Commission via The Playwrights Center and is a member of Circle X Theatre Company's Evolving Playwrights Group. His plays include Artney Jackson (Williamstown

Theatre Festival), Some Old Black Man (Berkshire Playwrights Lab), and Dolphins and Sharks (LAByrinth Theater Company and Finborough Theatre in London). MFA Howard University and NYU. The Juilliard School graduate.



SHARIFFA ALI (Director) was born in Kenya and raised in South Africa, and is an international creative leader, director, and academic committed to advancing radical change through the power of art and activism. As a filmmaker, Shariffa's works have been featured at acclaimed film/VR festivals & institutions worldwide including Sundance Film Festival (USA); Zeitz Museum of

Contemporary African Art (South Africa) and more. Past theater productions include Eclipsed, Detroit '67, Intimate Apparel, We Are Proud to Present, and an original new musical called We Were Everywhere.



CHERENE SNOW (Delphina Walker) is a multi-award-winning veteran actor/singer-songwriter from Chicago, who began her career in the cult classic film, Cooley High. Her extensive background in theater includes Broadway's Cat on a Hot Tin Roof with Scarlett Johansson, Familiar, For All The Women Who Thought They We're Mad, The Little Foxes, and Doubt. Film/TV: Jules, Almost Family, Law

& Order, Law & Order, SVU, and Chappelle's Show. Cherene has written her first one-act and full-length plays, Hiding Inside Him and Monday Wednesday Friday, respectively.



LISAGAY HAMILTON (Allain Ture) notably starred on Broadway opposite Ed Harris in Aaron Sorkin's To Kill A Mockingbird. Recent feature films include Ad Astra, Vice and Beautiful Boy. Well-known for starring in The Practice (ABC) and Men of a Certain Age (TNT), more recent TV credits include: The First and Chance (Hulu); House of Cards (Netflix). A graduate of Juilliard's drama division,

LisaGay's feature credits include Go for Sisters, Beastly, Take Shelter, The Soloist, True Crime, Jackie Brown, and her critically acclaimed performance in Jonathan Demme's Beloved. She can currently be seen in HBO's Winning Time and Hulu's The Dropout, and will soon be seen onscreen in Netflix's Lincoln Lawyer (premiering May 13th), FX's upcoming series Class of '09, and in the recently wrapped Hulu film, The Boogeyman.



JULES LATIMER (Mimi Gardner) TheaterWorks Hartford: Talkin' To This Chick Sippin' Magic Potion. Off-Broadway: Paris (Atlantic Theatre); Regional: Most Happy (Bard Summerscape); Angela's Mixtape (Martha's Vineyard Playhouse); Romeo and Juliet (Chautauqua Theatre Company); Transmissions in Advance of the Second Great Dying (Rattlestick Theatre). Film/TV Credits: Guilty Party

(Paramount+), Rustin (Netflix), Cal Fire (CBS pilot). Education: The Juilliard School. @juleslatimer

#### THE DROP OFF continued



C NIAMBI STEELE (Crystal McClain) is a 2020 Audelco Award-winning actor residing in New York City. Her first appearance on a New York stage was in Wallace Shawn's Hotel Play in 1981 at LaMama ETC. She has performed on many stages working with writers Ed Bullins, j e franklin, Mari Evans, Celeste Bedford Walker, Aleshea Harris, and Vy Higgenson to name just a few. She was the go-to actor

for the Frank Silvera Writer's Workshop for over a decade in her adopted home in the village of Harlem. She created an award-winning community program *History In Da Key of G in 2021*.

#### **DEARLY BELOVED**



BROOKE BERMAN (Playwright|she/her) is a playwright, filmmaker and memoirist. Her plays, including Hunting and Gathering, Smashing and A Model City, have been produced across the US and internationally at theaters including Steppenwolf, Primary Stages, 2nd Stage and developed at The O'Neill, The National Theatre Studio in London, Williamstown Theater Festival, Naked Angels

and others. She has written films for Natalie Portman, The Mark Gordon Company, Vox Films, Fugitive Films and Red Crown. Brooke wrote and directed the short fiilm UGGS FOR GAZA, which premiered at the Aspen International ShortsFest where it won Audience Special Recognition. She is currently in production for her feature debut, RAMONA AT MIDLIFE. Brooke's memoir No Place Like Home is available on Audible. After writing extensively about couch-surfing and barely legal sublets, Brooke now owns a coop in Queens, where she lives with her writer husband and son. Barnard College and The Juilliard School



MICHAEL BARAKIVA (Director | he/him) is a director and writer based in NYC. He is the Founder and Creative Director of Novel Readings (novelreadings.com), a company that uses the performance of text to produce social justice events and to help writers develop their work. His latest book, These Precious Stones (Macmillan FSG), a contemporary epic queer protagonist YA fantasy novel,

will be published in Winter 2024. The Juilliard School, Vassar College. michaelbarakiva.com



BLAIR LEWIN (Jenny) is currently playing the role of Rachel in Zoey's Perfect Wedding at TheaterWorks Hartford. Blair is a recent graduate of NYU Grad Acting and was last seen as Kimber in Stick Fly at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Other credits include the Off-Broadway premiere of Nancy Bleemer's Providence at 59E59 Theaters and on Netflix in The Trial of the Chicago 7.



HUNTER RYAN HERDLICKA (Wes) is currently playing the role of Sammy in Zoey's Perfect Wedding at TheaterWorks Hartford. A Dallas native and Carnegie Mellon graduate, Hunter is best known for his nearly two years starring on Broadway as Henrik in the Tony Awardwinning revival of Stephen Sondheim's A Little Night Music, opposite Catherine Zeta-Jones and Angela Lansbury,

followed by Bernadette Peters and Elaine Stritch. Other New York credits

#### **WHO**

include the recent revival of Once Upon a Mattress (the Minstrel) starring Jackie Hoffman and Jerry Herman's Dear World (Julian) starring opposite Tyne Daly. Select regional credits: The Tempest (Ariel) at the Dallas Theater Center, Candide (Maximillian) at the Alliance Theatre with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Ragtime (Younger Brother) at Barrington Stage, and others. A close friend of legendary actress Elaine Stritch, Hunter appeared in and helped produce the award-winning documentary Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me. Please follow @HRHerdlicka and visit HunterRyanHerdlicka.com



DANIEL JOSÉ MOLINA (Jorge) is currently playing the role of Charlie in Zoey's Perfect Wedding at TheaterWorks Hartford. Broadway: Fish in the Dark (Cort Theatre). Off-Broadway: Terra Firma (BPAC. Regional: APT: Petruchio in The Taming of the Shrew, St. Louis Shakespeare: Edgar in King Lear Oregon, Shakespeare Festival: Henry V in Henry V; Ferdinand in Love's Labor's Lost; Hal in Henry IV, Part

One and Two; Ferdinand in The Tempest; Elliot in Water by the Spoonful; Posthumus in Cymbeline; Romeo in Romeo and Juliet; Three seasons at Utah Shakespeare Festival. Film: The Yellow Birds Recipient of 2011 National Irene Ryan Acting Award. BFA: Savannah College of Art and Design

#### **EGRESS**



MELISSA CRESPO (Playwright | she/her/hers) is most known as director of new plays and musicals, and opera. Recent: Yoga Play by Dipika Guha (Geva Theatre Center). Upcoming: Sheepdog by Kevin Artigue at the Contemporary American Theatre Festival. Melissa received her M.F.A. in Directing from The New School for Drama. She is a Founding Editor of 3Views on Theater and was featured

in the 2020 Broadway Women's Fund "Women to Watch on Broadway". She is the Associate Artistic Director of Syracuse Stage. melissacrespo.com



SARAH SALTWICK (Playwright) is a playwright based in Austin, TX, a graduate of the Michener Center for Writers at UT Austin and was a Jerome Fellow at the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis. Recent productions include The Pleasure Trials at Amphibian Stage Productions, Egress, co-written with Melissa Crespo, at Amphibian and Salt Lake Acting Company. She is also a Co-Director of Holden &

Arts Associates, a theatrical booking agency. She shares her home with her husband, musician and visual artist Toto Miranda, their daughter Beatrix, and their cat Lulu. sarahsaltwick.com



CAITLIN SULLIVAN (Director) is a director and theater maker based in New York City. Recent work includes Sanctuary City (Martyna Majok/NYTW) and Ole White Sugah Daddy (Obehi Janice/WP Theater). She is currently developing new pieces with The Bengsons, Sarah Einspanier, Deepali Gupta, Obehi Janice and Martyna Majok. Born and raised in Boston, Caitlin is a graduate of

Williams College, an alum of the Drama League Directors Project, and a New Georges Affiliate Artist. caitlinsullivan.com



SARAH ELLEN STEPHENS (You) is thrilled to be part of TWH's New Work Festival. Selected Theater: Dig (Theresa Rebeck - world premiere) Dorset Theatre Festival; Jupiter (a play about power) (La Mama Experimental Theatre Club); Doubt, A Parable (Human Race Theater Company). Selected Film/TV: 21 Bridges (Brian Kirk, starring Chadwick Boseman); Faraway Eyes (Harry Greenberger, starring

Andy Karl); Lee Daniels' Pimp (Christine Crokos, starring Keke Palmer); Law & Order: SVU (NBC); She's Gotta Have It (Netflix - Spike Lee); Z: The Beginning of Everything (Amazon). sarahellenstephens.com



DANA BERGER (Woman) is a New York based TV, film, and stage actress. She is best known for playing inmate Crystal Tawney on Orange Is The New Black. Other TV credits include FBI: Most Wanted and Elementary. Dana was nominated for a New York Innovative Theater Award for Outstanding Solo Performance for the one-woman show Washing Machine. The show also received a Drama Desk

Nomination. She is a born and bred New Yorker, and trained at LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts and Duke University, graduating Cum Laude with Highest Distinction in Acting. She can be seen in the upcoming feature film Brightwood. danaberger.com



ALEX MICKIEWICZ (Man) Broadway: Trouble in Mind; True West; Long Day's Journey Into Night; Therese Raquin (Roundabout). Off-Broadway: The Last Match (Roundabout); Drift (New World Stages). Regional: Death of a Salesman (Pittsburgh Public Theatre); The Last Match (Old Globe); Romeo and Juliet (Shakespeare Theatre Company); Robin Hood; The Comedy of Errors

(Williamstown Theatre Festival). TV: High Maintenance; Blue Bloods; New Amsterdam

#### ANDY WARHOL PRESENTS: THE COCAINE PLAY



TERRY GUEST (Playwright) is a Chicago-based playwright, actor, director and teaching artist. Works include: The Magnolia Ballet (2022 National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere), A Ghost in Satin (Williamstown Theater Festival), At The Wake of a Dead Drag Queen, Marie Antionette and the Magical Negroes, The Madness of Mary Todd, and Michael Jackson and the

Devil's Book. Keep up with Terry on Instagram: @terryexplainsitall



MIKAEL BURKE (Director) is a Chicago-based director, deviser, and educator. A Princess Grace Award-winner in Theatre and Jeff Award-nominated director, his recent directing credits include the world premiere of The Magnolia Ballet by Terry Guest, Fireflies by Donja R. Love, Mrs. Harrison by R. Eric Thomas, we are continuous by Harrison David Rivers, Kill Move Paradise by James Ijames, and The

Agitators by Mat Smart. mklburke.com



AYANNA BRIA BAKARI (Marilyn Monroe) graduated with a BFA in acting from DePaul University. Theater credits include Relentless (Timeline/ Goodman Theatre), The Originalist (Indiana Rep), Insurrection: Holding History (Stage Left Theatre - Jeff nominated), Suddenly Last Summer (Raven Theatre), Too Heavy For Your Pocket (Timeline Theatre), How To Catch Creation (Goodman Theatre), and

The Niceties (Black Theater Alliance Award Recipient) and Stick Fly (Writers Theatre). Film/TV credits include Holiday Heist, Chicago PD, Chicago Fire, Empire, 61st Street and recurring roles on The CHI and Wu-Tang: An American Saga. She is represented by Stewart Talent and is a governing ensemble member with The Story Theatre. Asante Sana!

#### WHO



JONATHAN BURKE (Andy Warhol) TV: "Harlem" (Amazon Prime Video); "New Amsterdam" (NBC); "Only Murders in the Building" (Hulu); Upcoming - "Bridge and Tunnel" (EPIX). Broadway: The Inheritance (Tony Award - Best Play); Choir Boy; Tuck Everlasting. Off-Broadway: Toni Stone (Roundabout Theatre Company); Joan of Arc: Into the Fire (Public Theater); Langston in Harlem (Urban Stages).

National Tours: Cats; Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; Mary Poppins; A Christmas Story: The Musical. Co-creator of @notlookingtheseries. Facebook: Jonathan Burke. Twitter: @itsjonburke. Instagram: itsjonathanburke.



AFI BIJOU (Edie Sedgwick) TV: "Godfather of Harlem" (EPIX); "Law & Order" (NBC); "The Night Of" (HBO); "Insecure" (HBO). Broadway: Fela!; Holler If You Hear Me; Once On This Island. Off-Broadway: Holiday Heart (MTC); Taking Control (Playwrights Horizon); Bullet for Adolf (NWS). Regional: Blood Quilt (Arena Stage); An Octoroon (Berkeley Rep); Good Goods (Yale Rep). Instagram: @afibijou



JOHN CLARENCE STEWART (Michael Vaugn Brown) will soon be seen on the Starz! crime drama series, *P-Valley* as Big Teak, created and written by Katori Hall. John starred on NBC's Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist as Simon. He reprised his role for a holiday-themed, feature-length film based on the Emmy-winning show, Zoey's Extraordinary Christmas which aired on RokuTV this past holiday season. John can also be

seen on the Netflix anthology series What/If opposite Renee Zellweger. Prior to that, he recurred on both seasons of the Netflix / Marvel series Luke Cage. His other television credits include Hawaii Five-O, The Good Fight, Blue Bloods, The Mysteries of Laura, and Gotham. Theater: Choir Boy (Off Broadway), Fit For A Queen, The Whipping Man, Choir Boy, Bull Durham (Alliance Theater), Brownsville Song B-Side for Tray (Actors Theater of Louisville).



ROB RUGGIERO (Producing Artistic Director) has been part of TheaterWorks Hartford artistic leadership for 29 seasons. He has directed over 65 shows, including TWH productions of The Sound Inside, American Son, The Legend of Georgia McBride, Constellations, Next to Normal, Relativity (starring Richard Dreyfuss) and Christmas on the Rocks, which he also conceived. His Broadway credits include

Looped (starring Valerie Harper in a Tony-nominated performance) and High (starring Kathleen Turner) which had its world premiere at TWH. He also conceived and directed the musical revue Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn which moved off-Broadway and was nominated for Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards. Rob conceived and directed Ella, a musical about Ella Fitzgerald, which saw sold-out runs in 24 regional theaters and was produced as a National Tour. His work on plays and musicals has received multiple awards in Connecticut and around the United States. Rob recently directed A Grand Night for Singing at Goodspeed Musicals where over his 14-year relationship he has directed many award-winning musical productions. Internationally he directed Fiddler on the Roof in Athens, Greece.



TRACY BRIGDEN (Curator/Producer) is a writer, director and producer for the stage, screen and ear buds. With a specialty in new work, Tracy has directed award-winning theatre productions in regional theatres across the country and in New York. She was Artistic Director of City Theatre in Pittsburgh for 16 years, and prior to that she worked on the artistic staffs of Hartford Stage and Manhattan Theatre Club.

For Theaterworks, Tracy has directed Art, Midsummer, Hand To God and Lifespan of a Fact. This summer she is directing two plays in repertory under the heading #GIRLPOWER for Thrown Stone in Ridgefield, CT.

JZ CASTING (Casting) Geoff Josselson, CSA and Katja Zarolinski, CSA are New York-based casting directors, handling productions for theatre, film and television. Recent work includes productions for TheaterWorks Hartford, Arena Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Baltimore Center Stage, Cape Playhouse, Denver Center, Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Irish Repertory Theatre, Merrimack Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Paper Mill Playhouse, Pittsburgh CLO, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Round House Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Weston Playhouse. jz-casting.com

NICOLE WIEGERT (Production Stage Manager) TheaterWorks
Hartford: This Bitter Earth, Christmas on the Rocks '21, Walden. Regional:
Ah, Wilderness!, Pike St., Detroit '67, Henry V, A Lesson from Aloes, A
Midsummer Night's Dream (Hartford Stage); Passing Through (Goodspeed
Musicals); Spinning (Long Wharf); Shakespeare In Love (CT Rep); Million
Dollar Quartet, The Flood (Mountain Playhouse); Grease, A Chorus Line
(Ivoryton Playhouse); Beauty and the Beast, Beehive: the 60's Musical
(Theatre by the Sea); James and the Giant Peach, Big Fish, Our Town,
Anatole (First Stage Milwaukee); Hall of Final Ruin, The Griots (Renaissance
Theaterworks); Swan Lake (Milwaukee Ballet). Television: House Hunters,
Extreme Cheapskates, Biggest Loser. Love to LC, WW and CW.

KATE J. CUDWORTH (Production Stage Manager) has enjoyed nine seasons with TheaterWorks Hartford including American Son, The River, Hand to God, The Invisible Hand, The Legend of Georgia McBride, The Wolves, Fade, Next to Normal, Sunset Baby, Relativity, Midsummer, Woody Sez, and Becoming Dr. Ruth. Off-Broadway: Freud's Last Session, [title of show]. NY/Regional: Barrington Stage Company (8 seasons including Freud's Last Session; Dr. Ruth, All The Way; Joe Iconis' The Black Suits), Atlantic Stage Company, Hartford Stage, Manhattan School of Music (4 seasons), Yale Opera, York Theatre Company, Bronx Opera Company, Fringe NYC, NYMF.

ADAM BINTZ (Video Recording & Post Production) is a TheaterWorks Hartford company member in his fourth season as Audio Visual Supervisor. Adam has worked around the country at various regional theaters and venues including Portland Center Stage, Hartford Stage, and Walt Disney World. Sound Design credits include Theaterworks Hartford: Elton Undressed, Every Brilliant Thing. Regional: Masks and the Monster (The Other Voice), Count, Sense & Sensibility, Dot, A Christmas Carol, Leaving Eden (PlayMakers Repertory Company), Love Letters (Long Wharf Theater) Romeo & Juliet, The Tempest (Hall High School), She Kills Monsters (Hartford Academy of the Arts).

MIKE LENAGHAN (Director of Production) After eight years of teaching Set Design and Production at Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, Mike returns to TheaterWorks Hartford as Director of Production. Mike's first stint with TheaterWorks began in 2004 with The Ten Unknowns and concluded in 2014 with The Other Place. For 55 productions, Mike was Technical Director, Production Manager, occasionally Props Master and Facilities Manager and on one special occasion, the Set Designer for The Santaland Diaries. Proud to be donning only one hat this time around, Mike is so excited to come home again. Mike's professional career began as an apprentice at Goodspeed Musicals (even if he faxed the wrong cover letter to the theatre) then he was off to the Juilliard School Production Department, DownTown Cabaret Theater and Westport Playhouse. Broadway credits include Thoroughly Modern Millie, Our Town and Fortune's Fool. Off Broadway: The It Girl, Suburb and The Summer of '42.

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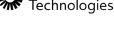








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#### **NEW WORKS FESTIVAL VIRTUAL**

THE DROP OFF was recorded virtually on February 27, 2022 with stage directions read by Jules Latimer

EGRESS was recorded virtually on April 23, 2022 with stage directions read by Kate J. Cudworth

ANDY WARHOL PRESENTS: THE COCAINE PLAY was recorded virtually on March 18, 2022 with stage directions read by Terry Guest

The actors in these recordings appear with the permission of Actors' Equity Association.

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