# 2024 THE FELLOWSHIP PLAYS

SIX NEW PLAYS BY SIX NYC PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL PLAYWRIGHTS



DECEPTION - KELSEY CRUZ
BUTTERFLIES IN THE LUNGS - KENNY IÑIGUEZ
PARALYSIS - JORDAN JENKINS
THE CLOWN ACT - YAN BO LIN
SNAPSHOT - AUTUMN RAIN PHILLIPS
FORWARD AGAIN - VANESSA



# **Rattlestick Theater**

224 Waverly Place New York, NY 10014

**Monday, March 25, 2024** 

# LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE

presents

# THE FELLOWSHIP PLAYS

The Fifth Annual NYC Public High School Playwriting Fellowship Program

<u>Director</u> Kimille Howard <u>Mentor</u> Nilan

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



For more information visit <u>www.Lortel.org/HSPF</u>

# THE 2024 FELLOWSHIP PLAYS

#### Deception by Kelsey Cruz Belmont Preparatory High School, The Bronx

Scarlett	Arielle Gonzalez
Gabriella "Gabby"	
Jonathan	
Bridget	
	**
Forward Again by Vanes	sa
Pathways to Graduation, Brook	·
Jay	
Jenny	
Profile Names & Computer Screen	
Video Poster	Sarah Alice Shull
Butterflies in the Lungs by Kenn	v Iñignez
Manhattan Bridges High School,	
Gema	
Sonia	
TV Woman	
Don Hector.	
Mia	
Amelia	
Man of Tomorrow	
	TT
Paralysis by Jordan Jenkin	ns
Brooklyn High School of the Arts,	Brooklyn
Apollo	
Christopher	Danté Jeanfelix
Cassie	DeAnna Supplee
The Clown Act by Yan Bo	Lin
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High	
Scylla	
Chary	Jeremiah Clapp
Homer Dewey	
Mr. Oedi	Marcus Jones
Disheveled Clown	Andrew Goebel
Offstage Voice	Sarah Alice Shull
Snapshot by Autumn Rain Ph	•
Curtis High School, Staten Is	
Dawn	
Lauren	
Young Dawn	Sarah Alice Shull
Stage Directions: Wayne Yoakum	

# THE FELLOWS



#### **Kelsey Cruz**

Hello! My name is Kelsey Cruz and I am 16 years old. I am currently a junior in high school and I was born and raised in the Bronx. I have a strong passion for writing and have many aspirations to make my passion a career path. I want to be able to tell stories that people are able to sympathize with along with representing where I came from.



#### Kenny Iñiguez

My name is Kenny Íñiguez, I am Ecuadorian, I want to be filmmaker. Since I was a kid, my dream was to share the craziest and most beautiful stories with the world; when I was growing, my vision was being more focus and I got my expectations with my writing works. In Ecuador, I was scared for my future like an artistic, but here I found my voice and opportunities to show my talent. My motto is "Only make art and your art will find the correct people".



#### Jordan Jenkins

Jordan Jenkins attends Brooklyn High School of the Arts and is absolutely delighted to learn skills in playwriting. He aspires to inspire others with his ideas and one day wishes to be among the most acclaimed storytellers.



#### Yan Bo Lin

My name is Yan Bo Lin, I live in Queens, NY, and I am a Junior Drama Major at the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School. I first found my interest in playwriting after discovering how wealthy some playwrights were and arrogantly decided I could do it too. I would swiftly find out that that statement is only partially true; my daydreams were not as genius as I believed. But other than the prospects of hedonism, the real reason I like playwriting/writing, in general, is because even when simple, it has an undeniable ability to make people think, question, and feel. With just the right words in the right placement being able to strike laughter, smiles, and frowns.



#### **Autumn Rain Phillips**

Autumn Phillips is a senior at Curtis High school who is thrilled to be able to share her first published play. She is not only a writer but an actor, director, and in a whole a creator and storyteller. She hopes this play, and everything she does in the future, will spark discussion and understanding.



#### Vanessa

Vanessa attends the D79 school Pathways to Graduation at Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow. She greatly enjoys creative writing. She wishes to experience playwriting and plays to expand her creativity.



## Kimille Howard DIRECTOR

Kimille Howard is a director, deviser, writer and filmmaker. She's an Assistant Stage Director at the Metropolitan Opera, Artistic Director of the Lucille Lortel Theatre's NYC Public High School Playwriting Fellowship, and a founder of the Black Diaspora Theatre Collective. Recent directing credits: The 2024 New Works Collective (Opera Theatre of St. Louis), Sanctuary Road (Virginia Opera), The Oscar Micheaux Project (NAMT Fest), Treemonisha (Opera Theatre of St. Louis), The Passion of Mary Cardwell Dawson (Glimmerglass/Washington National Opera, Opera Carolina), Songs in Flight (Sparks and Wiry Cries/Met Live), The Italian Girl (Tulsa Opera), American Apollo (DMMO), B.R.O.K.E.N Code B.I.R.D Switching (Berkshire Theatre Group), *Quamino's Map* (Chicago Opera Theater). Her work has also been seen at Playwrights' Horizons, 59E59, Wolf Trap Opera, Cherry Lane Theatre, among others. Broadway: Ain't Too Proud (Assistant Director) Met Opera: Champion, Die Zauberflöte, Porgy And Bess, Tosca (Assistant Stage Director). Recent Fellowships: NYTW 2050 Fellowship, MTC Jonathan Alper Directing Fellowship, New York Stage and Film's inaugural NYSAF NEXUS project. She is a recipient of OPERA America's 2023 Robert L. B. Tobin Director-Designer Prize.

www.kimillehoward.com



## **Nilan MENTOR**

Nilan (he/him+) is the Associate Artistic Director of The Drama League of New York and a founder of the award-winning production company A Certain Something. He has been in over 35 theatrical, film, and television projects nationally and internationally. He is the co-host of the podcast TA(L)KING DIRECTION. His plays include *Endangered Species*, *FOLKtales*, *Blood Promises*, *We Like To Party*, *The Rainbow Plays (a cycle of plays that chronicle queer life across the U.S. post-AIDS epidemic)*, and others. Recently, Nilan has helped co-facilitate and curate the first major International Directors Summit post-pandemic, gathering nine countries to together to talk art policy and cultural affairs. His tv show RENAISSANCE will be coming to a screen near you. Check out my website for more information. nilan.me | acertainsomething.org

# THE PANELISTS



# **Preston Burger**

Preston Burger is an actor, advocate, and educator hell bent on leveling the playing field for people with disabilities in all societal domains he can. Currently, Preston is on the Advisory Board of EPIC Players Neuroinclusive Theater Company (where he also participates as an actor and a mentor) and the Disability Advisory Council for BEAT Global. Outside of his artistic work, Preston is the Recruiter and Candidate Success Specialist for Integrate Autism Employment Advisors, a national nonprofit staffing and recruiting agency that helps Fortune 1000 companies build autism hiring programs. While at BCC, Preston helped start the cam-

pus's chapter of the CUNY student advocacy group, the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities (CCSD).



#### **Gethsemane Herron**

Gethsemane Herron is a playwright from Washington, D.C. She has developed work with Ars Nova, The Fire This Time Festival, The Hearth, JAG Productions, The Liberation Theater Company, The Playwright's Center, Roundabout Theatre Company, and WP Theater. She was a 20-22 member of Ars Nova's Play Group, a 20-22 member of the WP Lab, and a 21-22 Jerome Fellow/22-23 Many Voices Fellow at the Playwright's Center. Winner of the Columbia@Roundabout Reading Series. Winner of the 45th Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival. 2022 Recipient of the Helen Merrill Award. Finalist for the Van Lier New Voices Fellowship at the Lark and the Founders Award at New York Stage and

Film. MFA: Columbia University. Proud member of the Dramatist's Guild. Gethsemane is currently under commission with Woolly Mammoth Theater Company, Mosaic Theater Company, and the Drinking Gourd Collective. She will work on a new play with the Playwright's Center as a 2023-2024 McKnight Fellow. She's enamored with Sailor Moon & other magical girl warriors. She writes for survivors.



# **Eugene Ma**

Eugene Ma is a multidisciplinary theatre-maker and educator currently working across Toronto, New York and Hong Kong. He founded Performance Atelier Toronto, dedicated to liberatory actor training research. Trained primarily as a director, he has helmed the works of Suzan-Lori Parks, Paula Vogel, Thornton Wilder, Moliere, Sarah Kane, Mark Ravenhill and Saviana Stănescu, and most recently Wild, a concert-theater spectacle, at the Rose Theater in the UK, garnering a warm reception by Prince Edward and a 5-star review. He has also developed new works with Lisa Clair, Cherry Lou Sy, Mike Lew, Shane Sakhrani,

EllaRose Chary and Sooyeon Lee among others. From 2016 to 2018 he was appointed resident director at The Flea Theatre in New York. As a member of the Actors' Equity Association in the USA, Eugene Ma has worked under Tony Award-winning director Mary Zimmerman and celebrated auteur Stan Lai Sheng Chuan. His acting credits include performances for Theatre for a New Audience, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Yale Repertory Theatre, Seattle Rep, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and the Wallis Annenberg Centre for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles. Eugene Ma is also a Drama Desk-nominated composer and a lauded acting teacher. A certified teacher of Clown and Commedia dell'Arte, he completed his teaching apprenticeship at the Yale School of Drama and at the Juilliard School under Professor Christopher Bayes and has since given workshops and classes at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, The Dome Studio and New York University and has coached on a number of projects for the screen. Eugene Ma has served as a faculty member of Columbia University's Graduate Acting Programme, Yale School of Drama and at Harvard. More recently he has been teaching at Toronto Metropolitan University in Toronto, at the Hong Kong Baptist University and Toronto Metropolitan University.



# **Cherry Lou Sy**

Cherry Lou Sy (she/her) is a writer/playwright originally from the Philippines of Chinese and Filipino heritage. Currently based in Brooklyn, New York, she received her BA at NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study and attended Brooklyn College's MA in English Literature as well as the MFA in Playwriting program under Mac Wellman and Erin Courtney. She's a recipient of fellowships and residencies from VONA and Tin House among others and a finalist for way too many things to mention. Her debut novel LOVE CAN'T FEED YOU will be published in Fall '24 by the Dutton imprint of Penguin Random House.



# Gabriel Vega Weissman

Directing work includes *Guards at the Taj* (Central Square Theatre, Cambridge, MA; IRNE nominee for best play; Boston Globe Top 10 Theatre OF 2018), Charles Cissel's *MUST* (Theatre at St. Clements, produced by Bruce Willis); as well as collaborations with Emmy Award nominated actor and musician, Tituss Burgess, on concert events at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. Gabriel is an alum of the Drama League Director's Project, Lincoln Center Directors Lab, Manhattan Theatre Club Directing Fellowship, and Williamstown Theatre Festival Professional Training Program. He recently directed Measure

For Measure at the University of Kansas and this spring he will act as associate director of Martin McDonagh's *Hangmen* on Broadway.

# THE PERFORMERS



# **Jeremiah Clapp**

Jeremiah Clapp (He/Him/His): Off-Broadway: *Vatican Falls* (World Premiere), *The Tank*. Regional: *On The Grounds of Belonging* (World Premiere), Long Wharf Theatre; *Damascus* (SW Premiere), Florida Rep.; Luna Gale, Cleveland Play House; *Hamlet*, Colonial Theatre; Readings: Phaedra Michelle Scott's *Plantation Black*, Playwrights Horizons; Lia Romeo's *Ghost Story*, New Jersey Rep. Co.; Meg Miroshnik's *Utopia, MN*, CPH. TV/Film: "Gilded Age", "A Far Few Years from Now", "No Place is Home". Education: TAMU-Corpus Christi (BA); CWRU/CPH (MFA) www.jeremiahclapp.com



#### **Dorothea Gloria**

Dorothea is an artist from Manila, Philippines. She is currently a teaching artist in several New York city schools as well as a resident artist for Spellbound Theatre and Hedgepig Ensemble Theatre. She has performed for Spellbound Theater, La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, Rattlestick Playwrights, The Flea Theater, and many more. She has performed in various theater companies back home as well such as Repertory Philippines, PETA (Philippine Educational Theater Association), and CCP (Cultural Center of the Philippines) to name a few. She also earned BroadwayWorld's Best Featured Actress for her performance with Repertory Philippines. She is often seen in Bryant Park where she practices her juggling and flow arts. For more info, check her website at <a href="https://www.dorotheagloria.com">www.dorotheagloria.com</a> ig: @dorotheagloria



# **Andrew Goebel**

"Andrew Goebel is excited and blessed to be back with the Lucille Lortel Theatre HSPF crew! Thank you to Kimille, George, Alana and the whole creative team for continuing a truly incredible program.

www.andrew-goebel.com. Check out the Men of Doozy Podcast!"



## **Arielle Gonzalez**

Arielle Gonzalez is thrilled to return to the Lucille Lortel High School Playwriting Fellowship. She just completed a successful run of *El Otro Oz* at Atlantic Theater Company which was a New York Times Critics Pick. Select credits include: *12 Chairs* (The Parsnip Ship), *Thirty* (The 24 Hour Plays: Viral Monologues), *I'm Going To Make An Academy Award®-Winning Movie* (Ma-Yi Theater Company Short Stacks Playfest), and *Not My Monster! (The Flea Theater)* which was nominated for an Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Family Show. She has her BFA in Drama from NYU. You can find out more at ariellegonzalez.com



# **Ricky DeVon Hall**

Ricky DeVon Hall (he/him) is an actor, singer, community builder, and recent graduate of The Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts' Department of Theatre Arts at Howard University. Recent credits include *Incendiary* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company), *The Colored Museum* (Woolly Mammoth and Howard University), *A Raisin in the Sun* (The Howard Players), and *The Dangerous Acts Series*, in partnership with The Lucille Lortel Theatre and WNET directed by Phylicia Rashad. Ubuntu. BFA: Howard University, British American Drama Academy. Rep: BRS/Gage Talent Agency. @rickydevonhall (Instagram).



#### Danté Jeanfelix

Danté Jeanfelix (He/Him) - Danté is happy to return performing for the HSPF! He has been seen off-Broadway and regionally with credits including: *Balls* (OYL Theatre Co), The Tempest (Classical Theatre of Harlem) and Playing Hot (Pipeline Theatre Co). Some of his TV and Film Credits include: The Other Two (HBO Max), Law and Order (Season 21), Everything's Trash (ABC Freeform), Marvelous Mrs. Maisel (Final Season) and upcoming, Zero Day (Netflix). He is a proud SAG-AFTRA and Equity member.



## **Marcus Jones**

Marx (They/Them) is a New York-based actor.. Their most recent credits include: Arcadia (Bedlam Theater Company), Soft (Williamstown Theatre Festival), EWG (Primary Stages), MTV's SPOOKZ and Science Project (The Fled Collective) and The Fre (Flea Theater), HSPF (Lucille Lortel). As a Black, Trans, Non-Binary artist Marx is thrilled to share stories of those most marginalized in our community. Insta: Jones\_Marcus



# **Georgina Morillo**

Georgina Morillo is a proud Afro-Latina actress from Harlem, New York City. She has trained at Syracuse University, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre (London, England UK) and at The William Esper Studio. Georgina has been touring with The Black Latina Movement since 2018, performing *Black Latina The Play* at various universities such as Penn State, Louisiana State, The University of Utah & more. Some of her favorite credits include, *The Mountaintop* (Camae), *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena), *Sonnets of an Old Century* and *A Period Piece* (Rose). Outside of performing, you can find Georgina producing an upcoming series, titled NATIVES and working as a teaching artist.



#### Sarah Alice Shull

Sarah Alice Shull (she/her) was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, and is now an actor, writer, and creator currently based in NYC. Sarah Alice has been seen in several off and off-off Broadway productions, readings, and workshops at various theaters such as Playwright's Horizons, Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, The Flea Theater, The Sheen Center, The Tank, The Kraine Theater, and various comedy venues. Sarah Alice is a UCBNY Comedy school alum, was a part of the inaugural class of Freestyle Love Supreme's improv/musical improv academy at Ars Nova, and she was a member of the BARS program's 5th cohort at The Public Theater. Sarah Alice is a former Bat, a Resident Acting Company member, at The Flea Theater, and is a founding member of The Fled Collective. Sarah Alice's passion for performance extends into writing and producing, and she is constantly creating new work. Her original work has also been featured as a part of The Wilma Theater's Open Mic Series, Flea Fridays, The BARS program, AMIOS, CyberTank, and more.



# **DeAnna Supplee**

DeAnna is a Philadelphia-born, New York City-trained actress. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (BA, Theatre Arts & English), she has also studied at the British American Drama Academy at the University of Oxford and the Actors Studio Drama School (MFA, Acting). NYC Theater: *The Winter's Tale* (NYSX), *On Strivers Row* (Metropolitan Playhouse), *Much Ado About Nothing* (NYSX), *The Trojan Women* (The Flea Theater), *Fires in the Mirror*, *Laundry & Bourbon*, *Platanos Y Collard Greens*, and *Romeo & Juliet*. Regional Theater: *B.R.O.K.E.N. code B.I.R.D. switching* (Berkshire Theatre Group), *The Niceties* (Mile Square Theatre), *Skeleton Crew* (TheatreSquared). International Theater: *Look/Alive* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival). You can see her now at La MaMa ETC in the world premiere of Kate Taney Billingsley's new play *American Rot* directed by Oscar-winner Estelle Parsons. DeAnna is a proud member of AEA. <a href="https://www.deannasupplee.com">www.deannasupplee.com</a> @deannasupplee



# **Wayne Yoakum**

Wanye' Yoakum is a director, filmmaker, devisor and creative director. Recent Credits: *Directing Obsever at National Musical Theater Alliance*, *Grease*, *Hosanna and Little Shop of Horrors* and more <a href="https://www.yecreates.com">www.yecreates.com</a>

#### LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE STAFF

**Executive Director: George Forbes** 

Artistic Directors: Michael Heitzman, Kimille Howard, Caridad Svich

Senior Directors: Jeffrey Shubart and Nancy Hurvitz

General Managers: Alana Canty-Samuel and Maura Le Viness

Associate General Manager: Karla Liriano

Digital Designer: Ellen Chan

#### ABOUT THE NYC PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PLAYWRITING FELLOWSHIP

The Lucille Lortel Theatre, in collaboration with the Department of Education Arts Office Theater Program, created the NYC Public High School Student Playwriting Fellowship as an opportunity for young writers citywide to get unparalleled access to NYC professional artists for mentoring. Funded entirely by the Lucille Lortel Theatre, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, this innovative theater education program sends a high-profile message of inclusivity and artistry to both the educational and professional worlds. The program engages public school students of all levels of ability who devise an original one-act play. Master theater artists from across the professional theatre community and who represent the diverse continuum of the participating students will participate in the program, mentoring and directing the students to create fully realized plays based on their collective experiences and imagination. The free program provides approximately two months for students to write their plays, with the program culminating in a performance. The opportunities provided by this program encourage NYC public high school students to become the next generation of playwrights.

#### ABOUT THE LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE

Lucille Lortel Theatre's mission is to foster both new and established artists, increase awareness and appreciation of Off-Broadway, and uphold fair and equitable business and artistic practices in service of creating a larger, more diverse community of theatre makers and audiences. The Company builds on the legacy of its founder, Lucille Lortel (1900–1999), who was a champion of work by Samuel Beckett, Caryl Churchill, Athol Fugard, Jean Genet, Adrienne Kennedy, Larry Kramer, Terrence McNally, Marsha Norman, Sam Shepard, and Wendy Wasserstein. In addition to its Off Broadway theatre, which has been in continuous operation since 1955, the Company is renovating a three-story carriage house in Chelsea that will act as the Company's new headquarters. Its programs include The Alcove at the Lortel, a commissioning and development program for early and mid-career playwrights; the 121 Project, a bespoke development program for new musicals; NYC Public High School Playwriting Fellowship, Fellowships in NYC Theatre at Bennington College, Lucille Lortel Awards and Playwrights' Sidewalk, Internet Off-Broadway Database (IOBDB.com), and Non-Profit Theatre Strategic and Management Services. <a href="https://www.lortel.org">www.lortel.org</a>.

#### ABOUT THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The NYC Department of Education is the largest system of public schools in the United States, serving about 1.1 million students in approximately 1,800 schools. The Department of Education supports universal access to arts education through the ArtsCount initiative, which tracks and reports student participation in arts education and tracks progress at the school and city-wide levels for meeting New York State Instructional Requirements for the Arts. For more information, visit NYC DOE Office of Arts and Special Projects.