

# TBAConnect

A Fall Conference for Creatives

OCTOBER 28, 2023

Z SPACE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA



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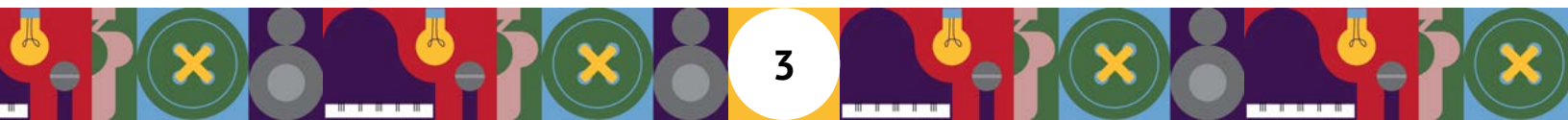
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# Schedule-At-A-Glance

Time	Event	Location
11–12 PM	<b>Coffee Networking Mixer &amp; Conference Check-In</b>	Main Lobby
12–12:45 PM	<b>Keynote Speech by Nataki Garrett</b>	Mainstage
1–2:15 PM	<b>Breakout Session A</b>	
	The Importance of Arts Journalism in this Theatre Crisis	Z Below Stage
	Nightmare Fuel	Mainstage Dressing Room
	Spoken and Unspoken: Writing Killer Dialogue	Conference Room
	Tech Basics for Actors and Directors	Behind Mainstage
	Visual Storytelling from Stage to Still	Z Below Lobby
	Working Toward Sustainable Production Models	Main Lobby
2:30–3:45 PM	<b>Plenary Panel</b>	Mainstage
4–5:15 PM	<b>Breakout Session B</b>	
	Acing Your Next Dance Call	Mainstage
	Arts Activism: Because All Theatre is Political	Z Below Stage
	Creating a Culture of Consent: Q&A with an Intimacy Director	Z Below Lobby
	Resume Doctor	Mainstage Dressing Room
	Directing as Advocacy: Moving Forward Artistically Through the Lens of Equity and Collectivism	Conference Room
	Feminist Acting Class	Main Lobby
5:30–6 PM	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Mainstage
6–7 PM	<b>Happy Hour Networking Mixer</b>	Main Lobby

## Land Acknowledgment

Theatre Bay Area acknowledges that this conference is being held on the **unceded ancestral lands of the Ramaytush Ohlone people**, colonially known as San Francisco. The land we gather on and from which we benefit continues to be the homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples. We affirm the sovereign rights of the Ramaytush Ohlone as First Peoples and wish to pay our respects to the Ancestors, Elders, and Relatives of the Ramaytush Community. If you wish to support the repatriation, revitalization, and restoration of this land you can [contribute to the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone here](#).



# Welcome



**As Theatre Bay Area's Executive Director**, I am honored to welcome you to TBAConnect, our 2023 Fall Conference for Creatives.

If you are one of the 1,059 new members who joined us this year, welcome to the TBA community. If you are one of our long-time or returning community members, welcome to our first ever conference devoted to your career growth as an individual creative.

Today's program is all about opening doors for you: the artists, designers, and technicians that are the lifeblood of the field.

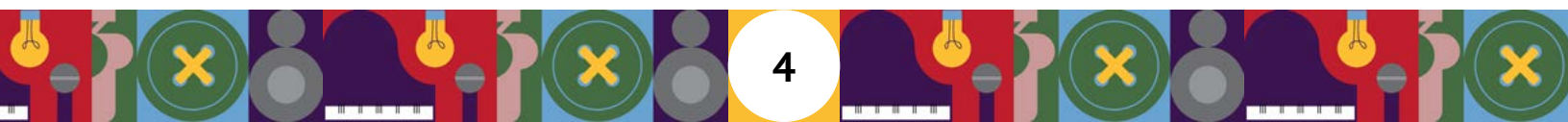
Bay Area theatremakers continue to face incredible challenges in and out of the theatre, and I am continuously inspired by the generosity with which we have approached the moment. As you go about the day, we hope you learn and teach, ask for support and offer help in turn, and – most of all – develop your craft as theatremakers.

We at Theatre Bay Area are proud to work in service to you and your career. This year alone, we have expanded our membership to include a thriving free member community, relaunched the in-person General Auditions, and celebrated the values of our incredible Bay Area theatre community through the TBA Highlights program, and we could not do it without all of you.

I look forward to connecting with all of you throughout the day in the amazing sessions we have planned.



Signed,  
Sean Fenton  
Executive Director, Theatre Bay Area



# Space Key



## Z SPACE

Main Lobby  
Mainstage  
Conference Room  
Mainstage Dressing Rooms (*One of the dressing rooms is the designated Quiet Room*)  
Multi-Stall All Gender Restrooms

## Z BELOW

Z Below Lobby  
Z Below Stage  
Z Below Dressing Room (*Nursing Room\**)  
Single Stall All Gender Restroom

\*Ask Z Space staff for access

# Accessibility



**The venue is wheelchair accessible.**

**For a low-fragrance environment,** we ask that attendees refrain from using perfumes, colognes, and other fragrances on the day of the event. [Learn more about the impact of chemical fragrances and how to reduce your usage.](#)

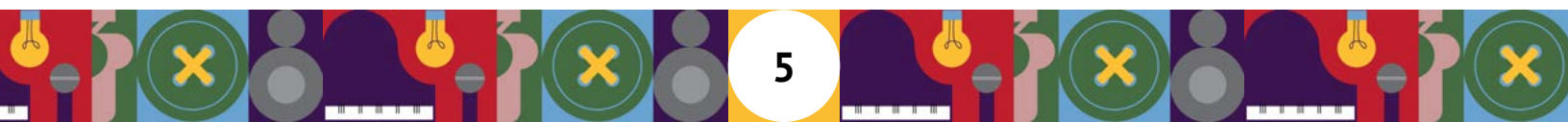
**Covid-19 safety precautions** are highly encouraged. This means using N95 or KN95 masks (while not eating or drinking), getting the latest booster vaccine, testing before the event (at-home rapid or PCP tests), and staying home if you have been exposed or are showing symptoms. We continue to value the safety of our medically vulnerable community members, as well as the working conditions of those on stage and in rehearsal in the weeks after the event!

**Any other access needs?** We will do our best to meet them! If you have a need not being met please find a TBA staff member and let us know how we can better support you and we will do our best to meet those needs.

# Quiet Room



We have designated one of the mainstage dressing rooms as a quiet space for decompression. All are welcome to take advantage of this space, we just ask that you maintain quiet, fragrance-free space.



# Creatively Shaded



Theatre Bay Area is partnering with the *Creatively Shaded* podcast for TBAConnect. The hosts will be interviewing conference presenters and participants throughout the day.

*Creatively Shaded* is a podcast where four Bay Area Black Artists take center stage to explore the depths of Bay Area Theatre from A Black Artists' POV. Get ready for laughs, theatrics, drama, and authentic exploration that's *Creatively Shaded* in the culture! With artists Elizabeth Jones, Phaedra Tillery-Boughton, Jacquetta Farrar & ShawnJ West.

## Media Disclaimer



There will be professional photographers, hosts from *Creatively Shaded*, and TBA staff recording and sharing photo and video of the event. By joining us for this conference you are consenting to being recorded. Photos and video from the conference may be used by Theatre Bay Area for marketing purposes. Interviews, photos, and video may also be used by *Creatively Shaded* for their podcast, marketing, or social media.

# DEAR

DRESHER ENSEMBLE  
ARTIST RESIDENCY

## Residencies for Northern California Time-Based Artists

**theater | performance ▪ dance | movement  
music | sound art | instrument invention  
collaboration | interdisciplinary work**

### Application Deadline

**November 15, 2023 (11:59 PM)**

### RSVP FOR ONE OF OUR INFO SESSIONS



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 ■ 7 PM (zoom)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 ■ 7 PM (zoom)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 ■ 12-NOON (at the studio)

**[DRESHERENSEMBLE.ORG/DEAR/](https://dresherensemble.org/dear/)**

### Four to six residencies annually each providing:

- **Full-time access (24/7) of 1 to 4 weeks to rehearsal studio (40' x 42')**
- **Access to state-of-the-art equipment** (sound, lighting, projection, and recording)
- **A production stipend** (currently up to \$1500)
- **Technical, financial, marketing, and managerial consultations**
- **Fiscal sponsorship** (if needed)
- **Performance opportunities**

# About Theatre Bay Area



TBA's mission is to unite, strengthen, promote, and advance the theatre community in the San Francisco Bay Area, working on behalf of our conviction that the performing arts are an essential public good, critical to a healthy and truly democratic society, and invaluable as a source of personal enrichment and growth.

Theatre Bay Area is committed to embodying and advancing the values of: community, inclusion, service, impact, and organizational sustainability. To live out our values, TBA is committed to advancing the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) both within our own organization and in the larger field.

We are the largest arts service organization of our kind, supporting the radical creativity of our members with unparalleled access to educational, financial, and professional resources.

Now engaging millions of arts participants each year, our members' work is situated at the dynamic intersections of technology, arts, entertainment, and culture.

The result – our region is one of the most vibrant and unique cultural destinations in the world.

**NEW ROOTS THEATRE FESTIVAL**  
*Unearthing Distinct Voices of the Bay*

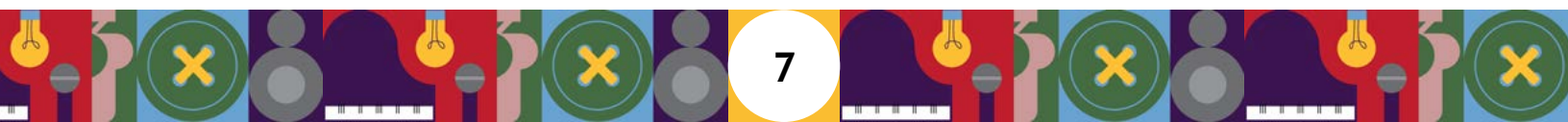
**NOV 10 -12**  
Brava Theater, 2781 24th St, SF

**1 Weekend**  
**15 Performances**  
**50 Bay Area Artists**

**GET FEST PASSES + TIX AT SFBATCO.ORG**

Feat. performances by SFBATCO, Zaccho Dance Theatre, Campo Santo & Magic Theatre, AfroSolo, SF Recovery Theatre

ZACCHO DANCE THEATRE



# TBA Membership



When you join Theatre Bay Area, you become part of a community of theatremakers – a vibrant community of performers, writers, directors, designers, administrators, and performing arts organizations who make up the unique diversity of our Bay Area theatre scene.

Wherever you are in your career, Theatre Bay Area is your home.

Whether you're union or non-union, a professional artist or hobbyist, just starting out or a seasoned theatre veteran, there's something for you at Theatre Bay Area.

Become a Theatre Bay Area member today and gain access to exclusive benefits, including jobs and auditions listings, discount offers, and priority access to professional development resources to boost your career, wherever you are on your theatrical journey.

[Learn more about TBA Member Benefits](#)

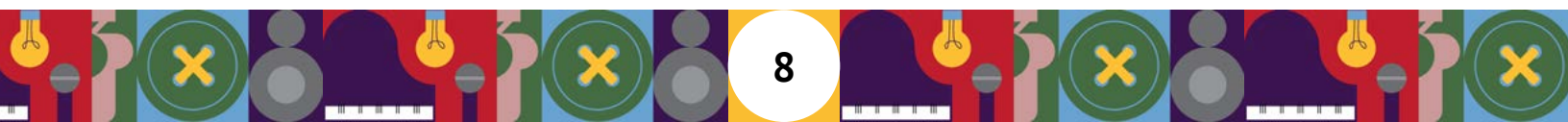
# Talent Bank



The Theatre Bay Area Talent Bank is a great place to promote yourself to artistic and casting directors in the Bay! It is the definitive directory of theatremakers in the San Francisco Bay Area designed to get your work in the hands of theatre companies hiring and casting across the Bay Area.

With talent listings from every discipline across 11 counties, the you will want to make sure your work is posted so you can connect with theatres across the Bay Area. Whether you are an actor, dancer, musician, director, designer, technician, dramaturg, playwright, administrator or many of the above don't miss your chance to showcase your incredible skills in the Talent Bank.

[Create your profile and get hired!](#)





# Upcoming Programs



## Member Meet Up: Halloween Edition

**10/31/2023 at 07:30 PM Pacific | La Val's Subterranean Theatre in Berkeley**

Join Theatre Bay Area this Halloween for a spooky night of fun and theatricality!

We're partnering with TBA members, Theatre Lunatico, for a spookily fun community meet up on October 31st. The night kicks off at La Val's in Berkeley for happy hour and pizza (costumes encouraged!) followed up by the special late show of Theatre Lunatico's "Tales from Behind the Basement Door".

[Register Here](#)



## General Auditions 2024

**02/03/2024 & 02/04/2024 | Berkeley Repertory Theatre Peet's Theatre**

Save the date for the 2024 General Auditions! TBA's 2024 General Auditions will bring together casting professionals, artistic directors, and over 200 local actors for a weekend of Bay Area talent.

Applications will open in November 2023 to all TBA Individual Members: including Premium, Free, and individual users on a Company's membership. There is no cost to apply or audition, though audition slots are limited. TBA General Auditions are open to both AEA and non-AEA actors.

[Learn more about the 2024 General Auditions](#)

# Upcoming Programs



## **Ask An Intimacy Director with Amanda Pulcini**

**11/13/2023 at 06:00 PM Pacific | On Zoom**

Loved Amanda Pulcini's session and want to dive deeper? Have you ever wondered about hiring an intimacy professional for your production? Are you curious about what consent-forward practices are, and how they can have a positive impact on your work? Intimacy professionals are becoming an industry standard and this workshop aims to support your future engagement with IPs through understanding considerations around intimacy and consent, and having open discussions around what collaboration with an Intimacy Professional may look like in your organization.

[Register Here](#)



## **Feminist Acting Class**

**11/18/2023 at 01:00 PM Pacific | Eclectic Box in San Francisco**

Join award-winning playwright and director Gina Young (she/they) for a weekend intensive that explores whether the form and content of an acting class can both be made feminist with an intersectional lens. Through monologues, scene study, and communal big picture thinking, we'll flip the script on traditional actor training. You might leave with greater knowledge of women/TGNC/queer playwrights, a monologue that expands your range and type, or a paradigm shift about your career. All genders and all levels welcome!

[Register Here](#)

# CA\$H Theatre Grants



**Fall 2023 CA\$H Theatre Grant applications are open!** CA\$H Theatre Grants are available to individual theatre artists, collaborative teams, and small, professionally-oriented theatre companies with operating budgets no greater than \$100,000.

There are three funds available: CA\$H Creates, CA\$H Performs, and CA\$H Sustains. Theatre companies, collaborative teams, and individual theatre artists are eligible to apply for CA\$H Creates and CA\$H Performs, while CA\$H Sustains is specifically for theatre companies.

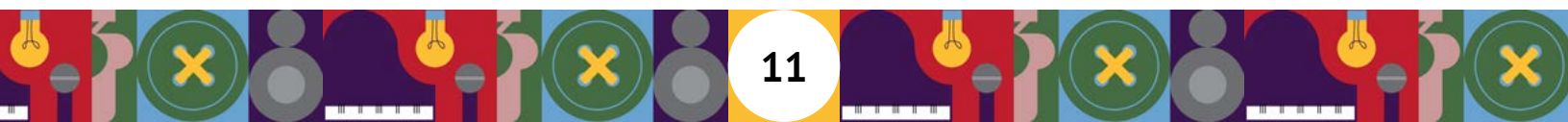
**CA\$H Creates** is a \$2,500 grant that supports the development of artistic projects or capacity-building projects not directly tied to a fully-produced performance of a piece.

**CA\$H Performs** is a \$5,000 grant that supports fully-produced performances of artistic projects that are open to the public, or projects that support the creation of multiple works by multiple artists.

**CA\$H Sustains** is a \$5,000 grant that supports the general operating costs of a Bay Area theatre company. Sustains applications will only be open once per year, during the fall granting cycle.

**All applications must be submitted by Monday, November 6, 2023 at 5 PM PST.**

[Apply for CA\\$H Theatre Grants Today!](#)



# Meet the TBA Staff



**Sean Fenton** (he/him)  
Executive Director  
Sean@TheatreBayArea.org



**Melissa Hillman** (she/her)  
Programs Officer  
Melissa@TheatreBayArea.org



**Meghan Crosby-Jolliffe** (they/them)  
Membership &  
Community Engagement Officer  
Meghan@TheatreBayArea.org



**Ann Marie Lonsdale** (she/her)  
Interim Managing Director  
AnnMarie@TheatreBayArea.org



**Art Quiñones** (they/them)  
Marketing &  
Communications Officer  
Art@TheatreBayArea.org



**Hilary Buffum** (she/they)  
Membership &  
Communications Specialist  
Hilary@TheatreBayArea.org



**Jericha Senyak** (she/her)  
Senior Bookkeeper

# See Some Theatre Together

What better way to round out a day of learning, networking, and connecting, than by taking in the work of some of the incredible makers in our community! Join other TBAConnect attendees at one of these local productions for a fun night out after the conference.



## **Word for Word**

8 PM Showtime

0.0 Miles from TBAConnect

[Use this link to for \\$30 tickets exclusive to TBAConnect attendees!](#) (Good for the full run of the show)



## **ReOrient Festival of New Plays**

Golden Thread Productions

8 PM Showtime

0.9 Miles from TBAConnect

[Use this link to access sliding scale tickets!](#)

Also at Golden Thread this weekend is the MENA Theatre Makers Alliance Annual National Convening. TBAConnect attendees are also invited to check out this session on Sunday 10/29, 2:15 - 3:45 PM.

## **Intercommunity Dialogue: Coalition-Building with Other Networks**

Moderator: Kate Moore Heaney with introduction by Emilyya Cachapero

Location: Potrero Stage/Hybrid (live-streamed on HowlRound)

This session asks, how can MENATMA continue to build on our connections with other theatre networks of color and work together towards shared goals for our communities?



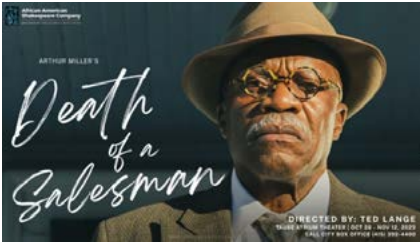
## **We Are Continuous**

New Conservatory Theatre Center

8 PM Showtime

1.1 miles from TBAConnect

[Buy Tickets Here!](#) Use code 'TBAConnect' at checkout for a 25% discount



### **Death of a Salesman**

African-American Shakespeare Company  
8 PM Showtime  
1.4 miles from TBAConnect

[Buy Tickets Here!](#) Use code "TBA15" at checkout for \$15 tickets (good for 10/28 and 10/29)



### **Rossum's Universal Robots**

Cutting Ball Theatre  
8 PM Showtime  
2 miles from TBAConnect

[Buy Tickets Here!](#) Use code 'TBARUR' for a 10% discount



### **Nollywood Dreams**

SF Playhouse  
8 PM Showtime  
2.2 Miles from TBAConnect

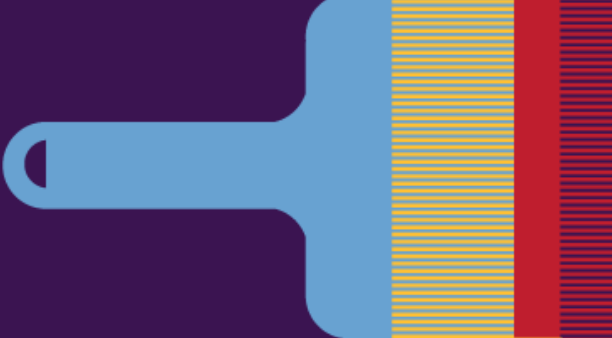
[Buy Tickets Here!](#)



### **The Improvised Twilight Zone**

BATS Improv  
8 PM Showtime  
3.7 miles from TBAConnect

[Buy Tickets Here!](#)



# SCHEDULE

11 AM – 12 PM | Pre-event



## Coffee Networking Mixer & Conference Check-In

MAIN LOBBY

Check in, get some coffee and snacks, and meet other local theatremakers!



## The Threat of An Inclusive American Theatre

### MAINSTAGE

Nataki Garrett is kicking off TBAConnect with her brilliant insight! As a trailblazing theatre artist, administrator, director, producer, playwright, educator, activist, and mentor Nataki Garrett brings a unique perspective to what it means to be a theatre artist today. Speaking from her leadership and artistic experience she will share her vision for what it truly means create organizations that are both artists driven and artists centered.



#### **Nataki Garrett** (she/her)

Nataki Garrett is a changemaker, trailblazer, and nationally recognized artist and artistic leader. She was the first executive artistic director and the sixth artistic director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the first Black female in this role. As such, she was the first female and person of color in the country to lead a \$44M fully producing theater company. Her accomplishments included helping to save OSF during the pandemic closure by raising \$19M from government, foundation, and individual sources. Nataki used her platform to organize the Professional Non-Profit Theater Coalition, a national effort to advocate for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, which provided an unprecedented \$15B of federal funding during the pandemic for live-performance venue operators, performing-arts organizations, theatrical producers, and more.

While at OSF, Nataki created and produced “Quills Fest,” the first-of-its-kind fully immersive digital event at the intersection of XR (extended reality) and theater. She also served as executive producer for the 2022 Sundance award-winning film *You Go Girl!* and the film *Ashland*, both directed by Shariffa Ali. Nataki’s work as a multi-hyphenate artist can be experienced across film, VR, and live theater. Among other honors, she has received the Bronze Telly Award (2023) and the OMPA Creative Innovation Award (2022), was the first recipient of the Ammerman Award for Directing (2019), given by Arena Stage, and was named a United States Artist Fellow (2022).

Raised in Oakland, Nataki comes from a family of artists, educators, and civil-rights organizers. Her vision is to support artists; to manifest innovation; to inspire creativity; and to ensure the future of performance by centering artists as thought leaders and changemakers who transform culture. Nataki can be regularly read, watched, or listened to across regional and national news media.



# 1:00 - 2:15 PM | Breakout Session A

## The Importance of Arts Journalism in this Theatre Crisis

### Z BELOW STAGE

Artists and critics – do we need each other? Join David John Chávez and Jeffrey Lo in conversation about what arts journalism brings to our current theatre crisis. How do theatremakers relate and respond to theatre critics in our work? Press coverage is often considered a lifeline to the performing arts, but how does it support theatres in practice? From shaking off a bad review to the journalistic process of writing about performance, bring your listening ears and your burning questions to these experts for discussion and insight. If you are interested in the role arts journalism should – or should not – play in this critical moment, don't miss this session!



#### **David John Chávez** (he/him)

David John Chávez is a theatre critic and reporter who writes regularly for the San Jose Mercury News, KQED, American Theatre Magazine, and the San Francisco Chronicle. He is one of five co-founders of Substrate Arts Magazine, a Bay Area arts and culture publication, chair of the American Theatre Critics Association and a two-time juror for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama ('22-'23), serving as jury chair in 2023.

*Photo courtesy of David John Chávez*



#### **Jeffrey Lo** (he/him)

Jeffrey Lo is a Filipino-American Playwright and Director, his recent directing credits include Little Shop of Horrors and The Language Archive at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Bald Sisters and The Great Leap at San Jose Stage and The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin and Chinglish at San Francisco Playhouse. His plays have been produced at City Lights Theatre Company, Custom Made Theatre, Bindlestiff Studio and TheatreFirst. Jeffrey also works nationally as an educator and advocate for issues of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

*Photo courtesy of Mark Kitaoka*

# 1:00 - 2:15 PM | Breakout Session A

## Nightmare Fuel

### MAINSTAGE DRESSING ROOM

Get into the spooky spirit: incredible special effects artist, designer, and director Dani Spinks brings Halloween horror to TBAConnect with a monstrous make-up demonstration. Want to make your next show's wounds, bruises, and monsters unforgettable? Dani will demonstrate how to create horrifying stage looks live on a model! Learn how to conjure the blood and gore you need to create chilling characters.



#### **Dani Spinks** (she/her)

Dani began her journey as a Special Effects Makeup Artist for film and TV. After working on a stage production of Bram Stoker's Dracula, she founded her theater company, Dreams on the Rocks. Six months later, having fallen in love with the thrill of live theater, she wrote, directed, and produced her first stage production.

Dani currently leads the makeup department for Terror Vault, San Francisco's premier immersive haunt experience. She also designs sets and makes props for various companies in the Bay.

She is also the co-founder of Eclectic Box, a 70-seat black box theatre in the Mission.

Check out [www.agoreabledesigns.com](http://www.agoreabledesigns.com) to see her work. You can also find more info about Eclectic Box at [www.eclecticboxsf.com](http://www.eclecticboxsf.com)

# 1:00 - 2:15 PM | Breakout Session A

## Spoken and Unspoken: Writing Killer Dialogue

### CONFERENCE ROOM

America's most-produced living playwright, Lauren Gunderson, will guide you through this hands-on workshop that includes writing exercises for about the spoken and unspoken ways to tell stories. Supercharge your storytelling through incisive dialogue, powerful stage directions, and action that fuels plot.



#### **Lauren Gunderson** (she/her)

Lauren has been one of the most produced playwrights in America since 2015, topping the list thrice including 2022/23. She is a two-time winner of the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award for *I and You* and *The Book of Will*, the winner of the Lanford Wilson Award and a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and Arthur L. Weissberger Award. She is a playwright, screenwriter, musical book writer and children's author who lives in San Francisco. She graduated from NYU Tisch as a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship. [LaurenGunderson.com](http://LaurenGunderson.com)

*Photo by Tanya Bellows*



## Tech Basics for Actors and Directors

### BEHIND MAINSTAGE

Looking to up your game as director? Want to become your lighting designer's new favorite person? This session is for you! Bay Area designer and technician Jax Steager will walk you through the basic terminology and functions you need to communicate with lighting designers, set designers, and technicians. This session will help directors understand exactly what to ask for, calculate more accurately how much work is involved in each request, and collaborate more effectively with designers and technicians. Actors will come away with a better understanding of their work environment and learn the practical skills and mechanics of theatrical storytelling.



#### **Jax Steager**

Jax is a designer, electrician, and lighting programmer. She holds a BA in Drama from Loyola University New Orleans and an MFA in Theatre Design & Production Technology from San Francisco State University. Jax was a company member of Impact Theatre 2006-2016, co-founder and technical director of Gryphon Venues on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2011-2014, and master electrician at Kanbar Hall 2001-2018. She is currently a light board operator at the San Francisco Opera.

*Photo by Jax Steager*

# 1:00 - 2:15 PM | Breakout Session A

## Visual Storytelling from Stage to Still

Z BELOW LOBBY

Ignite your storytelling inspiration using the tools at your fingertips! Experiment with other theatremakers at this hands-on photography workshop led by photographer and inspirational storyteller Tasi Alabastro. Whether it's through his acting, photography, design, podcasting, game reviews, or teaching, Tasi's stories are unique-- profound while remaining engaging and fun. Tasi will guide you through this visual storytelling workshop through the use of still images. All you need is your camera phone and your creativity! This workshop is great for directors, designers, playwrights, and anyone who wants to sharpen their storytelling skills.



### **Tasi Alabastro** (he/him)

Tasi Alabastro is an actor, multi-disciplinary artist, and self-proclaimed flaneur. Professional credits include *A Christmas Carol* (A.C.T); *Twelfth Night*, musical adaptation (SF Playhouse); *Every Brilliant Thing*, *VIETGONE*, and *Stupid F\*\*king Bird* (City Lights Theatre Company); *Sisters Matsumoto* (CenterRep). Alabastro is a recipient of the 2019 Leigh Weimers Emerging Artist Award and the 2018 SVCCreates Emerging Artist Laureate. He is a senior company member of the Red Ladder Theatre Company, a nationally acclaimed, award-winning social justice theatre company. For extended bio, work, blog, and pretty cool art visit [tasialabastro.com](http://tasialabastro.com). Twitter/Instagram: @tasialabastro @themodernclicksmith

*Photo by Tasi Alabastro*

## Working Toward Sustainable Production Models

### MAIN LOBBY

Designers and techs are some of the hardest hit in this economic crisis due to outdated production models. Together, we can create real change, like inclusive production scheduling and people-first production models. Let's develop strategies we can use to shift the culture in our industry, discuss our collective needs as designers and techs, and build a coalition to support each other in this work. Join Bay Area designers Carlos Aceves and Devon LaBelle in a community conversation that can transform the future of our industry. Bring your ideas, concerns, and experience to this vital gathering.



**Carlos Aceves** (he/they)

Carlos is a Bay Area-based designer and theatre maker whose practice centers on new works and social justice theatre.

*Photo by Louis Tema*



**Devon LaBelle** (she/her)

Devon is the Prop Shop Coordinator at SFSU where she is mentoring the next generation of prop people. She is a Resident Artist with Crowded Fire, a Shotgun Company Member, and a longtime prop collaborator in the Bay Area.

*Photo by Cheshire Isaacs*

# 2:30 - 3:45 PM | Plenary Panel



## Plenary Panel

### MAINSTAGE

This year's plenary is an all-star panel that will delve into the pressing issues faced by playwrights, actors, directors, designers, and stage managers in our current climate. They'll discuss the challenges of sustainability, advocating for personal needs, and ensuring accountability and integrity during these complex economic times. Don't miss this candid, cross-disciplinary discussion on the Bay Area's ever-evolving landscape of theatre.



#### **Sean Fenton** (he/him)

Executive director of Theatre Bay Area, has been active in the professional Bay Area theatre community for more than two decades as an actor, musician, director, and administrator. He has performed at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, San Francisco Playhouse, 42nd Street Moon, Ferocious Lotus Theatre Company, and Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra, among others. Backstage, he has been a leader at Bay Area Children's Theatre, Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre, and WolfBrown's Intrinsic Impact program. Sean is a member of Actors' Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA and holds a BA in Cultural and Social Anthropology from Stanford University.



#### **Ezra Reaves** (they/he)

Ezra Reaves is an actor, comedian, writer, and director. TV/Film credits include *4400* (The CW), *Suckhole* (FX). Regional: *Wizard of Oz* (ACT), *As You Like It* (SF Playhouse), *The Red Shades* (Z Space), *Plot Points in Our Sexual Development* (NCTC), *The Daughters* (SF Playhouse), and *The Speak-easy* (Boxcar). Reaves has spent 10+ years as an ensemble member of the Neo-Futurists, writing and performing nationally and internationally in their critically-acclaimed long-running shows *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind* and *The Infinite Wrench*. Reaves holds a BFA in acting and studied at the Atlantic Acting Conservatory in NYC. [ezrareaves.com](http://ezrareaves.com)

*Photo by Heubner Headshots*



### **Star Finch**

Star Finch is a San Franciscan trying her best to hold ground amidst the erasure of gentrification. She is currently the Mellon Foundation Playwright in Residence at Campo Santo and Crowded Fire Theater. She was also a resident playwright at Playwrights Foundation (2018-2022).

Finch's plays include *H.O.M.E. [Hookers on Mars Eventually]* and *Bondage* (Relentless Award honorable mention). Her most recent play *Josephine's Feast* premiered at the Magic Theatre this summer.

*Photo by Joan Osato*



### **Katja Rivera** (she/her)

Katja Rivera is originally from Los Angeles, and studied theater at LACC Theatre Academy and Drama Studio London at Berkeley. Bay Area acting credits include: Shotgun Players, Magic Theatre, Theatre Rhinoceros, Center Rep. Directing credits include Shotgun Players, Douglas Morrison, Custom Made Theatre, RPE (Danville), SF Playground and TheatreFIRST. She is a proud member of Shotgun Players, SF Playground and Latinx Mafia, as well as a very proud Abuela of Leo and Eleanor! (Do you want to see some pictures?)

*Photo by Robert Estes*



### **Claudio Andres Silva Restrepo** (he/him)

Claudio Andres Silva Restrepo is from Santiago Chile. He works with SFBATCO to create art that represents the diverse community of the Bay Area and addresses social issues relevant to his community. In 2023 Claudio had the opportunity to join the Urban School of San Francisco as their new Technical Director.



### **Tanya Telson** (she/her)

Tanya Telson is currently a Communications Director for 3Girls Theatre. She was formerly the Operations Director of 3GT, learning to navigate the rough waters of keeping a Bay Area Theater Company afloat in a post 2020 world. Tanya is also a freelance Stage Manager and Stage Hand working in local venues. Past shows include *She Loves Me*, *Snoopy!!!*, *Little Me*, and *Sugar* (42nd Street Moon), *Baby* (Ray of Light Theatre) and assistant stage management for *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Luminescence Dating*, and *Red Scare on Sunset* (American Conservatory Theatre). She is a member of Actors' Equity Association and has a BFA in Technical Theater from Emerson College in Boston.





## Acing Your Next Dance Call

### MAINSTAGE

Want to ace your next dance call? Bring jazz shoes and your best self to this mock audition! Get practical pointers from a choreographer and dance professional while learning combinations in real time. Come ready to move! This workshop is for performers who want to waltz in, stand out, and bring the house down at their next audition. Get on your feet and get that gig!



#### **Christina Lazo** (she/her)

Christina Lazo is an award winning Director and Choreographer, as well as a vibrant Teaching Artist and dedicated Arts Administrator. She has been active in Bay Area theatre for over 20 years. She has worked as a performer and choreographer throughout the country in regional theatre, theme park and industrial projects, as well as theatre for young audience tours. Locally, Christina has directed and/or choreographed productions including, *Encore*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *West Side Story*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *A Chorus Line*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *All Shook Up* and many more. She has worked with many wonderful companies including New Conservatory Theatre Center, 42nd Street Moon, Contra Musical Theatre, Woodminster Amphitheatre, Palo Alto Players, Pacific Coast Repertory Company, Tri Valley Repertory Theater and Altarena Playhouse. Christina is also the Executive Artistic Director of Musical Theatre Works, a non-profit youth performance and training company, now in its 26th year.

*Photo by Ben Krantz*

## Arts Activism: Because All Theatre Is Political

### Z BELOW STAGE

“Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it.” – Brecht

Actor, writer, director, and teacher Michael Gene Sullivan has been at the heart of arts activism in the Bay Area for decades. This session calls us all as workers and artists together to ground ourselves in our artistic activism and reaffirm our commitment to the radical act that is creating theatre in this moment. Theatre challenges us to connect with one another, to stay active, to sustain our transformational work, and carry forward this theatrical activist tradition onstage and off.



#### **Michael Gene Sullivan** (he/him)

Michael Gene Sullivan is an actor, writer, director, blogger, and teacher committed to developing theatre of social and economic justice, of political self-determination, and, of course, musical comedy. Michael is also an alum of the nationally-acclaimed Playwright’s Foundation, a Djerassi Center Artist Fellow, and in 2022 was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship.

An accomplished veteran of Bay Area theater, with credits from American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, Theatreworks, The Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Denver Center Theater Company, The California, San Francisco and Marin Shakespeare companies as well as many others, Michael is also a Collective Member and Resident Director of the Tony and OBIE award-winning, always revolutionary, and never, ever silent San Francisco Mime Troupe, where he has written, acted in, and/or directed over thirty plays.

As a playwright Michael’s work has appeared across the United States, as well as in Germany, Italy, Mexico, Spain, The Netherlands, Argentina, Australia, the United Kingdom, Columbia, Hong Kong, Canada, China, and Ukraine.

Michael’s directing credits include work with the San Francisco Mime Troupe, The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, and The African-American Shakespeare Festival.



## Creating a Culture of Consent: Q&A with an Intimacy Director

Z BELOW LOBBY

What does it take to create a culture of consent in your theatrical space? Bring your curiosity and ask an intimacy director! No matter your experience level, this session will deepen the conversation and practicalities around consent in the rehearsal room and on stage. Come with your questions about your individual experience, company culture, or the wider world of theatre. This session is for anyone interested in what it takes to make rehearsal spaces where cast, crew, and leadership have the emotional safety to take creative risks. Continue the conversation on intimacy direction in an upcoming webinar with Amanda this November.



**Amanda Pulcini** (she/her)

Amanda Pulcini is an Intimacy Coordinator / Actor splitting her time between Chicago, LA, and San Francisco. She is the Client Development Coordinator at IDC, offering workshops on the foundations of intimacy practices to theatre and production companies, educational institutions, and businesses across the country. She believes that authenticity and collaboration are the foundations of the best storytelling, and strives to bring those qualities into every project she works on. [www.AmandaPulcini.com](http://www.AmandaPulcini.com)

*Photo by Ian McClaren*

# 4:00 - 5:15 PM | Breakout Session B

## Feminist Acting Class

MAIN LOBBY

This transformative approach to actor training is for actors of all genders and levels of experience. LA-based award-winning actor and director Gina Young has been offering Feminist Acting Class since 2016. Gina describes this work as “a series of experiments to see if the form and content of an acting class can both be made feminist. A paradigm shift.” This session is a bite-sized look at the full weekend class TBA will be offering in November. Let’s flip the script together!



### **Gina Young** (she/they)

Gina Young is an award-winning writer, director, and deviser based in Los Angeles. Their work has been presented at venues including MOCA, The Hammer Museum, REDCAT, Los Angeles Performance Practice, USC’s Visions & Voices Series, and the Feminist Center for Creative Work. She is a Winner of the Jane Chambers Award for Playwriting, a two-time Finalist for Center Theatre Group’s Sherwood Award for boundary-pushing theatre artists, and a Winner of the Humanitas/PLAY LA Prize.

*Photo by Lex Ryan*

# 4:00 - 5:15 PM | Breakout Session B



## Resume Doctor

### MAINSTAGE DRESSING ROOM

Is your resume properly formatted? Does it have everything directors need to know? Bring your theatrical resume and get one-on-one tips to make it more polished and professional. Whether you're an actor, designer, dramaturg, or director, make sure your resume stands out!



#### **Krystle Piamonte** (she/her)

Krystle Piamonte is a San Francisco-based stage and screen actor. Theatre credits include work at Z Space, SF Playhouse, Ferocious Lotus, Magic Theatre, and Bindlestiff Studio. She is a two time TBA Award Finalist for Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role in a Play and was named an MVP of Bay Area Theatre by KQED. Krystle is a Co-Founder/Co-Artistic Director of The Chikahan Company and a company member of PlayGround. [www.krystlepiamonte.com](http://www.krystlepiamonte.com)

*Photo by Ryan Johnson*



#### **Cassidy Brown** (he/him)

Cassidy Brown is a Bay Area Actor and Improviser who spent 10 years as Casting Director at the now defunct Willows Theatre. He has also served as MC for the TBA General Auditions for many many years. You can hear him getting deeply philosophical and inappropriately funny on his Spiritual Comedy Podcast *All the Answers*.

*Photo by Kirsten Getchell*



## Directing as Advocacy: Moving Forward Artistically through the Lens of Equity and Collectivism

CONFERENCE ROOM

A session designed for directors and all theatre artists who are eager to learn more strategies to advance arts equity, advocating for change, and fostering peer learning within the Bay Area Theatre community. This breakout session provides a platform for theatremakers (with a focus on theatre directors) to come together, share experiences, gain insights, and collectively work towards a more inclusive and vibrant arts industry.



### **Karina Gutiérrez** (she/her)

Karina Gutiérrez is a Bay Area-based director, dramaturg, and scholar. She is passionate about supporting new play development, fostering local artists, and creating welcoming, equitable, and accessible theatre spaces and classrooms. She considers theatre a powerful space for social change and the mending, healing, and restoring of communities. She is thrilled to join the fearless team of artistic collaborators at Crowded Fire.



### **Ely Sonny Orquiza** (he/him)

Ely Sonny Orquiza is a Queer Filipino artistic director, stage director, and arts educator hailing from the San Francisco Bay Area, ancestral land of the Ramaytush Ohlone People. As a 2023 YBCA 100 Honoree, he spotlights Asian diaspora stories, Queer politics, and narratives from the Global Majority through theater. Rooted in his heritage, sociohistorical and geopolitical experiences, Orquiza creates powerful productions that engage audiences and catalyze discussions on equity and representation. His advocacy and artistry break barriers, amplifying marginalized voices in American Theatre. Explore his work at [elysonnyorquiza.org](http://elysonnyorquiza.org).

*Photo courtesy of REUSE*

## 5:30 – 6 PM | Closing Remarks

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### MAINSTAGE

Join us to close out the day, and for the announcement of two awards from Theatre Bay Area: the RHE Artistic Fellowship and 2023-24 Arts Leadership Residency.



**Rolanda D. Bell**  
2023 RHE Artistic Fellow



**Kimberly Ridgeway**  
In residence at Central Works  
2023-24 Arts Leadership Residency

## 6 – 7 PM | Happy Hour Networking Mixer

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### MAIN LOBBY

Your last chance to network and share what you've learned in a casual atmosphere with a cash bar.