



LUNA
STAGE

*The New Jersey Play Lab in partnership with Luna Stage
presents*

The Storyteller Studio

Scripted Showcase

an evening of new works and dramaturgy created by the '24-'25 Cohort

June 7, 2025
Luna Stage | West Orange, NJ

***“Are you willing to fight for someone you don't know as much as
you're willing to fight for yourself?”***

Bernie Sanders

Welcome!

Thank you for coming to the 2025 Scripted Showcase. I am so pleased that we are able to create this event to celebrate our Cohort members' work as a community, to experience brand-new art, and to take time reflect on the present through that art.

When choosing *solidarity* as this year's Showcase theme, I wanted us to collectively explore how we can and should rise to meet the moment. By most definitions, solidarity is a feeling of unity between people with the same interests or goals, and support for one another because of a shared vision. To me, solidarity is more than a feeling - it's a verb, comprised of actions and choices through which we demonstrate our values. Being in solidarity calls us to focus on the common elements of humanity that bind us, being in community with each other to remind us we are not alone in the fight for a better world. In our current moment of uncertainty and polarization, what does it look like to be in solidarity with each other?

I hope this evening invites you to explore how any action, no matter how large or small, can become the manifestation of a shared vision of care, empathetic justice, and love.

Emily Dzioba-Wasserman

Creator and Lead Mentor of The Studio

About The Showcase

From February to June, the 2024-2025 Storyteller Studio Cohort has worked in pairs to create original artistic work around a central theme, with an accompanying dramaturgical component for our audience in the lobby.

Each play had to incorporate the idea of **SOLIDARITY** - there were no imposed rules about form, genre, tone, or content.

Through these diverse interpretations of the theme, we invite you to engage with what solidarity means alongside us.

These are early drafts in process, but everything-- art, action, accountability-- starts somewhere.

Enjoy the plays, and be sure to peruse the dramaturgical displays to delve deeper into the work!

The presentation will run for approximately 2 hours, including a brief intermission.

Join us for a short reception following the performance!

Please no flash photography or recording.

Three-Lab-Rats Opera

Written by Ross Milstead

Dramaturgy by Gabe Michelson

Bertolt Brecht - Sean Divney

Chairman / Rat 1 - A'Lysai

Stenographer / Rat 2 - Alisha Sheth

Stripling / Rat 3 - Birdie Hendrickson

SETTING: 1947, Washington DC.



Ross Milstead



Gabe Michaelson

Gabe Michelson is an actor and writer from Boston. He is delighted to be a first-time dramaturg with such a wonderful piece! He is a recent graduate of Montclair State University with a BA in Theatre Studies.

Ross Milstead is a dramaturg, playwright, and poet from Atlanta. He is obsessed with Brecht and Federico García Lorca. He has a BFA in dramaturgy from the Theatre School at DePaul. As a playwright and poet, Ross writes about history, myth, and trauma, and seeks to examine the world through a critical and compassionate lens. As a dramaturg, Ross is passionate about providing resources and critical context to empower the artistic impulses of his collaborators

STREET CORNER SOLIDARITY

A play by Kayla Fiscina
Dramaturgy by Ronni Hom

Alex - Alisha Sheth
Rae - Birdie Hendrickson
Joe / Man - Sean Divney
Woman / Death - A'Lysai

SETTING: a chilly night.
a New York street corner, a crossroad.



Kayla Fiscina



Ronni Hom

Kayla Fiscina is a NJ/NYC-based writer, director, actor, and true multi-hyphenate artist. Kayla graduated from Kean University in 2019 with a BFA in Theatre Performance with minors in Political Science and Dance. She is thrilled to be joining the cohort for the first time.

Ronni Hom is a dramaturg, filmmaker, visual artist, and arts administrator, among other things. She recently graduated from Montclair State University, where she earned a Filmmaking BFA and a Theatre Studies BA. Select film credits include: the upcoming feature film *Jacqueline Remembers All of This*, *The Raccoonalope* (2024), and *Cavies: A Documentary* (2022). Ronni's thesis film, *Peaches*, is currently in post-production. Select theatre credits include: *Marie Antoinette* (Montclair State University), *Dante's Renaissance* (Jersey City Theater Center), and *Assistants the Musical* (Players Theatre). Ronni was one of three Career Accelerator Fellows with the New Jersey Theatre Alliance in 2024. Some of the non-work related joys in their life include eating dumplings, petting their cats, reading, crocheting, and a good thrift or antique store find.

NO FLY LIST

Written by Jack Waller
Dramaturgy by Devon Villacampa

Anon 1 - Birdie Hendrickson

Anon 2 - Sean Divney

Anon 3 - A'Lysai

Anon's Mom - Alisha Sheth

Setting: Present. Three different desks, somewhere.



Devon Villacampa



Jack Waller

Devon Villacampa is a screenwriter, playwright, and storyteller focusing on horror, animation, and comedy. With a BA in Theatre and an MA in Teaching from Drew University, Devon's background spans special education, political organizing, and SAT tutoring. His work has been produced by Drew University, Lakeland Writes, and Chatham Playhouse, and has been recognized in competitions like HorrorOrigins Film Festival and Screencraft Animation Competition. Devon enjoys beaches, cats, ice cream, piano, and drawing. His favorite movie is One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, his favorite book is The Long Walk by Stephen King, and his favorite band is Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Jack Waller is thrilled to be returning to the Storyteller Studio for the second year! He has over a decade of experience in acting and is currently exploring directing and playwriting. He holds a BA in Acting from Ramapo College and an MA in Theatre Studies from Montclair State University. He is interested in exploring the intersection of theatre and technology and how advancing tech can be implemented onstage, as well as horror theatre, Theatre of Cruelty, theatre for political and social change, and avant-garde performance. In his free time, he enjoys anime, video games, exercising, bike riding, and is a vegan. He is greatly looking forward to what works the cohort creates and being involved in the growth of the NJ independent theatre community.

YARN

Story by Danielle Moore + Shirley Price

Written by Danielle Moore

Dramaturgy by Shirley Price

Marge - A'Lysai

Cindy - Birdie Hendrickson

Vi - Alisha Sheth

Setting: The downtown community center of a mid-sized city in the U.S. Present-day.



Danielle E. Moore



Shirley Price

Danielle E. Moore (she/her) is a member of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theater Workshop, and an incoming Artist-in-Residence in SUNY Cortland's Musical Theater Department. Musicals: Audrey (Off-Broadway Residency; Bold New Musical Voices honoree from Helen Hayes Award-winning company Creative Cauldron; licensed internationally by BroadwayDNA), Ink & Paint (presented by EAT's New Work Series, a Time Out New York Critics' Pick; Inaugural Media Theater Story Series selection; 2024 SheLA Festival), and CROSSOVER (Philadelphia Inquirer's "Theater to See This Week"). Honors: Finalist, 2021 Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project; Rooftop Writers Initiative from Broadway's Merrily We Roll Along, the American Theatre Wing, and the Stephen Sondheim Foundation; Nautilus Music-Theater Composer-Librettist Studio; PlayGround-NY's Best New Dramatists; Kumu Kahua Theatre / Bamboo Ridge Press Award. Grants: NYC Women's Fund; The Pride Network; University of Pennsylvania; City of Philadelphia Illuminate the Arts; NYSCA/A.R.T. New York.
@danie.moore / www.danielleemoore.com

Shirley Price is an emerging dramaturg and playwright who is extremely passionate about new play development. She is trapped in a life-long love affair with storytelling, and she hopes that the fire never burns out. As an artist, Shirley hopes she can find ways to lift up the voices of marginalized communities and tell stories that shine through the lenses that aren't always given the utmost attention. As a person, she hopes to finally succeed in creating a sentence with one million commas.

SUNFLOWER SANCTUARY BIENNIAL MEETING, APRIL 2021, 2:00PM

Written by Angela Woodack
Dramaturgy by Gwen Streitman

Koda - Birdie Hendrickson

Wren - Alisha Sheth

Arbor - A'Lysai

Rowan - Sean Divney

Setting: An Upstate NY Commune in April 2021.



Angela Woodack



Gwen Streitman

Angela Woodack (She/They) is a theater artist and arts administrator from the New York City metropolitan area. Her main areas of artistic discipline include writing, directing, dramaturgy, and producing; she has also worked as a technician and designer for lighting and costuming. They are influenced (whether they like it or not) by growing up in Northern New Jersey in a Catholic, Italian-American household. Angela particularly likes to focus her artwork around lesbians, historical events, or niche oddities (sometimes all three). In her spare time, she also likes to collage as well as to work with beads, clay, and/or wire to create jewelry or sculptures. She graduated from Bard College in 2021 with a dual BA in Theater and Political Science.

Gwen Streitman is an emerging dramaturg and recent graduate of Montclair State University. While at Montclair she worked on many projects as a dramaturg and director. Some of her favorites include new works that were developed in her courses, with the most recent being *My Plate is Full* in the Theatre for Community Impact class. She is very excited to be beginning her career in collaboration with the New Jersey Play Lab and is looking forward to working with this talented cohort.

THE LAST THEATRE PROGRAM

AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Written by Alexis Telyczka

Dramaturgy by Emma O'Mara

Artistic Contributions from Sophie Cipolla

Dan - Alisha Sheth

Perry - Sean Divney

Setting: An administrative office on a college campus.
The near future.



Alexis Telyczka

Alexis Telyczka is an artist and writer creating out of Somerset and Newark, NJ. She is a graduate student in Creative Publishing and Critical Journalism at The New School in New York City and an alumna of the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Her research and writing interests broadly include psychology, sexuality, ethics, and locally relevant topics. Her creative projects often incorporate the themes of legacy, familial relationships, gender, and femininity. She is a lover of devised theatre, a novice dramaturg, and a beginner playwright. At her deepest core, she is a cupcake connoisseur, pin collector, and waterfall enthusiast; she is easily drawn to anything that is pink, and she is excited for every chance she gets to create.

Sophie Cipolla is a NorCal native, who graduated way back in the pandemic era of 2020 with a degree in English and minors in Theatre and Ethnic Studies (and moved to NJ not long after)! In love with storytelling in all its forms, she firmly believes in the transformative power of theatre as a tool for engendering social change and (truthful) radical optimism. She loves how being a dramaturg allows her to play a small role in helping people's stories be the fullest, most authentic expression of their creative vision.

SILO // SOLIDARITY

Writing and Dramaturgy by
Mikaela Simon & Bailey Udin

Alex - A'Lysai

Charlie - Birdie Hendrickson

Setting: A small apartment.



Mikaela Simon



Bailey Udin

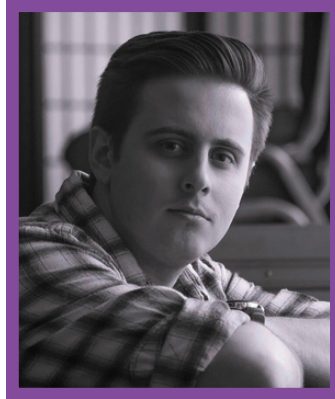
Mikaela Simon is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Jersey City, NJ. Working primarily in the medium of collage and playwriting, Mikaela finds that their background in performing arts helps to inform their visual creative process. When she's not writing or collaging, she works as a teaching artist with 8th-grade students in Paramus, spends time as an audio/visual technician at Liberty Science Center, and sells her original artwork at shows and fairs all over the tri-state area. (Find her work at doodlealldayy.com.) They love the month of October, cooking in their crockpot, and their dogs, Breezy and Luna.

Bailey Udin has done a little bit of everything in theatre, including acting, assistant stage managing, and producing, they found their stride when they discovered dramaturgy! They have previously dramaturged on *Black Snow* and *Dance Nation* (2022), a new play currently in development (2023), and *Artist's Anonymous* (2024). They're excited to continue dramaturging as well as begin exploring the world of playwriting. They graduated from Montclair State University in 2023 with a Master's degree in Theatre Studies, as well as a Certificate in Theatre of Diversity, Equity, and Social Inclusion. Bailey focuses on melding their scientific knowledge with theatre, making complex information easy to understand, and developing new works for the stage. They enjoy working on politically relevant works, especially regarding LGBTQIA+ individuals, mental health, and disability/accessibility. When not in the theatre, you can usually find them dog-sitting and/or overanalyzing video games and books.

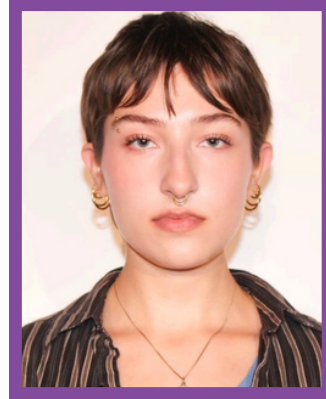
SHOWCASE ENSEMBLE



A'Lysai



Sean Divney



Birdie Hendrickson



Alisha Sheth

Director & Studio Lead Mentor

Emily Dzioba-Wasserman

Festival Dramaturg & Studio Coordinator

Emma O'Mara

Assistant Director & Studio Intern

Elijah N. Maldonado

Production Assistant

Jill Schneider

Special Thanks to Luna Stage's Staff and Interns!

A'Lysai A'Lysai is a New York based actress. She started her acting career at age 9. She attend and graduate Arts High School in Newark, NJ where she trained as a drama major. She is a recent graduate of Montclair State University where she received her BFA in Acting. Most recently she spent her summer abroad performing in the Chorus of a multi language production of Oedipus by Ellen McLaughlin in Greece with One Year Lease Theatre Company. Some of her other roles includes Simon the Zuzu in Dance Nation by Clare Barron and Everybody in Everybody by Braden Jacob-Jenkins. She is very excited to have had the opportunity to work on this show these amazing people and she is very excited for all of the opportunities she will receive in the future!

Sean Divney is very excited to be a part of this showcase! He graduated from DeSales University with a degree in Musical Theatre and has been doing theater in the area for over a decade. Most recently, Sean has been in productions at Spring Lake Theater in both, The Prom and Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. He is grateful for the opportunity to pursue his passion for working on original plays. He'd like to thank his friends, family, and girlfriend Claudia for their constant support.

Birdie Hendrickson (they/them) is a non-binary actor, playwright and educator currently at Montclair State University pursuing a BA/MA in Theatrical Studies. Birdie is thrilled to be working with The NJ Play Lab for the second time; previously seen as Jodie Ritter in Oh Muffy. Other notable works of Birdie's include their piece "A Caged Canary" at Montclair's STORYSLAM event, Meredith in 5 Women Wearing The Same Dress and Rulon Stacey in The Laramie Project. Be sure to see Birdie play Missy Sue / Candice in the upcoming play Confederates at Montclair State University in December!

Alisha Sheth is a New Jersey-based performer and arts administrator. A NYU graduate, she spent two years abroad performing language learning musical theater for children, an experience in South Korea that deepened her passion for arts and education. She's worked on educational films with Vista Learning, performed in children's theater (including The Spongebob Musical as Sandy Cheeks), and taught in theatre New Jersey schools. Alisha now serves as Program and Outreach Coordinator at Arts Ed NJ, advocating for more arts in schools. She continues to perform in concerts and readings, like the one you've attended today, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Jill Schneider (She/Her) is an upcoming senior at Montclair State University, double majoring in Theatre Studies and Secondary Education with a minor in Classics. The Scripted Showcase is Jill's first time working with New Jersey Play Lab, and she is thrilled to be a part of it! Recently, Jill has been a part of New Play Readings with The Theatre Collective as a director and the Production Manager of Hightstown Theatre in the Park. Jill would like to thank Cheryl Katz, Emily Dzioba, and Emma O'Mara for giving her this opportunity.

Elijah N. Maldonado is currently a senior BA Theatre Studies Major at Montclair State University with a minor in creative writing. Over these past school years, he has worked closely with the BA run company on campus, The Theatre Collective. Through the theatre department at Montclair, he has had the opportunity to dive head first into so many different roles in theatre such as a costume designer, playwright, performer and assistant director. This will be his second project assistant directing in his career after previously being the AD for a production of Stupid F#cking Bird at Montclair State University.

Emma O'Mara (she/her) is an actor, teacher, and new dramaturg in the NJ/NY area. She graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts with an Associate in Acting and then went on to graduate with honors from Rutgers University with a degree in Theater Arts and Dance. She currently works at Rutgers Preparatory School, where she encourages her students to embrace who they are and share their unique voices. She also works as a Play Submission Reader for Premiere Stages at Kean University's 2024 Play Festival. She has worked for a casting company, a Broadway production company, and a nonprofit theater located in New York. She is new to dramaturgy and excited to hone her skills with NJPL. She believes that theater can bridge gaps and help us understand who we are and how we are connected to one another through the human experience.

Emily Dzioba-Wasserman (she/her) is a new play dramaturg, arts administrator, producer, and beagle mom. She is currently an Associate Dramaturg at the New Jersey Play Lab, where she created and leads the Storyteller Studio. She also serves as the Literary Associate at Premiere Stages, as well as the General Manager at Jersey City Theater Center. Emily has worked with Art House Productions, Theater Masters, The Strides Collective, and Tectonic Theater Project, and she currently reads for the Bay Area Playwrights Festival and She NYC Arts. Emily was honored to participate in the Kennedy Center Dramaturgy Intensive in with Mark Bly. Her writing on the Storyteller Studio will be published in the 2025 Edition of *Review*, LMDA's Dramaturgy Journal. Proud member of LMDA and alum of Drew University.
@emjoebawass

About the Storyteller Studio

The Storyteller Studio is a collaborative space for young playwrights and dramaturgs under 30 to hone their craft through peer and professional support, and to develop the skills and work ethic necessary for success as they transition into professional careers.

This program is intended for those who have graduated from university programs or those who have established their initial interests in these art forms through alternative avenues. It is limited to artists who consider New Jersey a literal or artistic home.

The Storyteller Studio places the focus on artistic process, not product. Although a shared goal is for each Cohort member to move forward on their own project, the primary focus of the program is to foster a community of artists who collectively grow an expanded awareness of their own artistic approach. The Cohort will also explore, in community, various possibilities and career trajectories within the fields of playwriting and dramaturgy.

The Studio was founded in 2020 by Emily Dzioba.

About The New Jersey Play Lab

The New Jersey Play Lab is dedicated to developing production-ready plays through comprehensive hands-on dramaturgy, and to mentoring emerging dramaturgs in the NJPL approach to play development. The New Jersey Play Lab (NJPL) offers programs for playwrights and dramaturgs of all career levels to further develop their craft through the core NJPL values of collaboration, methodology, and excellence. All NJPL programs and dramaturgical services have been carefully designed to foster an appreciation for what we deem to be best practices in playmaking, and to support the creation and production of dramaturgically sound, impactful new work in The Garden State. To learn more, please visit njplaylab.org

Special Thanks to:

Ari Laura Kreith, Lucas Pinner, the Luna Stage team,
Cheryl Katz, Diane Parker,
Jake Wasserman, Lily Tullman

Thank you to this year's Guest Artists!

Matt Shvyrkov
Landon
Eliza Kuperschmid
Jamiee Harmon-Taboni
Anastasia Ellis
Megan Lotts



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