



Scripted: A Showcase of Staged Readings and Dramaturgy

*an evening of new works created by
the 23-24 NJPL Storyteller Studio Cohort*



Welcome!

Thank you for coming to the Storyteller Studio's inaugural showcase. After founding this program in 2020 during the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, it means so much to me that we are all here, in person, celebrating each other's work.

Empowering these twelve playwrights and dramaturgs, and the two cohorts that have come before them, has been a true grounding joy during last four years of my life. As an "emerging" artist myself, it often feels difficult to see a way forward right now. Working with so many of these folks has been inspiring. We're in this together.

Art is meant to heal - and that was the inspiration behind the work in today's showcase. I hope each of these works resonates with you in a different way. Thank you for your support of new plays and emerging artists!

Emily Dzioba-Wasserman

Lead Mentor of The Storyteller Studio

About *Scripted*

From February to June, the 2023-2024 Storyteller Studio Cohort has worked in teams to create original artistic work around a central theme.

For this showcase, each play must incorporate the theme of HEALING - be it the literal word or a conceptual exploration.

Each team has submitted a new short play and a dramaturgical component to accompany it.

Enjoy the plays, and be sure to peruse the dramaturgical display table to engage further with the work!

Scripted will run for approximately 90 minutes, with no intermission.

Join us for a short reception following the performance!

Please no flash photography or recording.
(We've got it covered.)

Six People Go to Space and Don't Like What They Find

Written by Mikaela Simon
Dramaturgy by Lana Kurimoto

Teen A / Doctor - Amirah Clark
Teen B / Teacher - Emilio Castillo
Lover A / Report A - Ciara Chanel
Lover B / Report B - Chris Grant
Elder A - Sara Parcesepe
Elder B - Angelika Anastasio



Mikaela Simon



Lana Kurimoto

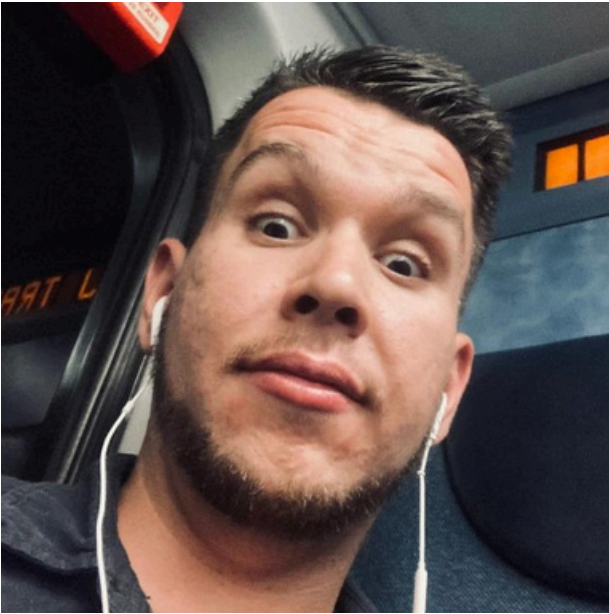
Mikaela Simon (she/her) is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Jersey City, NJ. She graduated in 2019 from Drew University with a BA in Theatre Arts. While in college, she was a recipient of the Robert Fisher Oxnam Award for Playwriting in 2018, with a staged reading produced by the Ensemble Studio Theatre. Since graduating, she has taken on the role of teaching artist for the theatre program at Yavneh Academy in Paramus, NJ. Mikaela is also a multi-media visual artist, and is very involved in the Jersey City arts community with her small business (@doodlealldayy). For the past three years, Mikaela has been a Woman In STEM, working at Liberty Science Center in various roles. In her free time, she loves bullet journaling, making crock-pot stews, and watching A24 movies from the comfort of her own couch. doodlealldayy.com

Lana Kurimoto is a New Jersey based theatre artist and poet. She is a recent graduate of Montclair State University with a Bachelors and Masters in Theatre Studies. During her time in university, she has had the wonderful opportunity to dramaturg for several shows such as Top Girls and Elephant's Graveyard. As a poet, she utilizes the medium to better understand her experience as a child of immigrants, a woman, and reminisce on the nostalgic. In her free time she is learning new recipes, tidying up, and playing the same four chords on guitar.

Cass and the Shadow

Written by Devon Villacampa
Dramaturgy by Emilia Siracusa

Cass - Ciara Chanel
Shadow - Angelika Anastasio
Guests - Chris Grant, Sara Parcesepe



Devon Villacampa



Emilia Siracusa

Devon Villacampa is a screenwriter and playwright from Randolph, New Jersey. His ten-minute play, *Kidneys*, was performed at the Chatham Playhouse last year. He has also seen his horror and cartoon screenplays place in competitions like the HorrorOrigins Film Festival and Screencraft Animation Competition. Devon hosts a True Crime podcast called *Check the Woods*. Outside of his creative work, he enjoys playing the piano, traveling, skiing, indoor rock climbing, and visiting the Jersey Shore.

Emilia Siracusa is an emerging dramaturg with a deep passion for new play dramaturgy. She graduated from Montclair State University in 2022 with a BA in Theatre Studies, earning herself the Citizen Artist Award from the Department of Theatre and Dance. Shortly after, she graduated from Montclair State in 2023 with her MA in Theatre. During her time at MSU, Emilia has served as the Production Dramaturg for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Artistic Director and Dramaturg for the 2021 Student New Play Fest, and Dramaturg for *Paterson Echoes Thru Time*. Emilia has returned to her alma mater as an instructor for the BA Theatre Studies program, teaching the course *Theatre in Society*. She believes that theatre holds the power to uplift authentic human experiences and empower artists and audiences alike to create positive change, striving to incorporate this philosophy into her work as a theatre artist.

Club Chakra

Writing and Dramaturgy by Grace Ahlin and Sapphire Oshun

Donna - Sara Parcesepe

Luna / Sunna - Angelika Anastasio

Sekhmet - Emma O'Mara

Oya - Ciara Chanel

SETTING: The women's restroom at a club.



Grace Ahlin



Sapphire Oshun

Grace Ahlin is a New Jersey based writer, performer, and dramaturg. A recent graduate of Brandeis University, she has performed with theaters in New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts and has worked as a dramaturg at her alma mater and on independent new works. With a background in Shakespeare and classics, she is passionate about facilitating engagement with time-enduring stories through adaptation and production.

Sapphire Oshun (she/her) grew up in Bayonne, New Jersey where she developed her love for Theatre at a young age. She majored in Musical Theatre at High Tech High School in North Bergen New Jersey and graduated from University of Miami with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre. Most recently she was teaching and writing plays at Nimbus Arts Center in Jersey City. She is very excited to be a part of the NJ Play Lab Storyteller Studio.

Replay

Writing and Dramaturgy by
Nicole Martinez, Jack Waller + Angelle Whavers

Main - Chris Grant

NPC - Angelika Anastasio

Voice - Emma O'Mara

SETTING: A torture chamber-like room.



Nicole Martinez



Angelle Whavers



Jack Waller

Nicole Martinez (she/her) is a versatile writer, indie filmmaker, professional communicator, and avid D&D player based in New York. She holds a B.A. from Brown University in Literary Arts. Nicole is a showrunner on Dead-Enders, an internationally award-winning comedy series about finding human connection in the zombie apocalypse. Dead-Enders has won awards at Astoria Film Fest, London Web Fest, New York International Film Awards, and more. Nicole's plays have been produced through Match: Lit, Turn to Flesh, and Production Workshop. Her films have been produced through Brown Motion Pictures (Quite the Star, Wales International Film Festival Finalist) and Sixth Floor Productions (Continental Drift, 2023 PANO Showcase). Her comedy and prose can be found in The Belladonna Comedy, The Rib of Brown, and Wizards in Space. She is a member of the Filmshop's 2023 Fall Cohort and staff writer for season 2 of the REALM podcast, Feminist Fairytales.

Jack Waller is an actor, director, and playwright. He received his BA in Acting from Ramapo College and his MA in Theater Studies from Montclair State University. His acting credits include the world premiere of Bottle House, All New People, and Macbeth at Ramapo College, and he made his directing debut there as well, with Jennifer Haley's The Nether. He also starred as Dennis Shepard and other roles in The Laramie Project. He became a playwright by total accident when he first started writing a work in an undergraduate playwriting course, and expanded on that piece in graduate school for another class. He is very interested in using theater as a means for cultural and social commentary and social change, horror theater, the Theater of Cruelty, avant-garde performance, and how technology can be integrated into a theatrical work. Some of his favorite works include Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, The Pillowman, Fairview, SubUrbia, and Sweat. He is a huge fan of anime, video games, enjoys exercising, bike riding, and learning about new and different cultures.

Angelle Whavers is a graduate of Drew University with a bachelor's degree in Theater and History. She has co-written for the show 4320p: Immersion with the Tectonic Theater Project, as well as had her full-length, Incubator, in the New York Theater Festival. In addition, Angelle won the 2020 New Play-Reading Festival at The Growing Stage in Netcong, NJ, and was given a production for her winning play, Boogie, in February of 2022. In June of 2023, her show Collar'd was a part of the inaugural North to Shore Festival. Furthermore, Angelle wrote for and performed in readings of From Uterus: From You to Us with Red Mic Rep and Unidentified Stages. Her other plays, monologues, and staged readings have been produced by T-Squared Production Company, Vivid Stage, Vulcan Theatre Company, Ghost Light Theatre Company, and the Columbus Black Theatre Festival.

Artists Anonymous

Written by Alexis Telyczka + Bailey Udin
Dramaturgy by Moira Armstrong + Bailey Udin

Jamie - Angelika Anastasio

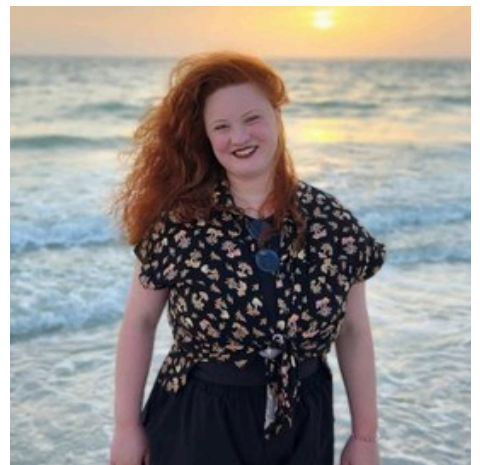
Claude - Chris Grant

Suzie - Ciara Chanel

Lauren - Sara Parcesepe



Moira Armstrong



Alexis Telyczka



Bailey Udin

Moira Armstrong is a PhD student in American Studies at Rutgers University, with research interests in queer and disability theory and history, asexuality, aromanticism, singlehood, and the COVID-19 pandemic, specializing in archival research, oral history, and cultural studies methodologies. They also work frequently on public history projects. They earned a dual BA in English and history from Kent State University in 2022 and an MA in Gender, Sexuality, and Culture from Birkbeck, University of London in 2023. They are new to theatre and became interested in dramaturgy while working as a researcher for Burning Attic Theatre Company's research and development process on a play about asexuality. <https://moiraparmstrong.carrd.co>

Alexis Telyczka is a 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 New Jersey Institute of Technology, where she completed degrees in both the Theatre Arts and Technology program and the Science, Technology and Society program. Her research and writing interests broadly include psychology, philosophy, ethics, and the natural world. Her creative projects often incorporate the themes of legacy, familial relationships, gender and femininity. She is a lover of devised theatre and a novice dramaturg— and after working with NJ Play Lab's Storyteller Studio, she is now comfortable identifying as 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.

Bailey Udin has recently graduated from Montclair State University with a Master's degree in Theatre Studies, as well as a Certificate in Theatre of Diversity, Equity, and Social Inclusion. Before that, they achieved two Bachelor's degrees from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in Theatre Studies and Psychology. While they have done a little bit of everything in theatre, including acting, assistant stage managing, and producing, they found their stride when they discovered dramaturgy! 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.

Ensemble



Angelika Anastasio*



Ciara Chanel



Chris Grant



Sara Parcesepe

Featuring

Amirah Clark

Stage Directions

Emma O'Mara

Director

Emily Dzioba-Wasserman

Production Assistants

Emilio Castillo

Lloyd Hernandez

Photography and Video

Zipline Media

Jersey City Theater Center

Olga Levina, *Executive Producer*

Emily Bond, *Company Manager*

Fernando Ayres, Dakota Rios, and David Acosta

**Denotes membership to Actors' Equity Association*

Angelika Anastasio is a proud mixed Latine artist. Some of her theater credits include Nina (In The Heights) at White Plains Performing Arts Center, Hannah (Blue) in Pan Asian Repertory Theater's Nu Work Festival and Storyteller Woman 1 (Cuentos Del Arbol) with the award-winning educational touring children's theater company Pushcart Players. Additionally, She had starred in a couple short films such as Cootie Catcher, Dystopia, and Wild Roses. The short film Wild Roses received accolades from several film festivals around the country such as The Student World Impact Festival, Seguin Film & Arts Festival, and more. @angelikaanastasio www.angelikaanastasio.com

Ciara Chanel is a New Jersey Based BFA Actress & Choreographer. She was recently nominated Best Supporting Performer as 'Jillie' in the equity production of 'Tracy Jones' for Broadway World Awards NJ 2023. NY & NJ Theatre: "Eternal City" (Yendor Theater Company). "Black Like Me" (Chautauqua Acting Conservatory). "Sometime Child" (Theatre for the New City). "Drought" (New York Play Festival: Best Actress Nomination.) Tv: Evil Lives Here: Guest Star (ID Channel). The College Tour TV Show: Host (Amazon Prime). Ciara is excited to join the NJPL in support of upcoming artists in her area before she heads off to BADA for their Midsummer in Oxford Program in connection with Yale. CiaraChanelAllen@gmail.com CiaraChanelArtist.com

Chris Grant is an actor/writer who is enrolled in the Equity Membership Candidate Program and had recently obtained a Bachelor of Arts Theatre degree at Kean University. Notable on-stage credits include: Andrew in NJ Reps' "The Forest" and Darnell King in Premiere Stages's "Brick City". In 2020 he won Premiere Stages' Senior Endeavor Award for writing his short play called "Running With Scissors". In 2016, his play "Reperations" was accepted in the New York Thespis Festival. In 2018 he had a professional staged reading of his full length play "Weed in a Cold Dry Patch". His most cherished work is called "A Nation of Wounded Soldiers" which tells the story of Black Wallstreet through the dramatized lives of his fictional characters. To see more you can visit ChrisGrantActing.Com.

Sara Parcesepe is a tv, film, and stage actor based in Jersey City, NJ. She currently can be seen on FBI: Most Wanted and Law & Order: Organized Crime as well as many independent films and regional theatre. She was nominated for Best Actress at the NYC Strawberry One Act Festival for her work in the new play, Treffpunkt and starred in the world premiere of a new John Patrick Shanley play, Glamour, at Hudson Theatre Works in Weehawken, NJ. She's always excited to merge her life experience with her artistic world to bring more stories to life through stage, film and tv.

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 Jersey City-based new play dramaturg, arts administrator, 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, where she has helped bring the 2023 and 2024 Play Festivals to fruition. Emily has worked with Art House Productions, 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 2022 with Mark Bly. Proud member of LMDA and alum of Drew University. @emjobawass

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Cheryl Katz, Diane Parker, Stephen Kaplan,
Craig Garcia, Jake Wasserman, Matt Cerisano,
Dan Paolucci, Lily Tullman

Thank you to this year's Guest Artists!

Sandrine Dupiton
Nick Gandiello
Brynn Hambley
Alli Hartley-Kong
Gauri Mangala
Charlotte T. Martin

Christian Mendonça
Erica Nagel
Kaitlin Stilwell
Daria M. Sullivan
Alex Tobey
Katie Walker



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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