



HAPPENING NOW

< <http://engardearts.org/category/happening-now/> >



a dozen dreams

CO-CONCEIVED AND CREATED BY ANNE HAMBURGER
WITH JOHN CLINTON EISNER AND IRINA KRUSHILINA
PRESENTED BY ARTS BROOKFIELD FOR BROOKFIELD PLACE NEW YORK

A dozen playwrights
A dozen rooms
A Dozen Dreams
< <https://downtownny.com/> >

MAY 13 – 30, 2021

Schedule:
Wednesday – Saturday entrances from 2:00 – 7:20 PM
Sunday entrances from 12:00 – 4:20 PM

Runtime: 50 minutes
At Brookfield Place (230 Vesey Street)

We release more tickets regularly, so check back often or come and check about cancellations in person. We are often able to accommodate walk ups due to no shows!

GET FREE TICKETS NOW! < <https://ci.ovationtix.com/34637>>

CHECK OUT THE DIGITAL PLAYBILL < <https://www.engagearts.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/A-Dozen-Dreams-Online-Playbill-1.pdf>>

Post about your dreams on our virtual chalkboard! <
<https://www.engagearts.org/mydream/>>

A RAVE review in The New York Times! <
[https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/20/theater/a-dozen-dreams-review.html?](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/20/theater/a-dozen-dreams-review.html?referringSource=articleShare)
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About the Show:

At the start of the global pandemic, En Garde Arts asked a dozen NYC-based women playwrights, “What are you dreaming about right now?” They shared their stories of resilience and imagining a better future – dreams of flying, traveling, and grappling with what it means to be an artist right now.

We are bringing their dreams to life in an immersive installation of sets, lights, video, and sound. Audience members will be socially-distanced as they move through the installation, where they will see some of the most powerful articulators of our time reflect upon our world today.

The Designers:

Visual and Environment Design: Irina Kruzhilina

Sound Design: Rena Anakwe

Video/ Projection Design: Brittany Bland

Lighting Design: Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew



Pictured left to right: Irina Kruzhilina, Rena Anakwe, Brittany Bland, Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew

The Playwrights:

Room 1: Ellen McLaughlin

Room 2: Andrea Thome

Room 3: Mona Mansour

Room 4: Ren Dara Santiago

Room 5: Rehana Mirza

Room 6: Caridad Svich

Room 7: Erika Dickerson-Despenza

Room 8: Martyna Majok

Room 9: Liza Jessie Peterson

Room 10: Sam Chanse

Room 11: Lucy Thurber

Room 12: Emily Mann with singer Kecia Lewis



The Team:

Production and Technical Direction: Tech Without Tears

Production Manager: Jenny Beth Snyder

Technical Director: Aaron Gonzalez

Associate Scenic & Environment Designer: Abby Smith

Props Designer: Jessica Sovronsky

Assistant Sound Designer & Programmer: Margaret Montagna

Associate Video Designer: Christopher Evans

Assistant Lighting Designer: Christina Tang

Master Electrician: Joe D’Emilio

Sound Supervisor: Mike Deyo

Video Supervisor: Joey Moro

Video Programmer: Stivo Arnoczy

Scenic Intern: Gaya Chatterjee

General Manager: Amanda Cooper

Room 13:

In addition to the twelve rooms, there will be a thirteenth “room” that will invite audience members to share their own dreams through guided prompts. There will also be an online component #Room13 that will interface with the in-person Room 13.

Adult Content Disclaimer:

A Dozen Dreams is not appropriate for small children. There is adult language and some references to violence. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate strollers in the installation.

Our COVID Plan:

- Audience members will be asked to stay home if they answer yes to any of the following questions and will receive the questions in a questionnaire prior to coming to the show: a) do you have a fever above 100 degrees; b) have you tested positive for COVID within the last 10 days; c) do you have any of the well-known COVID symptoms d) have you been exposed to anyone who's tested positive in last 10 days, e) have you traveled outside of the state, beyond a contiguous state in the past 10 days.
- Clear signage will support and communicate arrival protocols. 6-foot floor markers or similar will be used to ensure safe distances are maintained between people waiting to gain entry.
- Staff will ensure patrons are only permitted entry into the installation if they wear an acceptable face covering. Patrons will be refused entry or asked to leave should they decline to wear a mask or appropriate face covering.
- No more than two people shall travel through the experience together at one time, and only if they have previously reserved to travel together.
- We will provide a digital playbill that will be accessible via QR code/URL link on site, and will be emailed to all audience members who provide a valid email address upon making their reservation.
- There will be signage throughout the location to remind personnel and patrons/visitors to adhere to proper hygiene, social distancing rules, appropriate use of PPE, and cleaning and disinfection protocols.
- There will be hand sanitizer available at the check in/Box Office

Additional questions or concerns regarding COVID safety can be directed to info@engardearts.org

**While you're in the neighborhood... check out Downtown Live, a performing arts festival happening May 15+16 and 22+23! <
<https://www.engardearts.org/downtown-live/>>**

**Check out the event page at Brookfield Place New York! <
<https://bfplny.com/ADozenDreams>>**

Getting to the Show:

Brookfield Place is located at 230 Vesey Street

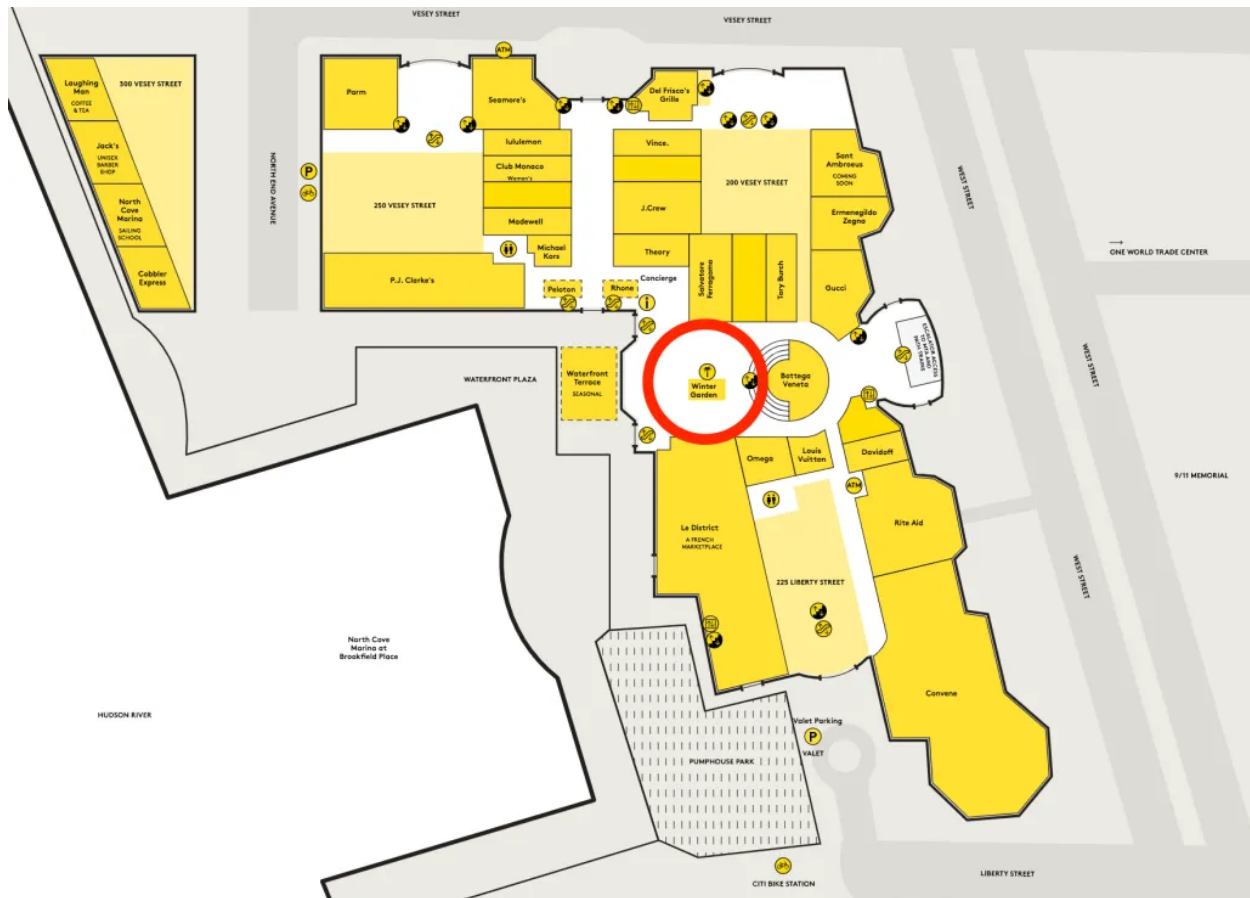
BY SUBWAY:

1, E trains to WTC
A, C trains to Chambers St.
2, 3 trains to Park Place
N, R trains to Cortland St.
4, 5 to Fulton St.

PARKING:

250 Vesey Street or 200 Liberty Street

The show starts in the Winter Garden, pictured below:



SUPPORT FOR THE PIECE COMES FROM

Institutional Funders

Arts Brookfield for Brookfield Place New York
 Steven Aresty Foundation
 Distracted Globe Foundation
 The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
 The Tony Randall Theatrical Fund
 Venturous Theater Fund, a fund of the Tides Foundation

Individual Donors (\$1,000+)

Anonymous (1)
 Kathleen & Henry Chalfant
 Pamela & Thomas Jackson



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TEAM BIOS

Anne Hamburger (creator and co-conceiver) Anne Hamburger is the founder and Artistic Director of En Garde Arts which she began in 1985. She is widely credited with pioneering the development of site-specific theatre in New York City, using the streets and historic landmarks as her stage. In 1999, Hamburger was recruited by Disney to become an Executive Vice President of a new global division creating large scale entertainment for Theme Parks and Resorts. She returned to New York in 2014 to relaunch En Garde Arts and in its second incarnation has produced multimedia, documentary theatre productions that have premiered in New York at BAM, in DC at the Kennedy Center, and toured to over forty cities throughout the country. Hamburger has received the Edwin Booth and Lee Reynold's Awards. She is a published writer for her play she co-wrote with Seth Bockley called *Wilderness* and a member of the Dramatists Guild. She is the mother of twenty-three year-old twins and received an MFA from the Yale School of Drama.

John Clinton Eisner (co-conceiver & dramaturg) John Clinton Eisner co-founded The Lark in 1994 as a community of theater professionals dedicated to the playwright's vision. He has grown The Lark into an award winning "think tank for the theater," with local, national and global reach. He divides his time between working directly with playwrights and creating strategies with artistic leaders in the United States and abroad to advance new plays into the repertoire. He has collaborated with partner theaters, literary agencies and funders to develop multiple-production "pipelines" for new plays. Trained as an actor, he began his

transition to directing and producing through his experiences at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference, the National Theatre of the Deaf, the Denver Center Theatre Company and Williamstown Theatre Festival (where he acted in one of Tennessee Williams' last plays, Gideon's Point). He has led workshops at many universities and served as advisor for CEC Artslink, the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, Theatre Development Fund, Theatre Communications Group, National New Play Network, TheatreForum Magazine, Transport Group and the Lucille Lortel Awards Committee and on the boards of the National Theatre Conference and the Shakespeare Theatre Association of America (of which he was a charter member). He received degrees from Amherst College and the National Theatre Conservatory and lives in New York City with his wife Jennifer Dorr White and two children, Hannah and Jake.

Irina Kruzhilina < <http://www.irinakruzhilina.com/> > (Co- conceiver & Visual & Environment Designer) Irina is a Russian-born, New York-based generative artist, scenographer, visual dramaturg, and teaching artist, creating work at the intersection of visual art, live performance and civic engagement. Irina's creative endeavors range from interdisciplinary downtown theatre to large scale parades, from community pageants to site responsive installations. Since 2005 her work has been shown, locally and globally, at Times Square, Tokyo Disney, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Prague National Theatre, the NY Philharmonic, the XXI Commonwealth Games, Barbican Center, and many others. Irina is grateful to be in community and continuous collaboration with visionary artists like Dmitry Krymov, Doug Fitch, Lars Jan, Geoff Sobelle, and En Garde Arts. Irina is the founder of Visual Echo, a New York-based performance organization dedicated to facilitating generative dialogues among people from diverse backgrounds. As an educator, Irina embraces collaborative artistic exchange among theatre makers from different backgrounds, fostering generous creative educational environments that value a diversity of approaches and ideas. Irina is a faculty member at the New School of Drama, a NEA/TCG Career Development Program recipient, a Target Margin Theatre Institute Fellow, and a Chashama resident.

Rena Anakwe < <https://www.aspaceforsound.com/> > (Sound Designer) Rena Anakwe is an interdisciplinary artist and performer working primarily with sound, visuals, and scent. Exploring intersections between traditional healing practices, spirituality and performance, she creates works focused on sensory-based, experiential interactions using creative technology. Currently, Rena is a resident of the Jerome Foundation AIRspace Residency for Performing Artists at

Abrons Arts Center. She has collaborated, produced, and shown work at New York City institutions including: Weeksville Heritage Center, Dia Foundation, Fridman Gallery, Knockdown Center, Lincoln Center, MoMA PS1, CultureHub, ISSUE Project Room, and Montez Press Radio. She is based in Brooklyn, New York, by way of Nigeria and Canada.

Brittany Bland < <https://www.bcbmediadesign.com/>> (projection and video design, she/her/hers) Brittany Bland is a storyteller who has dedicated her life to the proliferation of empathy. As a projection designer for the stage, she has designed for theater, dance, and opera. Her work as a video artist often explores the ideas of legacy and memory.

Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew < <https://www.jeanetteyew.com/>> (Lighting Designer, she/her/hers) is a puppetry artist and a theater designer in lighting and video. Using these mediums and a strong background in devising interdisciplinary and collaborative productions, Jeanette creates innovative and interactive contemporary puppetry performances. New York Times described her project with Target Margin Lab, Act 4 of *The Iceman Cometh*, as “consistently inventive”

PLAYWRIGHT BIOS

Sam Chanse < <http://samchanse.com/>> (Playwright) is the author of *Trigger*, *Monument*, or *Four Sisters (A Sloth Play)*, *The Opportunities of Extinction*, *Fruiting Bodies*, *The Other Instinct*, *What You Are Now*, *Lydia's Funeral Video*, about that whole dying thing, and *Asian American Jesus*. Her work has been developed and/or produced with the Lark, Ma-Yi Theater, Cherry Lane, Leviathan Lab, Ars Nova, Broken Nose, Ensemble Studio Theater/Sloan Project, 24 Hour Plays, and the Ojai Playwrights' Conference, and is published by Kaya Press (*Lydia's Funeral Video*) and TCG (*The Kilroys List*). She is a resident playwright of New Dramatists, a Lark Venturous Fellow, and a member of the Ma-Yi Writers Lab. A past fellow at MacDowell, Cherry Lane, Sundance Theatre Institute, and Playwrights Realm, she has also received residencies and commissions from Djerassi, SPACE at Ryder Farm, EST/Sloan, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, University of Rochester's International Theatre Program, Ma-Yi/the Flea, and the SF Arts Commission. She is an alum of Ars Nova's Play Group, the Civilians R&D Group, and the Lark's New York Stage & Film Vassar



Sam Chanse

Retreat. As an educator, she has taught writing and playwriting at Columbia University, New York University, the University of Rochester, and elsewhere. A native New Yorker, she was based in San Francisco for several years, when she served as Artistic Director of Kearny Street Workshop and Co-Director of Locus Arts, and developed work as a writer and performer at Bindlestiff, AATC, Playground, standup spots, and other artistic homes. She received her MFA in Playwriting from Columbia University, and in Musical Theater Writing from NYU/Tisch. She is currently based in Brooklyn.

Erika Dickerson-Despenza <

[https://newplayexchange.org/users/31919/erika-](https://newplayexchange.org/users/31919/erika-dickerson-despenza)

[dickerson-despenza](https://newplayexchange.org/users/31919/erika-dickerson-despenza)> (Playwright) is a Blk, queer

feminist poet-playwright and cultural/memory worker from Chicago, Illinois. She is a 2020 Grist 50 Fixer and was a National Arts & Culture Delegate for the U.S. Water Alliance's One Water Summit 2019. Awards: Laurents/Hatcher Foundation Award

(2020), Thom Thomas Award (2020), L. Arnold Weissberger Award finalist (2020), Princess Grace Playwriting Award (2019). *Residencies & Fellowships*: Tow Playwright-in-Residence at The Public Theater (2019-2020), New York Stage and Film Fellow-in-Residence (2019), New Harmony Project Writer-in Residence (2019), Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellow (2018-2019), The Lark Van Lier New Voices Fellow (2018). Communities: BYP100 (Squad Member), Ars Nova Play Group (2019-2021), Youngblood Collective (EST). Commissions: ThePublic Theater; Studio Theatre. Productions: *cullud wattah* (2019 Kilroys List) originally slated at The Public Theater, 2020; Victory Gardens Theater, 2021. Currently, Erika is developing a 10-play Katrina Cycle, including *shadow/land* and *[hieroglyph]* (2019 Kilroys List), focused on the effects of Hurricane Katrina and its state-sanctioned, man-made disaster rippling in & beyond New Orleans.



Erika Dickerson-Despenza

Martyna Majok < <http://www.martynamajok.com/>>

(Playwright) was born in Bytom, Poland and raised in Jersey and Chicago. She was awarded the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *Cost of Living* (Williamstown Theatre Festival, Manhattan Theatre Club). Other plays include *Sanctuary City* (upcoming: New York Theatre Workshop, Berkeley Rep), *Queens* (LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater, La Jolla Playhouse), and *Ironbound* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Round House Theatre, WP Theater/Rattlestick Playwright



Theater, Geffen Playhouse, National Theatre of Warsaw, among others). Awards include The Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding New Play, The Greenfield Prize (first female recipient in drama), Champions of Change Award from the NYC Mayor's Office, Francesca Primus Prize, two Jane Chambers Playwriting Awards, The Lanford Wilson Prize, The Lilly Award's Stacey Mindich Prize, Helen Merrill Emerging Playwright Award, Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding Original New Play from The Helen Hayes Awards, Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award, ANPF Women's Invitational Prize, David Calicchio Prize, Global Age Project Prize, NYTW 2050 Fellowship, NNPN Smith Prize for Political Playwriting, and Merage Foundation Fellowship for The American Dream. MFA: Yale School of Drama, Juilliard; BA: University of Chicago. Martyna was a 2012-2013 NNPN playwright-in-residence, the 2015-2016 PoNY Fellow at the Lark Play Development Center, and a 2018-2019 Hodder Fellow at Princeton University. She is currently writing two musical librettos and a feature film, and developing an original series for HBO based on her play, *Queens*.

Martyna Majok

Emily Mann (Playwright) a multi-award-winning Director and Playwright, Emily Mann is in her 22nd season as Artistic Director of McCarter Theatre. Under Ms. Mann's leadership, McCarter was honored with the 1994 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theater. McCarter directing credits include Nilo Cruz's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Anna in the Tropics* with Jimmy Smits (also on Broadway); the world premiere of Christopher Durang's *Miss Witherspoon* with Kristine Nielsen (also off-Broadway at Playwrights Horizons); *Uncle Vanya* with Amanda Plummer (also adapted); *All Over* with Rosemary Harris and Michael Learned (also off-Broadway at The Roundabout; 2003 Obie Award for Directing); *The Cherry Orchard* with Jane Alexander, John Glover, and Avery Brooks (also adapted); *Three Sisters* with Frances McDormand, Linda Hunt, and Mary Stuart Masterson; *A Doll House* with Cynthia Nixon; *The Glass Menagerie* with Shirley Knight; *A Seagull in the Hamptons* (an adaptation of Chekhov's *The Seagull*) with Brian Murray and Maria Tucci; and *Mrs. Warren's Profession* with Suzanne Bertish. Her plays include *Execution of Justice* (supported by a Guggenheim Fellowship; winner of Helen Hayes and Joseph Jefferson awards; nominated for Drama Desk and Outer Circle awards); *Still Life* (six Obie Awards); *Greensboro (A Requiem)*; and *Annulla, An Autobiography*. Ms. Mann wrote and directed *Having Our Say*, adapted from the book by Sarah L. Delany and A. Elizabeth Delany with Amy Hill Hearth (nominated for Tonys in writing



Emily Mann

and direction, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle awards; winner of NAACP and Joseph Jefferson awards). For the *Having Our Say* screenplay, Ms. Mann won Peabody and Christopher Awards. A winner of the Dramatists Guild Hull-Warriner Award and the Edward Albee Last Frontier Directing Award, she is a member of the Dramatists Guild and serves on its council. A collection of her plays, *Testimonies: Four Plays*, has been published by Theatre Communications Group, Inc. Her latest play, *Mrs. Packard*, was the recipient of the 2007 Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award and was published by TCG in spring 2009. Most recently, Ms. Mann directed the world premieres of *The Convert* by Danai Gurira, *Phaedra Backwards* by Marina Carr, Edward Albee's *Me, Myself & I* (at McCarter and Playwrights Horizons), and Sarah Treem's *The How and the Why*. This spring, Emily is scheduled to direct *The Convert* at Goodman Theatre in Chicago and CTG in Los Angeles. Emily's adaptation of *The House of Bernard Alba*, which premiered at McCarter, was produced at The Almeida Theater in London this past winter. She is the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from Princeton University and was recently named the 2011 Person of the Year from the National Theatre Conference.

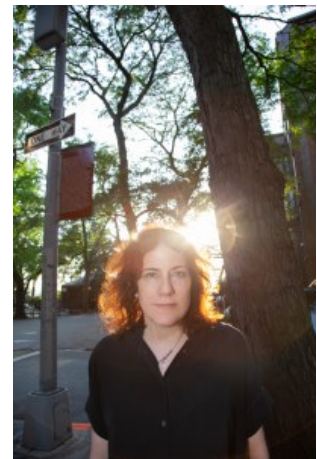
Kecia Lewis (Composer) is celebrating 36 years in the entertainment industry. She made her Broadway debut at 18 years old in the original company of *Dreamgirls*, directed by Michael Bennett. Her other Broadway credits include *The Gospel at Colonus* (with Morgan Freeman), *Big River*, *Ain't Misbehavin'* (standby for Nell Carter), *Once on This Island* (OBC), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (OBC), *Chicago*, *Leap of Faith* (OBC), *Cinderella* (as Marie/Fairy Godmother) and most recently *Children of a Lesser God* (directed by Kenny Leon). Off Broadway she has starred in the title role of *Mother Courage*, *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Obie Award), *Dessa Rose* at Lincoln Center (Drama Desk award nomination), and *Marie and Rosetta* (Lortel & Drama League nominations/ Obie Award winner). Her television credits include Guest Star and recurring roles on *Law & Order*, *Law & Order SVU* (recurring), *Madam Secretary*, *Royal Pains*, *Limitless*, *Conviction*, *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *Blue Bloods*, *SMILF*, *The Blacklist* (recurring), *The Passage* (recurring), *Mad About You* (recurring) and the Hulu series, *Wu-Tang: An American Saga* (recurring). As a vocalist Kecia has performed in Canada, Switzerland, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Russia.



Kecia Lewis

[Mona Mansour](https://www.monamansour.com/) < <https://www.monamansour.com/> > 's (Playwright) play *The Vagrant Trilogy* was set to make its

New York City debut in March 2020 at the Public Theater, directed by Mark Wing-Davey; the production was postponed due to Covid-19, and will resume at a future date. *We Swim, We Talk, We Go To War* will be presented by Geva Theatre in April 2021 (dir. Pirronne Yousefzadeh). It premiered at SF's Golden Thread in 2018 (dir. Evren Odcikin). *The Vagrant Trilogy* was presented at Mosaic Theater in June 2018, (dir. Wing-Davey.) Of the trilogy: *The Hour Of Feeling* (dir. Wing-Davey) premiered at the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, and a new Arabic translation was presented at NYU Abu Dhabi, as part of its Arab Voices Festival in 2016. *Urge For Going*: productions at the Public Theater (dir. Hal Brooks) and Golden Thread (dir. Odcikin). *The Vagrant* was commissioned by the Public and workshopped at the 2013 Sundance Theater Institute. *The Way West: Labyrinth* (dir. Mimi O'Donnell); Village Theater (dir. Christina Myatt); Steppenwolf (dir. Amy Morton); and Marin Theatre Company (dir. Hayley Finn). Other credits: *Unseen*, Gift Theater (dir. Maureen Payne-Hahner), *In The Open*, for Waterwell, directed by James Dean Palmer, and *Across The Water*, written for third-year MFAs at NYU (dir. Scott Illingworth). Mona was a member of the Public Theater's Emerging Writers Group. With Tala Manassah she has written *Falling Down The Stairs*, an EST/Sloan commission. Their play *Dressing* is part *Of Facing Our Truths: Short Plays About Trayvon, Race And Privilege*, commissioned by the New Black Festival. TV: *Queens Supreme, Dead Like Me*. Commissions include Playwrights Horizons, Old Globe Theater, La Jolla Playhouse and Oregon Shakespeare Festival's "American Revolutions." 2012 Whiting Award. 2014 Middle East America Playwright Award, MacDowell Colony 2018, New Dramatists Class of 2020. Mona has written for an upcoming Apple TV show, and in 2019, formed a theater company, SOCIETY, with Scott Illingworth, Tim Nicolai and Erin Anderson.



Mona Mansour

Ellen McLaughlin < <https://www.ellenmmclaughlin.com/> >

(Playwright) has worked extensively in Regional, International and New York theater, both as an actor and as a playwright. Acting work includes originating the part of the Angel in *Angels in America*, playing the role in workshops and regional productions through its original Broadway run. Other favorite work includes the Homebody in Bart Sher's production of *Homebody/Kabul* (Intiman, Seattle, WA), Pirate Jenny in *A Threepenny Opera* (Trinity Rep. Elliot Norton



Award), Claire in Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (Arena Stage, Yale Repertory Theater), Margie in *Good People* (George St. Theater, Seattle Rep.), and Nancy in *Seascape* (ACT, SF, CA.) Her plays have been produced Off-Broadway, regionally and internationally. She is the recipient of the Writer's Award from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund as well as other honors, including the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, The Helen Merrill Award for Playwriting, and grants from the NEA. Plays and operas include, *Tongue of a Bird*, *Iphigenia and Other Daughters*, *Trojan Women*, *Infinity's House*, *Helen*, *Oedipus*, *The Persians*, *Penelope*, *Ajax in Iraq*, *Pericles*, *Septimus and Clarissa*, *Blood Moon*, and *The Oresteia*. Producers include The Public Theater, National Actors' Theater, Classic Stage Co., New York Theater Workshop, The Guthrie, The Intiman, The Mark Taper Forum, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Actors' Theater of Louisville, Orlando Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare Theatre, DC, Prototype, and The Almeida Theater in London. She has taught in several programs, including Yale School of Drama, Princeton and Bread Loaf School of English. She has taught playwriting at Barnard College since 1995.

Ellen McLaughlin

Rehana Lew Mirza' < <https://www.rehanamirza.com/> > S

(Playwright) plays include: *Hatefuck* (Colt Coeur/WP; upcoming at Round House Theatre); *A People's Guide to History in the Time of Here and Now* (Primary Stages Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation's Women Playwrights Commission; AADA workshop production); *Soldier X* (Ma-Yi; Brooklyn College; NYSCA/Lark commission); *Tomorrow, Inshallah* (Living Room Theater, Kansas City; Storyworks/HuffPost commission); *Neighborhood Watch* (NNPN/InterAct commission) and *Barriers* (Desipina, Asian American Theater Company). With her husband Mike Lew, she was awarded the 2020 Kleban for most promising librettist. They also share a Mellon Foundation National Playwright residency administered in partnership with Howlround at Ma-Yi Theater, as well as a commission at La Jolla Playhouse for *The Colonialism Project* after previously being their 2018 artists-in-residence. They've co-written the book, in partnership with Sam Willmott, to the musical *Bhangin' It* (2019 Richard Rodgers Award; upcoming productions at La Jolla Playhouse and McCarter Theater; previously developed at The Orchard Project, Rhinebeck Writers Retreat and their 3R program, Goodspeed, and Project Springboard.) She founded the award-winning South Asian theater and film company, Desipina & Co, alongside her sister Rohi Mirza Pandya in 2001, where together they produced the



Rehana Lew Mirza

popular Seven.11 series (seven, 11-minute plays all set in a convenience store.) Her short film *Modern Day Arranged Marriage* won the NBC ShortCuts audience award, and screened at “Just for Laughs” in Montreal before being acquired by LOGO/MTV. Her feature film, *Hiding Divya*, had a limited North American release and toured to colleges through a grant from the Asian Women’s Giving Circle. Additional honors: NYFA Fellow, Colt Coeur Company member, HBO Access Fellow, Lilly Award (Stacey Mindich “Go Write A Play”), Tofte Lake Emerging Writers Residency, E.S.T. Sloan commission, a John Golden Award, Leopold Schepp fellowship, Ma-Yi Writers Lab Member and Co-Director (2006-2016), Primary Stages Dorothy Strelsin Writers Group Member (2014-2017) and a TCG/New Georges Fellowship. MFA: Columbia University; BFA: NYU Tisch.

Liza Jessie Peterson < <https://www.lizajessiep.com/>>

(Playwright) Is an Artist: an actress, playwright, poet, author and youth advocate who has been steadfast in her commitment to incarcerated populations both professionally and artistically for over two decades.

Her one woman show, ***The Peculiar Patriot*** <

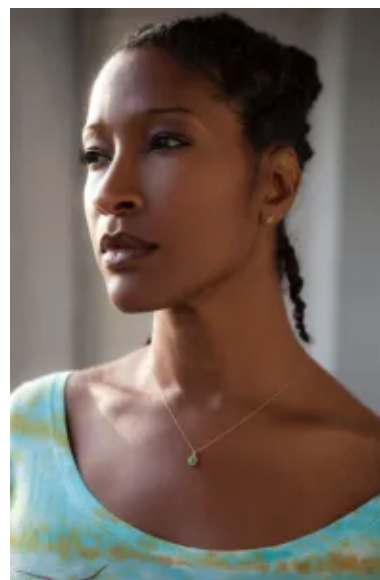
<https://www.lizajessiep.com/thepeculiarpatriot/>,

premiered at The National Black Theater in Harlem for two separate runs and garnered rave reviews from The New York Times, The Boston Globe, and a five star review in Time Out Ny. *The Peculiar Patriot* now tours nationally after being awarded a generous grant from Agnes Gund’s Prestigious Art For Justice Fund. During the early years of the play’s uncanny trajectory and true to her activist nature, Liza

performed ***The Peculiar Patriot*** < **<https://www.lizajessiep.com/thepeculiarpatriot/>**

in over 35 penitentiaries across the country in a self funded prison tour spanning the course of four years. Liza is author of ***All Day: A Year Of Love And Survival Teaching Incarcerated Kids At Rikers Island*** <

<https://www.lizajessiep.com/allday/> (Hachette). She was featured in Ava Duvernay’s Emmy Award Winning Documentary *The 13th* (Netflix) and was a consultant on Bill Moyer’s documentary *Rikers* (Pbs). Also known for her exceptional poetic skills, Liza began her poetry career at The Nuyorican Poets Café and was a vital member of The Enclave Of Notable Poets who were part of the “Underground Slam Poetry” Movement. It was this electric group of artists that inspired Russell Simmons to bring “spoken word” to Hbo where Liza appeared on two episodes of *Def Poetry*. In addition to *The Peculiar Patriot* Liza has written several plays which received development support from The Lark,



Liza Jessie Peterson

Syracuse Stage, The Mccarter Theater, Manhattan Theater Club and The Flynn Theater. **[Down The Rabbit Hole](https://www.lizajessiep.com/downtherabbithole)** < <https://www.lizajessiep.com/downtherabbithole>> is currently in residency at The Flynn Theater in Vermont followed by *Sistahgurls* And *The Squirrel* in development at both The Lark and Manhattan Theater Club in Ny. As an actress Liza appeared in several feature films: Love The Hard Way (Costarring with Pam Grier and Adrien Brody), Spike Lee's, Bamboozled, K. Shalini's, A Drop Of Life, and Jamie Catto's, What About Me. She can be seen in an upcoming web series, A Luv Tale produced by Sidra Smith and Directed by Kay Oyegun (This Is Us, Blackish).

Ren Dara Santiago <

<https://www.rendarasantiago.com/>>

(Playwright) is a Fila-Rican playwright from Harlem. She is the TOW Foundation 2020 playwright-in-residence at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, who will World Premiere *The Siblings Play*. *The Gods Play* will be part of the Bushwick Starr Reading Series in March 2020. *Something in the Balete Tree*, a 2019 Finalist in the National



Ren Dara Santiago

Playwrights Conference, was written with the support of The Lark's Playwrights Week 2020, Gingold Theatrical Group, Clubbed Thumb, and SPACE on Ryder Farm. *The Siblings Play* has had development at The Cherry Lane Theatre (Mentor Project), Labyrinth Theater, MCC Theater, and Ojai Playwrights Conference. She is a teaching artist with The National Theater Institute, The Young Women's Leadership School, and the Playwriting Lab at MCC Youth Company. She is a member of Rising Phoenix Rep; founding member & former Artistic Producer of Middle Voice at Rattlestick; & an eternal member of The Baldwin Project by Lucy Thurber. Ren is the inaugural recipient of Rising Phoenix Rep's Cornelia Street American Playwriting Award.

Caridad Svich < <https://caridadsvich.com/about/>>

(Playwright) received the 2012 OBIE for Lifetime Achievement, 2011 American Theatre Critics Association Primus Prize for *The House of the Spirits*, based on Isabel Allende's novel, and NNPN rolling world premieres for *RED BIKE* and *Guapa*. Her works in English and Spanish have been produced internationally. In addition to the plays mentioned,



Caridad Svich

other key plays in her repertoire include *12 Ophelias*, *Iphigenia Crash Land Falls*, and *The Way of Water*. A significant body of her work focuses on human and environmental rights and the 'fragile shores' upon which many of us live. She also sustains a parallel career as a theatrical translator, chiefly known for her translations of the plays of Federico Garcia Lorca; she has also adapted for the stage works by Julia Alvarez, Mario Vargas Llosa and Gabriel Garcia Marquez; she is founder of NoPassport theatre alliance and press, and is associate editor of *Contemporary Theatre Review* for Routledge UK. She is published by TCG, Methuen Drama, and Intellect UK, among others. Upcoming premieres: *Town Hall* at Red Tape Theatre in Chicago, *Ushuaia Blue* at the Contemporary American Theatre Festival, and *Eva Luna* at Repertorio Espanol. Her most recent book is on *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Routledge 4th Wall Series). Her first opera (as librettist) *Bernarda Alba* will premiere with Cleveland Opera Theatre, and her first independent feature film *Fugitive Dreams*, based on her play, is scheduled for a late 2021 release. The film stars April Matthis, Scott Shepard, Robbie Tann, O-Lan Jones and David Patrick Kelly, and is directed by Jason Neulander. She is an alumna playwright of New Dramatists, member of Ensemble Studio Theatre, and an affiliated artist with The Lark, New Georges and Woodshed Collective.

Andrea Thome (Playwright) is a Chilean/Costa Rican-American playwright. Her most recent play *Fandango for Butterflies (and Coyotes)* received its world premiere by En Garde Arts in February 2020. Her play *Pinkolandia* received the Lark Play Development Center's Launching New Plays fellowship and a rolling world premiere at INTAR, Austin's Salvage Vanguard Theater, Two River Theater (NJ), and 16th Street Theater (Chicago). For the Public Theater's Public Works, Thome created *Troy* with the ACTivate Ensemble. Her plays include *Undone* (Queens College, Victory Gardens, Lark), *Worm Girl* (Cherry Red Productions) and her play translations have been produced by the Public, CTG, La Jolla Playhouse and others. Thome co-directs FULANA, an all-Latina satire collective, has directed the Lark's Mexico-U.S. Playwright Exchange Program since 2006, and teaches theater at SUNY Purchase. Residencies include Blue Mountain Center, MacDowell, SPACE on Ryder Farm and Keen Company. She was a New Dramatists resident from 2009-2016.



Andrea Thome


Lucy Thurber (Playwright) is the author of twelve plays: *Where We're Born, Ashville, Scarcity, Killers and Other Family, Stay, Bottom of The World, Monstrosity, Dillingham City, The Locus, Perry Street, The Insurgents and Transfers*. *Transfers* was part of The New York Stage and Film 2016 Powerhouse Season. Lucy is part of COMMUNITY WORKS at Williamstown Theatre Festival, where she wrote *Orpheus in the Berkshires* and *Once Upon a Time in The Berkshires and Taiga in The Berkshires*. *The Insurgents* was produced at Labyrinth Theater Company and Contemporary American Theater Festival. Her five play cycle *The Hill Town Plays* was produced Off Broadway by Rattlestick Playwright's Theater in-conjunction with The Cherry Lane Theater, The Axis Theater and The New Ohio Theatre. Lucy's theatrical homes are Rattlestick Playwright's Theater, The Atlantic Theater, Labyrinth Theater, New Dramatists and The Lark where they have produced and supported her. Lucy wrote the text for *QUIXOTE*, conceived and directed by Lear deBessonnet, a site-specific performance with the Psalters made for and with The Broad Street Community, also with Lear deBessonnet and produced by 13P, *Monstrosity*. Lucy is published by Dramatists Play Service. She is an alumni of New Dramatists, A member of 13P, Labyrinth Theater Company, Rising Phoenix Rep and New Neighborhood. She got to spend time with Sundance Theatre at UCROSS in Wyoming. Lucy has been commissioned by Playwrights Horizons, The Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Houses on The Moon, Yale Rep. Williamstown Theatre Festival and A.C.T. and Steppenwolf Theatre. She is the recipient of Manhattan Theatre Club Playwriting Fellowship, the first Gary Bonasorte Memorial Prize for Playwriting, a proud recipient of a LILLY AWARD, an OBIE Award for *The Hill Town Plays* and The Helen Merrill Distinguished Playwriting Award. She also writes for TV and Film



Lucy Thurber

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