



PHILADELPHIA WOMEN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL

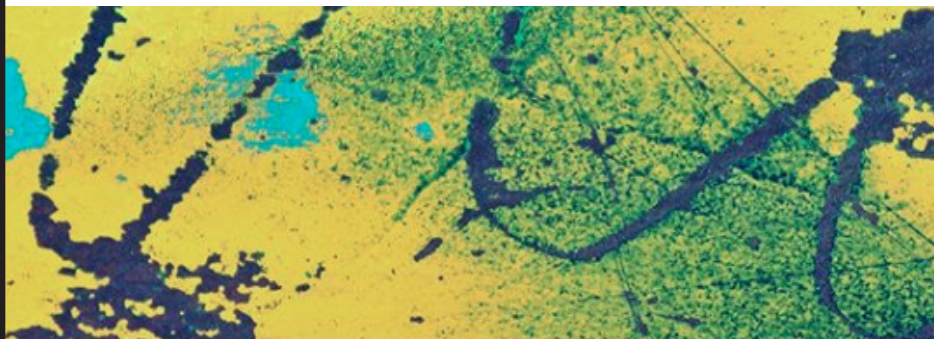
A VIRTUAL READING SERIES



UNTOLD VOICES IN VOTING

AUGUST 6 - SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

THE PHILADELPHIA WOMEN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL
2020: UNTOLD VOICES IN VOTING IS PROUD TO
PARTNER WITH JOUSKA PLAYWORKS



Jouska PlayWorks



ABOUT JOUSKA PLAYWORKS:

Jouska's mission is to shift perceptions and inaccuracies about the African Diaspora by bringing to the foreground stories and experiences that have too long been untold. Our goal is to use theatre as a means to enrich, entertain, empower and awaken the moral conscience.

JOUSKA PLAYWORKS/PWTF PLAYWRIGHTS:

Teresa Miller, Keenya Jackson,
Ang Bey, Megan Schumacher & Nikki Brake-Sillá



**PHILADELPHIA WOMEN'S
THEATRE FESTIVAL**

UNTOLD VOICES IN VOTING:
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE 19TH
AMENDMENT

AUGUST 6 - SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

SPONSORED BY



The Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival is honored to be a Philadelphia Cultural Fund 2020 Art & Culture Grantee. This grant allows us to further our creative work for the good of our community and for all Philadelphians.

A NOTE FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

Dear Friends,

Here we are, together-apart, for our 6th annual festival: Untold Voices in Voting. THANK YOU for sharing this virtual space with us and embracing a new theatrical experience.

We, as people, are hungry for the arts to enrich our lives in uncertain times. Perhaps uncertain is inaccurate --- this is a terrifying time and for those living through chaos, pain and fear --- we see you! We also see an inspiring show of strength, empathy, boldness, allyship, and solidarity in our community and world. Over the past months, there have been many unknowns, but we knew that the 2020 festival had to happen. We knew that we must Amplify Untold Voices. We knew that we must commemorate the centennial of the 19th amendment in this critical election year. So, here we are, thanks to you, our friends/patrons/donors, continuing to create opportunities for women+ in theatre and making our best efforts to uplift and employ artists at a time when our theatres are shuttered.

This year, as we celebrate 100 years since the ratification of the 19th amendment, we are unpacking women's suffrage in America --- what was accomplished, what failed, and what is still to be done. When thinking about our own understanding of women's suffrage, we acknowledge it was shaped through the narrow, white, upper-middle class lens of

Abigail Adams, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. We wanted to know more about the universal fight of women's suffrage led by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) suffragists and bring this history to you. Although women were granted the right to vote in 1920, Black women remained disenfranchised until the Voting Acts Right of 1965. Today, Black, Latinx, and Native American people are plagued by different barriers to exercising their right to vote including voter ID rules, gerrymandering, and more. We invite you to #AmplifyUntoldVoices with us, particularly women+ of color, who were left out of the narrative of the suffrage movement. To commemorate these voices and explore their relevance today, we have had the great fortune to partner with Jouska PlayWorks, an assembly of playwrights of color.

Together, we bring you Untold Voices in Voting to celebrate the voices of Fanny Lou Hamer, Ida B. Wells, Angeline Welde Grimke, Frances Harper, Sojourner Truth, and countless other women of color who fought relentlessly against injustice.

This is our first go at Zoom theatre so expect the unexpected and thank you for journeying with us! Get cozy on your couch (date night? Dinner and a movie?), wear your pajamas (or not) and revel in the fact that parking was free and you didn't hit traffic (I know we aren't the only ones who have refilled the meter at intermission). Thank you for joining us for an intersectional celebration of women's rights activists --- without leaving home!

Enjoy the Untold Voices in Voting!

POLLY EDELSTEIN & CHRISTINE PETRINI

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FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

WEEKEND 1

AUGUST 6TH
THURSDAY AT 8PM

I WOKE UP THIS MORNING WITH
MY MIND BY TERESA MILLER

AUGUST 9TH
SUNDAY AT 3PM

AIN'T (Y)OUR HISTORY
BY RACHEL ATKINS

WEEKEND 2

AUGUST 20TH
THURSDAY AT 8PM

AMERICA'S FAVORITE FEMINIST
BY KEENYA JACKSON

WEEKEND 3

SEPTEMBER 10TH
THURSDAY AT 8PM

ONE-ACTS

WEEKEND 4

SEPTEMBER 24TH
THURSDAY AT 8PM

IN DEFENSE OF OURSELVES
BY NIKKI BRAKE-SILLÁ

JOIN US ON ZOOM!

*Special thanks to graphic designer Caroline Foglia for the festival art

I WOKE UP THIS MORNING WITH MY MIND

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY TERESA MILLER
WITH ASSISTANCE FROM JOSHUA A. CAMPBELL

Thursday, August 8 at 8pm



Teresa Miller (she/her) is an African American Actor/V.O. Actor and Playwright based in Philadelphia, PA. Professionally she has worked with The Arden Theatre Company, Pulley and Buttonhole Theatre

Company (Board Member), The Negro Ensemble (New York) The Tisch School of the Arts (New York), Simpatico Theatre Company, Allen Lane Theater, and Stagecrafters Theatre and is a member of Directors' Gathering. Teresa is a 3rd year member of the Foundry@ PlayPenn. Her inspiration to write is a culmination of the human condition, culture and race.

AIN'T (Y)OUR HISTORY

WRITTEN BY RACHEL ATKINS
DIRECTED BY GINGER AGNEW

Sunday, August 9 at 3pm

Harper/Barnett.....Miranda Thompson
Truth/Terrell.....Tameeka Cooper
Cary/Ruffin.....Cashia Fitzgerald Bryant
Chorus/Prisoner.....Janelle T. Harvey
Anthony/Paul.....Shannon Agnew
Stanton/Blatch.....Erin Agnew
Mott/Catt.....Ginger Agnew
Stage Manager/Stage Directions.....Hannah Spear



Rachel Atkins (she/her) is a Seattle-based playwright and teaching artist. She is the scriptwriter for Living Voices, the educational theatre partner of Theatreworks USA, with whom she has 12 different multi-media shows in ongoing national touring

repertory, all focusing on issues of history and social justice, and seen by over 3 million audience members throughout the US & Canada.

AMERICA'S FAVORITE FEMINIST

WRITTEN BY KEENYA JACKSON

DIRECTED BY ELISE D'AVELLA

Thursday, August 20 at 8pm

Minnie.....Donovan Lockett
Elizabeth.....Steph Iozzia
Crow.....Nicky Khor
Stage Manager/Stage Directions.....Hannah Spear



Keenya Jackson (she/her) is an emerging Philadelphia playwright. She was a member of the Philadelphia Dramatist Center (PDC) from 2015 to 2019. In 2019, she co-founded Jouska PlayWorks at Simpatico Theatre. Her play *Botanicals*

or Giving it to God, was the recipient of PlayPenn's professional public reading in 2019. The ten-minute version of *Botanicals* also received a production with Mojaaa Theatre in 2018. *Frankie and Johnny – The Play* was a finalist in the Todd McNerney Playwriting Contest in 2018. Additional plays have been produced and workshop/developed by Revamp Collective and Philadelphia Dramatist Center. Keenya is a graduate of Arcadia University. She continues to grow as a playwright and in theatre by studying at such places as Play Penn in Philadelphia and the National Playwright Symposium in Cape May, NJ.

IN DEFENSE OF OURSELVES

WRITTEN BY NIKKI BRAKE-SILLÁ

DIRECTED BY VICTORIA AALIYAH GOINS

Thursday, August 24 at 8pm

Mary Church Terrell.....Kimberly S. Fairbanks
Ida B. Wells-Barnett.....Eunice Akinola
Alice Paul / Karen.....Alison Ormsby
Ray.....Nathan Alford-Tate
Tiana.....Alexandra Espinoza
Stage Directions.....Kishia Nixon
Stage Manager.....Hannah Spear



Nikki Brake-Sillá (playwright + filmmaker) is Southern to her core with a Northern patina, and proudly calls Southwest Philadelphia home. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her MFA from the City College of

New York. Nikki is a recipient of the 2019 Mitten Lab Residency and the Leeway Foundation Art and Change Grant. She is the Founder of DrAW (Dramatists At War) and an inaugural member of Jouska Play Works. She has received funding from The Leeway Foundation, PlayPenn, PIFVA, The Princess Grace Foundation, The National Board of Review, The Bert Saperstein Foundation, The Institute for Humane Studies, The Danielle & Larry Nyman Family, and Public Media Foundation.

AN EVENING OF ONE-ACTS, PART I

CELEBRATION BREAD

WRITTEN BY JULIE ZAFFARANO
DIRECTED BY NICOLE MILLER MARKS

Thursday, September 10 at 8pm

Mag.....Sharese Salters
Felicia.....Michelle Pauls
Stage Manager.....Zachary Apony



Julie Zaffarano is a Philadelphia playwright who believes everyone's life is a myriad of stories. The PlayMakers, Winner of 2016 What If? Productions Annual Playwrights Festival, was produced in Charleston,

June 2017. Recent readings/productions: Maryland Ensemble Theatre (METLab) 2017 Festival, Work in Progress Theatre, Baltimore; "Readings at the Drake" PlayPenn series; Juniper Productions; Philadelphia Dramatists Center; Cloverdale Playhouse, ReVamp Collective; Pittsburg New Work Festival (Best Production). Other recognitions: Semi-Finalist, O'Neill National 2017 Playwrights Conference; Finalist Villanova University Sue Winge Competition; Finalist Strange Sun Theatre Greenhouse; Semi-Finalist Actors Theatre of Charlotte Nuvoices, and Ohio State University New Play Fest.

MRS. SATAN & THE NASTY WOMAN

WRITTEN BY ALICE EVE COHEN
DIRECTED BY NICOLE MILLER MARKS

Thursday, September 10 at 8pm

Hilary Clinton.....Michelle Pauls
Victoria Woodull.....Kelly McCaughan
Stage Manager.....Zachary Apony



Alice Eve Cohen is a playwright, and solo theatre artist. Winner of the 2019 Jane Chambers Playwriting Award for *In the Cervix of Others*. Award-winning author of two memoirs, *The Year My Mother Came Back* (Algonquin) and *What I Thought I Knew* (Penguin)—winner of

the Elle Magazine Literary Grand Prix for *Nonfiction*, Oprah magazine's 25 Best Books of Summer, and Salon's Best Books of the Year. Cohen has written television for Nickelodeon, CBS and CTW and has toured her solo plays internationally. She received a BA from Princeton and MFA in Creative Writing from The New School. She teaches playwriting and creative writing at The New School.

AN EVENING OF ONE-ACTS, PART 2

LOWNDES

WRITTEN BY MEGAN SCHUMACHER

DIRECTED BY NICOLE MILLER MARKS

Thursday, September 17 at 8pm

Mrs. C.....Kimberly S. Fairbanks
Mr. C.....Brian Anthony Wilson
Young Woman.....Marissa Kennedy
Young Man.....Brandon Pierce
Stage Manager.....Zachary Apony



Megan Schumacher is a Philadelphia based playwright, director, dramaturg and educator. A member of Jouska PlayWorks at Simpatico Theatre and The Foundry at PlayPenn, her one-act play *Superlosers* was produced by Juniper Productions for the

2018 Philadelphia Fringe Festival. She directed Marissa Kennedy's solo piece *Out of the Shadows* for the 2019 Philadelphia Fringe Festival and has directed several readings, including Lucy Kirkwood's *The Children* at Inis Nua Theatre and Alexandra Espinoza's *Homeridae* during the 2019 Philadelphia Theatre Week. She serves as an Education Dramaturg Consultant at Villanova University and was a new play dramaturg at Steel River Playhouse's Festival of New Work. She has her M.A. in Theatre from Villanova University.

WALK THE LINE

WRITTEN BY ANG BEY

DIRECTED BY NICOLE MILLER MARKS

Thursday, September 17 at 8pm

Hudda.....Briyanna D. Clarel
Simone.....Marissa Kennedy
Stage Manager.....Zachary Apony



Ang Bey is a black, queer storyteller from Southwest Philadelphia. They are an award-winning actor and playwright, whose work as an artist is inseparable from their activism. Ang's play, *Com[promising] Freedom* won the National Constitution Center's

Founding Freedom's contest and was produced by NCC in 2015. *The Medusa Play*, by Ang, was recently Barrymore Recommended and produced by Shoe Box Theatre Collective. The academic production of *The Medusa Play* at Ursinus College marked the first time in the history Ursinus that a black student had a play produced on the main stage. Other works including *The Guardian* (Winner of Episcopal Academy Play Slam), *Pedestals* (Philadelphia Young Playwrights Monologue Festival), and *Twenty Six* have garnered regional acclaim. Currently, Ang is in the inaugural cohort of Jouska PlayWorks with Simpatico Theatre Company. They are the Season Apprentice at Theatre Horizon. They earned a Theater B.A. Africana Studies minor from Ursinus in May 2019. angbey.com

ABOUT PWTF

MISSION

The Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival fosters and encourages women and femme folx in the performing arts by offering unique opportunities for exposure, professional, artistic and personal development and a platform for performance.

STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

We are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion by embracing all people and viewpoints. PWTF aims to embrace intersectionality and serves female and non-binary artists of all colors and backgrounds. PWTF does not discriminate based on age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or disability. Through staffing, casting and programming that reflect the diverse makeup of our community and our world, we are dedicated to creating accessible theatre for the Greater Philadelphia Region and its theatre artists.

We are outraged by the tradition of racism, violence and inequality plaguing America. In solidarity, we stand steadfast with our Black and Brown communities in the fight for social justice and systemic change. We pledge to amplify BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) voices by sharing their stories, history and struggles through theatre. Through our artistic platform, we strive to voice opposition to a cycle of racial oppression that has silenced our communities of color and left our nation wounded.

Admittedly, we are unpacking our own biases and educating ourselves as we strive to uphold our values of diversity and inclusion. This includes examining our organization and ensuring that staffing, casting and programming reflects the diversity of our community. We are prepared to advocate, together, for freedom and justice for all people.

We stand united to #changethestory.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS & DONORS

GOVERNMENT

The Berks Arts Council in partnership with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
The Philadelphia Cultural Fund

FOUNDATION

Renaissance Charitable Foundation

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O'Connor, Molly & John Cappel
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Agnew, Shannon
Altman, Adam
Burns, Kristy Tran
Chavarro, Caitlin
Curley, Terri
Dattel, Lisa
Davidson, Greg & Tamah Kushner
Edelstein, Polly
Fanslau, Lauren
Garfield, Linda Dubin

Kushner William

Longo, Eric
Mullaney, Jane
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Stanton, Austin
Voshell, Paula & Scott

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Anonymous (2)
Adams, Pareshettarlina
Bard, Gerogina
Beauchamp, Bridget Reilly
Brown, Doug
Coffey, Carol
Heller, Gerald
Keith, Barbara
Mohn, Justin
Ochocki, Sarah
Patricia, Brenda
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Smith, Mary
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Walden-Murphy, Theresa
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\$1-\$49

Anonymous (2)
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Faller, Marisa
Gafgen, Sarah
Gittleman, Marisa
Karandikar, Sangeeta
Kaufmann, Quinn
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Kennedy, Marissa
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