



# PHILADELPHIA WOMEN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL



CHANGE **the** STORY

July 30<sup>th</sup> - August 2<sup>nd</sup>

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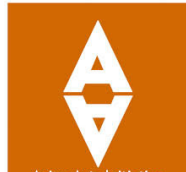


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# About the Philadelphia WOMEN'S Theatre Festival

## Mission

Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival (PWTF) is dedicated to creating opportunities for women in the arts. PWTF builds a community of artists through a citywide celebration of women's contributions to storytelling, artistic advancement and creative innovation.

## Vision

Through this development of artists, we will allow both new and prospering voices to be heard in Philadelphia, for the sake of their unique perspectives and otherwise untold stories.

By building a community of diverse artists through the culmination of a citywide celebration, Philadelphia will become a national leader in recognizing the valuable influence women play in the arts and will be at the forefront of honoring women's contributions to storytelling, artistic advancement and creative innovation.

## Values

We will cultivate women artists and provide a forum for growth.

By providing resources, support and a stage for exposure, we foster and encourage women in the arts of all disciplines: directors, playwrights, performers, designers, and administrators. Through the development of this often marginalized group of artisans, we will usher in a new era of artistic voices, their distinct perspectives and otherwise untold stories.

## A Note from PWTF Artistic Director and Co-Founder

Dear Friend,

It is my honor to welcome you to the 2015 Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival! We are so thrilled to have you be part of this grassroots movement to help #ChangeTheStory. Whether it's your first time at the theater or you see shows every week, this time is different. This time you are part of a movement dedicated to ensuring parity for women in the arts.

Women playwrights, directors and designers receive fewer than 20% of the professional production opportunities nationwide. Over the past five years, of Philadelphia's largest grossing professional theatre companies, only 10% of produced plays were directed by women and only 20% were written by female playwrights. Despite a thriving artistic community in the City of Philadelphia, opportunities for women artists are scarce. Our stories are not given the same credibility and opportunities for exposure as our male counterparts. This is why the Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival exists.

We are currently experiencing a watershed moment in theater where more and more people are realizing the importance of having more than a male dominated narrative. The time is now, the glass ceiling has been cracked by a plethora of women before us, and with your help we are confident that we can reach parity for women in the arts. The next four days are full of amazing women artists and storytellers. Celebrate with us as we honor and value their contribution to the arts.

Thank you again for all of your support. Enjoy the festival!

~ POLLY Edelstein

# Welcome to the Inaugural Philadelphia WOMEN'S Theatre Festival

July 30<sup>th</sup> - August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

## Co-Founders

POLLY EDELSTEIN  
Artistic Director

CHRISTINE PETRINI  
Managing Director

BRIE KNIGHT  
Director of Engagement

## PWTF Staff

MEGAN DIEHL  
Artistic Associate

LAUREN FANSLAU  
Education Manager

AUSTIN STANTON  
Graphic Design Manager

ANNE GOODMAN  
Production Manager

CHRISTIAN BREZA  
House Manager

MATT BASDEN  
House Manager

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Actor & Performer

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Technical Director  
Villanova University Theatre

TONDA HANNUM DIPASQUALE  
Hannum's Harley-Davidson

## Staff Bios

### **Polly Edelstein** (*Artistic Director*)

Polly Rose Edelstein has been in the Philadelphia region for the past five years working as a freelance theater director, teaching artist, and administrator currently residing in West Philadelphia. Polly received her Masters of Arts in Theatre with a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Villanova University where she worked as a graduate assistant for two years. Some of her favorite directing projects include *Court-Martial at Fort Devens* (Steel River Playhouse) *Eurydice* (Villanova University), and *Trappings* (FringeArts). She has been a featured speaker at Villanova's TEDx event (*Theatre Beyond Theater*), the Philadelphia Theatre Research Symposium, and the Villanova Showcase. Other organizations Polly has worked with include: Columbia Gorge Repertory Theatre, InterAct Theatre Company, Steel River Playhouse, Theatre Horizon, the Darlington Arts Center, East Coast Recording, International Ballet Classique, Old Academy Players, The Pub Theater and Crack the Glass Theatre Company.

### **Christine Petrini** (*Managing Director*)

Christine is a singer, actress, arts administrator and teaching artist in the Philadelphia region. In September 2014, she graduated with distinction from Villanova University, earning a Master of Arts in Theatre and a graduate certificate in Nonprofit Management. For her graduate thesis, Christine wrote and performed a one-woman musical, *I Can Dress Myself*. Her recent credits include *The Light in the Piazza* (Clara), *Everyman* (Good Deeds), *Salome* and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet van de Graaff) at Villanova University. Previously, Christine performed as a vocalist for Tokyo Disney Resort in Japan, *Bernstein's Mass* at The Kennedy Center, and toured the U.S. with *Babes in Toyland*. Christine owns a music entertainment company, Wasabi Talent, singing and providing musicians for weddings and special occasions. She works as the Membership Services Associate for ArtPride New Jersey, servicing the nonprofit arts of New Jersey.

### **Brie Knight** (*Director of Engagement*)

Brie received her M.A. in Theatre from Villanova University as well as a certification in Nonprofit Management. Most recently, Brie played Lottie/Carmen in *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* at the 2014 Philadelphia FringeArts, and served as Stage Manager for Christine Petrini's one woman show, *I Can Dress Myself* and for the 2012 production of *The Twentieth Century Way* with the Philadelphia Equality Forum. Brie has served as a dramaturg for People's Light and Theatre Company and Villanova Theatre. Brie is also a solo-performer and playwright with over nine years of non-profit administration and consultant experience in the fields of environment, communications and performing arts. She recently served on the PA Council for the Arts grant review advisory council.

**Megan Diehl** (*Artistic Associate*)

Megan Diehl is currently an Adjunct Faculty member in the Department of Theater at Temple University and a Development Assistant with the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. As a freelance dramaturg, she has worked with companies such as Lantern Theatre Company (*Doubt*), Montgomery Theater (*Light Sensitive*), PSF and Villanova Theatre. Megan has been part of the Philadelphia theatre community for eight years, working with organizations such as Arden Theatre Company, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Theater Horizon, Walnut Street Theater, and many more. An alumnus of DeSales University, she also recently obtained her M.A. in Theatre from Villanova University as well as a Certificate in Nonprofit Management. While at Villanova, she organized the 2014 Philadelphia Theatre Research Symposium (featuring a keynote interview with Emily Mann), received the 2013 Graduate Liberal Arts & Sciences Summer Research Fellowship, and attended the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in Washington, D.C. as the winner from Region 2 in the Institute of Theater Journalism and Advocacy.

**Lauren Fanslau** (*Education Manager*)

Lauren works as a freelance artist, teacher, producer, and technician in the greater Philadelphia area. She is a recent graduate of Villanova University's theatre program (M.A. Theatre, 2014), where she wrote and performed her first solo piece, *ReCalculating*, in June 2014. Her Villanova credits include *Everyman* (Kindred), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Mrs. Tottendale), and *Salome* (Ensemble). She currently works as the Administrative Coordinator at Allens Lane Art Center in Mt. Airy, Philadelphia as well as the producer for *School Play*, a live documentary-style play, sponsored by PCCY (Public Citizens for Children and Youth), which premiered at the National Constitution Center in April 2015 to much acclaim. In 2013, Lauren worked at the Abbey Theatre, Ireland's National Theatre, in Dublin through a grant provided by the Villanova-Abbey Theatre Exchange and shared her experiences during her TEDx Talk, *Theatre Beyond Theater* in November 2013.

**Austin Stanton** (*Graphic Design Manager*)

Austin Stanton is a playwright, actress and comedienne. Favorite past shows include *HMS Pinafore*, *Into the Woods*, *Dog Days*, *As It Is In Heaven*, and Arthur Miller's *Playing for Time*. Austin is also a freelance web and graphic designer and earned a Web Design: Professional certificate from the University of the Arts in 2013. She also performs stand-up comedy around Philadelphia.

For more information on Festival events, cast and crew bios, visit our website at [phillywomenstheatrefest.org](http://phillywomenstheatrefest.org).

# Festival Productions, Professional Development and Events Overview:

| <b>Thursday, July 30th</b>  |     |   | P# |
|-----------------------------|-----|---|----|
| 7:00 pm                     | L   | Welcome Reception & Registration, Comedy Cabaret  |    |
| 8:00 pm                     | BB  | Featured Guest Performance: <i>THE HOUR OF ALL THINGS</i>   | 10 |
| <b>Friday, July 31st</b>    |     |   |    |
| 6:30 pm                     | L   | Theater Speed-Schmoozing  | 16 |
| 8:00 pm                     | BB  | Main Festival Production: <i>OTHER TONGUES</i>  | 9  |
| <b>Saturday, August 1st</b> |     |   |    |
| 11:00 am                    | ILL | Viewpoints Workshop   | 16 |
| 1:00 pm                     | BB  | PWTF Presents: Women in Performance Showcase featuring: <i>THE HOUR OF ALL THINGS</i> , <i>(WO)MEN IN SHAKESPEARE PROJECT</i> , and <i>WINGSPAN</i> | 10 |
| 5:00 pm                     | ILL | Staged Reading: <i>WIDE OPEN SPACES</i>   | 14 |
| 8:00 pm                     | BB  | PWTF Presents <i>I CAN DRESS MYSELF</i>   | 13 |
| <b>Sunday, August 2nd</b>   |     |   |    |
| 12:00 pm                    | ILL | Staged Reading: <i>PANCAKE QUEEN</i>  | 15 |
| 3:00 pm                     | ILL | Philadelphia Arts Leaders Panel   | 16 |
| 4:30 pm                     | L   | Story Changers Honoree Reception  | 16 |
| 5:00 pm                     | BB  | Main Festival Production: <i>OTHER TONGUES</i>  | 9  |

L Lobby – in the Asian Arts Initiative Lobby, 1st floor

BB Black Box – in the Asian Arts Initiative Black Box Theatre, 1st floor

ILL Philadelphia Young Playwrights Independence Learning Lab, 2nd floor



## Main Festival Production

# OTHER TONGUES

WRITTEN BY  
Alisha Adams

DIRECTED BY  
Megan Diehl

COSTUME DESIGNER  
Sarah Ochocki

STAGE MANAGER  
Julia Salvo

DRAMATURG  
Sarah Tatora

SOUND DESIGNER  
Parris Bradley

ASSISTANT  
STAGE MANAGER  
Christen Mandracchia

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LIGHTING DESIGNER  
Alyssandra Docherty

### Featuring

LIZZY PECORA ..... Charity  
LILLIAN ROZIN ..... Faye  
ZACHARY AGUILAR ..... Nicholas/Niyol

Two missionaries to the 1960s Navajo reservation navigate faith, love, callings, and the death of a student, while producing a youth bible pageant.

Faye, a seasoned missionary, aspiring gospel translator, and closeted lesbian falls for Charity, the new hire (and minister's wife). But Charity is secretly falling for Nicholas, a Navajo student at the mission who shares her love of music.

Told in reverse, the play's structure mimics one of Faye's theological theories: that it is possible to "untranslate" language far enough to discover the language of Adam and Eve. Translation and memory are central themes, as each character works to become something new, by faith, rebellion, or both.

The American Southwest has been a theater for mission work since Spanish colonization. *OTHER TONGUES* is a near allegorical story exploring the missionary psyche, American colonization, and complex road to self-determination for all oppressed people.

*OTHER TONGUES* runs approximately 105 minutes.

## Featured Guest Performance

# THE HOUR OF ALL THINGS

WRITTEN BY  
Caridad Svich

DIRECTED BY  
Zac Kline

FEATURING  
Blair Baker as Nic

PRODUCER  
Missing Bolts  
Productions

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
Jedadiah Schultz

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
Alyssandra Docherty

PRODUCTION STAGE  
MANAGER  
Carly Levin

An ordinary woman has extraordinary thoughts. A play for one actor that explores the soul of America – for love, country and bad shopping

The Thursday performance runs approximately 75 minutes.

The Saturday performance will be a shorter version that runs approximately 45 minutes.

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# WO(MEN) IN SHAKESPEARE PROJECT

in Conjunction with Diana Theatre

DIRECTED BY  
Cheryl Williams

STAGE MANAGER /  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
Eric Kramer

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
Alyssandra Docherty

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Linnell Truchon

## Featuring

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| EMILY MOYLAN .....             | Woman #1 |
| BONNIE BALDINI .....           | Woman #2 |
| EMILY JOHNSON.....             | Woman #3 |
| ASHLEY FISHER-TANNENBAUM ..... | Woman #4 |
| KATHY LA .....                 | Woman #5 |
| LAUREN KELEHER .....           | Woman #6 |
| LINNELL TRUCHON .....          | Woman #7 |
| HOLLY HENEKS .....             | Woman #8 |
| STEPH IOZZIA .....             | Woman #9 |

A compilation of Shakespeare's famous love scenes and sonnets, presented with a stripped-down all-female vision, interconnected with contemporary and traditional music. Scenes and sonnets are threaded together with brief musical interludes to complete a journey in our exploration of Love. *WO(MEN) IN SHAKESPEARE* is interested in examining and presenting Shakespeare's amazing stories and characters from the personal perspectives, experiences, hearts and voices of the performers.

*WO(MEN) IN SHAKESPEARE PROJECT* runs approximately 45 minutes.

# WINGSPAN

WRITTEN BY  
Arden Kass

DIRECTED BY  
Brenna Geffers

FEATURING  
Lauren Fanslau

CHOREOGRAPHER  
Shannon Dooling

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
Alyssandra Docherty

*WINGSPAN* is a multi-disciplinary theatrical piece based on the endeavors of Dr. Joe Rosen, a renowned Boston-based plastic surgeon, to implant wings on the backs of living human beings. Created from human skin and bones, the wings eventually bond physiologically with the body's anatomy, though at this early stage of development, they are not (yet) expected to bear the burden of flight.

Can the doctor slice open the back muscles of his beloved to implant a physically awkward, imperfectly designed appendage that could permanently disfigure her? Especially when his love-object is a celebrated, but aging dancer whose entire identity turns on her ability to "fly" using only the hard-earned strength and skill of her own body? And how does the dancer's desperation affect her lover?

Given its ethereal, bizarre, fable-like subject matter and the wealth of imagery it inspires, *WINGSPAN* suggests itself more in the form of a "spectacle" expressed in words, music, images and movement than as a traditional stage play.

*WINGSPAN* runs approximately 30 minutes.

PWTF Presents

# I CAN DRESS MYSELF

WRITTEN BY  
Christine Petrini  
in collaboration with Eric Longo

MUSIC & LYRICS BY  
Christine Petrini &  
Eric Longo

STAGE MANAGER  
Brie Knight

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
Alyssandra Docherty

Jane, Jessica and Zoe are stigmatized by a society that has scorned women for centuries. They struggle to escape the abuse of their male partners and, as women, are both demonized and desired for their sexuality and intellect. *I CAN DRESS MYSELF* documents their journeys as they navigate through love and relationships, motherhood, careers, illness and their relationship with power and law. Solo performer, Christine Petrini, will play herself, along with all three women to tell a tale that mirrors the journey well all take in search of what fits us most comfortably.



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## Staged Reading

# WIDE OPEN SPACES

WRITTEN BY  
Lindsay Harris-Friel

DIRECTED BY  
Sarah Mitteldorf

STAGE MANAGER  
Allie Emmerich

### Featuring

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| E. Ashley Izard .....     | Georgia O’Keeffe |
| Bob Weick .....           | Alfred Steiglitz |
| Tim Golden .....          | Player #3        |
| Pratima Agrawal .....     | Player #4        |
| Peter Andrew Danzig ..... | Player #5        |
| Osi Scott .....           | Player #6        |
| Sophia Barrett .....      | Player #7        |

Georgia O’Keeffe is suffocated by her marriage, stalled career, and mental health. She has to dig her way down and out into wide-open space to reinvent herself as a painter.

*WIDE OPEN SPACES* runs approximately 2 hours.

## Staged Reading

# PANCAKE QUEEN

WRITTEN BY  
Brie Knight

DIRECTED BY  
Polly Edelstein

STAGE MANAGER  
Austin Stanton

### Featuring

Kimberly S. Fairbanks\* ..... Nancy Green  
Ahren Potratz ..... Purd Wright/Ned/Concierge  
Winona Wyatt ..... Beatrice/Anna Cooper  
Steve Wright ..... Hiram/Interlocutor/Solomon/Big John  
Sally Mercer ..... Mrs. Worthington/Miss Janice/Mrs. Hamm

In 1890 post-bellum America, former slave, Nancy Green finds herself in St. Joseph, Missouri, as she continues her thirty-year search for her husband. After being fired from her job as a domestic for a wealthy family, she auditions for flourmill owner, Randolph T. Davis, who believes Nancy to be the perfect candidate to portray his new living marketing icon, the warm and loving Aunt Jemima; a character who he believes will help heal a torn country by selling his new and innovative self-rising pancake flour and lead America into the future.

With his livelihood on the line and a ticking clock counting the days until Aunt Jemima's premier at the Chicago World's Fair, Davis will stop at nothing to ensure her lasting success. After she agrees to take on the role, Nancy begins to lose herself, as the lines between her past and the future blur and she struggles to hold onto everything she knows. *PANCAKE QUEEN* is a historical fiction drama about Nancy Green as she attempts to find peace in her position as a free black woman in post Civil War America and come to terms with what it means to become America's favorite icon, Aunt Jemima.

*PANCAKE QUEEN* runs approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes.

\* Member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA).

## Professional Development Events

All PWTF Professional Development events are free and open to the public. Registration strongly encouraged.

### Theatre Speed-Schmoozing

Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> | 6:30 pm

An evening of networking among Philadelphia artistic veterans and emerging artists. Connect, engage, learn and share your story.

### Viewpoints Workshop

Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> | 11:00 am

Led by local favorite actor and teacher Alex Keiper, this workshop explores the Viewpoints method and exposes participants to both the theory and the practice of viewpoints. Focusing on six essential elements, viewpoints seeks to help performers understand their bodies and physicality within their local environment to develop stories and connect with character and emotion. Come ready to move and learn. Space limited. Registration required. Please visit our website: [phillywomenstheatrefest.org](http://phillywomenstheatrefest.org) to register.

### Women in Arts Leadership Panel

Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> | 3:00 pm

Philadelphia arts and theatre professionals will gather to discuss parity, opportunities, and the future of the work of women in Philadelphia theatre.

### Story Changers Award Honoring Jennifer Childs

Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> | 4:30 pm

Honoring a woman in the arts who embodies creativity, ingenuity, passion and is dedicated to creating opportunities for women in the arts

We are thrilled to announce this year's Story-Changers Honoree is Jennifer Childs, 1812 Productions Co-Founder and Artistic Director. As a director, playwright and performer, we celebrate Ms. Childs achievements in the arts.



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Thank you to all of our volunteers, artists, cast and crew!

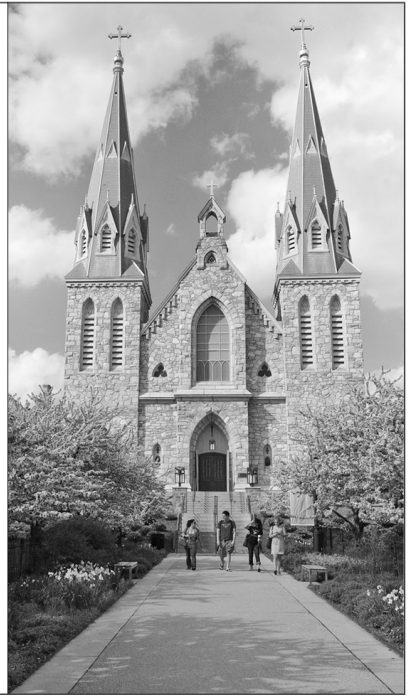
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