

*The City  
of Sisterly*



*This is OUR Philadelphia*

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Philadelphia Women's  
Theatre Festival  
August 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Arden Hamilton Family Arts Center  
62 N. 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

[phillywomenstheatrefest.org](http://phillywomenstheatrefest.org)

THE SYLVIA W. AND RANDLE M.

**KAUDERS  
FOUNDATION**



**VILLANOVA  
UNIVERSITY**



**PAL**  
Parent Arts Learning League  
www.palarts.org

# Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival

## Co-Founders

POLLY EDELSTEIN  
Artistic Director

CHRISTINE PETRINI  
Managing Director

## PWTF Staff

AUSTIN STANTON  
Web & Marketing Manager

ANNE GOODMAN  
Development Director

EMILY CROSS  
General Management Apprentice

ANDREA RUMBLE-MOORE  
Production Manager

KRISTIN CURLY  
Marketing Apprentice

CARLY WATSON  
Assistant Production Manager

MARISA FALLER  
Artistic Intern & House Manager

KENNEDY BERNARD  
House Manager

HANNAH SPEAR  
Stage Manager

ARIA PROCTOR  
Stage Manager

## Board of Directors

CHRISTINE PETRINI  
President

POLLY EDELSTEIN  
Vice President

COLLEEN COFFEY  
Secretary  
Executive Assistant to the  
President & CEO  
Kimmel Center

GINGER AGNEW  
Treasurer  
Freelance Artist - Director/  
Performer/Teaching Artist

LAUREN FANSLAU  
Assistant to the Director  
Ira Brind School of the Arts  
University of the Arts

SYDNI JEAN  
Publicity and Promotions Account  
Coordinator  
Allied Global Marketing

GREG DAVIDSON  
Director of Capture Operations  
Northrop Grumman Aerospace  
Systems

MOLLY O'CONNOR  
PhD Candidate  
Rutgers University

# Festival Productions and Events Overview:

		P#
Thursday, August 1 <sup>st</sup>		
	An Evening of One Acts	
8:00 pm	<b><i>Ring Shout!</i></b> by Teresa Miller <b><i>Relays</i></b> by Marissa Kennedy <b><i>Sarah's Poem</i></b> by Charissa Menefee	10-11
Friday, August 2 <sup>nd</sup>		
	<b><i>International Mother Artist Day</i></b>	
7:15 pm	Story Changers Award Honoree Toast	14
8:00 pm	<b><i>Badlands</i></b> by Nora Leahy	8
Saturday, August 3 <sup>rd</sup>		
2:00 pm	<b><i>Margot &amp; Mr. Fog</i></b> Book & Lyrics by Ann Marley Music by Kevin Mucchetti	6
5:00 pm	<b><i>Esther Choi and the Fish that Drowned</i></b> By Stephanie Kyung Sun Walters	9
5:00 pm	<b><i>Big Idea Committee</i></b> by Christine Petrini & Melissa Brun	7
Sunday, August 4 <sup>th</sup>		
2:00 pm	<b><i>Margot &amp; Mr. Fog</i></b> Book & Lyrics by Ann Marley Music by Kevin Mucchetti	6
5:00 pm	<b><i>Zachary Hates Everything</i></b> Doriane Feinstein	9

# About the Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival

**Mission:** PWTF fosters and encourages women in the performing arts by offering unique opportunities for exposure, professional, artistic and personal development and a platform for performance.

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

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

Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival is 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. 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.

Our story is to change the story.

# From the Artistic Director

Dear Friends,

First and foremost, THANK YOU for welcoming the Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival year after year. It feels like just yesterday we were scrapping together our first festival with the support of our friends and artistic cohorts from across the city. Now in our fifth annual festival, we decided that we wanted to highlight the city that has given us so much with this year's festival being a dedication to all things Philadelphia.

Philadelphia is a complex place. I moved here almost 9 years ago from Memphis, TN and straddle the line between feeling like a Philadelphian and feeling like I could never be a true Philadelphian. To this day when I catch a glimpse of the skyline, be it from Drexel Park or the South Street Bridge, a Phillies game or standing on my tiptoes on my neighbor's roof trying to see the fireworks, I get this feeling in my gut that says "wow" and "mine" and "I'm so glad I'm here".

Philly and its people aren't perfect. Neither is PWTF, neither am I. But we try hard. We're dynamic. We cannot be pigeonholed. We're gritty (but definitely not Gritty as there is only one Gritty). We're willing to grow and learn and stand up for ourselves when need be. It is the energy and spirit of Philadelphia that has led us to 5 successful festivals and it is that energy and spirit that I know will continue with us for the next 5.

Thank you for being a part of past festivals, of this festival, and of the festivals to come.

Polly Rose Edelstein  
Artistic Director

# Margot & Mr. Fog

Book & Lyrics by Ann Marley  
Music by Kevin Mucchetti

Margot cannot figure out why her dad won't get out of bed! She is on a mission to get her dad up and playing, drink her first cup of coffee, and beat the world record for putting the most pairs of underwear on in 30 seconds. This children's musical talks about mental health from the perspective of Margot, a 9-year-old girl, as she and her dad battle their inner monsters.

**Ann Marley** has an MA in Theatre from Villanova University, a BA in Theatre Performance, and a BA in Communications from Susquehanna University. Ann is currently the Marketing & Development Associate at Delaware Theatre Company. Her plays include *Leadeadead: A Case Study in Diagnostics and Empathy*, *What Monsters We Mend*, *Purging*, and *Reclamation*. Her plays have been performed by Queens Theatre, Villanova Theatre, BoxFest Detroit, Off-Key Anthem Theatre Collective, the Scranton Fringe Festival, and the Artist's Exchange. She is also a dramaturg, photographer, and mental health advocate.

**Kevin Mucchetti** is a Philadelphia based composer, music director, and pianist. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Music, he currently serves as Director of Music for Church of the Holy Child in Wilmington, Delaware and as an accompanist for the School of Pennsylvania Ballet. He also acts as music director for Philly Improv Theater's musical improv team, Thank You, Places. Recent theater credits include *Julius Caesar* (Composer), *Mother Courage and Her Children* (Composer/Music Director), *As You Like It* (Composer), *Ravished* (Sound Design), *The Imaginary Invalid* (Composer), *Dorian Gray* (Associate Composer/Music Director), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Composer), *Into the Woods* (Piano), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Composer), and *The Fantasticks* (Music Director).

# Big Idea Committee

Written and Performed by Christine Petrini & Melissa Brun

What's Your Big IDEA? BIG thinkers small and tall get together to make plans for fun all year in this immersive and interactive theatre for young audiences experience featuring children's music by Christine Petrini & Melissa Brun. Together the Big Idea Committee goes on a musical journey of fun and games, adventure and innovation, acts of kindness, and, of course, song and dance! Committee Members- let's call this meeting to order. All in favor, say "I"!

**Christine Petrini** is a performer/writer/teaching artist/arts administrator in the Greater Philadelphia region. She earned an MA in Theatre from Villanova University and premiered her one-woman musical, *I Can Dress Myself*, which was remounted four times including a performance at the Democratic National Convention. This experience launched a love for and commitment to songwriting and storytelling. Christine's passion for music and arts education collided when she became a mother. She began creating songs to sing with her daughter and The Big Idea Committee was born.

**Melissa Brun** is a professional cellist and freelance teaching artist. She is currently the head of the preschool theater department at the West Chester Studio for the Performing Arts and directs productions at schools across Chester County. Melissa also directs and choreographs the Glee Club at Wayne Elementary in Radnor School District.

Melissa is the cello professor on faculty at Millersville University and hosts her own private teaching studio. She is a founding member of the chamber-folk sextet, The Sound Accord, whom she has presented with at various Pennsylvania Music Educators Association conferences across the country. As a String Clinician for D'Addario Orchestral, Melissa presents free educational workshops to students and teachers in the Philadelphia area about the string-making process, why strings make a difference, and how to make thoughtful string choices.

Melissa has been seen on stage in productions of *The World Goes 'Round*, *Guys and Dolls* (General Cartwright), *Pippin* (Catherine), *Beauty and the Beast* (Mrs. Potts), and *Into the Woods* (Witch). As a cellist, Melissa played in the house band at the American Music Theater in Lancaster, and has recently played in the pit for shows at the Walnut Street Theater (*South Pacific*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Matilda*) and The Fulton Opera House (*Ghost*, *Treasure Island*). She has played with touring Broadway companies (*Cinderella*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Matilda*) and has soloed with Broadway stars, Kristin Chenoweth and Jonathan Groff.

This is OUR Philadelphia Reading Series

# Badlands

By Nora Leahy  
Directed by Polly Edelstein

Featuring: Marisol Custodio, Toni Richards, Kahlil Wyatt, Iraisia Ann Reilly,  
Shaun Yates, and Nikitas Menotiades

Summer, 2017. As the country prepares for The Great American Eclipse, Philadelphia prepares to shut down El Campamento, one of the largest open-air drug markets and shooting galleries on the East Coast. The play follows three library employees in the heart of "The Badlands" who have become first responders to the opioid crisis and witnesses to a changing neighborhood. *Badlands* examines what we owe to each other, and to the places we come from.

**Nora Leahy** is a Chicago based playwright whose work has been developed and/or produced at Lean Ensemble Theater (Hilton Head, SC); The Shuler Theater (Raton, NM); The New Colony (Chicago, IL); The Greenhouse Theater (Chicago, IL); Victory Gardens (Chicago, IL); and Jackalope Theatre Company (Chicago, IL). Her newest play, *Your Fathers, Where Are They? And The Prophets, Do They Live Forever?* is being adapted from the novel by Dave Eggers for Jackalope Theatre Company, and her play *Girl With Gun* will be presented in a staged reading at the 2019 Actors Theatre of Charlotte nuVoices Festival. Additional plays by Nora include: *If You Forget Me* (2018) and *The Bridge* (Woodward Newman Drama Award Finalist, 2017).



# Zachary Hates Everything

By Doriane Feinstein  
Directed by Anastassia Vertjanova

Featuring: Alice Yorke, Krystal Rosa, Donnie Grimm, Jack Henry,  
and India Knight

Zachary is struggling to make it through his senior year of high school. After a Homecoming dance gone wrong, he is left with a hole in his memory and an eerily familiar song that won't leave his head. He is visited by dead composers as his mind tries to piece together what happened that night.

**Doriane Feinstein** is a playwright/actor/dramaturg thrilled to be a part of PWTF! Plays include: *The Intimate Life, Of Cities and Mountains*, and *Emeth*. Doriane received a Bachelor's of Art in Theatre with a Music minor from Arcadia University.

# Esther Choi and the Fish that Drowned

By Stephanie Kyung Sun Walters  
Directed by Claris Park

Featuring: Dan Kim, Amy Boehly, and Keith Livingston

Esther Choi is your favorite all-American, overachieving-Asian teen except she has a ghost. Anthony Gibson is Esther's best friend and (spoiler alert) he's dead. Mr. Choi is Esther's grandfather and he owns a haunted dry cleaner on Cheltenham Ave. In an (un)likely turn of events, Esther must grapple with grief, loneliness, and winning first chair in high school orchestra, all while living up to her grandfather's new expectations.

**Stephanie Kyung Sun Walters** is a playwright with Foundry at PlayPenn and a founding member of Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists (PAPA). *Esther Choi and the Fish that Drowned* was presented at the 2019 PlayPenn Conference. *Are You My Father or the dream ballet of north korea* received a workshop reading with PlayPenn Education and HBMG Foundation, a residency with PAPA, and was a finalist for Unicorn Theatre's 2019-2020 In-Progress New Play Reading Series. *Keep Me Posted* received a staged reading at Philly Asian American Film Festival. She currently serves as Lead Artist on PAPA Playwrights Project, is a Barrymore Nominated member of Actor's Equity Association, and is a graduate of Bucknell University, London Dramatic Academy, and CAP21.

# An Evening of One Acts

An Evening of One Acts features the following ensemble of actors:

Nancy Marie, Niya Colbert, Ashley Davis, and Nicole Stacie

## Ring Shout!

By Teresa Miller  
Directed by Christina May

Four African American Women travel to Philadelphia to bury their grandfather who's passed away. They honor him in his traditional African Christian dance called the ring shout.

**Teresa Miller** is an actor and playwright based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is a third-year member of The Foundry at PlayPenn. Her plays include *The Illinois Five* (Fringe Festival 2015); *The Last Act* (staged reading, Pulley and Buttonhole Theatre Company June 2019); *Battman and Jesus* (staged reading Plays and Players for the Foundry at PlayPenn July 2019); and *Freud and His Negro* (Cherry Street Pier September 2019).

# Relays

By Marissa Kennedy  
Directed by Christina May

Every year at Franklin Stadium, sisters Helen and Sissy relieve their running days by cheering on the competitors of the Penn Relays. This year, they will be cheering on their own, Danielle and Jasmine, to victory. Or so they think. Jasmine and Danielle are high school track stars with dreams of winning. One is ready for the relays, the other is not so sure. Will Jasmine and Danielle run this year? Will Helen and Sissy witness their achievements? Penn Relays is a play that explores self-doubt, growth, change, and the messages we relay to ourselves and to others.

**Marissa Kennedy** is a theatre artist whose aesthetic is centered around engaging the imagination to inspire, give voice, promote healing and positive change. As a Philadelphia area performer, her most recent credits include Villanova University's *Last Seen*, Juniper Production's *Cocktail Plays* and *People are Strange and other Revelations*. She received her BA in English from Oberlin College and her MA in Theatre from Villanova University.

## Sarah's Poem

By Charissa Menefee  
Directed by Christina May

In nineteenth-century Philadelphia, three African American sisters advocate for abolition and the vote—and secretly run an Underground Railroad station.

**Dr. Charissa Menefee** is a playwright, poet, director, and performer. She was a Tennessee Williams Scholar in Playwriting at the Sewanee Writers' Conference and a finalist for the Julie Harris Playwright Award. Her plays have been honored by the Utah Shakespeare Festival's New American Playwrights Project, Pandora Festival of New Plays, American College Theatre Festival, Arizona Theatre Conference, Christian H. Moe Awards, and City of Charleston Literary Arts Awards. *Pretty Lucky* is included in *105 Five-Minute Plays for Study and Performance* (Smith & Kraus). *Sarah's Poem* premiered in Rover Dramawerks' 365 Women a Year Festival (Texas).

# Story Changers Award Honoring Parent Artists Advocacy League (PAAL)

The Story Changers Award is a recognition of a Philadelphia arts leader who embodies creativity, ingenuity, passion and a dedication to creating opportunities for women in the arts. Each year, the Story Changers Award is presented to an individual or organization committed to contributing to our community and the arts through leadership, activism, mentorship and more.

Parent Artist Advocacy League for the Performing Arts (PAAL) is a national resource hub and advocacy organization for individuals and institutions to address the lack of support and silence surrounding caregiving in the performing arts. PAAL's advocacy for creating supportive structures, work culture, and sustainable solutions for caregivers has been mentioned in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *American Theatre Magazine*, *HowlRound Theatre Commons*, and *WAMU* for NPR News in Washington D.C.

PAAL initiates conversations across the country among theatre professionals, both employer and employed. PAAL created the first all-discipline, all-gender National Childcare Grants that were distributed this year. Through their National Handbook of Best Practices for caregiver support – currently in pilot – their PAAL Award list of family-friendly theatres, and developing PAAL HR-Health and PAAL-Ed programs, PAAL promotes best practices that abolish discriminatory practices and language – especially against pregnant women and mothers – by raising awareness, developing work culture protocol, addressing the childcare dilemma, promoting and creating pathways for caregivers to work toward parity, and providing resources for self-protection. This year, PAAL was selected as one of ten “Changemaker” organizations invited to take the stage at the Women's Day on Broadway event in New York City.

PAAL's programs distinguish their resources between PAAL Network for institutions and PAAL Community for individuals, with PAAL HR Health acting as the bridge between freelance and institution to create a consistent culture of health and compliance.

**Rachel Spencer Hewitt** (Founder) is the founder of Parent Artist Advocacy League for the Performing Arts. She has participated in national think tanks, on panels, and facilitated workshops on parenting in the arts at multiple gatherings, including the national TCG conferences, BroadwayCon, and StateraArts' annual conference on gender equity in the arts. She is also an equity actor with an MFA in Acting from the Yale School of Drama whose work includes Broadway, off-Broadway, and regional theatres.

# PAAL

**Parent Artist Advocacy League  
for the Performing Arts**



PAAL is a **national advocacy** organization, designed to bring **parent artists** together to **form community** locally, **grow a network** nationally, and find and create **family-supportive work opportunity**.

**ORGANIZE  
NETWORK  
CREATE**

*Connect with us!*

[PAALtheatre.com](http://PAALtheatre.com)

[Facebook.com/  
paalperformingarts](https://Facebook.com/paalperformingarts)

# International Mother Artists Day

On August 2, 2019 we are celebrating International Mother Artists Day in partnership with the Parent Artist Advocacy League. Please share your mother artist stories, as well as the stories and photos of a mother artist you admire and include #IntlMotherArtistDay. To kick off the 2019 festival, join us for a champagne toast at our Story Changers Honoree ceremony!



Get. Ready.

**AUGUST 2, 2019**



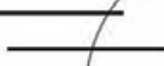
**INTL  
MOTHER  
ARTIST DAY**

*Join us online! The second annual  
#IntlMotherArtistDay*



@PAALtheatre

@phillywomenstheatrefest



# Our Donors & Sponsors

Donations received Sept 1, 2018 - July 15, 2019. We strive for accuracy, but sometimes make mistakes. If there is an error, please contact [Anne@PhillyWomensTheatreFest.org](mailto:Anne@PhillyWomensTheatreFest.org)

## **Government & Foundations**

Berks Arts Council  
Sylvia W. and Randle M. Kauders Foundation

## **Festival Sponsor**

Villanova University

## **Fiscal Sponsor**

Fractured Atlas

## **Festival Partner**

Parent Artists Advocacy League (PAAL)

## **\$1,000+**

Greg Davidson  
Sally Mercer

## **\$250 - \$499**

Lisa Dattel  
Christine Petrini & Christian Breza

## **\$100 - \$249**

Anonymous  
Colleen Coffey  
Anne & Sam Goodman  
Sarah O'Brien  
John & Kathleen Petrini  
Laura Petrini  
Amanda Schwaninger  
Austin Stanton

## **\$50 - \$99**

Anonymous (2)  
Georgina Bard  
Erik Breza  
Caitlin Chavarro  
Linda Dubin Garfield  
Bonnie Kapenstein  
Jamye Lamborn  
Kristen Stanton

## **\$1 - \$49**

Anonymous (7)  
Matt Basden  
Anne Fleming  
Emma Goldman-Sherman  
Michael Gotlib  
Ashley Kerns  
Meredith Beck & Irene Molloy  
Laura Morris  
Nuriya Neumann  
Karen Peakes  
Rachel Spencer Hewitt  
Robert Weick  
Sarah Wright

## Special Thanks

We could not have accomplished all we have done without the generosity, support and belief of Clayton Tejada, Bryant Edwards, Villanova University, Rachel Spencer Hewitt, LaNeshe White, Jill Harrison, Michael Adler, Esq., Emma Gibson, and Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A.

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



THE REV. PETER M. DONOHUE, OSA  
PRESIDENT

and the  
Villanova University community  
are proud to support the

PHILADELPHIA  
WOMEN'S THEATRE  
FESTIVAL



**VILLANOVA**  
UNIVERSITY  
IGNITE CHANGE. GO NOVA.®