



PHILADELPHIA
WOMEN'S
THEATRE FESTIVAL



MOTHERHOOD READING SERIES

AUGUST 2 - 5, 2018

*Creating a world where motherhood
is accepted, celebrated, and
supported in the arts.*

Music Theatre Philly
262 S. 12th Street | Philadelphia, PA 19107

phillywomenstheatrefest.org



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**

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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 the change the story.

From the Artistic Director

Welcome to the 4th Annual Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival! This year's festival is very special to us as it is dedicated to motherhood in the arts. Being a parent is one of the hardest jobs out there and is even harder for women in theatre. By dedicating our 2018 festival to motherhood in the arts and hiring all mother playwrights, directors, and many parent artist actors, PWTF hopes to shine a light on the hardworking parent artists in our community. Parenthood in the arts should not just be accepted or tolerated but celebrated and supported and we hope our festival sparks conversation and continues the work being done to make the arts more parent inclusive.

We thank you so much for your continued support. PWTF does not and cannot happen without you and your belief in the importance of creating opportunities for women in theatre.

Welcome to the Fourth Annual Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival

August 2nd - 5th, 2018

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Festival Productions, Professional Development and Events Overview:

Thursday, August 2nd P#

6:00 pm	Story Changers Award & Champagne Toast to International Mother Artists Day	12
6:30 pm	WATER IN MY HANDS	8
6:30 pm	THE KING WHO WANTED TO CLEAN THE MOON	7

Friday, August 3^d

6:30 pm	BROWN-EYED RAPUNZEL	8
6:30 pm	THE KING WHO WANTED TO CLEAN THE MOON	7

Saturday, August 4th

1:00 pm	MOTHERS OF COLOR IN THE ARTS	11
3:00 pm	REFRIGERATOR MOTHER	9
3:00 pm	THE KING WHO WANTED TO CLEAN THE MOON	7
6:30 pm	MOMS AT THE MIC	11

Sunday, August 5th

11:30 am	MOMEDY BRUNCH	10
1:30 pm	MOMS ON THE MOVE	11
3:00 pm	ZEN & THE ART OF MOURNING A MOTHER	10
3:00 pm	THE KING WHO WANTED TO CLEAN THE MOON	7

THE KING WHO WANTED TO CLEAN THE MOON is presented by PWTF as a childcare option for parents attending the Motherhood Reading Series performances. Childcare drop-off begins 30 minutes prior to performances. Children under five must be accompanied by an adult. PWTF will also host theatre games and crafts.

About Motherhood Reading Series

Produced in partnership with the Parent Artist Advocacy Leagues (PAAL), the Motherhood Reading Series is a celebration of motherhood in theatre. Parent artists perform plays written and directed by Mother Artists in this four play reading series that showcases the artistic ingenuity of parent artists. Parents are welcome to bring their children into a reading if needed and nursing mothers are invited to breastfeed onsite. Coupled with the reading series is PWTF's Young Audiences Studio, offering childcare and an interactive musical play for children.



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The King Who Wanted to Clean the Moon

An Interactive Musical Play by Ashley Kerns

Music by Damien Figueras

Directed by Wendy Bable

Stage Managed by Amanda Pasquini

Based on Ashley's own third grade writing assignment, *The King Who Wanted to Clean the Moon* is an interactive musical play for family audiences exploring climate change and gender roles. In this story, the King loves to read each night by moonlight; she reads stacks and stacks of books. One evening, she discovers that she can't read because the moon is dirty. The King creates several different plans to clean the moon only to realize she can't reach it. In the end, she boards a rocket ship never to return to earth to accomplish her task of finally cleaning the moon.

Ensemble:

Tess Ansbro, Madi Juleskusky, Jillian Karande, Maura Elizabeth McErlean,
Twoey Truong

Motherhood Reading Series

Water in My Hands

By Emma Gibson
Directed by Lesley Berkowitz
Stage Managed by Leo Bond

Sorrel is busy preparing for her wedding even though her fiancé has just died, and Maria's eyebrows are still not growing back. Gerry wants to know if the weather will improve so that he can lie on his back in the grass, and Eric's wife has someone else's heart beating inside her. Through a series of interweaving accounts, *Water in My Hands*, lays bare the power of grief, and asks, 'how do we move on when we are haunted by the life that we have not yet lived?'

Sorrel Felicia Leicht
Maria Marcia Saunders
Gerry John Zak
Doctor Adam Altman

Brown-Eyed Rapunzel

By Monica Flory
Directed by Tamanya Garza
Stage Managed by Casey Vivian Berner

A white mom and her mixed-race daughter must find their way from the future back to the present by understanding anew a painful incident and learning to tell the unique story of their relationship.

Karen Charlotte Northeast
Rinnie Erica Cochran Zimmer

Refrigerator Mother

By Alessandra Most
Directed by Jill Harrison
Stage Managed by Leo Bond

Refrigerator Mother is, at its core, a play about the strength of a mother's intuition and its ability to withstand the fiercest external influences. Set in the 1950s, it tells the story of a woman whose daughter is suspected of having autism, at a time when the diagnosis implied more about the mother than the child.

Dee Rachel Spencer Hewitt
Sherri Sisi Wright
Boone Nik Menotiadies
Bettelheim Paul Weagraff



The Votes for Women Theatre Project

THE TRIAL OF SUSAN B. ANTHONY by Mary Walton

LETTERS TO AUNT HATTIE by Gigi McGraw

Join us for staged readings of two new plays featuring the activists
Susan B. Anthony and Harriet Forten Purvis battling for the right to vote for women.

November 10 at 8pm | November 11 at 3pm

Second Baptist Church of Germantown

6459 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia PA 19119

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Zen & the Art of Mourning a Mother

By Emma Goldman-Sherman
Directed by Zuhairah McGill
Stage Managed by Casey Vivian Berner

Three generations, mothers & daughters, in three different moments in time, try to avoid their feelings of loss and grief while traveling from Philadelphia to New York City by train from 30th Street; In 1993, Sarah upends how Denita sees her mother, Lois, while we only see Lois with Angie in 1963, as 18 year olds ready to start their lives. Angie, in 1963, meets Isabelle, a runaway in 2003, across the time/space continuum, and this changes everything. A dramedy about mother issues.

Denita Niya Colbert
Isabelle Anna Lieberman
Lois Kishia Nixon
Angie Jennie Eisenhower
Sarah Daniella Vinitski

Stand-Up Comedy Showcase

Momeday Brunch

Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival is proud to present Momeday Brunch! Grab a mimosa, and enjoy stand-up comedy from the funniest moms in Greater Philadelphia. We guarantee this will be the most fun you've ever had at brunch!

Featuring: Helene Angley, LaTice Klapa, Natalie K. Levant, Rubi Nicholas, and Emily Epstein White

Location: Upstairs at Fergie's Pub - 1214 Sansom Street, Philadelphia

Mothers of Color in the Arts

With Christina May

Led by Philly artist Christina May, this is your chance to meet other moms, connect and network, and provide the Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival and Parent Artist Advocacy League with feedback on how we can better serve our larger community. Get ready to mix and mingle with other moms.

Moms on the Move

With Renee Chambers-Liciaga

Join us for a movement workshop led by renowned Actor/Director/Choreographer/Educator Renee Chambers-Liciaga. Please wear something you can move in and bring water and a snack. This movement workshop is for all moms, no prior movement experience needed. Childcare will be provided onsite!

Moms at the Mic

With Alyssa Truszkowski

Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival is proud to host Moms at the Mic - a happy hour and professional development workshop. Join fellow comedians and story-tellers for a joke-writing workshop and discussion on how to make comedy more accessible to parent artists. This workshop is open to all (parents and non-parents) who wish to come back to the mic!

Story Changers Award Honoring Keila Cordova

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.

Keila Cordova is the founder of 954 Dance Movement Collective and is committed to getting people dancing! She is both a mother and an arts leader who promotes accessibility, culture and community through dance. Central to the mission of 954 Dance Movement Collective is to create an environment that supports artists and provides a home for teaching, rehearsal and creating. We celebrate Keila's contributions to the arts in Philadelphia.

International Mother Artists Day

On August 2, 2018 we celebrate the inaugural 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 2018 festival and the Motherhood Reading Series, join us for a champagne toast!

Our Donors & Sponsor

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to our donors whose support enables us to change the story and create opportunities for women in the arts. This list denotes gifts received between April 1, 2017 - July 20, 2018.

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Special Thanks

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Emily Ambash, Georgina Bard, Tina Brock, Keila Cordova, Mary Donofrio, Mindy Dougherty, Kimberly Fairbanks, Elissa Freeden, Kristin van Ginhoven, Jacqueline Goldfinger, Allison Heishman, Rachel Spencer Hewitt, Rene Chambers Liciaga, Christina May, Sarah Totoro, Stephanie Walters, and LaNeshe L. White

If your name has been omitted or misprinted, please accept our apologies. Notify us of the change by contacting Christine Petrini at **christine@phillywomenstheatrefest.org**.

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



**#IntlMotherArtistDay
on August 2nd**

#AllMomsCan



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