

# Playwrights Foundation

Bay Area Playwrights Festival 43

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Playwrights Foundation Announces 43rd Bay Area Playwrights Festival Semifinalists and Finalists

2020 Bay Area Playwrights Festival

July 17 - 26, 2020

Potrero Stage

1695 18th St., San Francisco CA 94103

**SAN FRANCISCO** - Playwrights Foundation, the West Coast's premiere launchpad for exceptional plays and playwrights, has announced the semifinalists and finalists for the **2020 Bay Area Playwrights Festival (BAPF)**, which is scheduled to run **July 17-26, 2020**. The Bay Area Playwrights Festival is one of the oldest and most successful new play festivals for new works in their developmental stages. Established in 1976 by Robert Woodruff, the festival has continuously discovered original and distinctive new voices in the theater, invested in the development of their work and launched their careers.

*"We are excited to shine a light on all of the talented playwrights whose plays made it to the Semifinalist and Finalist stages of our competitive play selection process for the 2020 Bay Area Playwrights Festival," says Executive Artistic Director Jessica Bird Beza, "Each of these plays have merit and represent an extremely diverse range of narratives, form, and identify that will hopefully find homes at a theatre one day when we are able to return to live performances. These playwrights are the future of the American Theatre and we are proud to help uplift their work."*

After receiving 735 play submissions, the Artistic team in partnership with Playwrights Foundation's National Reading Committee of 150 volunteers from across the United States narrowed down the submissions to 135 Semifinalists. After that, in partnership with a Literary Council composed of 18 Bay Area theatre professionals narrowed the selection to 35 Finalists with a focus on diverse narratives, voices, forms, and experience levels. The Festival lineup of five playwrights will be announced on Sunday, May 3rd at the Playwrights Foundation's Virtual Launch Party which will be live on their Facebook page from 2 to 3:30pm PST.

**List Of Finalists & List Of Semi-finalists Follow**

**LIST OF FINALISTS (alphabetical)**

**Brent Askari, *Exiled Kings of Persia***

**Kari Barclay, *Stonewallin'***

**Benjamin Benne, *In His Hands, or, the gay christian play***

**France-Luce Benson, *Tigress of San Domingue***

**J. Corey Buckner, *Cross Roads: An Igbo Folktale***

**Diana Burbano, *Sapience***

**Darcy Parker Bruce, *The Place that Made You***

**John J. Caswell, Jr., *Wet Brain***

**Preston Choi, *the performing class***

**Mia Chung, *This Exquisite Corpse***

**Clarence Coo, *Chapters of a Floating Life***

**Val Dunn, *O, Possum!***

**Tyler English-Beckwith, *Mingus***

**Nancy Garcia Loza, *Tocaya***

**Emma Goldman-Sherman, *FUKT***

**Min Kahng, *Freedom Conference***

**Stefani Kuo, *Final Boarding Call***

**Leora Lihach, *Madres de la Revolución***

**Felice Locker, *Mud Season***

**Gloria Majule, *Culture Shock***

**Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin, *The Well-Tempered Clavier***

**Daria Miyeko Marinelli, *This is Not What I Expected When I Imagined a Republic***

**Eliana Pipes, *Dream Hou\$e***

**Juan Ramirez, Jr., *Calling Puerto Rico***

**Jordan Ramirez Puckett, *To Saints and Stars***

**Julius Rea, *Mercy***

**Deneen Reynolds-Knott, *Babes in Ho-lland***

**Harrison David Rivers, *The Salvagers***

**Andrew Rosendorf, *One-Shot***

**Lisa Sanaye Dring, *The Wicked One***

**Omar Vélez Meléndez, *We Built Our Homes Near Kingdoms of Animals and Magic***

**Lisa VillaMil, *Siren***

**Noelle Viñas, *Derecho***

**Ali Viterbi, *Shame Spiral (or a***

***probably-bad-stupid-nobody-will-ever-want-to-watch-it play about The Bachelor)***

**Stephanie Alison Walker, *The Ordeal of Water***

**LIST OF SEMI-FINALISTS (alphabetical)**

Sara Jean Accuardi, *The Storyteller*; Carissa Atallah, *Brown Face*; Ian August, *Zero*

Librecht Baker, *Taciturn Beings*; Jennifer Barclay, *Hot Little Slice*; Chris Barlow, *Equity (Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love My Student Loans)*; Marilyn Barner Anselmi, *Mitigating*

*Damages*; Claudia Barnett, *Kingdom (a play about Snow White and climate change)*; David

Beardsley, *Holy and Unruly*; Bleu Beckford-Burrell, *La Race*

Norman L. Berman, *The Tchaikovsky Letters*; Amy Bernstein, *The Legend of Tommy Tremain*; Lyndsey Bourne, *Coathanger*; Scott Bradley, *A Kingdom Jack'd*; Nikki Brake-Sillá, *Trouble of the World*; Jen Browne, *Wadada and the Whale*; Rachel Bublitz, *Funny, Like an Abortion*; Sarah Burry, *Fruit of the Ancients*; Rachel Bykowski, *28 Light Years From Now*; Stacey Isom-Campbell, *Buffalo Creek*; Maria Cominis, *Women of Zalongo*; Erin K. Considine, *Twenty-Two (Dragging Angels as They Go)*; Shualee Cook, *Earworm*; Sandra a. Daley-Sharif, *Straddling the Edge*; Emily Dendinger, *The Grand Illusion Show*; Rebecca Deutsch, *Wolf*; Dolores Diaz, *The Curse of Giles Corey*; Mathilde Dratwa, *A Play About David Mamet Writing a Play about Harvey Weinstein*; Ai Eibashi, *Deirdre the Queer Queen*; Jaime Estades, *Five Sessions*; Kim Euell, *The Dance*; Kareem Fahmy, *A Distinct Society*; Jeanette Farr, *Turning Over*; Lauren Ferebee, *Wild Eden*; Dominic Finocchiaro, *how it feels to fall from the sky*; Mercedes Floresislal, *CJ, An AspanGLISH Play*; Amy Gijbbers van Wijk, *Dirty Dirty*; Peter Gil-Sheridan, *Ascendant*; Robin Goldberg, *Katie and Dom are Friends*; MJ Halberstadt, *The Usual Unusual*; Harrison Harvey, *Dudes*; Anderson John Heinz, *Painted Brick/White Houses*; Gethsemane A. Herron-Coward, *Blanks*; David Hilder, *Those Days Are Over*; Jess Honovich, *Everything You Wanted*; Tom Horan, *The Brain Thief*; Julia Izumi, *(An Audio Guide for) Unsung Snails and Heroes*; Claude Jackson, *The Last Holdouts*; Fly Jamerson, *Frozen Fluid*; Lindsay Joelle, *The Messengers*; Angie Bridgette Jones, *Lenny's Fast Food Kids Gang*; Ken Kaissar, *Weekend at Betty's*; Hannah Kenah, *Three Shitty Sons*; Christopher A. Kess, *North Avenue*; Barrie Kreinik, *A Thousand Shapes*; Molly Olis Krost, *Nanay*; Carol S. Lashof, *Doing School*; Drew Lewis, *Will You Bury Me*; Matthew Libby, *Data*; Yilong Liu, *The PrEP Play, or, Blue Parachute*; Rachel Lynett, *Rich B\*tch*; Zizi Majid, *Return to Fall*; Eric Marlin, *there will come a time for vengeance*; Joslyn McLaughlin, *The Silver Thread*; Julián Mesri, *Immersion*; Karen Marguerite Moloney, *Watermarked*; Greg Nanni, *The Bear is Here*; Laura Neill, *Just Cause*; Dan O'Neil, *the alleged children of darkness*; Briandaniel Oglesby, *Piper*; Novid Parsi, *The Innkeepers*; Aidaa Peerzada, *Shining*; Drew Petriello, *A Gap in the Melody*; Alexander Pine, *Immortality Crisis*; Reynaldo Piniella, *Black Doves*; Megan Pope, *Dox Modern Middle*; Robin Rice, *Listen! The River*; Jelisa Jay Robinson, *Delivery*; Skye Robinson Hillis, *Bury the Rest*; Jesse Robkin, *Austin's Home*; Tammy Ryan, *Take My Hand and Wave Goodbye*; Eric Serrano, *The Crook'Ed Timeline*; Andrew Sianez-De la O, *The Ortiz Twins Are Coming Home*; Crystal Skillman, *Rain & Zoe Save the World*; Leegrid Stevens, *A Peregrine Falls*; Ryan Stevens, *Modern Blood*; Gina Stevensen, *Tell Me What I Want*; Ellen Steves, *Thin Mints*; Jay Stull, *The Singularity Play*; Gage Tarlton, *sons that wear dresses and mothers that love sweet potatoes*; Traci Tolmaire, *Chi-Boy (pronounced Shy-boy)*; Jason Tseng, *Ghost Money*; T. Tara Turk-Haynes, *The Mic Catches Everything*; Sinan Unel, *Miller Hill*; David Valdes, *Much Undone*; Daysha Veronica, *19/20 Vision*; J.D. Volk, *Chrysalis*; Sholeh Wolpe, *The Silver Bangle*; Irene Ziegler, *Chimborazo Hill*

## **ABOUT THE BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL**

The BAPF is one of the oldest and most successful new play festival for new works in their developmental stages in the US. Established in 1976 by Robert Woodruff, the festival has continuously discovered original and distinctive new voices in the theater, invested in the development of their work and launched their careers. Among the first crop of writers at the inaugural BAPF was the young Sam Shepard. Little did Woodruff know at that time how Shepard's work would shape the landscape of American theatre. Since then, over 500 prize winning, nationally significant

playwrights got their first professional experiences at the BAPF. Examples include Pulitzer Prize winners Nilo Cruz and Annie Baker, MacArthur Award winners Anna Deavere Smith and Sam Hunter, recent Glickman award winners Peter Nachtrieb, Liz Duffy Adams, Aaron Loeb, Chris Chen, Lauren Yee, and Marcus Gardley, as well as the early development of works by David Henry Hwang, Paula Vogel, Claire Chafee and Anne Washburn. Additional playwrights include Katori Hall and Rajiv Joseph prior to their Broadway debuts and many others. The BAPF's ongoing success in discovering and supporting exceptional, newly emerging writers and launching their ground-breaking new work is its enduring legacy.

## **ABOUT PLAYWRIGHTS FOUNDATION**

Founded in 1976, Playwrights Foundation is today widely recognized as one of the top new play incubators in the U.S., dedicated to the creative development and career acceleration of diverse contemporary playwrights. Serving emerging and mid-career playwrights, from the Bay Area and around the country, PF has identified over 500 exceptional writers early in their careers and given them space, time and professional artistic collaborators to explore new theatrical ideas free from the pressures of the marketplace for over 40 years. Playwrights it has worked with have won every award in the theater including the Pulitzer, the Obie, the National Critics Circle Award, and many more. In 2017, on its 40th Anniversary, Playwrights Foundation was recognized with a Legacy Award for its substantial impact on the field. PF has received two Glickman Awards for best new play to premiere in the Bay Area through its Producing Partnership Initiative. Among the many PF-developed works that have premiered across the country, are Katori Hall's *The Mountaintop*, Rajiv Joseph's *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, Jihae Park's *Hannah and the Dread Gazebo*, Lauren Gunderson's *The Revolutionists*, Lauren Yee's *King of the Yees*, Bennett Fisher's *Damascus*, Mike Lew's *Teenage Dick*, and Mona Mansour's *We Swim, We Talk, We Go To War*, to name just a few.

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## **2020 Bay Area Playwrights Festival**

### **Virtual Launch Party**

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 3, 2pm - 3:30pm PST

**WHERE:** Playwrights Foundation Facebook page

### **FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE**

**WHAT:** 2020 BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

**WHEN:** Friday, July 17 – Sunday, July 19

Five play readings and special events

Friday, July 24 – Sunday, July 26

Five play readings and special events

**WHERE:** Potrero Stage, 1695 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94107

**TICKETS:** Single tickets, 4-Play FlexPasses, and

**VIP All Access Passes go on sale JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**INFO:** [playwrightsfoundation.org](http://playwrightsfoundation.org) 415-626-2176

[www.facebook.com/playwrightsfoundation/](http://www.facebook.com/playwrightsfoundation/)

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