



**PLAYWRIGHTS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
FINALISTS/SEMI FINALISTS FOR 44th ANNUAL
BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL**
Live streaming July 16-25, 2021

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (3 May 2021) — **Playwrights Foundation**, the West Coast’s premier launchpad for plays and playwrights, has announced the semi finalists and finalists for the 44th annual **Bay Area Playwrights Festival** (BAPF) scheduled to stream online **July 16-25, 2021**. The Playwrights Foundation artistic team reviewed more than 755 applications, in partnership with its National Reading Committee of over 177 readers from across the United States, with 130 semi finalists selected. That group of vibrant new works was then curated in partnership with a Literary Council composed of 20 Bay Area theater professionals, narrowing the list to 35 finalists that offer an exciting array of diverse narratives, voices, forms, and experience levels. The five works ultimately selected for workshops and public readings for this year’s Festival will be unveiled **5-6pm PDT Sunday, May 16, 2021** at a Virtual Launch Party via Facebook Live. For more information the public may visit playwrightsfoundation.org or call **415-626-2176**.

Bay Area Playwrights Festival is one of the nation’s oldest and most successful new play development programs. Established in 1976 by acclaimed director Robert Woodruff, the festival has built a stellar reputation for discovering original and distinctive new voices in the theater, investing in the development of their work, and launching storied careers. Among the first writers developed at the inaugural BAPF was the young Sam Shepard. Since then, more than 500 prize-winning, nationally significant playwrights have received their first professional experience at the BAPF. Among the American theater’s brightest voices who are alumni of the festival are Pulitzer Prize winners Sam Shepard, Nilo Cruz, Jackie Sibblies Drury, Paula Vogel, and Annie Baker; MacArthur Award winner Anna Deavere Smith; Tony Award winner David Henry Hwang; and acclaimed playwrights Lauren Gunderson, Rajiv Joseph, Katori Hall, Christopher Chen, Lauren Yee, and Marcus Gardley. The BAPF’s ongoing success in discovering and supporting exceptional, newly emerging writers and launching their groundbreaking new work is its enduring legacy.

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“We are excited to shine a light on the talented playwrights whose plays reached the semi finalist and finalist stages of our competitive play selection process for Playwrights Foundation’s 2021 Bay Area Playwrights Festival,” says Playwrights Foundation Executive Artistic Director **Jessica Bird Beza**, “Each of these plays has tremendous merit, and offer an exciting and forward-looking perspective on the future of playwriting. These writers are the future of the American theater and we are proud to help uplift their work.”

This year, **Playwrights Foundation** furthered its commitment to creating an inclusive and equitable selection process by continuing to develop playwright-centric processes, reaching out to underrepresented communities prior to the application process, implementing a community-centered reader process, and analyzing demographic data. “Playwrights Foundation is devoted to focusing on the playwright as the heart of the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, fostering practices that more deeply serve them,” notes Playwrights Foundation Literary Manager **Heather Helinsky**, “A community-centered reading process offers more transparency and allows us to come together with shared values. We are finding new ways to deepen the conversation about plays, and invite more diverse voices to the table.”

Below is the list of finalists and semi finalists for the 44th annual Bay Area Playwrights Festival.

35 FINALISTS FOR THE 44TH ANNUAL BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

- *Ink'dWell* by **E.E. Adams**
- *The Rainbow Concept* by **Larry Americ Allen**
- *Seven Words: An Exercise in Friendship* by **Sowmya Ashokkumar**
- *When We Breathe* by **Jaisey Bates**
- *Rapture* by **Benjamin Benne**
- *Human Museum* by **Miyoko Conley**
- *The Great Jheri Curl Debate* by **Inda Craig-Galván**
- *Maiden Voyage* by **Cayenne Douglass**
- *Carroll County Fix* by **Val Dunn**
- *All My Mothers Dream in Spanish* by **Alexandra Espinoza**
- *Mountain Mamas* by **Daryl Lisa Fazio**
- *Manny Pacquiao Punches the World but the Earth Doesn't Even Flinch* by **Mark Galarrita**
- *Rust* by **Nancy García Loza**
- *(trans)formada* by **lily Gonzales**
- *Supposed Home* by **Sam Hamashima**

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- *Three Antarclicas* by **Kristin Idaszak**
- *M-Theory: a play told in 11 dimensions* by **Jami Brandli**
- *Last Ship to Proxima Centauri* by **Greg Lam**
- *Pixie Dream* by **A. Emmanuel Leadon**
- *The Problem with Magic, Is:* by **Johnny G. Lloyd**
- *The Re-Education of Fernando Morales* by **Justin P. Lopez**
- *Black Mexican* by **Rachel Lynett**
- *Uhuru* by **Gloria Majule**
- *Tiger Beat* by **Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin**
- *The Pre-Med Math Club* by **Megan Meinero**
- *My Mother the Sun* by **Massi Monfiletto**
- *that drive thru monterey* by **Matthew Paul Olmos**
- *Light Switch* by **Dave Osmundsen**
- *the bottoming process* by **Nicholas Pilapil**
- *Young Men & Recovery* by **Brian Scanlan**
- *Learning How to Read by Moonlight, a children's play for Adults* by **Gaven Trinidad**
- *Half of Chopsticks* by **Stephanie Kyung Sun Walters**
- *Madeleines* by **Bess Welden**
- *Mediocre Heterosexual Sex* by **Madison Wetzell**
- *The Devils Between Us* by **Sharifa Yasmin**

130 SEMI FINALISTS FOR THE 44TH ANNUAL BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL:

Good Years by **Ada A.**; *fresno* by **augusto amador**; *Theodosia Redux* by **Claudia Barnett**; *CANE* by **Mardee Bennett**; *Sons of Liberty* by **Cris Black**; *Why Are You Like This?* by **Sharai Bohannon**; *The First Sister Trip* by **Shoshannah Boray**; *The Kingdom of Ghosts* by **Darcy Parker Bruce**; *Nick & the Prizefighter* by **Kamilah Bush**; *The Forgotten Language of the Handshake or the Torso Play* by **Rachel Bykowski**; *Our Black Death* by **Lindsay Carpenter**; *sad girl hours* by **Libby Carr**; *LOT 110* by **Nora Carroll**; *And Certain Women* by **Shualee Cook**; *en-DANGER!-ed* by **A.R. Corwin**; *Sandcastles* by **Lauren Davenport**; *Aztec Pirates and the Insignificance of Life on Mars* by **David Davila**; *30 Seconds* by **Jayne Deely**; *From the Perspective of a Canoe* by **Amy Dellagiarino**; *The Winterguard Play* by **Avery Deutsch**; *MetaMorphic* by **Dolores Diaz**; *Eggshell*; or *Vô Tring* by **Anthony Doan**; *Wonderland* by **Kate Douglas**; *Courtship* by **Ryan Drake**; *SUMO* by **Lisa Sanaye Dring**; *Breakfast* by **Pam Dudley**; *Wild + Free* by **dr candi dugas**; *Memorial* by **Adam Elsayigh**; *Species:Human* by **Georgina Escobar**; *STAFF RETREAT* by **Gina Femia**; *Speak Freely* by **Andrea Fiest**; *Men Accumulate* by **PK George**; *Adolsy* by **Taylor Geu**; *If nobody does remarkable things* by **Emma Gibson**; *HiTouch* by **Amy Gijbers van Wijk**; *The Get Back* by **Jeremy Gillett**; *The Red and the Black* by **Keelay Gipson**; *Go Down, Moses* by **Dana Leslie Goldstein**; *The Puerto Rican Society Club* by **Ed Gonzalez Moreno**; *Gang Sines* by **Malique Guinn**; *Funny, Like HAHA. (or, A Play About A Rape Joke)* by **Katherine Gwynn**; *Off-White; Or the Arab House Party Play* by **Alyssa Haddad**; *Peeling Oranges* by **Patty Kim Hamilton**; *Verdant Lawns* by **Jean Hartley Sidden**; *Long Layover* by **Michelle Tyrene Johnson**; *A Medusa Thread* by **Candrice Jones**; *Tracy Jones* by **Stephen Kaplan**; *The Night the Ocean Met the Bay* by **Elisabeth Karlin**; *Body and Blood* by **Shannon TL Kearns**; *Are You There Truman? It's Me, Just Another Guy Who Grew Up Secretly Worshipping Your Chiseled Porn Star Body Online, And Now I Think I Love You* by **Garrett David Kim**; *The Targeted* by **Hanna Kime**; *Ten Days of the Monster* by **Jack Knutson**; *see in the dark* by **Heidi Kraay**; *The Painted Handgun* by **James La Bella**; *Birdie and Cait and the Book of Life* by **Audrey Lang**; *Retreat* by **Tracey Conyer Lee**; *The Gift* by **Mildred Lewis**; *Friends and Lovers and Others* by **Matthew Macca**; *brunch* by **Maya Macdonald**; *Household Name* by **Josh MacNeal**; *Third Person* by **Jennifer Maisel**; *The Defectors* by **Nick Malakhov**; *Layla in Lala* by **Rohina Malik**; *Denial* by **Eric Marlin**; *The Firebird* by **Amanda Martin**; *Tim's Last Words* by **Peter Sinn Nachtrieb**; *Them What Brung You* by **Tanya O'Debra**; *If you have to go there* by **Erin Marie Panttaja**; *The Innkeepers* by **Novid Parsi**; *The Killing*

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Fields by **Anya Pearson**; *Essential Starlite* by **Zack Peercy**; *Black Girl Joy* by **Phanésia Pharel**; *Bite Me* by **Eliana Pipes**; *the salt women* by **Audley Puglisi**; *rgb* by **Julius Rea**; *Top* by **Jackson Reddy**; *Madame Anastasia's Crystal Ball* by **Iraisa Ann Reilly**; *Ebony Eagles* by **Crystal Rhodes**; *Lorelei* by **Tlaloc Rivas**; *And I Saw His Hands Open to Reveal the Flaming Fires of Heaven* by **Tyler Rivenbark**; *Confirmation* by **Madeline Rouverol**; *Tansu* by **Andrew Saito**; *The Care and Feeding of Small Animals* by **Brooke-Erin Smith**; *Who's Gonna Love You!* by **Lane Stanley**; *Tell Me What I Want* by **Gina Stevensen**; *Future Wife* by Ruth Tang; *Dinner* by **Lisa B. Thompson**; *Dried Fruit* by **Mehrnaz Tiv**; *Cardboard Castles Hung on Walls* by **Amy Tofte**; *The Adventures of N***a Jim (Free Jim)* by **Josiah Turner**; *Alamar* by **David Valdes**; *The Empty Crusade* by **Leela Velautham**; *The Write Choice* by **Daysha Veronica**; *Things I Never Told The Stars* by **Isabella Waldron**; *Deer Island* by **Brian Walker**

ABOUT PLAYWRIGHTS FOUNDATION

Playwrights Foundation, led by Executive Artistic Director **Jessica Bird Beza**, is 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 Tony, the Obie, the National Critics Circle Award, the Susan Smith Blackburn 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*, and many more.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: **Playwrights Foundation**, the West Coast's premier launchpad for exceptional plays and playwrights, has announced the semi finalists and finalists for the 44th annual **Bay Area Playwrights Festival (BAPF)**, which is scheduled to stream online. 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 storied careers. The

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acclaimed festival is scheduled to stream online, providing the opportunity for audiences around the globe to experience exhilarating new work by emerging theater voices.

- WHEN:** Virtual Launch Party: 5-6pm **Sunday, May 16, 2021**
Five play readings and special events: **Friday, July 16 – Sunday, July 18**
Five play readings and special events: **Friday, July 23 – Sunday, July 25**
- WHERE:** **Online.** Patrons who purchase a pass to the event will be emailed links to stream the programs at home on their computer, SmartTV or other device.
- TICKETS:** Tickets (priced on a sliding scale) for the festival will be available June 15, 2021 at **www.playwrightsfoundation.org**.
- PRESS:** Contact Lauren Goldfarb, Carla Befera & Co.
lauren@cb-pr.com
- PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
<http://www.cbpr.co/press/2021BAPF>