



**PLAYWRIGHTS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES  
FINALISTS/SEMIFINALISTS FOR 45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL  
July 29 – August 7, 2022**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (11 April 2022) —Playwrights Foundation, the West Coast’s premier launchpad for exceptional new plays and playwrights, has announced the semifinalists and finalists for the 45th **Bay Area Playwrights Festival (BAPF)**, which will be presented as a hybrid (in-person and streamed) festival **July 29-August 07, 2022**. For more information the public may visit [playwrightsfoundation.org](http://playwrightsfoundation.org) or call **415-626-2176**.

Applications were received from 240 applicants (of which 40% are local Bay Area playwrights), to be reviewed by the Playwrights Foundation staff in partnership with Playwrights Foundation’s National Reading Committee, a group of 124 readers, the majority of whom are playwrights. From those applicants 71 semifinalists were selected, with those vibrant new works curated in partnership with a Literary Council composed of 18 Bay Area theater professionals. The selected 26 finalists represent culturally vital narratives from underrepresented voices, working in compelling forms at a variety of experience levels. The five works ultimately selected for workshops and public readings for this year’s Festival will be unveiled **5pm PT Sunday, May 15** at the Playwrights Foundation’s Virtual Launch Party which will be live streamed on its Facebook page.

“Two years into the global pandemic, the breadth of creativity is stunning. We are seeing works that tackle themes of loneliness, isolation, loss of loved ones, distance, uprooting and upending, overlapping issues exacerbated by COVID, and the communities most impacted,” notes Literary Manager **Heather Helinsky**. “The wide range of theatrically moving responses to the past two years made selection particularly difficult. Our community of readers, many of whom are playwrights themselves, were deeply moved by these meaningful and thoughtfully rendered new plays.”

**Bay Area Playwrights Festival** is one of the oldest and most successful new play festivals for new works in their early stages. Established in 1976 by acclaimed director Robert Woodruff, the festival has built a stellar reputation for uplifting 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. BAPF's ongoing success in supporting and amplifying exceptional, newly emerging writers and launching their ground-breaking new work is its enduring legacy.

“We are excited to spotlight these talented playwrights and incredible plays in the semifinalist and finalist stages of our BAPF selection process,” says Executive Artistic Director **Jessica Bird Beza**. “We are thrilled to have an abundance of new plays to choose from and are looking forward to uplifting the work of these artists into the American Theater canon.”

This year, Playwrights Foundation will also be shifting its application cycle from Fall to Spring, opening in May 2022 for 2023 BAPF consideration, to allow for more space in the review, selection, and producing process. To accommodate this shift, the plays in the 2022 BAPF were selected from applications by semi finalists and finalists from the 2020 & 2021 festivals as well as local Bay Area writers.

“These past two years have been a time for reflection and growth at Playwrights Foundation, resulting in newly expressed purpose, vision, and values,” said Beza. “We move forward with a deeper commitment to center and empower the playwrights we serve, guided by a strategic plan co-created with significant playwright representation, and the application process for the 2023 Bay Area Playwrights Festival reflects this.”

Below is a list of finalists and semifinalists for 2022 BAPF.

## **26 FINALISTS FOR THE 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL**

- ❖ *Brown Face* — **Carissa Atallah**
- ❖ *Manning* — **Benjamin Benne**
- ❖ *Brown Bodies on a Blue Earth* — **Cris Blak**
- ❖ *Cercle Hermaphroditos* — **Shualee Cook**
- ❖ *A Jumping-Off Point* — **Inda Craig-Galvan**
- ❖ *Three Exorcisms* — **Avery Deutsch**

- ❖ *How to Let Your Lover Die* — **Elana Dykewomon**
- ❖ *Stoneheart* — **Georgina Escobar**
- ❖ *Morbid Obesity Surprise Intervention Birthday Party* — **Amy Gijsbers van Wijk**
- ❖ *amémonos // let us love each other* — **linda maria giron**
- ❖ *Comrades* — **Edward Gunawan**
- ❖ *Skin Song* — **Katherine Gwynn**
- ❖ *Berlindia!* — **Daniel Holzman**
- ❖ *An Arab Spring* — **Denmo Ibrahim**
- ❖ *Hot Money: A Zoological Quest for Immortality in the Madagascar Vanilla Boom* — **Fly Jamerson**
- ❖ *Men Accumulate* — **Peter Kim George**
- ❖ *A Picture of Two Boys* — **Nick Malakhov**
- ❖ *Fame Heaux* — **Leigh M. Marshall**
- ❖ *My Mother The Sun* — **massi monfiletto**
- ❖ *a home what howls (or the house what was ravine)* — **Matthew Olmos**
- ❖ *Remains and Returns* — **Novid Parsi**
- ❖ *The Killing Fields* — **Anya Pearson**
- ❖ *Black Girl Joy* — **Phanésia Pharel**
- ❖ *Saturday Mourning Cartoons* — **Iraisa Ann Reilly**
- ❖ *Apple-at-cha: A Ghost Story* — **Brooke-Erin Smith**
- ❖ *Close to Home* — **Sharifa Yasmin**

#### 45 SEMI FINALISTS FOR THE 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

- ❖ *Tokens of Promise* — **Ada A.**
- ❖ *Throw Away Temple* — **Ai Aida**
- ❖ *Mikvah* — **Terry Baum**
- ❖ *The Devil's Salt* — **France-Luce Benson**
- ❖ *Funny, Like An Abortion* — **Rachel Bublitz**
- ❖ *Blerds* — **J. Corey Buckner**
- ❖ *Beheading Columbus* — **Diana Burbano**
- ❖ *Memory of Ice* — **Stacey Isom Campbell**
- ❖ *Soul Birds, or Quit Your Job and Become A Woman* — **Libby Carr**
- ❖ *Crawfish - We the Invisible* — **Gamal Chasten**
- ❖ *Hedda and George* — **Sandra Daley-Sharif**
- ❖ *Hotel Puerto Vallarta, a legitimate work of dramatic theatre* — **David Davila**
- ❖ *uncle play, or, you won't find a vintage hate shield on etsy* — **Jayne Deely**
- ❖ *Homesick, or sacred heterosexual spaces* — **Ryan Drake**
- ❖ *The Sea* — **Lisa Sanaye Dring**
- ❖ *kitchen couch* — **Val Dunn**
- ❖ *The Meaning of Ants in My Kitchen* — **Erin Edens**
- ❖ *All My Mothers Dream in Spanish* — **Alexandra Espinoza**

- ❖ *We Are All Waves on the Same Ocean* — **Daryl Lisa Fazio**
- ❖ *This is Not Happening* — **Steven Felicelli**
- ❖ *The Get Back* — **Jeremy Gillett**
- ❖ *Upheave into a Slidecase* — **Katie Grant**
- ❖ *The Ancestry Dot Com Play* — **Alyssa Haddad**
- ❖ *Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea* — **Julia Izumi**
- ❖ *Freedom Conference* — **Min Kahng**
- ❖ *House of India* — **Deepak Kumar**
- ❖ *Shake the Disease* — **Leif Larson**
- ❖ *Kingdom of Wonder* — **Shayan Lotfi**
- ❖ *Fifteen Hundred* — **Gloria Majule**
- ❖ *Beautiful Blessed Child* — **Daria Miyeko Marinelli**
- ❖ *and come apart* — **Eric Marlin**
- ❖ *Seven-Letter Names* — **Kristian O'Hare**
- ❖ *What We Found* — **Molly Olis Krost**
- ❖ *7 Secrets of Teaching Online* — **Evelyn Jean Pine**
- ❖ *Lorena: a Tabloid Epic* — **Eliana Pipes**
- ❖ *Time After Time Again* — **Madeline Puccioni**
- ❖ *Javelina* — **Alexis Roblan**
- ❖ *Isabel* — **ruth tang**
- ❖ *Jinkies! or The Dog Play* — **Josiah Turner**
- ❖ *Modern Love* — **Leela Velautham**
- ❖ *The Deliverance* — **Daysha Veronica**
- ❖ *Jawbone* — **Isabella Waldron**
- ❖ *The Lost Ballad of Our Mechanical Ancestor (and the Terror the Old Gods Wrought Upon the First of Us Before the Great Liberation)* — **Madison Wetzell**
- ❖ *The Silver Bangle* — **Sholeh Wolpé**
- ❖ *Sestina for the Utah Sun Tunnels* — **J Xiang**

#### ABOUT PLAYWRIGHTS FOUNDATION

**Playwrights Foundation**, led by Executive Artistic Director **Jessica Bird Beza**, is widely recognized as one of the top playwright service organizations new play incubators in the U.S., dedicated to supporting and championing playwrights' artistic growth and careers while uplifting their voices on a national level. PF envisions a future where playwrights are radically centered as visionary leaders who transform the world through storytelling.. 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 more than 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 Theatre Bay Area 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*, Madhuri Shekar's *House of Joy*, 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 premiere launchpad for exceptional plays and playwrights, has announced the semifinalists and finalists for the 45<sup>th</sup> annual **Bay Area Playwrights Festival (BAPF)**. BAPF 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 uplifted original and distinctive new voices in the theater, invested in the development of their work and launched storied careers. The 2022 festival will be presented in a hybrid format, offering opportunities to experience new plays in-person and via streaming.

**WHEN:** Virtual Launch Party: 5pm PDT **Sunday, May 15, 2022**  
**Friday, July 16 – Sunday, July 19, 2022**

**WHERE:** **In-person at Potrero Stage**, 1695 18th St, San Francisco, CA

**Streaming will also be available.** Patrons who purchase a tickets or 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 in July at [www.playwrightsfoundation.org](http://www.playwrightsfoundation.org).

**PRESS:** Contact Lauren Goldfarb, Carla Befera & Co.  
[lauren@cb-pr.com](mailto:lauren@cb-pr.com)

**PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available here:  
<http://www.cbpr.co/press/2022BAPF>