



NTC

national theatre conference

2019 NTC Annual Meeting

New York City

December 6 - 8, 2019

A National Conversation

connecting, supporting, and advocating
for america's theatres since 1925

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT, DAVID FULLER



On behalf of the NTC Board of Trustees and all the members and staff who have worked behind the scenes to make this weekend possible, I want to welcome you to the 2019 annual meeting of the National Theatre Conference, A National Conversation. In response to your wishes, this year we are digging deeper into our mission to connect, support and advocate for the American theatre. Friday will be devoted to Connecting: meeting new members, re-connecting with one another and learning about some of the activities in which our membership is engaged. Saturday, as always, is about supporting: we will meet our awardees, who will be our guests at lunch, and have meaningful conversations with them. Sunday morning, we turn our attention to Advocating: after a brief business meeting, much of our time will be taken up with curated, open discussion about action items NTC can put forth into our field. Thank you for being here and being a part of an active membership. NTC exists for its membership and the good works it has been doing since 1925. As we approach our centennial, we look to you to stay engaged, remain inspired and continue to progress NTC as an engine for the benefit of the American Theatre.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Fuller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

President, National Theatre Conference

GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE

Serve the American Theatre. To explore the means of best serving the interests of the American Theatre, and to initiate, encourage and support projects of value and significance with a view to strengthening and broadening the influence of theatre in our country.

Gather Great Minds Together. To bring the membership together at least once a year in a spirit of mutual helpfulness for the interchange of aims and ideals, and for the discussion of common problems and interests.

Learn From The Best. To provide opportunity for the membership, at its annual meeting, to hear the views of outstanding personalities in the theatre and to observe demonstrations of various techniques in order that the membership may profit thereby.

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NEW MEMBERS

NTC is comprised of distinguished leaders of the American Theatre. This year, we welcome eleven new members who were nominated by their peers and approved by the board of trustees.

JOHN AMMERMAN JMAMMER@EMORY.EDU



John Ammerman is an actor, director, playwright, and professor. He has been a professional performer for over forty years, and has performed more than 150 roles and directed over 50 plays. His most recent plays include *The Tatischeff Café*, *Life Goes On*, *Slapping Bernard*, and a stage adaptation of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*. In January 2020, his new play *Barton Field* will receive its premiere in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a Full Professor in the Department of Theater Studies at Emory University; he also serves as a resident Actor/Director with Theater Emory. He holds an M.F.A. in Acting from the University of Georgia, and a B.S. in Drama Education from Central Michigan University.

ROBERT CAISLEY RCAISLEY@UIDAHO.EDU



Robert Caisley is Head of Dramatic Writing at the University of Idaho where he teaches courses in new play development, playwriting, play analysis and various topics in contemporary drama. His plays have been performed across the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom and translated into Italian and French. His play *Happy* won the 2014 SOTA Award for Best Play, the 2014 BroadwayWorld – New Jersey Award for Best Play, and was a 2012 Finalist for both the prestigious Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center's New Play Conference and the Woodward/Newman Award for Drama. Other plays include: *Lucky Me* and *The Lake*.

CHERYL FARAONE FARAONE@MIDDLEBURY.EDU



Cheryl Faraone is Mettler Professor of Theatre at Middlebury College, where she has taught since 1986. She is also Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies. Faraone is a Founder and Co-artistic Director for PTP/NYC (Potomac Theatre Project), a New York based Off Broadway company affiliated with the College. 2019 marked PTP/NYC's 13th season in NY, after 20 years in the Washington, D.C. area. She holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from Catholic University and Florida State University, and has been a member of SDC, ART/NY and the League of Washington Theatres.

ALEXANDER GELMAN AGELMAN@NIU.EDU



Alexander Gelman is a Russian-born and American-trained director, who received his training at Boston University. He has worked at American Repertory Theatre, Arena Stage Company, Canterbury Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, Utah Opera, Ashlawn-Highland Music Festival, Chattanooga Opera Association, Hartford Stage Company, The Acting Company, New York Shakespeare Festival, Minneapolis Children's Theatre, Emmy Gifford Theatre, and Juilliard. In addition to director of the School of Theatre and Dance at NIU, he also serves as the Producing Artistic Director of the Organic Theater Company.

LESLIE ISHII LESLIE@PERSEVERANCETHEATRE.ORG

Newly appointed Artistic Director of Perseverance Theatre, Alaska, has directed at Perseverance Theatre; East West Players; At Play: 99 Histories; UC, Irvine; USC; CSLA; Oregon Shakespeare Festival; API 2x2 Lab New Works Residency; Native Voices, and where she began, Northwest Asian American Theatre. (Affiliations & Awards) Arts For LA ACTIVATE; Los Angeles County Supervisors' Cultural Equity Inclusion Initiative Work Groups; Founder/Director, National Cultural Navigation Theatre Project; James P. Shannon Leadership Institute; Los Angeles Women's Theatre Integrity Award; Los Angeles County Teachers Making A Difference Award; SDC E/D/I Standout Moments, 2016, 2017. AEA, SAG-AFTRA, SDC.

MARYA SEA KAMINSKI MARYASEA@GMAIL.COM

Marya Sea Kaminski is a director, writer, and producer based in Pittsburgh, where she serves as Artistic Director of Pittsburgh Public Theater. She centers her artistic and leadership practices in the values of integrity, imagination, and joy in order to create powerful creative experiences that both delight and challenge us to see ourselves and one another in new ways. Marya has been honored with the Genius Award in Theater from the Seattle newsweekly, *The Stranger*, and has been recognized as an Artist of the Year by *Seattle Magazine*. She has taught and lectured at Point Park University, Hollins University, the University of Washington, and at Cornish College of the Arts, where she was awarded the Drama Department's Award for Teaching.

ROBERT RAMIREZ ROBERTRAMIREZ@AUSTIN.UTEXAS.EDU

Robert Ramirez has served as Voice and Text Director at the Guthrie Theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, American Players Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, and will soon collaborate on a tri-production with Hartford Stage, the Huntington Theatre Company, and the Alley Theater. He has performed with the New York, Notre Dame, Utah, Illinois, Alabama, Great River, Baltimore, and Wisconsin Shakespeare Festivals, and Actors Theatre of Louisville. He is a graduate of the Los Angeles Theatre Academy and received his MFA from the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware. Robert is a proud member of Actors Equity the Voice and Speech Trainers Association, and is the current Vice President of the University Resident Theater Association.

ROBERT RICHMOND RICHMOND.ROBERT@GMAIL.COM

Robert Richmond is originally from Hastings, England, and studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. He is currently a Professor at the University of South Carolina. Robert is an Associate Artist at the Folger Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C. He has directed *Henry VIII*, *Othello*, *Henry V*, *Twelfth Night*, *Richard III*, *Julius Caesar*, *Antony & Cleopatra*, *Timon of Athens*, *Macbeth*, and *Nell Gwynn*. His association with the Folger also includes audio productions of the complete works of Shakespeare. Robert's upcoming projects include designing and creating a pop-up Globe Theatre, in partnership with University of South Carolina and Folger Theatre.

ANN MARIE SHANAHAN SHANAHAA@PURDUE.EDU

Ann M. Shanahan (MFA) is the chairperson of the Department of Theatre and Associate Professor of Directing at Purdue University. She joined the faculty in January 2019, coming from Loyola University Chicago where she taught for 19 years, during which time she served as Interim Director and Graduate Program Director of Women's Studies and Gender Studies, Co-Chair of the Academic Council of the College of Arts and Sciences and as Humanities Representative to the University-wide Faculty Council. Professor Shanahan's is a scholar-artist specializing in theatre directing, with a focus on feminist directing and gender and theatrical space.

MARK CLAYTON SOUTHERS AUSTINSILLS@COMCAST.NET

Mark Clayton Southerns and his family reside in Pittsburgh's historic Hill District. He is an award winning playwright, stage director, scenic designer, photographer and theatrical producer. He is the founder and producing artistic director of the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company where he has produced well over 150 full length and one act plays since 2003 including August Wilson's complete 10 play Pittsburgh Century Cycle. As a playwright he has penned more than seventeen full-length and one-act plays that have been produced locally, nationally and internationally. As a stage director his favorite directing credits include *Paul Robeson* for the Griot Ensemble Theatre Company; *Pill Hill* for New Horizon Theatre; *Dutchman* for Bricolage Theater Company; *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *The Piano Lesson* for American Stage Theatre, *Gem of the Ocean* for Human Race Theatre; *Passing Strange* and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* for Short North Stage Theatre; *PaPa Doc* and *Robeson* for Trilogy Opera Company, and *Dorothy Six*, *Seven Guitars*, *VALU-MART*, *Jitney* and *Fences* for The Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company. *A Gathering of Sons* for Pittsburgh Festival Opera and *The Battle of Homestead* for the BOH Foundation.

NICOLE A. WATSON WATSON.NICOLEA@GMAIL.COM

Nicole A. Watson is the associate artistic director at Round House Theatre as well as a freelance director and educator. She is an associate artist at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, a New Georges affiliated artist, an alum of the Women's Project Lab, the Drama League, and a member of the SDC. As a director she has worked at Baltimore Center Stage, Playmakers Rep, Theater Latte Da, Asolo Rep, the New Black Fest, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, New Georges, Working Theatre, the Lark, New Dramatists, and the 52nd Street Project. As an educator she has worked at the University of Maryland College Park, NYU, North Carolina School of the Arts, Smith College, Two River Theater, Long Island University, and ACT. Her interest is in new plays, especially those that interrogate history and amplify the narratives of those who have been ignored or misrepresented. www.nicoleawatson.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

The Players 16 GRAMERCY PARK S (E. 20th between Park Ave & Irving Place)

CONNECTING THE MEMBERSHIP

- 9:00 AM **New Member Orientation**
Meet in The Players Dining Room
- New Member Tour &
Continental Breakfast with Board of Trustees**
The Players Library
- 9:30 AM **Continental Breakfast**
The Players Dining Room
- 10:00 AM **SESSION 1: President's Greeting & New Member Rants**
Greeting: David Fuller
New Member Introductions: Randy Reinholz
- 10:45 AM BREAK
- 11:00 AM **SESSION 2: Twitter Feed: News About Each Other**
Moderator: Nicole Hodges-Persley
- 12:00-1:45 PM **Lunch on Your Own** - an opportunity to meet old friends and new acquaintances
- 2:00 PM **SESSION 3: EDI: Walk the Talk**
Moderator: Cindy Phaneuf
Panelists: Donna Walker-Kuhn, Courtney Sale
- 3:00 PM BREAK
- 3:30 PM **SESSION 4: Act Locally, Think Globally**
Curated by: Randy Reinholz
Panelists: Gary English, KJ Sanchez, Lisa Wolpe
Moderator: Paul Steger
- 4:30-5:30 PM **President's Reception**
Continuing conversations with friends – at The Players in the Great Hall & Kintsler Room. Cash bar with hors d'oeuvres courtesy of NTC

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

The Players 16 GRAMERCY PARK S (E. 20th between Park Ave & Irving Place)

SUPPORTING THE NATION'S THEATRE AND THEATRE MAKERS

- 10:00 AM **SESSION 5: Outstanding Theatre: New Georges**
A Conversation with Artistic Director Susan Bernfield and
Managing Director Jaynie Saunders Tiller
Introduced by: Elizabeth Van Dyke
Moderator: Mindi Dickstein
- 11:00 AM BREAK
- 11:15 AM **SESSION 6: Stavis Playwright Award Reading**
Last Night and the Night Before by Donetta Lavinia Grays
Director and Moderator: Valerie Curtis-Newton
- 12:30 PM BREAK: Mixer and Cash Bar
- 1:00 PM **SESSION 7: Awards Luncheon/ Presentation**
- BARRIE AND BERNICE STAVIS PLAYWRIGHT AWARD**
Recipient: Donetta Lavinia Grays
Presented by Committee Chair: Liz Engelman
- OUTSTANDING THEATRE AWARD**
Recipient: The New Georges
Presented by Committee Chair: Doug Jacobs
- EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD**
Recipient: Deadria Harrington
Presented by: Susan Bernfield, AD, New Georges
- PERSON OF THE YEAR**
Recipient: Robert O'Hara
Presented by NTC President: David Fuller
- PAUL GREEN AWARD**
Recipient: Jeremy O.Harris
Presented by: Robert O'Hara
- 2:45 PM BREAK
- 3-4:00 PM **SESSION 8: A Conversation with Person of the Year,
Robert O'Hara**
Moderator: Chuck Morey

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

The Lark 311 W 43RD ST, #406

ADVOCATING THEATRE IN A CONTENTIOUS CLIMATE

- 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast
- 9:15 AM **SESSION 9:** A Conversation with Robert Schenkkan on The Great Society and more
Moderator: Fran Dorn
- 10:00 AM **SESSION 10:** Meeting of the Membership
- 10:30 AM **SESSION 11:** Idea Café: Advocacy in the Field: Where Do We Want to Go?
What Can We Do to Make Our Society Great?
Moderators: Liz Engelman and Susan Mickey
- 12:00 PM Conference Concludes
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SESSION 1 - NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS AND RANTS

JOHN AMMERMAN: "Stage Actor Training: The Cloud of Cinema Presses On The Craft"

ROBERT CAISLEY: "Funny, ha-ha! OR The Great American Offensive"

CHERYL FARAONE: "Theatre and Culture: fury in the classroom"

ALEXANDER GELMAN: "Why is Theatre Not Central in Americans' Lives?"

LESLIE ISHII: "Leading in the American Theatre as a 4th Generation Japanese-American"

MARYA SEA KAMINSKI: "Sugar & Medicine - Programming in Polarized Times"

ROBERT RAMIREZ: "Asking Our Advice On How to Diversify your Organization"

ROBERT RICHMOND: "To Thine Own Selfie Be True: Negative Capability and the Next Generation"

ANN MARIE SHANAHAN: "Leading as a Woman"

MARK CLAYTON SOUTHERS: "The Long Road of Hope"

NICOLE A. WATSON: "You Can't Change Without Changing"

SESSION 2 - TWITTER FEED: NEWS ABOUT EACH OTHER

Last winter's member survey indicated a desire to better know one another. Here's your opportunity as Nicole Hodges-Persley curates this session where members get up-to-date news on who we are and what we are doing, in a fast and fun Twitter-sized exchange where members speak to as many members as possible. This is meant to help form relationships and kick start any possible connections including NTC's Pipeline Initiative.

SESSION 3 - EDI: WALKING THE TALK

Cindy Melby Phaneuf will moderate a discussion with Donna Walker-Kuhne, Courtney Sale, and NTC members on strategies to move EDI forward. Questions will include: Why is EDI so challenging in practice? What gains have been made in recent years? What methods have been most effective? What goals are we hoping to achieve? This session continues our groundwork discussion from the Idea Café in the 2018 meeting of the membership.

SESSION 4 - ACT LOCALLY, THINK GLOBALLY

Celebrating the impact of regional work of the membership that resonates on a national and global level.

GARY ENGLISH

Gary English is a stage director and designer with credits that include over 120 productions at many of America's major repertory theaters including The Pittsburgh Public Theatre, The Pioneer Theatre Company in Salt Lake City, The San Francisco Playhouse, The Clarence Brown Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Buffalo Studio Arena, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, The Merrimack Repertory Theatre, George St. Playhouse, and The Berkshire Theatre Festival where he designed productions of *Endgame* and *Tommy*. For BTF, he directed *The Miracle Worker*, *Side by Side by Sondheim* and *American Primitive*, by William Gibson. He has directed over 20 productions at Connecticut Repertory Theatre including *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Olives and Blood* by Michael Bradford, and his production of *Man of La Mancha* won the Best Production of a Musical award from the Connecticut Drama Critics. Other awards include best production of a musical for *A Little Night Music*, from the Boston Critic's awards, and two Best Scene Design Awards from the Pittsburgh Drama Critics for his productions of *The Odyssey* and *Sunday in the Park with George*. Most recently he was nominated for Best Scene Design by the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Awards for his production of *Red Velvet*.

KJ SANCHEZ

KJ is the founder and CEO of American Records, dedicated to theatre that chronicles our time, theater that serves as a bridge between people. American Record's flagship play, *ReEntry* (co-written and directed by KJ) has toured nationally and internationally and has been presented at over fifty military bases and hospitals. Her most recent work, *Cincinnati King*, a musical about King Records, which she also directed, received its world premiere production at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. As a playwright, KJ's been produced at Berkeley Rep, Playmakers Rep, Asolo Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Two River Theater Company, Baltimore's Center Stage, Frontera Rep, Round House, Cornerstone Theater Company, Urban Stages and Here Arts. KJ has directed at the Gene Frankel Theatre and Urban Stages, as well as across the country: The Goodman Theatre, Hartford Stage, Huntington Theatre, The Alley Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville and Milwaukee Rep. KJ performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and internationally including the Toga-Mura Festival in Japan and the Ibero Americano Festival in Bogota, Columbia and is a former member of Anne Bogart's SITI Company. She is a Civilians Associate Artist and the voice of many characters on the cartoons *Dora the Explorer* and *Go Diego Go*. KJ is a Fox Fellow, Douglass Wallop Fellow, and a recipient of the 2014 Rella Lossy Playwright Award, the 2019 Hamilton Book Creative Research Award, and a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts/TCG Career Development Program. KJ is the head of the MFA playwriting and directing program at UT Austin.

LISA WOLPE

Lisa Wolpe is an actress, director, teacher, playwright and producer, specializing in cross-gender Shakespeare. She is an international activist working for the empowerment of women and diversity on the stage. In 1993 she founded the all-female, multicultural Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company, which she ran for 23 years. She recently toured my solo show *Shakespeare & the Alchemy of Gender* to venues around the world. She directs and performs internationally at theaters including Prague Shakespeare, Bremen Shakespeare, Great River Shakespeare, Utah Shakespeare, Oregon Shakespeare, Orlando Shakespeare, Colorado Shakespeare, Berkeley Repertory, Shakespeare & Company, Arizona Theater Company, Southwest Shakespeare, San Diego Repertory Theater, California Shakespeare Festival, Boston Theater Works, Sedona Shakespeare, the Actor's Gang, and has taught and appeared at dozens of universities including ACT, USC, UCLA, NYU, ACA, ASC, Cal Poly, AMDA, Emerson, Wellesley, Boston University, De Paul, and MIT. Honors include the Playwright's Arena Award for Sustained Excellence; the L.A. Drama Critic's Award for Sustained Excellence, a Congressional Certificate of Merit, a Certificate of Recognition from the City of New York, The Key to Harlem, NBC News' "Local Hero" award, the Jacob Bronowski Award for Theater Excellence, Women in Theater's "Red Carpet" "Woman of the Year" Awards, the Women's Theater Festival's "Rainbow Award" for promoting Diversity in L.A. Theater, Whittier College's Distinguished Artist Award, Colorado University Boulder "First Scholar" and also "Roe Green Distinguished Artist".

SESSION 5 - OUTSTANDING THEATRE, NEW GEORGES

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, SUSAN BERNFIELD

As founder and artistic director/producer of New Georges, Susan Bernfield has produced 48 new plays and countless works in progress written and directed by women and gender-nonconforming artists. They include first or career-transforming New York productions by Heidi Schreck, Anne Kauffman, Marielle Heller, Lisa D'Amour, Lee Sunday Evans and Kate Benson (Obie Awards), Diana Son, Tracey Scott Wilson, Jenny Schwartz, Sheila Callaghan (Susan Smith Blackburn Prize), Hilary Bettis, Daniella Topol, Carson Kreitzer, Tamilla Woodard, Rachel Dickstein and Cusi Cram. She is also a playwright whose work has been presented or developed at Ensemble Studio Theatre (Sloan Commission/First Light), Huntington Theatre Company, New Harmony Project, People's Light & Theatre, O'Neill National Playwrights Conference and many more -- including, of course, New Georges. She serves as President on the Board of Directors of the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York (A.R.T./New York), on the boards of The Indie Theater Fund, The Assembly and 3LD Art & Technology Center, on the advisory board of the Drama League's Beatrice Terry Residency, is a member of the National Theatre Conference and League of Professional Theatre Women, and the recipient of Obie and Lilly awards.



MANAGING DIRECTOR, JAYNIE SAUNDERS TILLER

Jaynie Saunders Tiller is the managing director/producer of New Georges. Previously, she was the associate director of development for Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York and also worked at BAM, New Dramatists and Princess Grace Foundation as part of her graduate studies. Before moving to New York, she worked for five years in the artistic office at Dallas Theater Center, where she co-produced the Fresh Ink/Forward Motion Series, a program dedicated to new work. Jaynie teaches courses in arts management and producing at Montclair State University, Marymount Manhattan College and Brooklyn College. She has served on panels for TCG, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Brooklyn Arts Council and A.R.T./New York; she also serves on the Brooklyn College/MFA Managers Alumni Board. Originally from Houston, Texas, Jaynie holds a B.F.A. in Drama Performance and a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre Performance from The University of Oklahoma and an M.F.A. in Performing Arts Management from Brooklyn College.



SESSION 6 - BARRIE AND BERNICE STAVIS PLAYWRIGHT

Recognizing an outstanding emerging playwright, the Barrie and Bernice Stavis Playwright Award was established in 1988 to honor the work of playwright Barrie Stavis. Each year, NTC sends out a call to artistic directors and literary managers of theatres and play development organizations across the country inviting submissions.

LAST NIGHT AND THE NIGHT BEFORE

BY **DONNETTA LAVINIA GRAYS**

When Monique and her 10-year-old daughter Samantha show up unexpectedly on her sister's Brooklyn doorstep, it's the beginning of the end for Rachel and her partner Nadima's orderly lifestyle. Monique is on the run from deep trouble, her husband Reggie is nowhere to be seen, and Samantha becomes ever haunted by the life in southern Georgia she was forced to leave behind. Poetic, dark and often deeply funny *Last Night and the Night Before* explores the power, necessity, and beauty of loss.

Nominated by: **Denver Center Theatre**

2019 Stavis Award Committee: *Liz Engelman (Chair), Jessica Dickey, Risa Brainin, Jean Bruce Scott, Art Rotch, and Elizabeth van Dyke*

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT: DONNETTA LAVINIA GRAYS



Donnetta Lavinia Grays - raised in Columbia, South Carolina - is a Brooklyn based playwright and actor. Plays include *Where We Stand* (Upcoming World Premiere Co-production - WP Theater and Baltimore Centerstage. O'Neill Center National Playwrights Conference Semifinalist), *Last Night and the Night Before* (World Premiere - Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Kilroys List. Colorado New Play Summit. NNPN Showcase. Todd McNerney National Playwriting Award, O'Neill Center National Playwrights Conference Semifinalist), *Laid to Rest* (Playwrights Realm

Writing Fellow Finalist. O'Neill Center National Playwrights Conference Finalist. Kilroys List -Honorable Mention. Ground Floor at Berkeley Rep. Space on Ryder Farm Creative Residency) and *The Review* (WP Pipeline Festival. O'Neill Center National Playwrights Conference Finalist). Alumna of Space on Ryder Farm Working Farm Residency, Time Warner Foundation WP Playwrights Lab, Civilians R&D Group, Actors Studio Playwright/Directors Unit and terraNova Collective's Groundbreakers Playwright group. Inaugural recipient of the Doric Wilson Independent Playwright Award. Development with New Harmony Project, Berkeley Rep, Labyrinth Theater, New York Theater Workshop, Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Portland Stage Company, Pure Theatre, Naked Angels and Classical Theater of Harlem. Commissions with Theaterworks USA, The Public Theater's Mobile Unit, Denver Center and WP Theater. Staff Writer for TV's *Manhunt: Lone Wolf* www.gaptoothedgriot.com.

READING EXCERPT: LAST NIGHT AND THE NIGHT BEFORE**VALERIE CURTIS-NEWTON - DIRECTOR**

The Head of Directing at the University of Washington's School of Drama, Valerie also serves as the Artistic Director for The Hansberry Project, an African American theatre lab. She has worked with theatres across the country including: The Guthrie Theater, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Children's Theatre, The Mark Taper Forum, New York Theatre Workshop, among others. She has been awarded the National Endowment for the Arts/TCG Career Development Grant for Directors, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation's Gielgud Directing Fellowship, the Seattle Stranger Genius Award in Performance, the Crosscut Courage Award for Culture, and Theatre Puget Sound's Falls Award for Sustained Achievement.

**ERIN CHERRY**

Emmy Award Winner Erin Cherry received her MFA in acting from Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts. She portrays Brenda on The Emmy Award winning show *After Forever* (Amazon Prime) and is the producer and host of *Sundays With A Cherry on Top* which is a health and lifestyle show on Black Culture (YouTube). Cherry is also a private acting coach and acting teacher at Maggie Flanigan Studio in New York City. You can find her on twitter @cherryacts and on Instagram @Sundayswithacherryontop.

**SHAROD CHOYCE**

Sharod Choyce has an MFA from Rutgers University and he's from Dallas Fort Worth. At Rutgers he studied the Meisner Technique under Deborah Hedwall and since then he's been working in New York City doing commercial, theater, and TV work. His most recent production was a world premiere of *Last Night and the Night Before* at the Denver Center.

**BIANCA JONES**

Recent acting: *Blindspot*, *Last O.G.*, *The Punisher*, *Last Night and the Night Before* by Donnetta Grays (Denver Center for Performing Arts, world premiere) Recent directing: *BLKS* by Aziza Barnes (Assistant Director), *Armed* by James Anthony Tyler (Amoralists Theater Company), *Wine in the Wilderness* by Alice Childress (New Perspectives Theater).

LISA STRUM

Lisa Strum is an educator, actress, playwright, producer, casting director, director, singer and a certified wedding officiant! She received an MFA in Acting from the University of Washington in Seattle and has performed in regional theatres all across the country. Recently, she directed *For Colored Girls...* at Five Towns College in Long Island, *Fall* for the Marathon 2019 One Act Play Festival with Ensemble Studio Theatre and starred as Rose in *Fences* with the REP at The University of Delaware. Lisa also starred in the Michigan Premiere of Dominique Morisseu's *Pipeline* at the Detroit Public Theatre, and *Sweat* at People's Light. Her solo play, *She Gon' Learn* premiered at the Emerging Artist Theatre Festival at TADA!, followed by sold out performances at the United Solo Festival on Theatre Row in NYC where the play received one of the festival's Best Solo Show Awards. Lisa has also had a recurring role on *Law & Order: SVU* and co-starred in the television pilot *Citizen Baines* with James Cromwell. Lisa was a Finalist for the Doric Wilson Independent Playwright Award, was the recipient of the Playwrights Initiative Fellowship at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program and nominated for a New York Innovative Theatre Award for Best Outstanding Actress in a Play.



KEONA WELCH

International: *The Winter's Tale* (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, UK). New York Theatre: *A Lovely Malfunction* (Negro Ensemble Co); *And Miles to Go* (The Wild Project); *Mooney's Kid Don't Cry* (Drama League DirectorFest); *Blacken the Bubble* (Liberation Theatre Co); *Court-Martial at Fort Devens* (Castillo Theatre/New Federal Theatre Co), and more. Regional: *Last Night and the Night Before* (Denver Center); *Flyin' West* (Westport Country Playhouse); *A Raisin in the Sun* (Huntington); *Ruined* (Philadelphia Theatre Co); *Kunstler* (Hudson Stage), and more. Film and TV: *Seven Seconds*, *Orange is The New Black*, *Custody* with Viola Davis, *Didn't I Ask For Tea*, both *Law & Orders*, *The Chapelle Show*, and more. Training: Duke Ellington School of the Arts; Rutgers University.

SESSION 7 - NATIONAL THEATRE CONFERENCE AWARDS

OUTSTANDING THEATRE AWARD NEW GEORGES

Established in 1996, the Outstanding Theatre Award recognizes outstanding achievement by a not-for-profit theatre.

New Georges, founded in 1992, is a strategically small company with a national reputation for taking a first look at new and experimental plays, and as a responsive home for adventurous women and trans/gender-nonconforming theater artists.

Over 27 years we have transformed the landscape for women in the American theater and established a boundary-pushing aesthetic based in exuberant theatricality, heightened language and structural innovation. The playwrights and directors who've made a home here have always challenged the prevailing narrative, and now claim visibility in every corner of our culture: in theater communities and productions nationwide, in TV writers' rooms, on film sets, on bookshelves, on Broadway.



Today, we serve the largest ongoing working network of women/tgnc theater artists in New York City with career-transforming productions; The Room, our workspace and the hub of our activities for 25 years; play and artist development programs rooted in collaboration and designed to encourage artists to get up from the table and out from behind music stands, fostering the 3D experimentation essential to highly theatrical plays; and the cultivation of an artistic community (now 260 artists strong) and the collaborations that arise within it.

Outstanding Theatre Award Committee: *Doug Jacobs (Chair), Elizabeth Van Dyke, David Feldshuh, Jim Volz, Viv Benesch, Kirsten Brandt, Courtney Sale*



This is the Color Described by the Time created by Door 10 - New Georges

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD

DEADRIA HARRINGTON

Presented to persons demonstrating exemplary promise in a professional organization. The winner is selected by the leadership of NTC's Outstanding Theatre of the year.



Deadria Harrington is a New York City based creative producer, artist and member of the Producing Artistic Leadership Team of The Movement Theatre Company. With The Movement, she has developed numerous new works by emerging artists of color, most recently *What To Send Up When It Goes Down* by Aleshea Harris, directed by Whitney White and *And She Would Stand Like This* by Harrison David Rivers, directed by David Mendizábal and choreography by Kia LaBeija. Select producing credits: *The Architecture of Becoming* (WP Theater), *At Buffalo* (NYMF, UB Buffalo Creative Arts Initiative, CAP21, TED 2019 Conference participant), *Alligator* (New Georges). Harrington was a Time Warner Foundation Fellow of the 2012-2014 Producers Lab at Women's Project Theater, a Next Generation Leader of Color at the 2014 Latinx Theatre Commons National Convening, and has participated in artEquity's National Facilitator Training. She has worked on as a consultant with SITI Company and artEquity and is the Associate Director at New Georges. BA in Drama and Psychology, Vassar College.

PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

ROBERT O'HARA

Awarded annually to an individual who has made an outstanding and noteworthy contribution to the theatre.

Robert O'Hara has received the NAACP Best Play and Best Director Award, the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding New Play, two Obies and the Herb Alpert Award. He directed the world premieres of Jeremy O. Harris' *Slave Play*, Nikkole Salter and Danai Guiria's *In the Continuum*, Tarell McCraney's *The Brother/ Sister Plays (Part 2)*, Colman Domingo's *Wild with Happy*, Kirsten Childs' *Bella: An American Tall Tale*, as well as his own plays, *Mankind*, *Booty-candy* and *Insurrection: Holding History*. His plays *Zombie: The American* and *Barbecue* world premiered at Woolly Mammoth Theater and The Public Theater, respectively.



His recent directing projects include, Lorraine Hansberry's *Raisin in the Sun* at Williamstown Theater Festival, Aziza Barnes' *BLKS* at MCC, Inda Craig-Galvan's *Black Superhero Magic Mama* at The Geffen Theater, *The Universes' Uni/Son*, inspired by the poetry of August Wilson at OSF, and Shakespeare's *Macbeth* at Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

PAUL GREEN AWARD

JEREMY O. HARRIS

Presented each year to a promising new talent in the professional theatre, and chosen by the winner of the Person of the Year Award.

Jeremy O. Harris is a writer and performer living in New York City. His plays include *Slave Play* (NYTW), *Daddy* (Vineyard/The New Group), *Xander Xyst*, *Dragon: 1* and *WATER SPORTS; or insignificant white boys* (published by 53rd State Press). His work has been presented or developed by Pieterspace, JACK < Are Love, The New Group, NYTW, Performance Space New York and Playwrights Horizons. In 2018, Jeremy co-wrote A24's upcoming film *Zola* with director Janicza Bravo. In television, he is developing a pilot with HBO and consulted on their new series *Euphoria*. He is the 11th recipient of the Vineyard Theatre's Paula Playwrighting Award, a 2016 MacDowell Colony Fellow, an Orchard Project Greenhouse artist and under commission from Lincoln Center Theatre and Playwrights Horizons. Jeremy is a graduate of the Yale MFA Playwrighting Program. Upcoming: A Boy's Company Presents: *Tell Me If I'm Hurting You* (Playwrights Horizons) and *Daddy* (Almeida).



ABOUT THE PAUL GREEN AWARD

Paul Eliot Green, March 17, 1894 – May 4, 1981

The Paul Green Award recognizes and encourages excellence in new professional theatre talent and is presented to a young theatre artist selected by the National Theatre Conference's Person of the Year. It has been given since 1988.

This award is named for Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paul Green, who served as the National Theatre Conference President in 1941 and '42 and served on the Executive Committee in 1944 and '45. Paul Green was on the drama faculty at the University of North Carolina, one of the 1925 original theatre department organizers of what was to become the National Theatre Conference. Paul Green was a remarkable man: Dramatist Laureate of North Carolina, humanist, Hollywood screenwriter, essayist, professor of philosophy and drama at the University of North Carolina, novelist, poet, singer and writer of songs, human rights activist and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright for the Broadway production, *In Abraham's Bosom*. Green is considered the "father of symphonic outdoor drama" with his production in 1937 of *The Lost Colony*. He went on to write 16 more outdoor dramas and in 1963 he founded the Institute of Outdoor Drama to support historical dramas across the country. Now named the Institute of Outdoor Theatre, it works with all types of outdoor theatre in the United States and in countries throughout the world.

In 1981, Paul Green died at age 87 leaving a legacy of literary works and good works that touch the lives of many thousands of people. In 1982 the Foundation was formed to carry on his work, and each year the Trustees award grants in the areas of the arts and human rights.

SESSION 8 - A CONVERSATION WITH PERSON OF THE YEAR, ROBERT O'HARA

After our luncheon, Chuck Morey moderates this opportunity for the membership to get to know our honoree.



The Lark is an international theater laboratory, based in New York City, dedicated to amplifying the voices of playwrights by providing transformative support within a global community.

SESSION 9 - A CONVERSATION WITH ROBERT SCHENKKAN

ROBERT SCHENKKAN

Robert Schenkkan is a Pulitzer and Tony award winning playwright, author of 18 plays. He is a New Dramatists alumnus, Dramatist Guild Council member, and board member of both the Orchard Project and The Lilly's Award.

SESSION 10 - MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Election of Trustees / NTC Business and Committee Reports

SESSION 11 - IDEA CAFÉ: ADVOCACY IN THE FIELD

The Idea Café was created in 2014 to provide an opportunity for the membership to brainstorm about new initiatives to connect, support and advocate for the American Theatre. This year, we ask ourselves what can NTC do proactively to help American Theatre and our nation.

**Save the Date! NTC Conference 2020,
December 4, 5 and 6 at The Players and More!**

Special Thanks to the Assistant to the Board of Trustees Katie Pedro and Conference Staff Starr Kirkland, Caroline Duffin, and Jesse Koehler.

OUTSTANDING THEATRE AND EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD HISTORY

Year	Outstanding Theatre	Emerging Professional
2018	National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene	Raquel Nobile
2017	The Acting Company, NY	Kelley Curran
2016	Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, PA	Rebecca Remaly
2015	Illusion Theater, MN	Isabel Nelson, Diogo Lopes
2014	Yale Repertory Theatre, CT	Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
2013	Oregon Shakespeare Festival, OR	Ed Sylvanus Iskandar
2012	New Federal Theatre, NY	Eric Lockley
2011	Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, OH	Terah Herman
2010	Playwrights Horizons, NY	No Award
2009	The Living Theatre, NY	No Award
2008	El Teatro Campesino, CA	Kinan Valdez
2007	The Creede Repertory Theatre, CO	Jeff Carey
2006	The Public Theatre, NY	Andi Stover
2005	The Dell'Arte Company, CA	Keight Gleason, Tyler Olsen
2004	The Black Rep, MO	Xosha Roquemore
2003	Signature Theatre, NY	Sarah K. Bartlo
2002	American Repertory Theatre, MA	Ryan McKittrick
2001	The Goodman Theatre, IL	Jay Paul Skelton
2000	The Children's Theatre Company, MN	Andrew D. Madsen
1999	South Coast Repertory, CA	Terrance Winston
1998	Roundabout Theatre, NY	Mary Grace Landiver
1997	Old Globe Theatre, CA	Brendon Fox
1996	Steppenwolf Theatre, IL	Ian Barford



Fiddler on the Roof - National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene

BARRIE AND BERNICE STAVIS PLAYWRIGHT AWARD HISTORY

Year	Playwright	Title of Play
2018	Jessica Huang	<i>The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin</i>
2017	Nathan Alan Davis	<i>Nat Turner in Jerusaem</i>
2016	Mia Chung	<i>You For Me For You</i>
2015	Jessica Dickey	<i>The Guard</i>
2014	Jeff Augustin	<i>Cry the Old Kingdom</i>
2013	Jackie Sibblies Drury	<i>We Are Proud to Present...</i>
2012	Dominique Morisseau	<i>Detroit '67</i>
2011	Danai Gurira	<i>The Convert</i>
2010	Peter Sinn Nachtrieb	<i>Bob: A Life in Five Acts</i>
2009	Aditi Brennan Kapil	<i>Love Person</i>
2008	David Davalos	<i>Wittenberg</i>
2007	Kate Fodor	<i>100 Saints You Should Know</i>
2006	Colin McKenna	<i>The Secret Agent of Trees</i>
2005	Julia Cho	<i>Durango</i>
2004	Brian Dykstra	<i>Hiding Behind Comets</i>
2003	Carson Sarah Kreitzer	<i>The Lovesong of J. Robert Oppenheimer</i>
2002	Eric Coble	<i>Bright Ideas</i>
2001	Naomi Iizuka	<i>36 Views</i>
2000	Thomas Gibbons	<i>Bee-Luther-Hatchee</i>
1999	Nilo Cruz	<i>Two Sisters and a Piano</i>
1998	Richard Helleston	
1997	Keith Glover	
1996	Dennis Covington	
1995	Eduardo Machado	
1994	Theresa Rebeck	
1993	Edwin Sanchez	
1992	Octavio Solis	
1991	Erin Cressida Wilson	
1990	Anthony Clarvoe	
1989	Ezra Goldstein	

PERSON OF THE YEAR AND PAUL GREEN AWARD RECIPIENTS

2018	Sarah Ruhl	Tori Sampson
2017	Molly Smith	June Schreiner
2016	George Takei	Elena Wang
2015	Polly Carl	Mary Kathryn Nagle
2014	Wendall K. Harrington	Amelia Roper
2013	Lynn Nottage	Chisa Hutchinson
2012	Elizabeth McCann	Micheline Auger
2011	Emily Mann	May Andrales
2010	August Wilson	Jade King Carroll
2009	Tony Kushner	Marsha Stephanie Blake
2008	Lois Smith	Darci Picoult
2007	Jack O'Brien	Benjamin Endasley Klein
2006	Suzan-Lori Parks	Bonnie Metzgar
2005	Michael Kahn	David Muse
2004	Lanford Wilson	Steven Drukman
2003	John Guare	Christopher Shinn
2002	Estelle Parsons	Gioia Marchese
2001	Marian Seldes	Kathleen Early
2000	William Ivey Long	Kate Levering
1999	Sir Peter Hall	Hamish Linklater
1998	Jerry Bock	Deborah Brevoort
1997	Edward Albee	Kevin Cunningham
1996	Zoe Caldwell & Robert Whitehead	Laura Hembree
1995	Terrence McNally	Tim Sheridan
1994	Anna Deavere Smith	Shay Youngblood
1993	George Wolfe	Suzan-Lori Parks
1992	Lynne Meadow	Mark Brokaw
1991	Norris Houghton	Annie Brockway
1990	Wendy Wasserstein	Peter Parnell
1989	Colleen Dewhurst	Tracy Copeland, Garrett Dilhurst
1988	Robert Wilson	Jennifer Rohn
1987	Greg Mosher	Clark Gregg

PERSON OF THE YEAR 1967 - 1986

1986	Martha Coigney	1977	Danny Newman
1985	Ming Cho Lee	1976	John Houseman
1984	Jon Jory	1974	Paul Green
1983	Adrian Hall	1973	Ruth Mayleas
1982	Peter Zeisler	1972	Tennessee Williams
1981	Ellen Stewart	1971	Zelda Fichandler
1980	Lloyd Richards	1970	Roger L. Stevens
1979	Douglas Turner Ward	1969	Joseph Papp
1978	Gordon Davidson	1968	Rosamond Glider
		1967	Hallie Flanagan Davis

NTC HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- 1925: A group of leaders from top university programs call for a series of conferences that led to the founding of the National Theatre Conference (NTC).
- 1931: At a conference at Northwestern University, the NTC is organized and adopts its name.
- 1936: NTC membership is limited to 25 distinguished leaders.
- 1939: NTC membership is increased to 50 distinguished leaders.
- 1941-'45: NTC receives a five-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and initiates the War Bond Project, producing shows at community theatres nation wide. The purchase of a War Bond was the price of admission. After the war, NTC presents shows at army hospitals and conducts a program for veterans.
- 1946 -'51: In recognition of NTC's efforts, the Rockefeller Foundation presents NTC with another, long term grant of \$155,000.
- 1947: NTC initiates several large projects: The New York Tryout Studio, where young actors who were unemployed during the war were given the opportunity to present productions to agents; the successful NTC Touring Company (eventually the Brown County Playhouse of Indiana); The overseeing of six regional theatre conferences throughout the U.S.
- 1961: NTC's Appraisal Project studies significant alterations to the American theatre since the end of WWII.
- 1967: Person of the Year Award is established.
- 1975: The now annual NYC meeting relocates to The Players.
- 1987: The Paul Green Award is created.
- 1988: Membership is increased to 120 distinguished leaders.
- 1989: The Barrie and Bernice Stavis Award is created to honor an emerging playwright.
- 1996: The Outstanding Theatre Award and the Emerging Professional Award (Formally NTC Scholarship Award) are created.
- 2010: The Women Playwrights Initiative is launched. Membership is increased to 150 distinguished members.
- 2013: Phase 1 of the Women Playwrights Initiative is completed.
- 2015: Phase 2 of the Women Playwrights Initiative is completed.



NTC

national theatre conference

connecting, supporting and advocating for america's theatre since 1925

ALASKA

Leslie Ishii
Dawson Moore
Arthur R. Rotch

ARIZONA

E. Reid Gilbert
Michael Hood
Jacob Pinholster

CALIFORNIA

Norma Bowles
Risa Brainin
Kirsten Brandt
Tom Bryant
Harry Elam
Jerry Genochio
Meredith Greenburg
José Cruz González
D.W. Jacobs
Jean Prinz Korf
Alma Martinez
Michael F. Ramsaur
Randy Reinholz
Martha Richards
D.L. Rosenberg
Steve Rothman
Jean Bruce Scott
James Still
Jim Volz
Lisa Wolpe
Christine Young

CONNECTICUT

James Bundy
Gary English

DELAWARE

Sanford Robbins

FLORIDA

Jim Helsingier
Cameron Jackson

GEORGIA

John Ammerman
Austin Ellington

IDAHO

Robert Caisley
Scott Palmer

ILLINOIS

Kathleen Conlin
Joel Fink
Alexander Gelman
John R. Poole
J.R. (Jim) Sullivan

INDIANA

Janet Allen
Mark Alan Heckler
R. Keith Michael
Richard Rand
Ann Marie Shanahan
Richard K. Thomas

IOWA

Gil Marra

KANSAS

Nicole Hodges-Persley
Jack B. Wright

KENTUCKY

Baron Kelly
Michael S. Tick

LOUISIANA

Gresdna Doty

MARYLAND

Shirley Basfield Dunlap
Ian Gallanar

MASSACHUSETTS

Benny Sato Ambush
Susan Mickey

MICHIGAN

Anita González
Priscilla Lindsay

MINNESOTA

Sarah Rasmussen
Barbara Reid

MISSISSIPPI

Rhona Justice-Malloy

MISSOURI

Felicia Londré
Tom Mardikes
Peter E. Sargent
Paul Steger
Steve Woolf

MONTANA

Jere Lee Hodgkin

NEBRASKA

Cindy Melby Phaneuf

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jeni Mahoney

NEW JERSEY

Deborah Brevoort

Ramon Delgado

Mindi Dickstein
Jill Dolan
Holly Rhoades Logue
Amy Saltz

NEW MEXICO

Robert Benedetti
Beverly Byers-Pevitts
Gil Lazier

NEW YORK

Milly Barranger
Arthur Bartow
Ian Belknap
Susan Bernfield
Linda Burson
Tisa Chang
Linda Chapman
Darrah Cloud
Julie Crosby
Julia Curtis
Sherry Eaker
John Clinton Eisner
Bill Esper
David Feldshuh
Mira Felner
Angelina Fiordellisi
David Fuller
Margot Harley
Arlene Hutton
Michael G. Keck
Woodie King Jr.
Bruce Levitt
Virginia Louloudes
Shellen Lubin
Muriel Miguel
Lorca Peress
Lisa Rothe
Robert Schenkan
Frank Trezza
Elizabeth Van Dyke
Donna Walker-Kuhne
Talvin Wilks

NORTH CAROLINA

Vivienne Benesch
James Fisher
David Hammond
Ed Simpson
Scott J. Parker

OHIO

Elynmarie Kazle
Edward Stern

OREGON

Alison Carey

PENNSYLVANIA

Karla Boos
Steve Broadnax
Dan Carter
Marya Sea Kaminski
Laurie McCants
Mark Clayton Southers
Susan Tsu

RHODE ISLAND

Kym Moore

SOUTH CAROLINA

Jim O'Connor
Erica Tobolski
Robert Richmond

TENNESSEE

Calvin MacLean

TEXAS

Fran Dorn
Liz Engelman
Richard Isackes
Brant Pope
Robert Ramirez
KJ Sanchez

UTAH

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Charles Morey
R. Scott Phillips

VERMONT

Cheryl Faraone
Theodore Herstand

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WISCONSIN

Sheila Tousey