

ACTOR THERAPY

THOUSAND FACED THEATRE



RSO'S SOHO SALON

a new writers' festival

soho playhouse
august 2-3

RSO'S SOHO SALON

a new writers' festival

featuring the works of

Kerstin Anderson

Jaron Barney

Ethan Carlson

Bea Goodwin

Elissa Hickey

Grace Kane

Charlotte Knight

Cassidy Layton

Tiffany McCullough

Jacqui Sirois

Gerry Vega

Mijon Zulu

RSO'S SOHO SALON

a new writers' festival

NIGHT 1 • AUGUST 2ND

Grown Up Bedtime Stories.....Cassidy Layton
Manny.....Gerry Vega
VITA.....Ethan Carlson, Bea Goodwin
Hopeful.....Grace Kane
Original Songs.....Elissa Hickey
Lemons.....Charlotte Knight
Goliath.....Ethan Carlson, Cassidy Layton

GROWN UP BEDTIME STORIES

by Cassidy Layton

Imagine if Shel Silverstein's *Where the Sidewalk Ends* met *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* met *Goosebumps* and you have ***Grown Up Bedtime Stories***. An anthology of short stories, poetry and drawings, *Bedtime Stories* captures our worst fears in ways that are sometimes existential, often heartbreaking, and always funny. Punchy and terrifying, this book has a draft ready and is seeking next steps to sicken future readers. Investigate at your own risk. **@grownupbedtimestories**

Cassidy Layton is an actress and writer who loves finding humanity in dark places. In addition to writing the book for the new musical *Goliath*, she has also recently authored two plays and a collection of short scary stories called *Grown up Bedtime Stories*. Re: acting, she was most recently learning to play bass guitar for a TV show where she yells at Adam Scott a-lot.
www.cassidylayton.com @casadilla67

For more information about this show, to give the writers additional feedback, or to get involved you can email the writer directly at **cassidyroselayton@gmail.com**

MANNY

by Gerry Vega

Cast

Manny Suarez.....	Gerry Vega
Patrice Rahming.....	Kim Onah
Anita Fox.....	Shelby Acosta
Charlie Fox.....	Carly Messig
Jo Fox.....	Nachi Lederer
Cooper Fox.....	Matt Beary
Carissa Green.....	Mariel Blatt
Becca P.....	Miranda Luze
George Truett.....	Johnny Kroll

MANNY

by Gerry Vega

Manny is a Dramedy derived from laughter and queer experience as a Latine, millennial, male nanny in NYC's affluent society— while chasing Broadway dreams. Logline: "It takes a village [and a rainbow]. Manhattanites parent themselves and others." Manny's Season 1 is written, being pitched, and open to next [baby] steps with producers, collaborators, and more.

Gerry Vega is a real life manny (male nanny), as well as a professionally trained actor-turned-writer. He has a deep love for Ariana Grande, the American Theatre, and is a member of Actors Equity Association. His most proud creativity came from his self-written, self-produced solo Cabarets— Growing Up? and Pennies from Heaven (dir: Amy Wolk). He's also eagerly performed in professional Children's Theatre productions throughout the US & Canada (Berenstein Bears LIVE!, Santa's Village). Catch up with him on social @gergerminx or at gerryvega.com

For more information about this show, to give the writers additional feedback, or to get involved you can email the writer directly at **lifeofamanny@gmail.com**

VITA

lyrics by Bea Goodwin

composed by Ethan Carlson

VITA is currently in the writing process after months of dramaturgy. Goodwin anticipates the libretto's completion by year's end before she hands off to Carlson to further develop. Inspired by love letters between Vita Sackville-West and Virginia Woolf, the show is an exploration of grief all the while highlighting the love they shared.

Bea Goodwin is a bicoastal librettist and operatic stage director. Her work has premiered at BAM, LaMaMa's Ellen Stewart stage, (le) Poisson Rouge as well as untraditional, immersive spaces such as the Mount Vernon Museum gardens and the historic Montauk Club. Goodwin has been published with Sparks & Wiry Cries and recently placed as a finalist in the international NATS Art Song competition. She would love to thank everyone involved for putting together this brilliant evening, along with Ethan and Danielle, who have brought so much joy to art making.

For more information about this show, to give the writers additional feedback, or to get involved you can email the writer directly at **begoodwin.stage@gmail.com** and **ethancarlson5@yahoo.com**

HOPEFUL

by Grace Kane

Cast

Hope.....Grace Kane

Trenton..... Jordan Dallam

Leah.....Fiona White

Denise..... Alex Pagnozzi

Aaron/Toby.....Xavier Branch

Xan/Jill.....Nicole DeLuca

Mr. Keller/Mr. Matthews/Patrick

Man at the end of the bar.....Brad Mercier

HOPEFUL

by Grace Kane

“Shiny Happy Pilot” is the unsold, unproduced first episode of a show called **Hopeful**. It introduces Hope Linden, a 20-something NYC transplant whose world has turned upside down a few times already in her life, but never in as crushing a way as the day her older sister calls her to tell her their mother has died. Hope must return to her New Hampshire hometown and face the ghosts of her past, the mind-numbing grief of her present, and the bewildering uncertainty of her future as she prepares to become the legal guardian of her 15 year old brother.

(CW: use of the ‘r’ word.)

Grace Kane (She/Her) is a DC based human who does a lot of different things. She studied both opera and creative writing at Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland. A librettist, lyricist, playwright, baby screenwriter, occasional comedian, and Beltress-in-Training under the tutelage of Ms. Lindsay Mendez. You’ve recently seen her literally nowhere, but hopefully that will change soon :) Stay safe out there, wash your hands, enjoy the art! @missgracekane

For more information about this show, to give the writers additional feedback, or to get involved you can email the writer directly at **gracekane5@gmail.com**

ORIGINAL SONGS

by Elissa Hickey

"What If"

"Vegan"

A few years ago, I wrote a song in my head. Terrified it wasn't good, I decided I'd write it down eventually. Recently, I was encouraged to work on projects for myself, so I revisited the tune I'd created years ago. Luckily, it ignited a spark to create new, relatable material!

Elissa Hickey (she/her) is a theatre lover, creator, and performer. She began her musical theatre composing and writing this past fall. She wanted to create upbeat, comedic material based on situations in her own life while also making songs designed for anyone to sing. Her most recent endeavor has been **@32BarChef**, a weekly series designed to teach others how to make recipes through one-minute long songs. Make sure to check the videos out on TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter! Huge thank you to all who have supported her on this journey so far.

For more information about this show, to give the writers additional feedback, or to get involved you can email the writer directly at **hickeye12@gmail.com**

LEMONS

by Charlotte Knight

Cast

Chris Guenther.....Mijon Zulu

Emily Wagland.....Kerstin Anderson

Ashley Guenther.....Devina Sabnis

Hannah Guenther.....Lexi Carter

Robert Sullivan.....Ryan Scott Oliver

LEMONS

by Charlotte Knight

LEMONS is a comedic drama about the birth of a family. Set in the present day, it tells the story of Chris, his teenage daughter Ashley and his young girlfriend Emily, as they navigate the unexpected arrival of Chris' estranged daughter Hannah.

Charlotte is a Canadian writer who has been moonlighting as a singer/actor for the last decade. Pre-COVID, she split her time between Toronto and London, where she made her UK debut as Cinderella in Into The Woods, followed by the title role in The Queen's Lace Handkerchief with Opera Della Luna at Wilton's Music Hall. Charlotte recently played Elsa in Frozen, The Musical with Disney Cruise Line and she is currently in Toronto playing Sarah in the Canadian premiere of C-O-N-T-A-C-T. Big thank you to RSO and TFTC for this wonderful opportunity, and to Jon, Isabelle and Madeleine for your love and support in trusting me to tell our story.

For more information about this show, to give the writers additional feedback, or to get involved you can email the writer directly at **charlottemarieknight@gmail.com**

GOLIATH

music and lyrics. by Ethan Carlson

book by Cassidy Layton

Song List

In Glitter..... Andrew
Good As New..... Andrew, Hayden
The Game..... Isaac
Defect..... Emory
Pink..... Company

Cast

Andrew..... Alex Monge
Hayden..... Larry Luck
Emory..... Alphonse Gonzales
Isaac..... Donté Wilder
Michelle/Announcer/Stage Dir. Megan Griffith
Mitch..... Brad Mercier
Josh..... Nathan David Smith

GOLIATH

music and lyrics. by Ethan Carlson

book by Cassidy Layton

Goliath follows Andrew, a recently out gay man in a pre-law program (and from a very religious family) who is forced to go to a gay conversion camp and “become” straight, at risk of losing his parents’ tuition money. While he plans to blend in, remain gay, and grin and bear it, his journey takes a completely different turn when he teams up with the other campers to shut Goliath down for good. His feelings become even more complicated when he begins to fall for closeted camp doctor and former camper, Hayden. *Goliath* is in final stages of re-writes, and is a story about embracing your true identity, fighting for good in the wake of hopelessness, and the complicated nature of justice, truth, and salvation.

@goliathmusical

Ethan Carlson is a New York based up-and-coming musical theatre actor/composer. His contemporary, unique, folky songs have been featured at 54 Below, Don't Tell Mama, the Davenport Theatre and more. His show, *Her Sound*, premiered in NYC directed by Sammi Cannold, and you can find the first volume of *Her Sound*, produced by Ryan Scott Oliver & Thousand Faced Theatre, wherever music is sold. Follow for more works that he is working on now! **@ethancarlson5**

For more information about this show, to give the writers additional feedback, or to get involved you can email the writer directly at **ethancarlson5@yahoo.com** and **cassidyroselayton@gmail.com**

RSO'S SOHO SALON

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NIGHT 2 • AUGUST 3RD

Love, Race, and Corona..... Mijon Zulu
Mary X (Episode 2: The Hours).....Tiffany McCullough
Original Songs.....Kerstin Anderson
Home Share.....Jacqui Sirois
OUT..... Jaron Barney

LOVE, RACE, AND CORONA

by Mijon Zulu

Song List

Quarantine Lover.....Chaz

Where'd You Go.....Chaz

Let Me Breathe.....Chaz

Cast

Chaz.....Torian Brackett

Gigi.....Megan Griffith

Stephen/Herb.....Andreas Schmidt

Alex/Fitz.....John Mateyko

Timmy/Siri.....Joshuah Dominique

Markus/Cameron.....Connor Hadley

Auntie D.....Nzingtha Smith

Siri.....Jordan Yampolsky

LOVE, RACE, AND CORONA

by Mijon Zulu

Love, Race, and Corona is a web series with original music that has been adapted into a one-act play for this festival. The piece captures connection through digital devices during a time where the only connections people had were socially distanced and through technology. The story focuses on Chazanga (Chaz) Banda - a first-generation Afro-Caribbean American as he quarantines tries to find love while social distancing, and also processes with the racial and social justice movement of 2020. Currently seeking producers, directors, collaborators.

Mijon Zulu is an actor, singer, writer, (now director!), and creative who currently resides in Brooklyn, NY. In film and tv, he has previously appeared in Giving Me Life (In the Land of Deadass) and Daddydelphia. Selected theatre credits include: Hugo Lassalle in Madame Curie the Musical, Brother/Calypso Singer in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Sharon Playhouse, and Grady in The Color Purple at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina. Mijon is grateful for his loving family that has supported and inspired him to boldly pursue his dreams.

For more information about this show, to give the writers additional feedback, or to get involved you can email the writer directly at **mijon.zulu@gmail.com**

MARY X (EPISODE 2: THE HOURS)

by Tiffany McCullough

Cast

Jessica.....Lillie Ricciardi

Ben.....Brendan McCann

Howard/Others.....Ryan Scott Oliver

Jamie/Other.....Mika Kaufmann

Shannon/Other.....Joshuah Dominique

MARY X (EPISODE 2: THE HOURS)

by Tiffany McCullough

Mary X is a modern coming of age story. What if doing everything you were taught to do or fit your moral compass kept you stagnant and immature? What if following all of the rules of religion left you without any actual faith? Can a thirty year old nun start over? Can she learn true faith and what it means to be truly “good?” We all have unlikely teachers or even saviors.

For more information about this show, to give the writers additional feedback, or to get involved you can email the writer directly at **t.mccullough@me.com**

ORIGINAL SONGS

by Kerstin Anderson

"How Long"

"Rose Colored Memories"

Kerstin Anderson is a Vermont born New York actor. She was most recently seen as Lucy Lemay in *Unknown Solider* at Playwrights Horizons. Other credits include: *My Fair Lady* (Lincoln Center Theater), *The Sound of Music* (North American Tour), *Row* (Audible). She can be heard on Ryan Scott Oliver's albums *Darling: Live in Concert* and *Future Demons*, Alex Ratner's album *Tyrell*, Ethan Carlson's *Her Sound*, and the Original Cast Album of *Unknown Solider*.

For more information about this show, to give the writers additional feedback, or to get involved you can email the writer directly at **kerstinanderson129@gmail.com**

HOME SHARE

by Jacqui Sirois

Cast

Agnes.....Peggy J. Scott

Sam.....Alex Pagnozzi

Interviewer..... Lauren Easton

HOME SHARE

by Jacqui Sirois

Home Share was initially being developed as a stage play, however it was feeling more suited to the small screen. This series is in early stages of development and ripe with opportunities for these two women to grow, make mistakes and learn from each other.

Jacqui Sirois is a writer, director and performer currently based in Toronto, ON. She has a B.A. in Drama from Queen's University and an M.M. in Vocal Performance from NYU. She's directed some cool things that you can learn more about at **jacquisirois.com**. She is looking forward to making theatre that elevates and celebrates artists whose experiences differ from her own.

For more information about this show, to give the writers additional feedback, or to get involved you can email the writer directly at **jacquisirois@gmail.com**

OUT

by Jaron Barney

Song List

Starting Line.....Company
Kind of Them.....Nachi, Company
Hold You Now.....Tia
I'm Into It.....Tia, Shelby, Eddie
I Love You, Love You.....Shelby, Lera, Tia
Running Away.....Bryan, Tia, Eddy, Company

Cast

Actor 1.....Tia Galanis
Actor 2.....Bryan Munar
Actor 3.....Eddie Grey
Actor 4.....Alex Monge
Actor 5.....Nachi Lederer
Actor 6.....Lera Zamaraeva
Actor 7.....Shelby Acosta

OUT

by Jaron Barney

OUT is an original song cycle that is centered around queerness. Both experiences that are unique to queer people, as well as moments in life that are made unique when seen through a queer lense. From the mundane to the life altering, OUT celebrates the vastness, the depth, and the joy of the modern queer experience.

Jaron Barney is an actor and composer here in New York City! After two years on the road with the Broadway National Tour of Book of Mormon the Musical, Jaron returned to New York and began work on his first original musical song cycle, OUT. Stay tuned for future works and performances!

For more information about this show, to give the writers additional feedback, or to get involved you can email the writer directly at **jbarney060@gmail.com**

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

RYAN SCOTT OLIVER

Ryan Scott Oliver is the co-founder of Actor Therapy and a composer/lyricist. Find writings, videos, tweets, and more of his morbidly optimistic musings **@ryanscottoliver** on all platforms.

THOUSAND FACED THEATRE COMPANY

Thousand Faced Theatre Company is a nonprofit theatre company based out of New York City. TFTC is focused on creating and producing new works and unique interpretations of existing pieces in the hopes of giving voices to those who may traditionally not have the opportunity to be heard. Thousand Faced Theatre has previously produced *Her Sound: Volume 1*, *Dandelion: An Original Musical*, and *Honesty in an Apology* (New York Summerfest Theatre Festival) as well as countless readings and workshops of new works in their Rooftop Series. To learn more, support, or to get involved please visit **thousandfacedtheatre.com**
@thousandfacedtheatre