



Theatre Wesleyan Hosts
Circle Theatre's

2023
High School
Playwriting Project



FINALIST READING SERIES

Sponsored by



SCHEDULE

Texas Wesleyan University | Sunday, May 21, 2023
Doors open 4:00pm | Program begins at 4:30pm

CIRCLE THEATRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TIM LONG, Executive Director

HSPP PROGRAM DIRECTOR

TAYLOR STANIFORTH

FINALIST READING SERIES DIRECTOR

JORDAN LA GRENADE

MISTER REFUGE

HOUSTON HOWARD

ROAK: Bethany R. Bordelon

LIKA: Davayun Chase

BECK: J.R. Bradford

THIS IS A ROBBERY

BELLA REALE

ROBIN: Claire Fountain

MALCOLM: Fabian Cortina

ARNOLD: Davayun Chase

LONDON: J.R. Bradford

MAGNOLIA SHOES

CHRISTIAN STEELE

SYLVIA: Claire Fountain

BENJI: J.R. Bradford

MERDICE: Bethany R. Bordelon

OFFICER RUSSO: Davayun Chase

TRAFFIC CONE ROMANCE

NICOLAS SMITH, SAM RYAN, & GAUTAM NALLIAH

SAMO: Davayun Chase

JULIE: Claire Fountain

BOZHO: Bethany R. Bordelon

DAD/CONSTRUCTION WORKER:

J.R. Bradford

CRAZY JOE: Fabian Cortina

ACTORS



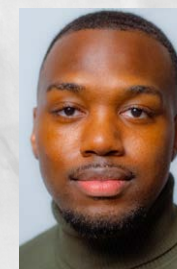
J.R. BRADFORD

J.R. is excited to make his return to the Circle Theatre. He has performed on several DFW stages such as Theatre Three, Soul Rep Theatre Company, Stage West, Jubilee Theatre, and was last seen in Urban Arts Theatre's "StageBlack: Festival of New Plays".



BETHANY R. BORDELON

Bethany, a recent Texas Wesleyan graduate, has been performing for a number of years. Some of her most notable roles include *Once Upon a Mattress* as Winnifred, *Little Shop of Horrors* as a Doo-Wop, Yelena in *Uncle Vanya*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Amelia Earhart in Chamber Music. Bethany is excited to be working with other talented actors and help showcase young artists' work!



DAVAYUN CHASE

Davayun is from Fort Worth and began his acting journey in late December 2018—taking several acting classes leading up to doing several local films around the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, Austin, and Killeen (2018-2022). He is now exploring his artistic skills in the theatre world. Other credits include: *The Mountaintop* (Circle Theatre), Erin Malone Turner's *Through A Glass Darkly* (Amphibian Stage Reading), Charles Jackson Jr.'s *Elusive* (Amphibian Stage Reading), and *Interview With A Vampire* (Sundown Theatre Short Works Festival).



FABIAN CORTINA

Fabian is thrilled to be returning for this year's High School Playwriting Project! He is currently a sophomore BFA Acting major at the University of Houston. Some of his previous roles include: *An Empty Plate in the Cafe du Grand Boeuf* (Antonie) *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Peter), and *Things I Know to be True* (Mark/Mia). He is extremely grateful to Circle Theatre for giving him this opportunity once again and would like to thank his family and friends for all their love and support.



CLAIRE FOUNTAIN

Claire (*she/they*) is a DFW-based actor, playwright, and intimacy director. You may have seen her play *UFI* as well as her directing work for *The Magic Word* at Sundown Theatre's Java Scripts festival last fall or caught her as Ann in the staged reading of *Those Hollow Bodies* with Echo Theatre's *Echo Reads* program. She's jazzed to get this opportunity to help young playwrights bring their work to life.

READING SERIES PLAYWRIGHERS



MISTER REFUGE by HOUSTON HOWARD

Southwest Christian, teacher: Cyndi Woodward

Writing and storytelling has always been apart of Houston's life. He has always imagined and wanted to create something that matters. With this play, *Mister Refuge*, he wanted to tell a father and son story. This idea is very close to his heart. Houston believe that fathers figures play an important role in the lives of children, and children equally play a role complimentary to this with their innocent worldview. *Mister Refuge* is about the protection of that innocence.



THIS IS A ROBBERY by BELLA REALE

Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts | Teacher: Lindy Heath

Bella is ecstatic to be included in this production! She is an 11th grader at Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts and specializes in both theatre and creative writing. She would like to thank her creative writing teacher, Lisa Smith, her English teacher, Claudia Diaz, and her theatre teacher, Lindy Heath, for their continual support and encouragement.



MAGNOLIA SHOES by CHRISTIAN STEELE

Burleson High School | Teacher: Heather Berryhill

Christian is a senior at Burleson High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Debate, Theatre, and his local mayor's youth council. He plans to attend Rice University to study political science with hopes of becoming a member of government to make the world a better place.



TRAFFIC CONE ROMANCE by NICOLAS SMITH, SAM RYAN, & GAUTAM NALLIAH

Carroll Senior High School
Teacher: Jamie Pringle

Traffic Cone Romance is an absurdist interpretation of Shakespeare's classic *Romeo and Juliet*. Written by Nicolas Smith (Senior), Sam Ryan (Senior), and Gautam Nalliah (Junior), the show satirizes the abundance of love stories. Nick, Sam, and Gautam are all Carroll Senior High School students and take the same Theatre class, taught by their wonderful director Mrs. Jamie Pringle, where they wrote the play as a class project. Special thanks to Mrs. Pringle, Mr. Barbe, and Circle Theatre for presenting the opportunity to write *Traffic Cone Romance*.



SEEDS FOR JACK, FLOWERS FOR NORA by MICAH CHESNEY

Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts | Teacher: Lindy Heath

Micah is honored beyond words to have his play performed with Circle Theatre! Though he spends the vast majority of his time doing theatre, this is his very first time on the other side of the script. He would like to thank his family for their unconditional love & support, his teachers & mentors for their guidance, anyone else that has had a hand in this process, and above God for His gift of Creativity.



ROOF KIDS by SARAH MAY DAGES (she/her)

Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts | Teacher: Lindy Heath

Sarah is a costumer, performer, & playwright. She is a graduating senior at Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts and is thrilled to have been selected as a finalist for the Circle Theatre's Playwriting competition. She would like to thank her Advanced Acting class & family for all their love and support, as well as Circle Theatre for this incredible opportunity.



THIS IS A ROBBERY by BELLA REALE

Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts | Teacher: Lindy Heath

Bella is ecstatic to be included in this production! She is an 11th grader at Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts and specializes in both theatre and creative writing. She would like to thank her creative writing teacher, Lisa Smith, her English teacher, Claudia Diaz, and her theatre teacher, Lindy Heath, for their continual support and encouragement.



BUMZ by LYNDA CLAYTON

Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts | Teacher: Lindy Heath

Lynda is a senior at the Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts. In the fall, she will be going to the University of Idaho to study Biochemistry. She would like to thank her family for their constant support and love, her friends for their genuine honesty, and her cat - Cangy - and dog - Shasta for being her inspiration throughout writing *Bumz*.

FINALIST PLAYWRIGHERS

SEMIFINALIST PLAYWRIGHTS



THE HOME IS WHERE THE HEART LIVES

by AVERY JONES

Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts | Teacher: Lindy Heath

Avery is thrilled for her playwrighting debut and thankful for this opportunity. She will be attending Bethel Conservatory of the Arts for theater with a focus of musical theater. She is an actress, singer, dancer, and writer and hopes to be a director. Recent roles include ensemble/Laurie understudy (*Oklahoma*) and Judah (*Joseph...Dreamcoat*). Avery wants to thank her mom for continuing to encourage her to pursue her dreams, her past directors and teachers who taught her all she knows, and God who gave her the talents she has today.



THE COMPROMISE

by LAYLA WILLIAMS

Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts | Teacher: Lindy Heath

Layla is absolutely thrilled to hold the title of Semifinalist for her second year in a row with *The Compromise*! She is currently a senior at the Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts planning on pursuing advertising and film at UT Austin in the fall. Layla would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her writing endeavors.



MISTER REFUGE

by HOUSTON HOWARD

Southwest Christian, teacher: Cyndi Woodward

Writing and storytelling has always been apart of Houston's life. He has always imagined and wanted to create something that matters. With this play, *Mister Refuge*, he wanted to tell a father and son story. This idea is very close to his heart. Houston believe that fathers figures play an important role in the lives of children, and children equally play a role complimentary to this with their innocent worldview. *Mister Refuge* is about the protection of that innocence.



MAGNOLIA SHOES

by CHRISTIAN STEELE

Burleson High School | Teacher: Heather Berryhill

Christian is a senior at Burleson High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Debate, Theatre, and his local mayor's youth council. He plans to attend Rice University to study political science with hopes of becoming a member of government to make the world a better place.

THANK YOU to the faculty, staff, and students of Theatre Wesleyan for your continual support of the High School Playwriting Project!

CIRCLE THEATRE

Executive Director

Tim Long

HSPP Producer, Marketing + Education Associate

Taylor Staniforth

2023 HSPP Director, Box Office Manager + Production Coordinator

Jordan La Grenade

HSPP Administrator

Jule Nelson-Duac

HSPP EVENT STAFF

Professor of Theatre & HSPP Judge

Connie Whitt-Lambert

Stage Manager

Elena Cruce

Technical Director

Colin Schwartz

Day-Of Staff

Lauren Garza - Photographer

Abigale Hunt - House Manager

Madison McKinzie & Trinity Chenault - Crew

Jennyne James - Technical Support

TEXAS WESLEYAN PLAYWRIGHTS & EVALUATORS

Henry Bates, Jaden Chapman, Hayden Kirkbride, Eli Wallace, Madi Whitney, Lana Yagle & Professor Connie Whitt-Lambert

HSPP FIRST ROUND READERS

Ashley Anderson, Jenna Anderson, Shannon Belden, Whitney Blake Dean, Drew Denton, Cory Carter, Claire Fountain, Edna Gill, Gwen Grayson, Clara Jenkins, Jordan La Grenade, Lauren LeBlanc, Blake Lentz, Nicole Neely, Ayvaunn Penn, Alejandro Saucedo, Taylor Staniforth

HSPP STAFF

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CIRCLE THEATRE | 230 W. FOURTH ST.

TINY BEAUTIFUL THINGS

Adapted for the stage by Nia Vardalos | Based on the book by Cheryl Strayed

June 1 - June 17, 2023

Thurs. 7:30pm | Fri. 8:00pm | Sat. 3:00 + 8:00pm

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EVERY FRIDAY IS SCHOOL NIGHT

June 2, June 9, June 16 | 8:00PM

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There are some things you can't understand until you've come to know things that come with the wisdom of age and the grace of those things will have to do with



CIRCLETHEATRE.COM | 817.877.3040

CIRCLE THEATRE



Founded in 1981 by Rose Pearson and Bill Newberry, Circle Theatre is currently producing its 2023 season of live theatre in Fort Worth. Circle Theatre's mission is the advocacy of contemporary plays rarely seen in this community. Circle is committed to presenting professional, innovative theatre in an intimate setting. The Theatre is partially supported by the City of Fort Worth; the Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County; the Texas Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Further support comes from the Amon G. Carter Foundation; Communities Foundation of Texas; Ann L. and Carol Green Rhodes Charitable Trust - Bank of America, NA; the Pangburn Foundation, JP Morgan, Trustee; the Sid W. Richardson Foundation; and The Shubert Foundation, Inc.

For further information, call 817.877.3040, from 12pm – 5pm, Tuesday through Friday.

Circle Theatre is located in Sundance Square at 230 West 4th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102

