CROSS CURRENTS

THE GATHERING

Program & Bios

MAY 8-11, 2019

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

DAVIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
The Gathering Program
Working Draft- Subject to Revision

Wednesday May 8th  Why We Are Here

1pm-2pm  Welcome Refreshments/ Check-in and Registration, Gathering Tent, Harbin Courtyard (Arrive at Georgetown University Main Gates at 37th & O Street NW and you will be directed)

2pm-3:45pm  Welcome, Davis Performing Arts Center, Gonda Theatre

Derek Goldman, Co-Director, The Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics, Georgetown University

Ramadan Prayer

Ali Mahdi Nouri, UNESCO Ambassador & Secretary General ITI, International Theater Institute & Albugaa Theatre Company

Ritual of Land Acknowledgment

Emily Johnson, Artistic Director, Emily Johnson/Catalyst
Kelsey Lawson, Director, Native American Student Council, Georgetown University
Jason Tamiru, Producer, Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne, Australia

Our Republic of Imagination

Amb. Cynthia Schneider, Co-Director, The Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics (Intro.)

Azar Nafisi, best-selling author (Reading Lolita in Tehran); Centennial Fellow, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

Here I Am/Here We Are: Georgetown, Student Activism, the Legacy of Slavery, and Performance

Kendell Long, Georgetown Student, Students for GU272 Advocacy Group
Melisande Short-Colomb, Georgetown Student, Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics

On Performing Care

James Thompson, Professor, Practitioner, Writer, University of Manchester
Hopeful Encounters – Part 1 Lab Fellows Demo

Faisal Abu Alhayjaa, Actor, Comedian, Red Noses International

Caitlin Nasema Cassidy, Actor, Theater Maker; co-Artistic Director, LubDub Theater Company

Velani Dibba, Director, Columbia University

Devika Ranjan, Theater Maker, Ethnographer, Educator; Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

Manuel Viveros, Actor, Director; University of Louisville

4pm-5:30pm  Hopeful Encounters – ALL  Davis Performing Arts Center, multiple spaces

5:30pm-7:30pm  Dinner/ Opening Reception, Gathering Tent, Harbin Courtyard

7:30pm-9pm  TICKETED PERFORMANCE

Opening Performance for all Gathering Participants, Gonda Theatre

Renegade Theatre of Nigeria, THE CHIBOK GIRLS: OUR STORY

Featuring Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka performing excerpts from his epic poem “A Humanist Ode for Chibok, Leah”

Written and directed by Wole Oguntokun

US Premiere of Renegade Theatre’s searing work of testimonial theater about the abduction of 276 girls from their school in the Nigerian town of Chibok by the Boko Haram in 2014, and the enduring reverberations of their story.

9pm-9:30pm  Post-show discussion  with the artists, moderated by Gus Casely-Hayford OBE, Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington DC.

9:30pm-11pm  Next Level: Club Gathering Reception, Davis Perf Arts Center

Junious Brickhouse, Founder, Executive Director, Urban Artistry Inc.

Kane Smego, Writer, Performer, Next Level

Beatmakers, Beatboxers, Dancers, DJs, Graffiti Artists, and MCs from Australia, Dominican Republic Egypt, Guatemala, Mexico, Nigeria, Turkey, and Uzbekistan
Where We Are Coming From

8:45am
Tea, coffee, refreshments, and light breakfast available, Davis Center Lobby

9:15am-10:45am
Workshops

A Universal Language of Visual Storytelling in Global Theatre, Davis Center 035

Irina Kruzhilina, Designer, Visual Dramaturg

Visual narratives are essential for the transformative impact of theatre, as they transcend cultural barriers, require no translation, and often speak where language fails. In this hands-on workshop, we will explore exciting approaches to visual creative thinking, gaining understanding and experience with synthesized visual expressions of characters and space. Through fun interactive exercises, we will investigate visual literacy as a tool towards fostering empathetic and emotional connections among theatre makers, subject, and audience.

The Clown as the Universal Human: Clowning for Peace, Davis Center 036

Emma Jaster, Movement Director

This workshop is a refreshing reminder of the value of humour in the hard work of activism. From Marcel Marceau, to Clowns Without Borders and the Clown Care Unit, to Larry Charles' Dangerous World of Comedy, we will explore humor as a tool for unlocking empathy, a key element of effective activism. Amidst the hard work of political change, we will practice some of the clown’s unique tools to lighten the load and keep our hearts at the center of our work.

10:45am-11am
Break

Tea, coffee and light refreshments available

11am-12:30pm
Honoring the Past/Shaping the Future, Davis Center, Gonda Theatre

Curated and Led by Todd London, Writer, Gatherer, The Dramatists Guild & The New School

Raymond Caldwell, Producing Artistic Director, Theater Alliance,

Maria Goyanes, Artistic Director, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company

Michael Rohd, Lead Artist for Civic Imagination, Center for Performance and Civic Practice

Seema Sueko, Deputy Artistic Director, Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater

Mark Valdez, Artist, Organizer
Tamilla Woodard, *Director, En Garde Arts; Associate Artistic Director, WP Theater; co-founder of PopUP Theatrics*

Stephanie Ybarra, *Artistic Director, Baltimore Center Stage*

12:30pm-12:45pm  **Pop-Up Conversation -- Rivers and Bones: Dialogue on Ancestry**, Gonda Theatre

Nick Slie, *Co-Artistic Director, Mondo Bizarro*

Jason Tamiru, *Producer, Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne, Australia*

12:45pm-1:45pm  **Lunch**, Gathering Tent, Harbin Courtyard, Food and refreshments available

2pm-3:15pm  **SANCTUARY CITY: Preview of Scenes/ Reading and Conversation with Playwright Martyna Majok**, Gonda Theatre

Martyna Majok, *Pulitzer Prize-winning Playwright, Hodder Fellow, Princeton University*

Maya Roth (Moderator), *Associate Professor of Theater & Performance Studies, Georgetown University*

Performed by Dahlia Azama and Babak Tafti, *NYC-based actors*

3:15pm-3:30pm  **Break**

Tea, coffee, and light refreshments available

3:30pm-5:00pm  **Vaclav Havel's PROTEST in Conversation**, Gonda Theatre

Hon. Madeleine Albright, *Former US Secretary of State, Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy, Georgetown University*

Susan Galbraith, *Artistic Director, Alliance for New Music-Theatre*

Ambassador Martin Palous, *Director of Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, Florida International University*

Ambassador Cynthia Schneider (Moderator), *Co-Director, The Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics*

David Millstone, *Actor, Alliance for New Music-Theatre*

Drew Valins, *Actor, Alliance for New Music-Theatre*

5pm-5:15pm  **Pop-Up Performance: Migration Play**, Gonda Theatre

Written and Performed by Heather Raffo, *Playwright, Actor, Lab Think Tank*

Introduced by Christine Evans, *Playwright, Associate Professor of Theater & Performance Studies, Georgetown University*
5:15pm Dinner/ Evening Reception, Gathering Tent, Harbin Courtyard
   Food/drink available throughout the evening

6:15pm-7:45pm TICKETED FILM SCREENING: MOVING STORIES
   Davis Center 035
   In this moving and inspiring documentary film, six diverse dancers from the
   acclaimed Battery Dance company travel the world, working with young people
   who've experienced war, poverty, sexual violence and severe trauma as refugees.
   The goal: to teach them the tools of choreography so that they can tell their
   stories through dance.

7:45pm-8:30pm Post-screening discussion with Jonathan Hollander, Founder, Artistic Director,
   Battery Dance Company, Davis 035

7:30pm-9pm TICKETED PERFORMANCE
   Renegade Theatre of Nigeria, THE CHIBOK GIRLS: OUR STORY
   Featuring Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka performing excerpts from his epic
   poem “A Humanist Ode for Chibok, Leah”
   Written and Directed by Wole OgunWorld
   US Premiere of Renegade Theatre’s searing work of testimonial theater about the
   abduction of 276 girls from their school in the Nigerian town of Chibok by the Boko
   Haram in 2014, and the enduring reverberations of their story.

9pm-9:30pm Post-show discussion with the artists and Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield,
   Former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, moderated by Ambassador
   Cynthia Schneider

7:45pm-9:15pm TICKETED PERFORMANCE
   $#!THOLE COUNTRY CLAPBACK, Devine Studio Theatre
   Staged Reading
   Written and Performed by Tony Award Nominee Pascale Armand
   Directed by Patrice Johnson
   A rebuttal to Donald Trump’s comment about allowing “people from shithole countries”
   entrance to the United States and a chronicle of the playwright’s family’s journey to
   American citizenship.

9:15pm-9:45pm Post-Show Discussion with Pascale Armand and Patrice Johnson, Davis 035
   Moderated by Nikkole Salter, Actress, Playwright, Educator, and Advocate

10pm-10:50pm TICKETED PERFORMANCE
   I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE, Devine Studio Theatre
An original Lab production written and performed by five Georgetown students and alumni that has been seen around the world, *I Pledge Allegiance* explores the convergence of ‘Americanness’ and immigrant identities of five young adults who grew up in a post-9/11 society. Created through personal interviews, social media testimony, and news headlines, this play interrogates notions of nationalism in the private and public spheres and what it means to be an American in the current political moment.

Written and Performed by:

Velani Dibba, *Director, Columbia University*

Maria Cristina Ibarra, *Performer, Director, Playwright*

Benjamin Lillian, *Performer, Writer*

Aly Panjwani, *Lab Programs Assistant, Performer, Georgetown University*

Devika Ranjan, *Theater Maker, Ethnographer, Educator; Royal Central School of Speech and Drama*

10:50pm-11:15pm  **Post-show discussion** with the artists
What We Are Facing

Friday May 10th

8:45am  Tea, coffee, and light breakfast available, Davis Center lobby

9:15am-10:45am  Workshops

Theatre’s Role in Changing the Criminal Justice System, Davis Center 036

Facilitated by

Kathy Randels, Founding Artistic Director, ArtSpot Productions; Founding Co-Director of The LCIW Drama Club and The Graduates

The Graduates, a performance ensemble of formerly incarcerated women, developed our performance-making techniques to facilitate individual and collective healing for the women at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women through the LCIW Drama Club. In this workshop, we share techniques we are using on the outside to use our personal stories to ignite systemic and societal change in regards to overhauling Louisiana and the U.S.’s current criminal justice system.

Civic Imagination and Approaches to Community-Engaged Performance Work, Davis Center, 035

Facilitated by

Michael Rohd, Lead Artist for Civic Imagination, Center for Performance and Civic Practice

Simón Adinia Hanukai, Co-Artistic Director, Kaimera Productions

Using as inspiration Kaimera’s Living Altar project, which aims to offer a space for reflection, introspection, and collective grief in the face of loss (broadly defined), workshop participants will be guided through a devising process of (based in the work of Sojourn Theatre) creating individual and group multi-disciplinary performances. These may be presented not only in the workshop itself, but also in a pop-up manner throughout The Gathering.

You are invited to bring

- A musical instrument;
- If you work with your hands (collage, sculpture, paint, etc.), bring something to work with;
- An object that brings you joy.

10:45am-11am  Break

Tea, coffee, and refreshments available
11am-12:45pm Dreaming Beyond Conflict: Theatres of Aspiration -- A Suite of Pop-Up Performances, Gonda Theatre

David J. Diamond (Moderator), Artist, Activist, La MaMa Umbria International; Combatants for Peace

11:00-11:20 Pop-Up Performance: Excerpt from Rituals of Signs and Transformations, by Sa’dallah Wannous, Gonda Theatre

Translated and Directed by Robert Myers, Playwright/Professor, American University of Beirut

Performed by Maboud Ebrahimzadeh and Heather Raffo

11:20-11:40 Pop-Up Performance: Excerpt from Oslo – by JT Rogers

Round House Theatre Production

Directed by Ryan Rilette, Artistic Director, Round House Theatre, Maryland

Performed by Maboud Ebrahimzadeh, Juri Henley-Cohn, Ahmad Kamal, and Sasha Olinick,

11:40-12:00 Pop-Up Performance: Excerpts from The Admission and The Scream and the Silence, by Motti Lerner

Performed by Marty Lodge

12:00-12:20 Pop-Up Performance: Excerpt from My Brief Affair With Miri Regev: A Response to Shame– by Ari Roth, Artistic Director, Mosaic Theater Company of DC

Performed by Julie-Ann Elliott

12:20-12:45 Discussion, Moderated by David J. Diamond, Q & A with Actors, Writers and Directors of Above Pop-Ups

12:45pm-2pm Lunch, Gathering Tent, Harbin Courtyard, Food and refreshments available

Throughout Lunch:

European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) Artistic Showcase Participating EUNIC artists:

Anna Dora Dorno (Italy), Director, Performer, Instabili Vaganti, EUNIC Artist Residency

Philipp Ehmann (Austria), Theatre Maker, EUNIC Artist Residency

Alexander Karschnia (Germany), theatre-maker and scientist, performer, author & theoretician, co-founder of andcompany&Co, EUNIC Artist Residency

Natálie Kocábová (Czech Republic), writer, playwright, musician, EUNIC Artist Residency
Ana Margineau (Romania), *Theater, Film and Television Director; co-founder* *PopUP Theatrics, EUNIC Artist Residency*

Mersiha Mesihovic (BiH/Sweden), *Interdisciplinary Artist; Artistic Director of CIRCUITDEBRIS, EUNIC Artist Residency*

Lucia Miranda (Spain), *Director, The Cross Border Project, EUNIC Artist Residency*

**Live Music**, Gathering Tent, Harbin Courtyard

Vladivojna La Chia & 4 Trio, *Celebrated Czech Composer, Singer, Writer, and Producer, performing with her acoustic group & 4Trio,*

**2:15pm-3:45pm**  
**Hungarian Cultural Realities and the Theatre of Opposition**, Gonda Theatre

Martin Boross, *award-winning director/performer; Artistic Director, Stereo Akt*

Máté Gáspár, *Director, University of Theatre and Film Arts of Budapest*

Jonathan Payne, *Playwright*

Katie Pearl, *Director, Playwright, Social Practice Artist; co-Artistic Director PearlDamour*

Howard Shalwitz, *Artistic Director Emeritus, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company*

Daniella Topol, *Artistic Director, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater*

Philip Arnoult (Moderator), *Founder, Director, Center for International Theatre Development*

I. **Hungarian Cultural Realities**

II. **Theatre of Opposition: Martin Boross’s Addressless**

**2:30pm-3:45pm**  
**Workshop Performance Presentation – Apologies to the Bengali Lady, Davis 035**

Written by Anya Banerjee  
Directed by Velani Dibba  
Performed by Anya Banerjee and Clayton McInerney

Step into the mind of a woman writing the history of Shakespearean prostitute-actresses in colonial Bengal. *Apologies* puts one Bengali woman front and center as she fights with the Shakespeare in her head to be seen, heard, known

**3:45pm-4pm**  
**Break**

Tea, coffee, and light refreshments available

**4pm-4:20pm**  
**Pop-Up Performance/ Presentation: Grey Rock, by Amir Nizar Zuabi**
Alexandra Aron, Director, Producer, Remote Theater Project

Amir Nizar Zuabi, playwright of Grey Rock (Video Link)

4:20pm-5pm  Speaking Freely and Being Seen: Prisons, Justice, and Performance, Gonda Theatre

Marc Howard, Professor of Government and Law; Founding Director, Prisons and Justice Initiative, Georgetown University

Student Presentation from Prof. Marc Howard’s “Making an Exoneree” Course

Video Presentation from The Graduates:

Kathy Randels, Founding Artistic Director, ArtSpot Productions, Founding Co-Director of LCIW Drama Club and The Graduates

5-5:20pm  Pop-Up Performance – The Arts in Cambodia, Gonda Theatre

Sophia Skiles, Actor, Teacher, Policymaker

Phounam Pin, Performer, Phare Circus; Young Leader from Battambang Province, Cambodia

Introduced by Members of The Lab’s Course Politics and Performance: Confronting the Past, Shaping the Future

5:15pm-5:20pm  Pop-Up Performance – Excerpt from Four Quartets by T.S. Eliot, Performed by Kathleen Chalfant, Gonda Theatre

5:30pm  Dinner/ Evening Reception, Gathering Tent, Harbin Courtyard

Food/Drink available throughout the evening

6pm-7pm  Workshop Performance – En Garde Arts’ MIX AND MATCH (working title), Davis Center, 035

Written by Leila Buck in collaboration with the actors, and directed by Tamilla Woodard, MIX AND MATCH (Working Title) is an immersive, interactive theatrical event that invites the audience into the journey of two families - one Lebanese and (mostly) Muslim, the other Irish and (mostly) Catholic -- as they prepare to be joined in marriage. As witnesses to the families’ struggles along the way, and guests at the wedding itself, audiences are invited to eat, dance and engage in an intimate, playful and profound exploration of the challenges, questions, surprises and joys of connecting across borders of all kinds.

This workshop presentation will share excerpts from the piece in process, inviting feedback from participants afterwards.

Heather Cohn, Executive Director, En Garde Arts

Anne Hamburger, Artistic Director, En Garde Arts

Leila Buck, Writer, Performer, Facilitator, Educator
Tamilla Woodard, Director, En Garde Arts; Associate Artistic Director, WP Theater; co-founder of PopUP Theatrics

Performed by: Ali Andre Ali, Leila Buck, Caitlin Nasema Cassidy, Rawya Chab, Pete McElligott, Kelley Rae O'Donnell

7pm-7:50pm  TICKETED PERFORMANCE

HOW TO HAVE FUN IN A CIVIL WAR, Devine Studio Theatre

Written and Performed by Ifrah Mansour
Directed by Lindsey Cacich

Minnesota-based Somali playwright and performer Ifrah Mansour revisits her childhood memories during the 1991 Somali civil war to confront violent history with humor, and provide a voice for the global refugee stories of children. How to Have Fun in a Civil War, is a one-act multimedia play, which explores war from an idyllic viewpoint of a seven-year-old Somali refugee girl.

7:55pm-8:25pm  Post-Show Discussion, Devine Studio Theatre

Discussion with Playwright/ Performer Ifrah Mansour, moderated by Rahma Maccarone, Somali Ph.D. Candidate, Georgetown University

7:30pm-9pm  TICKETED PERFORMANCE

AN EVENING WITH AN IMMIGRANT, Gonda Theatre

Written and Performed by Inua Ellams

Born to a Muslim father and a Christian mother in what is now considered by many to be Boko Haram territory, Inua Ellams left Nigeria for England in 1996 aged 12, moved to Ireland for three years, before returning to London and starting work as a writer and graphic designer. Littered with poems, stories and anecdotes, Inua tells his ridiculous, fantastic, poignant immigrant-story of escaping fundamentalist Islam, experiencing prejudice and friendship in Dublin, performing solo at the National Theatre, and drinking wine with the Queen of England, all the while without a country to belong to or place to call home.

9pm-9:30pm  Post-Show Discussion, Gonda Theatre

Discussion with Playwright/ Performer Inua Ellams, moderated by Aminatta Forna, OBE, Director, Lannan Center for Poetics and Social Practice, Georgetown University

9:15pm-10:15pm  TICKETED PERFORMANCE

ORANGES AND STONES, Devine Studio Theatre

Created and Performed by Iman Aoun and Edward Muallem, ASHTAR Theatre, Ramallah, Palestine

Oranges and Stones is performed by two members of Ashtar Theatre, Iman Aoun and Edward Muallem. The two actors create a story without words (though with music and occasional sound), on a minimalist set of stones and oranges. She lives her life peacefully, writing a journal, tending to her garden then one day He
arrives, tired and old, with a suitcase and a rolled-up document, signifying his ownership of her house. What follows is a power struggle which is both childish and terrible—it provokes us to laugh and recoil in equal measure.

10:15pm-10:45pm Post-show Discussion with the Artists, Devine Studio Theatre, Moderated by Jessica Litwak RDT, PhD, Artistic Director, The H.E.A.T. Collective; Founder, Artists Rise Up NY; Core Member, Theatre Without Borders
Saturday May 11th

Where We Are Going

8:45am
Tea, coffee, and light breakfast available, Davis Center lobby

9:15am-10:45 am
Workshops

LIAR, Participatory Theatre with PopUP Theatrics, Davis 035
Facilitated by
Ana Margineau, Theater, Film and Television Director; co-founder PopUP Theatrics, EUNIC Artist Residency
Tamilla Woodard, Director, En Garde Arts; Associate Artistic Director, WP Theater; co-founder of PopUP Theatrics
This workshop will be an audience participation theatre piece structured as a parlour game, with music and prizes. The workshop is meant to be an interrogation of Truth and Lies and of how we build trust and will meld traditional theatrical devices of storytelling with the structure of an anthropological social experiment.

SOUNDTRACKS OF OUR LIVES, Workshop with the Lab Fellows, Devine Studio Theatre
Facilitated by:
Faisal Abu Alhayjaa, Actor, Comedian, Red Noses International
Caitlin Nasema Cassidy, Actor, Theater Maker; co-Artistic Director, LubDub Theater Company
Velani Dibba, Director, Columbia University
Devika Ranjan, Theater Maker, Ethnographer, Educator; Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
Manuel Viveros, Actor, Director; University of Louisville
Join five of the Lab Fellows, a diverse group of pathbreaking artists from all over the world, for this participatory workshop that offers windows into their work as a cohort and experiential glimpses into their varied approaches.

THE H.E.A.T. COLLECTIVE WORKSHOP, Davis 036
Facilitated by:
Jessica Litwak RDT, PhD, Artistic Director, The H.E.A.T. Collective; Founder, Artists Rise Up NY; Core Member, Theatre Without Borders
H.E.A.T. is an acronym for Healing, Education, Activism and Theatre. Using the four disciplines of the H.E.A.T. Collective Litwak merges aspects of drama therapy, transformative justice and theatre. A balance between active creative work and vibrant discussion, the workshop moves between theory and practice. Participants work with a mix of conflict transformation techniques, voice work (the Litwak Voice Progression) composition, Playback, Psychodrama, Sociometry, and Theatre Of The Oppressed based techniques. From these varied tools, participants develop project ideas that focus on courageous generosity: creating useful, and provocative art that serves.

11am-12:45pm Coffee, tea, refreshments, bagels, and box lunches available, Davis Center lobby

11am-12pm **Civic Practice: When Artists Deploy Their Assets Outside Arts Sectors**, Gonda Theatre

Jasmin Cardenas, *Arts Activist, Deviser, Storyteller, Facilitator, Actor, Chicago Workers Collaborative*

Mark Valdez, Mark Valdez, *Artist, Organizer*

Michael Rohd (Moderator), *Lead Artist for Civic Imagination, Center for Performance and Civic Practice*

11am-12pm **Migration and Global Performance**, Devine Studio Theater

Taiwo Afolabi, *Director, Theatre Emissary International; Theatre Practitioner/Educator; University of Victoria; Co-President, Network of Emerging Arts Professionals of the ITI.*

Hector Flores Komatsu, *Director, Makuyeika Colectivo Teatral*

Devika Ranjan, *Theater Maker, Ethnographer, Educator; Royal Central School of Speech and Drama*

Timothy Raphael (moderator), *Director, The Center for Migration and the Global City Rutgers University-Newark; Co-Founder and Director, Newest Americans*

12pm-12:15pm **Pop-Up Performance – Temples of Lung and Air**, Gonda Theatre

Written and Performed by Kane Smego, *Writer, Performer, Next Level*

Introduced by: Joseph Megel, *Director New Works, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

12:15pm-12:45pm Break

Lunch and Refreshments available
12:45pm-2pm  TICKETED PERFORMANCE

A PLAY FOR THE LIVING IN A TIME OF EXTINCTION, Gonda Theatre

By Miranda Rose Hall
Commissioned and Developed by LubDub Theatre Company
Dramaturgy by Robert Duffley
Performed by Shannon Dorsey

What has happened to the little brown bats? To the spotted tree frog? What will happen to Homo sapiens? A Play for the Living in a Time of Extinction is an evening of interactive, interspecies storytelling. This new work-in-progress asks—through story, song, and movement—how to be a human in an era of man-made extinction. This project is being developed by LubDub Theatre Company through an ongoing two-year residency with the Orchard Project’s NYC Greenhouse.

1pm-1:50pm  TICKETED PERFORMANCE

HOW TO HAVE FUN IN A CIVIL WAR, Devine Studio Theatre

Written and Performed by Ifrah Mansour
Directed by Lindsey Cacich

Minnesota-based Somali playwright and performer Ifrah Mansour revisits her childhood memories during the 1991 Somali civil war to confront violent history with humor, and provide a voice for the global refugee stories of children. How to Have Fun in a Civil War, is a one-act multimedia play, which explores war from an idyllic viewpoint of a seven-year-old Somali refugee girl.

1:55pm-2:20pm  Pop-Up Performance – Imagination Stage’s Óyeme, the Beautiful, Devine Studio Theatre

Written by Miriam Gonzales
Directed by Elena Velasco
Performed by Jordanna Hernandez, Cristian Camilo Linares, and Catherine Nunez

Óyeme, the Beautiful is performed by professional actors and inspired by the stories of students who Imagination Stage worked with beginning in the fall of 2014. For more than a year, a cohort of student refugees fleeing violence from Central America living in the Greater Washington, DC area were convened by Imagination Stage to share their stories to facilitate emotional recovery and aid in the assimilation process.

Laura and Valentina are teenagers just trying to make it through another day in middle school. However, unlike many of their peers, they are refugees from Central America who have fled brutal violence in their home countries to find shelter and pursue their dreams in the United States. Óyeme, the Beautiful brings to light the undaunted courage and beautiful spirit that fuels these young people, and teaches us the power of friendship, family, and hope.
**2:20pm-2:45pm**  
**Post-Performance Discussion** with the Artists – *How to Have Fun in a Civil War, and Oyeme, the Beautiful*, Devine Studio Theatre

**2pm-2:45pm**  
**Grief, Hope, and Climate Performance**, Gonda Theatre

Caitlin Nasema Cassidy, *Actor, Theater Maker, Lab Fellows Program; LubDub Theater Company*

Annalisa Dias, *Theater Maker, Community Organizer, Groundwater Arts*

Robert Duffley, *Dramaturg, LubDub Theater Company; Editor & Asst. Dramaturg, A.R.T.*

Jessica Grindstaff, *artist, director, set designer; Artistic Director, Phantom Limb Company*

Miranda Rose Hall, *Playwright, LubDub Theater Company*

Roberta Levitow (moderator), Senior Program Associate Sundance Institute Theatre Program; Co-Founder and Director, Theatre Without Borders

**2:45pm-3pm**  
**Break**

Tea, Coffee, and Refreshments Available

**3pm-3:45pm**  
**Toward the Future Roundtable Part 1 – Theater and Resilience**, Gonda Theatre

Khaled Abol Naga, *Film, Television, and Stage Actor, Producer, and Director*

Iman Aoun, Iman Aoun, *Director, Actor, ASHTAR Theater*

Sopheap Soung, *Playwright, Theater-maker and Educator*

Joanna Sherman, *Artistic Director, Bond Street Theater*

Reem Al Sayyah (video link), *Performer, Deviser, Educator, Project Leader, Lab Fellows Program*

James Thompson (Moderator), *Professor, Practitioner, Writer, University of Manchester*

**3:45pm-4pm**  
**Pop-Up Presentation – Clowning and Comedy**

Faisal Abu Alhayjaa, *Actor, Comedian, Lab Fellows Program*

**4pm-4:30pm**  
**Toward the Future Roundtable Part 2 - Laughter and Survival**, Gonda Theatre

Shahid Nadeem, *Journalist, Playwright, Screenwriter, Director, Human Rights Activist; Founding Director, Ajoka Theatre, Lahore, Pakistan*

Faisal Abu Alhayjaa, *Actor, Comedian, Lab Fellows Program*
Nikahang Kowsar, Board Member, Cartoonists Rights Network

Cynthia Schneider (Moderator), Co-Director, The Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics

4:30pm-4:45pm  Break

4:45pm-5:15pm  Radical Listening and Performance as Call and Response: Performing One Another, Gonda Theatre

Pop-Up Performance: Excerpt from In Your Shoes, an original collaborative dialogue-based performance project co-created by students from Georgetown University and Patrick Henry College

Directed by Derek Goldman, Co-Director, The Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics

Performed by:

Kate Oelkers, Student, Georgetown University

Hope Sluka, Student, Patrick Henry College

5:15pm-5:30pm  Closing Thoughts/Where We Go from Here, ALL, Gonda Theatre

5:30pm-6pm  Closing Ritual – All

Emily Johnson, Artistic Director, Emily Johnson/Catalyst

Kelsey Lawson, Director, Native American Student Council

Ali Mahdi Nouri, UNESCO Ambassador & Secretary General ITI, International Theater Institute & Albuggaa Theatre Company

Jason Tamiru, Producer, Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne, Australia

5:55pm  Closing Performance: Four Quartets, by TS Eliot (Part 2), Performed by Kathleen Chalfant, Gonda Theatre

6pm  End of Gathering and Farewells
Map of the Davis Performing Arts Center
Contact Information

In Case of Emergency

Georgetown University Police Department:    +1 (202) 687-4343
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The Gathering Team/Lab Staff

Michael Donnay (CrossCurrents / The Gathering Technical Director and Production Manager): michaeljdonnay@gmail.com
Derek Goldman (Lab Co-Director): dag45@georgetown.edu
Lily Hughes (The Gathering Associate Producer): lily@crosscurrentsfestival.org
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Teddy Rodger (Lab Programs Manager/ CrossCurrents Producer): teddy.rodger@georgetown.edu
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**Faisal Abu Alhayjaa, Lab Fellow; Actor, Palestine**
Faisal Abu Alhayjaa is an actor, from Jenin Refugee Camp, Palestine. Trained at the Freedom Theatre Acting School, Faisal was the leading artist for the “Freedom Bus,” an interactive theatre and cultural project to bear witness, raise awareness, and build alliances throughout occupied Palestine and beyond. Faisal graduated from Red Noses International’s School of Humor (Austria) performs as a clown doctor in hospitals across the West Bank and in refugee camps across Europe. In April 2019, Faisal was selected by the Sundance Institute -in-residence to develop his project London. Jenin. Faisal is a Lab Fellow.

**Alicia B. Adams, Lab Think Tank;** Alicia B. Adams is the Vice President of International Programming and Dance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She joined the Kennedy Center in 1992. She curated the Center’s major international festivals: IRELAND 100: Celebrating a Century of Irish Arts and Culture (2016), IBERIAN SUITE: global arts remix (2015), Nordic Cool 2013, maximumINDIA (2011), ARABESQUE: Arts of the Arab World (2009), JAPAN! culture + hyperculture (2008) and the Festival of China (2005), among others.

**Taiwo O. Afolabi, Artist Director/Researcher, Theatre Emissary International/University of Victoria**
Taiwo Afolabi is a theatre practitioner, educator and researcher who has undertaken numerous projects in over fifteen countries across four continents. He is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Theatre, University of Victoria, a Queen Elizabeth Scholar, and a Research Associate at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Taiwo’s arts project broadly focuses on forced migration, displacement, and the ethics of community-based research among vulnerable such as refugees and internally displaced persons for citizen participation. He founded Theatre Emissary International and co-coordinates the Network of Emerging Arts Professionals of the International Theatre Institute/UNESCO.

**The Hon. Madeleine K. Albright, Former US Secretary of State, Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy, Georgetown University**

**Ali Andre Ali, NYC-based performer, En Garde Arts**

**Honey Al Sayed, Lab Campus Cohort; CEO, MAP (Media and Arts for Peace)**
Honey founded MAP – Media and Arts for Peace – a company that gets to the heart of conflict. Honey shares this experience with the next generation through a course at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, as well as through an online course she developed for the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the U.S. Institute of Peace.

**Reem Al Sayyah, Lab Fellow (joining via Videolink); Performer, Deviser, Educator and Project Leader, London, UK**
Born in Damascus, Syria as the third of eight children, Reem studied networking engineering at the University, and in 2012, with only three exams left until graduation, Reem was forced to flee Damascus and was unable to complete her degree. The War in Syria forced Reem and her family to cross the border into Jordan and to take on a new name: “refugee”. Her first experience in theater was when she participated the workshop and performance of Syria: The Trojan Women. The cast has performed the play in Switzerland and the UK (under its new name The Queens of Syria) in a critically celebrated tour that included stops at the Young Vic and Edinburgh, and she has had the opportunity to share how the war impacted her life with thousands of audience members.

**Emanuele Amendola, EUNIC residency host, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Italy, Italy**
Deborah Amos, *Ferris Professor of Journalism in Residence, Princeton University*
Deborah reports on migration for National Public Radio and teaches migration reporting at Princeton University.

Iman Aoun, *Director/Actor, Ashtar Theatre, Palestine; performing Oranges and Stones*
Co-founder of ASHTAR Theatre in 1991 and its Artistic Director; award winning actress, acted and directed many plays. Received various notifications for her work from different countries; written and published articles on Palestinian Theatre and participated in writing two books on theatre training; panelist in various International Conferences and World Summits. An international theatre trainer specialized in "Theatre of the Oppressed". Initiator of the Euro-Palestinian project “100 Artists for Palestine” in 2003, “The Gaza Monologues” and “The Syrian Monologues”. Coordinator of “One Billion Rising” in Palestine 2014 – 2016, a campaign to stop violence against women.

Pascale Armand, *Writer/Actor; performing $#!thole Country Clapback, 2016 Tony Award Nominee for Best Performance by An Actress for a Featured Role in a Play, Eclipsed, by Danai Gurira. Finally got something to say as a playwright!*

Philip Arnoult, *Founder and Director, Center for International Theatre Development*
Philip first landed in Eastern Europe in 1975 and has never looked back. Major initiatives in Russia (and the former Soviet Union), Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia, as well as decade-long projects the Netherlands (US/NL Touring & Exchange Project), and in East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, & Uganda). He is the founder of the Baltimore Theatre Project (est. 1971) and served as its director through 1991. He is the founder and director of the Center for International Theatre Development (est. 1991). His is one of 12 living World Theatre Ambassadors of ITI/UNESCO, was awarded the Polish Order of Merit for Culture in 2017, and was the 2014 Witkiewicz Laureate.

Alexandra Aron, *Director/Producer, Remote Theatre Project, Palestine/ USA*
Alexandra Aron (Artistic Producing Director of the Remote Theater Project) is a producer and theater director based in NY. Productions include Grey Rockat LaMaMa Theater, A Night in the Old Marketplace (music by Frank London/book & lyrics by Glen Berger), Salome: Woman of Valor (by Adeena Karasick/Frank London), and It Can Happen Here by Judith Sloan. Alex produced concerts and recordings around the world as Managing Director of Soundbrush Records, and a short film starring Lois Smith. Formerly a Fulbright Scholar in Argentina, Alex currently teaches drama at Avenues: The World School and is a graduate of Wesleyan University.

Bobby Asher, *Director of Programming, The Clarice Smith Center at University of Maryland*
Bobby is the Director of Programming of the Artist Partner Programs at The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland, where he collaborates with an extraordinary group of colleagues and partners to build the future of the arts through educating and presenting the next generation of artists and creative innovators. Bobby was a member of the Association of Performing Arts Presenter’s 2012 Leadership Development Institute cohort, a member of the 2016 EMCArts Arts Leaders as Cultural Innovators cohort, and has served on numerous grant panels and committees. Along with his wife Hannah and ultra-hyper terrier Daisy, Bobby is a proud resident of Prince George’s County and the City of College Park.

Dahlia Azama, *NYC-based performer, Sanctuary City*
Victoria Murray Baatin, Associate Artistic Director, Mosaic Theater Company of DC
Victoria is the Associate Artistic Director at Mosaic Theater Company of DC. She has also had the privilege of serving the Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network — a partnership of the NEA, DoD and VA. Victoria served at the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities in the capacities of Interim Deputy Director and Legislative and Community Affairs Director where she worked to develop and articulate the Commission’s policy agenda and priorities. Victoria worked with Americans for the Arts Action Fund spearheading the ArtsVote2012 campaign — ensuring that the arts impact federal elections with a presence at both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions.

Adam Bacigalupo, Lighting Designer, CrossCurrents Festival
Adam Bacigalupo is an alumnus of Georgetown’s TPST program. He is a freelance light designer and technical director around the DC area, with credits including: lighting design for TPST’s Anon(y)mous and Spooky Action’s The Lathe of Heaven (Helen Hayes nominated); electrics and carpentry for the Smithsonian’s Folklife Festival; stage management for Brick Penguin Sketch Comedy; and multi-season technical direction for both Act Two at Levine and Georgetown’s nomadic theatre. He is very excited to be working on back on campus.

Marjorie Mandelstam Balzer, Professor, Georgetown University
Marjorie Mandelstam Balzer is Research Professor in the School of Foreign Service and co-convener of the Indigenous Studies working group (https://indigeneity.georgetown.edu). A Faculty Fellow in the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, she has been at Georgetown since 1987 in the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies (CERES) and the Anthropology Department. Editor of the journal Anthropology and Archeology of Eurasia and author of several books on Russia, Central Asia and the Circumpolar North, she regularly sends herself to Siberia.

Harley Balzer, Professor Emeritus, Georgetown University
Harley Balzer retired in July 2016 after 33 years in the Department of Government and School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He was Founding Director of the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies. Prior to coming to Georgetown, he taught at Grinnell College and Boston University, and held post-doctoral fellowships at Harvard’s Russian Research Center and the MIT Program in Science, Technology and Society. In 1982-83 he was a Congressional Fellow in the office of Congressman Lee Hamilton. In the early 1990s he was Executive Director of George Soros’ International Science Foundation and continues to work with programs to assist Russian Education.

Anya Banerjee, Actor/Writer, MFA Acting Student, Columbia University; Playwright, Performer, Apologies to the Bengali Lady
Anya Banerjee is a New Zealand-American actress and writer of Bengali Indian descent. After receiving her Masters in English literature from the University of Auckland in 2016, she is now in her second year of the Acting MFA at Columbia University. Anya is passionate about stories with a postcolonial feminist bent and bringing people together by electrifying the spaces between.

Daniel Banks, Director, DNAWORKS
Daniel Banks is the co-director of DNAWORKS, an arts and service organization dedicated to using the arts as a catalyst for dialogue and healing, engaging topics of representation, identity, and heritage. He is founder and director of the Hip Hop Theatre Initiative, promoting youth self-expression and leadership. Directing credits include: National Theatre of Uganda; Belarussian National Drama Theatre; Market Theatre, South Africa; Playhouse Square, Cleveland; and the NYC and DC Hip Hop Theatre Festivals. He has worked as a dance dramaturg with such choreographers as Camille Brown and Rulan Tangen. He has served on the faculties of Tisch School of the Arts, NYU; M.A. in Applied Theatre, CUNY; and as Chair of Performing Arts, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM.

Roger Bensky, Director/Dramaturg/Actor, Georgetown University Department of French, USA/ France

Michael Benz, award-winning stage, film and TV actor, USA/ UK
Michael is an actor, originally from London, living and working in New York City, and an alum of Georgetown University.
Zdenek Beranek, DCM, Embassy of the Czech Republic

Zdenek Beranek has been a member of Czech diplomatic service since 2007. He currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Czech Embassy in Washington. His prior experience included Deputy Chief of Mission in Jordan, Desk officer for the Middle East Peace Process and Head of EU and NATO division at the Foreign Affairs Department of the Office of the President. Before entering the diplomatic service, Zdenek Beranek studied history of the Middle East and North Africa and wrote several publications on the Middle Eastern contemporary political history.

Thijs Beuming, Theatre Enthusiast

Natka Bianchini, Director/Professor, Loyola University Maryland

Natka Bianchini is an artist, scholar, and educator based in Baltimore, MD. She is an associate professor of theatre at Loyola University Maryland, the author of Samuel Beckett’s Theatre in America, published in 2015 by Palgrave MacMillan, and an artistic associate with Iron Crow Theatre in Baltimore.

Kevin Bitterman, Director of Institutional Advancement and Partnerships, Theatre Communications Group; Global Theatre Initiative (TCG/ The Lab)

Martin Boross, award-winning director/performer; Artistic Director, Stereo Akt, Hungary

Dorian Branea, director, Romanian Cultural Institute, USA/ Romania

Junious Brickhouse, internationally acclaimed dancer, choreographer, community leader, and cultural preservationist; Founder/ Executive Director, Urban Artistry Inc.

Daniel Brumberg, Lab Campus Cohort; Director of Democracy and Governance Studies at Georgetown University, a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED), and a faculty member for the St. Martin-Georgetown University Program in Buenos Aires. He previously served as a Special Adviser at the United States Institute of Peace, a Visiting Professor at Emory University and at Sciences Po in Paris, a Visiting Fellow in the Jimmy Carter Center, and a Lecturer at the University of Chicago. Brumberg has published articles on political, social and economic change in the Middle East and wider Muslim World.

Leila Buck, Writer, Performer, Facilitator, Educator; playwright En Garde Arts’ Mix and Match

Leila Buck is a Lebanese American writer, actor, facilitator, and educator. She has performed and developed her work at the Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, Brooklyn Museum, Cleveland Public Theatre, Mosaic Theatre at Arena Stage, California Shakespeare Theater, and the Wilma Theater (Barrymore Award). A State Dept. Speaker Specialist and Cultural Envoy, she has lived, performed, and taught theatrical tools for literacy, conflict resolution, and intercultural communication to U.N. delegates, aid workers, youth, educators, and business leaders throughout the U.S., Europe, China, Australia, and 11 Arab countries. Inaugural Emerging Writers Group - Public Theater. Adjunct professor - NYU. www.leilabuck.com

Nefertiti Burton, Play Maker, Howard University, Washington DC

Nefertiti Burton, Professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts at Howard University has lectured, performed, and directed in regional theatre, off-Broadway and in Brazil, Australia, China, Senegal, and South Africa. Her creative and scholarly work explores spiritual traditions in West Africa and the African Diaspora. She holds an MFA in Directing from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and a Research Certificate from MIT’s Community Fellows Program. Her honors include: a Distinguished Director’s Award from KCACTF, the Exemplary Multicultural Teaching Award from the University of Louisville; AFTRA’s American Scene Award; an Audelco award; and a Fulbright Fellowship.
Leelee is an actor, screenwriter, and producer who enjoys the extremely demanding process of getting the job done. She has received training in London and Lagos with a recognition award from the prestigious Royal Arts Academy in Lagos, Nigeria. She is fluent in English, the local Nigerian Hausa and the even more local Nigerian dialect: Kagoma and is now learning Spanish. She loves animals and enjoys travelling.

Raymond O. Caldwell, Producing Artistic Director, Theater Alliance, Washington DC
Raymond O. Caldwell has served as Producing Artistic Director of Theater Alliance in Washington DC since January 2019. Prior to that he served as Associate Artistic Director at Theater Alliance. Raymond additionally develops applied theatre curriculum for BroadFutures, a non-profit that advances the inherent potential of young adults with learning disabilities through workforce training. He was Resident Director and a Professor in Theater Arts at Howard University from 2013 – 2019. He holds an MFA in acting with a focus in community outreach and developing new work from The Ohio State University and a BFA in acting from the University of Florida.

Jasmin Cardenas, Arts Activist, Deviser, Storyteller, Facilitator, Actor, Chicago Workers Collaborative
Jasmin Cardenas is a storyteller, arts activist, actress and bridge builder. Winner of The Center for Performance and Civic Practice 2018 Catalyst Initiative grant to support her work with Chicago Workers Collaborative in Chicago. Using an interactive form of theater for discussion & solution finding called Theater of the Oppressed, Jasmin is working with factory temp workers to fight wage theft, exploitation, sexual harassment and fight for workplace justice. Her workshops are fun, physical and honest. Born & raised in Chicago to Colombian parents Jasmin is bilingual and she loves children, the power of stories, and being a SAG-AFTRA Actress.

Gus Casely-Hayford, OBE, British curator, cultural historian and broadcaster with Ghanaian roots; Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington DC
Augustus (Gus) Casely-Hayford is the director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African Art, the nation’s premiere museum devoted to the arts of Africa. Casely-Hayford joined the museum in February 2018 and brings with him a wealth of experience writing, lecturing and broadcasting on Africa’s arts and cultures. Casely-Hayford is a fellow of the Cultural Institute at King’s College London, a trustee of the National Trust (the U.K.’s largest heritage organization), a member of the Blue Plaque Group and a Clore Fellow. Born in London, Casely-Hayford was educated at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London, where he received his doctorate in African history and was later awarded an honorary fellowship. He delivered a centenary lecture on Ghana for the school and he remains a SOAS research associate and a member of its Centre of African Studies Council.

Caitlin Cassidy, Lab Fellow; actor-theatermaker; co-Artistic Director, LubDub Physical Theatre Co., New York
Caitlin is a theatremaker based in NYC. She is a Fellow with The Lab and Co-Artistic Director of LubDub Theatre Company. She co-directs Youmene Festival - Tangier, Northwestern University - Qatar’s Creative Media Festival, and Emerging Histories Youth Storytelling Project in Saudi Arabia. Caitlin received a 2018 Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Actress for her performance in Paradise (Central Square Theatre). Other acting credits include NY Times Critic’s Pick Pay No Attention to the Girl (Target Margin) and Middle East MixFest (Atlantic Theater). This year, Caitlin is developing work at The Orchard Project, Page 73, Target Margin, Noor Theatre, NYTW, Spoleto International Theatre Festival and more. CaitlinNasemaCassidy.com

Rawya Chab, NYC-based performer, En Garde Arts

Kathleen Chalfant, Tony Award Nominated and Obie Award-winning stage, film and television actress, USA
Emma Clark, Performance Maker, UK/USA
Emma Clark is a performance maker creating original, interdisciplinary work at the intersection of the personal and the political across the UK, US, and beyond. She is one half of the duo emma + pj, an associate artist at the Portsmouth Guildhall, and lead artist of the Yardlings: Bigger program for young people at The Yard Theatre in London. Projects in development include GOLD MOUNTAIN, on the CA Gold Rush and mixed Chinese heritage, being developed with Black Gold Arts and Contact MCR, and ATLANTIC, on transatlantic relations and human connection across distance. She is currently co-devising THE ACCIDENT DID NOT TAKE PLACE with YESYESNONO for Edinburgh Fringe 2019.

Heather Cohn, Executive Director, En Garde Arts, USA
Heather Cohn is a producer, director, fundraiser, ensemble artist and activist. She serves as the Executive Director of En Garde Arts in New York City and is also a co-founder of Flux Theatre Ensemble. As a Board Member of the League of Professional Theatre Women (LPTW), she serves as co-chair on the Task Force for trans inclusion. Heather was the Director of Development for Epic Theatre Ensemble for 4.5 years and prior to that worked with New York Theatre Workshop, The Pearl Theatre Company, and Theatre Communications Group (TCG). She’s an alum of the Producers’ LAB with WP Theatre and is a graduate of Vassar College, where she majored in Latin American Studies and spent time living in Cuba and Chile.

Anthony Cook, Professor, Georgetown Law
Law Professor, Social Justice Activist, and Community Development Specialist, born in Magnolia, Mississippi and Professor of Law at Georgetown Law Center. Community Development work in D.C. integrates art and place making into asset based community development strategies, particularly as a way of stimulating civic engagement. Interested in national politics and social inequality and stratification, constitutional theory, particularly how social movements have shaped law and policy.

Elisabeth Lewis Corley, Actor/Writer/Producer; StreetSigns Center for Literature and Performance, North Carolina

Ernesto Coro, Administrator, SPAIN arts & culture
SPAIN arts & culture aims to promote Spanish culture in the U.S. through fruitful cultural exchanges among institutions and artists, fostering positive bilateral relations between our two countries. Among its objectives, the program enhances shared knowledge on the cultural and creative industries and facilitates professional opportunities for artists, drawing on our common Hispanic heritage.

Andrew Davis, Dean, McGovern College of the Arts, University of Houston, USA

Matthew Davis, Writer and Director, Alan Cheuse International Writers Center, George Mason University, Virginia, USA
Matthew Davis is the founding director of The Alan Cheuse International Writers Center at George Mason University. He has been an Eric and Wendy Schmidt Fellow at New America, a Gallagher Fellow at the Black Mountain Institute at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and a Fulbright fellow to Syria and Jordan. He holds an MFA in nonfiction writing from the University of Iowa, an MA in international relations from The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and is the author of When Things Get Dark: A Mongolian Winters Tale.
Michael Donnay, Technical Director/ Production Manager, CrossCurrents, The Lab, Washington DC
Michael Donnay is a production and stage manager specializing in new work. Recent stage management credits include The Thin Place and Do You Feel Angry? at the Humana Festival of New American Plays; Twist Your Dickens with The Second City and The Kennedy Center; Our Class at Georgetown University; Astronaut Battery with Tacky Pioneer; and Medusa with 27 Degrees. He has also worked with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Notre Dame Shakespeare, the National Theatre Institute, and Trinity College, Dublin. He is a graduate of Georgetown University, where he studied history, and an alumnus of the Professional Training Company at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

Velani Dibba, Lab Fellow; Columbia University MFA Directing Student; Co-Creator and Performer The Lab’s I Pledge Allegiance; Director, Apologies to the Bengali Lady
Velani Dibba is a theater artist currently in her second year at Columbia University's Theatre Directing MFA program. She is an inaugural Fellow at the Laboratory for Global Performance & Politics in Washington, DC and a former Global Cultural Fellow at the University of Edinburgh's Institute for International Cultural Relations. Upcoming works this summer include Patience at the Corkscrew Festival in NYC, Apologies to the Bengali Lady at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, and assistant directing Anne Bogart’s Falling & Loving with SITI Company.

Anna Dora Dorno, Lab EUNIC Residency Artist; Director, Performer, Instabili Vaganti, Italy
Director, actress, and theatre pedagogue. She was born in Taranto in 1976 and graduated from DAMS in Bologna. In 2004, she started Instabili Vaganti, an artistic duo of which she is director and performer. Her shows have been hosted by major festivals and received several awards. As a pedagogue, she has taught at the most important theatre academies and faculties in the world including the National School of Drama in India, the Shanghai Theatre Academy in China and the Grotowski Institute in Poland.

Shannon Dorsey, Performer, LubDub Productions
(Woolly Company member) Woolly productions include BLKS, Familiar (2018 Helen Hayes Nom. for Outstanding Production), Kiss and An Octoroon (2017 Helen Hayes Nom. for Outstanding Supporting Actress). Off-Broadway include The Great MacDaddy (Negro Ensemble Company), The Power of the Trinity (NYC SummerStage) and The Man Who Ate Michael Rockefeller (West End Theatre). DC and Regional credits include A Christmas Carol (Ford’s Theatre), All the Way (Arena Stage), Two Trains Running, Safe House and Trip to Bountiful (Cincinnati Playhouse), Two Trains Running (Round House Theatre). Skeleton Crew (Studio Theatre, 2018 Helen Hayes Nom. Outstanding Ensemble); In the Red and Brown Water and Marcus, or the Secret of Sweet (Studio Theatre); Synetic Theatre’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Kennedy Center, Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble); Stick Fly (Everyman Theatre); and A Raisin in the Sun (Perseverance Theatre). Shannon holds a dual B.A. from Temple University in Theater and African American Studies. Instagram: @cooldiscoshann
Lindsey Doyle, Co-Founder, MAP
Lindsey Doyle is the Co-Founder of MAP — a creative consulting and talent agency representing top professionals from conflict zones and diaspora communities. Previously, Lindsey worked at the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations developing strategies for violence prevention. Lindsey also brings two decades of experience in performing arts as a dancer. She served as a Princeton in Latin America Fellow in Central America and a Rotary Peace Fellow in Sweden and South Africa. She holds an MS in Peace and Conflict Research from Uppsala University and a BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

Gillian Drake, Theatre Director, Spooky Action Theater; Washington DC, Life-long theater maker, dramaturg, director, producer.

Robert Duffley, Editor and Assistant Dramaturg, American Repertory Theater; Dramaturg, LubDub Theatre, USA
Robert Duffley is Editor and Assistant Dramaturg at the American Repertory Theater and Resident Dramaturg with LubDub Theatre Co. Writing includes pieces for Contemporary Theatre Review (Routledge), Breaking Character, The A.R.T. Guide, The Theatre Times, Six By Eight Press, and DC Theatre Scene. As a dramaturg, Robert has developed work with A.R.T., Organic Theatre, Boston Theater Marathon, LubDub Theatre Co, Boston Circus Guild, and the Moscow Art Theater. He is Dramaturgy Advisor at Emerson College’s Department of Performing Arts and a current resident at the Orchard Project’s NYC Greenhouse.

Rebecca Dzida, Community Engagement Coordinator, Playwright; Olney Theatre Center
Rebecca Dzida is the Community Engagement Coordinator for Olney Theatre Center, as well as the Touring Coordinator for National Players. She has worked in a variety of fields, most notably as a high school special education teacher in Memphis, TN and the Program Coordinator for DC Reads. She’s also worked in the Connectivity Department of Woolly Mammoth Theatre in Washington, DC, and the Education Department of Everyman Theatre in Baltimore. Rebecca is a native of southern California, where she graduated with a B.A. in English from Loyola Marymount University. She also holds a M.F.A. in Playwriting from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

Maboud Ebrahimzadeh, Performer, Writer, Filmmaker; currently appearing in Round House Theatre’s Oslo; Washington DC

Philipp Ehmann, Lab EUNIC Residency Artist; Transdisciplinary Multimedia Artist, Theatre Maker, Vienna, Austria

Inua Ellams, Born in Nigeria in 1984, Inua Ellams is an internationally touring poet, playwright, performer, graphic artist & designer. He is an ambassador for the Ministry of Stories and has published four books of poetry: ‘Candy Coated Unicorns and Converse All Stars’, ‘Thirteen Fairy Negro Tales’ 'The Wire-Headed Heathen' and 'Afterhours'. His first play ‘The 14th Tale’ was awarded a Fringe First at the Edinburgh International Theatre Festival and his fourth ‘Barber Shop Chronicles’ sold out its run at England’s National Theatre. He is currently touring ‘An Evening With An Immigrant’ and working on ‘The Half God of Rainfall’ – a new play in verse. In graphic art & design, online and in print, he tries to mix the old with the new, juxtaposing texture and pigment with flat shades of colour and vector images. He lives and works from London, where he founded the Midnight Run, a nocturnal urban excursion. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Julie-Ann Elliott, DC-based performer, “My Affair with Miri Regev”
**Rajae El Mouhandiz**, Artist, Artistic Director, Curator; Kahina Productions, Luxor Theater; Morocco/ The Netherlands
Rajae has released several Maghreb pop/soul/jazz albums, a short docu-film; HOPE! & produced Hijabi Monologues NL. In 2017 Performing Arts Fund NL awarded her a grant resulting in a solo titled Home, Displaced #2 about the space women can/can’t take up. The spin off is a 700m2 contemporary art/fashion exhibition at Stedelijk Museum Schiedam about the Modest Fashion phenomena & the power of choice. In the last 10 years in a row she was listed in the arts section of the annual list of the 500 most influential Muslims in the World & is an Ariane de Rothschild Fellow.

**Carry Emerson**, Actor, The Graduates Performance Ensemble, Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women Drama Club, ArtSpot Productions, Louisiana, USA
Carry Emerson is hard working, a teamplayer, decisive, energetic, and a leader.

**Christine Evans**, Lab Campus Cohort, award-winning Australian playwright; Associate Professor, Georgetown University. Her award-winning plays have been produced in Australia, the US and the UK. She has produced plays for the American Repertory Theater, the Garage Theater, Playbox Theatre, Charing Cross Theatre, Perishable Theatre, Darwin Theatre Company, Belvoir St. Theatre, Vitalstatistix, and the Adelaide International Festival of the Arts. Her plays are published by Samuel French, Smith and Kraus, NoPassport Press and in THEATRE FORUM. Honors include a Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship, an Australia Council for the Arts Creative Development Award, an Australian Fulbright Award, an International Collaboration grant from Georgetown, and residency fellowships at multiple artist colonies.

**Karen Farber**, Executive Director, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts, University of Houston, USA

**Michael Feldman**, Cultural Diplomacy Director; Alliance for a New Music Theatre; Washington DC; Michael is Principal at Transitions International and serves as board Director for Cultural Diplomacy at the Alliance for a New Music Theatre (AMT). Co-Facilitator of the Theater and Policy Salon (TPS), Michael curated policy discussions at Woolly Mammoth, Ford’s Theatre, NYU Washington, Forum Theatre, and AMT. Michael served as a director at PEPFAR and USTR and as a fellow at the U.S. Senate. As a diplomat, Michael served in the Czech Republic, Italy, and Germany, and Central Africa. He oversaw assistance for the Balkans and developed policy on the G7 and EU.

**Aminatta Forna**, OBE, Author; Director, Lannan Center for Poetics and Social Practice, Georgetown University
Aminatta Forna was born in Scotland, raised in Sierra Leone and Great Britain and spent periods of her childhood in Iran, Thailand and Zambia. She is the award-winning author of the novels Happiness, The Hired Man, The Memory of Love and Ancestor Stones, and a memoir, The Devil that Danced on the Water. Aminatta’s books have been translated into twenty-two languages. Her essays have appeared in Freeman’s, Granta, The Guardian, LitHub, The Nation, The New York Review of Books, The Observer and Vogue. She has written stories for BBC radio and written and presented television documentaries including “The Lost Libraries of Timbuktu” (BBC Television, 2009) and “Girl Rising” (CNN, 2013). Aminatta is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a member of the Folio Academy. She has acted as judge for the Samuel Johnson Prize, the Bailey Prize for Women’s Fiction, the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award, the Caine Prize and the International Man Booker Prize.

**Tracy Cameron Francis**, Director, Producer, Programmer
Tracy Cameron Francis is a first-generation Egyptian-American director who has directed and developed work in New York at Atlantic Theatre Co, NYTW, HERE Arts Center, The Culture Project, NY International Fringe Festival, Queens Theatre, Red Bull Theatre, Manhattan Shakespeare Project, NY Arab Comedy Festival, Center for Performance Research, LaMama Culture Hub, PEN World Voices Festival, and others. Internationally at the Falaki Theatre (Egypt), Umumuntu Festival (Rwanda) and LaMama Umbria (Italy) and regionally with Portland Center Stage, Boom Arts, Teatro Milagro, Corrib Theatre, and Williamstown Theatre Festival. She is a 2017 Theatre Communications Group Rising Leader of Color fellow, a core member of Theatre Without Borders, a member of the Lincoln Center Director’s Lab and an associate member of SDC.
Sarah Frankland, *Head of Arts, British Council*

**Jamie Gahlon, Director and Co-Founder, HowlRound Theatre Commons**

Jamie Gahlon (she/her/hers) is the Director and a co-founder of HowlRound Theatre Commons. Prior to this work, Jamie helped launch the American Voices New Play Institute at Arena Stage. Jamie has also worked for New York Stage & Film, and the New Victory Theatre. She is a Think Tank Member for the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics. Jamie holds a B.S. in Culture & Politics from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and will begin graduate study in Performance Curation at the Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance at Wesleyan University this summer.

**Susan Galbraith, Artistic Director, Alliance for New Music-Theatre, Washington DC**

Susan Galbraith is a playwright, poet, librettist, director, and performer. Trained as both an actress and dancer in styles that include both western and far eastern performance, she has directed and also performed in repertory theatre, new plays, and experimental cross-over forms of dance-theatre.

**Máté Gáspár, Director/Teacher, University of Film and Theatre, Budapest, Hungary**

Coming from the independent theatre scene, where Máté used to run Árpád Schilling’s Krétakör company for 12 years, today Máté is equally involved in education and civic life. Teaching art mediation and management at the University of Theatre and Film Arts of Budapest, Máté’s focus is on forming a new generation of socially engaged art practitioners. As the director of a private foundation whose mission is providing Roma people with equal chances, Máté works for a more solidary and inclusive society.

**Duane Gelderloos, Executive Director, Alliance for New Music Theatre, Washington DC**

Develop new works of music-theatre.

**Michele Giacalone, Public Relations Officer, Italian Cultural Institute**

I have been at the Italian Cultural Institute in Washington, DC for over 20 years.

**Vanessa Gilbert, Director/Community Builder, Department of Performing Arts, Georgetown University**

I make spaces for people to enjoy and process being human. I've worked in varied scales, from puppet performances (matchsticks) to multi-day spectacles. Before joining the Georgetown University Theater & Performance Studies Program as Community Engagement Manager, I served as the Executive Artistic Director of Perishable Theatre in Providence RI. With my husband, David Higgins, I remix histories into performances.

**Derek Goldman, co-director, The Lab; Georgetown University;**

Derek is Professor of Theater and Performance Studies and of Global Performance, Culture, and Politics (GU School of Foreign Service), and Georgetown University and co-Founder of the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics. He is an award-winning stage director, playwright, adapter, producer, developer of new work, teacher, and published scholar, whose artistic work has been seen around the country, Off-Broadway and at numerous major regional theaters, as well as internationally. He is Vice-President of the International Theatre Institute, and Founding Director of Unesco’s Global Network of Higher Education in the Performing Arts, and produced and curated the Network’s first global festival at the 2017 ITI World Congress in Segovia, Spain. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), and co-creator of the Global Theatre Initiative, which promotes cross-cultural collaboration and cultivates new strategies to maximize the global theatre field’s opportunities and impact. In 2016 he received the prestigious President’s Award for Distinguished Scholar-Teachers.

**Maria Manuela Goyanes, first-generation Latinx theatre maker; Artistic Director, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington DC**
Jessica Grindstaff, Director, Phantom Limb Company, New York
Theatre director and co-artistic director of Phantom Limb Company. For the past decade, PLC has been creating an environmental trilogy that has taken them to Antarctica, the world’s oldest living tree and Fukushima, Japan. They use puppetry, dance, installation and video to tell stories about our changing relationship to nature and the environment.

Annabel Guevara, Executive Assistant, Board Liaison, Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Annabel joined TCG in 2014, and was previously part of the Conference Team that produced the National Conference in Cleveland in 2015. Annabel supports TCG’s Executive Office in many capacities as well as the TCG Board of Directors. She also serves on TCG’s internal Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup which she co-chaired in early 2016. Annabel is a theatre maker as well, most recently as part of Stella Adler Outreach Program, an arts re-entry program with national acclaim that utilizes theatre as a tool for social justice.

Indira Gumarová, Producer, Czech Republic

Miranda Rose Hall, Playwright, LubDub Physical Theatre Co., New York
Miranda Rose Hall is a playwright from Baltimore, MD. Her plays include Plot Points in Our Sexual Development (LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater) and The Hour of Great Mercy (Diversionary Theater). She is currently under commission from LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater, Yale Repertory Theater, and Trinity Repertory Company. She has developed her work with Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, The Playwright’s Realm, EnGarde Arts, Provictown Theater, and the Orchard Project. She is Resident Playwright of LubDub Theatre. BA: Georgetown University, MFA: Yale School of Drama.

Anne Hamburger, Artistic Director, En Garde Arts, New York
Anne Hamburger (Artistic Director) founded En Garde Arts in 1985. She is widely credited with pioneering the development of site-specific theatre in New York. For 13 years she used the streets and historic landmarks as her stage giving a major platform to such visionary artists as Mac Wellman, Anne Bogart, Tina Landau, Chuck Mee and Reza Abdoh. In 2000 Anne was recruited to Disney to serve as an Executive Vice President of Creative Entertainment where she lead the creative development and production of all the major stage shows, parades and daytime and nighttime spectacles for the parks worldwide bringing nationally renown theatre artists to the parks for the first time in their history. She returned to New York to re-launch En Garde Arts in 2014 to develop multidisciplinary theatre that has social change at its core. Since her return, En Garde Arts has created multimedia, documentary theatre productions that have premiered in New York and toured the country.

Mark Haney, Associate Producer, Associate Project Director, The Judische Kuulturbund Project

Adrien-Alice Hansel, Literary Director, Studio Theatre, Washington DC
Adrien-Alice Hansel is in her ninth season as the Literary Director at Studio, where she works in the rehearsal hall as a dramaturg on projects new, recent, and some reimagined classics. On the administrative side, she heads the Literary Department, overseeing project solicitation, scouting, and development, including Studio’s commissioning program. Prior to joining Studio, she spent eight seasons in various literary roles at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, working on both the season and the Humana Festival of New American Plays. She has worked with some fantastic artists from the US and beyond and expects to connect with new artists and expand her thinking around methodology at the Lab’s Gathering.

Simón Adinia Hanukai, Co-Artistic Director Kaimera Productions, USA
Simón Adinia Hanukai is a theater maker, director, educator, and the Co-Artistic Director of Kaimera Productions. Originally from Baku, Azerbaijan, he splits his time between NYC and Paris. Other artistic leadership roles include Co-Artistic Director of Destiny Arts Center, Adjunct Professor at CUNY & Sciences Po (Paris), and HowlRound World Theatre Map Ambassador. Simón has created work and taught throughout the U.S., Middle East, Europe and India. He holds an MA in Education from the University of San Francisco’s Center for Teaching Excellence and Social Justice, and an MFA in Directing from Columbia University. More info at www.kaimeraproductions.com
Juli Hendren, *Lab Think Tank; Executive Director and Founding Member Tricklock Company*

Juli Hendren is a founding member and the Executive Director of Tricklock Company, a 26-year-old physical, devised theatre ensemble based in Albuquerque, New Mexico with a focus on international touring and collaborations. She is the Curator of The Revolutions International Theatre Festival which produces performances, workshops, and cultural exchange events from across the globe in New Mexico. Hendren has produced artists from over 30 different countries around the world through the festival. She is a director, writer, performer, producer, and teacher who has worked across the United States, Canada, Europe, Uganda, and Colombia.

Juri Henley-Cohn, *Performer, Round House Theatre’s Oslo*

Michelle Hensley, *Michelle is the founder and former Artistic Director of Ten Thousand Things, bringing excellent professional theater to audiences with little access, a model now being used by The Public, The Old Globe and others around the US. She is now a Fulbright Specialist, able to help theaters around the world explore TTT’s model for free, so let her know if your company is interested! She is a recipient of the Francesca Primus Prize, the Ivey Award for Lifetime Achievement, TCG’s Visionary Leadership award, and the author of All The Lights On: Reimagining Theater with Ten Thousand Things.*

Frank Hentschker, *Executive Director/ Director of Programs, Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, CUNY Graduate Center, New York*

Jordanna Hernandez, *Actor, Imagination Stage*

Jordanna Hernandez is a theater and film actor in DC and is also the Education Manager at Studio Theatre. She has performed at Ford’s Theatre, Forum Theatre, The Gonda Theatre, Poulton Hall, Museum of Women in the Arts, and toured in Oyeme! The Beautiful with Imagination Stage. Film and TV Credits include: “For My Man”, “Dog Person,” and “For The Love of Quirk”. She has been featured at AwesomCon and the Columbia Film Festival. Training: BA in Theater and Performance Studies, Georgetown University, Studio Acting Conservatory.

Steven Hitt, *Steven is Artistic Director for the LaGuardia Performing Arts Center (LPAC). His work is focused on developing new works for the stage using theatre and dance to look at issues of social justice. As a performer, Steven has played on some of New York’s grandest stages. He appeared on Broadway in A Chorus Line and created the role of Sadik in Ozen Yula’s For Rent. Favorite roles include Gallo in The Fantasticks, and James in Children of a Lesser God. He Co-Authored Superheroes Unmasked: An Amazing Approach to Helping Children Learn Social Emotional Skills.*

Jonathan Hollander, *Founder and Artistic Director, Battery Dance Company, New York*

A celebrated choreographer and social activist, Jonathan Hollander founded Battery Dance in lower Manhattan in 1976. He has conducted programs in 70 countries around the world and has choreographed nearly 100 dances in collaboration with his exceptional team of dancers, musicians and designers. He created New York City’s longest-running public dance festival, Battery Dance Festival, initiated arts education programs in New York City public schools and has supported cross-cultural collaborations with artists from five continents. The President of Germany awarded him the Federal Merit of Honor in 2018, the first American dance artist to be so honored.

Rita M. Housseiny, *Student, Georgetown University, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service*

A graduate student at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, pursuing a Master of Science in Foreign Service, focusing on counterterrorism and national security.

Colin Hovde, *Director; Outgoing Producing Artistic Director, Theater Alliance, Washington DC*

Marc Howard, *Professor of Government and Law; Founding Director, Prisons and Justice Initiative, Georgetown University*

Jen Hughes, *Director of Design and Creative Placemaking, National Endowment for the Arts*
Lily Hughes, Associate Producer, The Gathering, CrossCurrents Festival, The Lab
Lily Hughes is an experienced curator of international cultural events and festivals. She works with The Laboratory of Global Performance and Politics as the Associate Producer for The Gathering. She is primarily based in Scotland, where she works as the Program Manager for the Edinburgh International Culture Summit. Previously Lily has worked for the British Film Institute, the London Film Festival, the Edinburgh International Film Festival, Africa in Motion, Katrinas@10, and Double Exposure Investigative Film Festival. She holds a Master of Arts in Communication, Culture, and Technology and, before her career in event production, worked for the Film and Media Studies Program at Georgetown University. In her spare time, she enjoys making pizza from scratch and is an avid podcast listener.

Maria Cristina Ibarra, Performer/Co-creator; The Lab’s I Pledge Allegiance

Toby Igbenoba, Actor, The Chibok Girls: Our Story, Renegade Theatre, Nigeria
Tobi Igbenoba is a descent of Delta state, Ugbodu. Aniocha (North)local government. Tobi is an actor, having graduated from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Studies. She has appeared in several stage productions such as "The Chibok Girls: our story", "Moremi", "Wife Finds a 40", "Medicine for Love", "Fall of Kumbi", "Happy Birthday", "ATM", "That night I found love" and "in the chest of a woman". She has also featured in a couple of movies, like, "Trinity"; which was shot in Ghana and also got her nominated for 'best upcoming actress' at the Zafaa awards in 2010, "Family Crisis", "Omoge Faaji", "Bias", "Don't leave me" and Tv series like, "Living in Lagos" by DBS media, directed by John Njamah, "Roots", and "Tinsel", "Hotel Majestic", "Go slow", "Sheila", "Before Before". Tobi has a solid commitment to entertain and educate through her professional, fun, emotional and adventurous performances.

Maurice Jackson, Lab Campus Cohort; Associate Professor of History and African-American Studies; Affiliated Professor of Performing Arts; Georgetown University. Maurice teaches History and African American Studies and is Affiliated Professor of Music (Jazz). Before academe, he worked as a longshoreman, shipyard rigger, and community organizer. He is the author of Let This Voice Be Heard: Anthony Benezet, Father of Atlantic Abolitionism, co-editor of African-Americans and the Haitian Revolution and co-editor of Quakers and Their Allies in the Abolitionist Cause, 1754-1808. Jackson has won numerous fellowships and is at work on Halfway to Freedom: African Americans and the Struggle for Social Progress in Washington, D.C. He is co-editor of a special issue on Jazz in D.C. in Washington History.

Rob Jansen, Actor/Director, Georgetown University
Rob Jansen is an actor, director, playwright, and theater educator based in Washington, D.C. He was Associate Director for the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics during the Myriad Voices Festival and directed Generation (Wh)Y: Global Voices on Stage devised with Georgetown students. His solo play The Tramp's New World has toured the US. He was Assistant Director to Yaël Farber in the creation of Nirbhaya in New Delhi, India. Internationally he has worked in India, China, Canada, Poland, Ireland, Turkey, and the U.K. He teaches at Georgetown University and graduated from the University of Maryland with an MFA in Performance.

Emma Jaster, Movement Director, New York
Emma is a director, choreographer, and teaching artist based in NYC. She has led projects with U-Theatre in Taiwan, the Natanakairali Institute in India, Robert Wilson’s Watermill Center, LaMama’s Directors’ Symposium, and the Grotowski-based Teatr Zar in Poland. She has taught for IDEO, MoMA, Cornell Tech, and Georgetown University. Grounding her work in social justice and the cultivation of peace, she believes in the power of art to teach us to listen better and love more. She runs an international artist residency for mothers whose work can be found under @mamaisamaker.

www.emmajaster.com

Chris Jennings, Lab Think Tank; Executive Director, Shakespeare Theater Company, Washington DC; Chris is the Executive Director of the Shakespeare Theatre Company. He joined the company as General Manager in 2004. He currently serves on the Board of the Theatre Communications Group, DC Downtown BID, THE ARC, DC Arts Collaborative and the Penn Quarter Neighborhood Association, and is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (where he has served on AEA and SSDC Negotiating Committees) and the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation.

Irene Jillson, Lab Campus Cohort; Associate Professor, School of Nursing and Health Studies, Georgetown University
Irene has designed and launched courses in global health ethics, global health systems and politics, responsible science, global health research and challenges to international technology policy. She also teaches medical/healthcare ethics and healthcare research to medical and graduate nursing students.
Lena Jöhnk, Director of Cultural Programs, North America, Goethe-Institut, USA
Lena Jöhnk is the Director of Cultural Program North America at the Goethe-Institut Washington D.C. Since 2011 she has worked in different positions for the Goethe-Institut in Munich, Berlin and Istanbul. Jöhnk studied Culture Sciences and Art History in Germany and Italy. During her studies she worked as a freelance mediator for Visual Arts. Her focus areas are Modern Philosophy, Cultural Management and Visual Arts Education. Her main field of research is socially engaged art in public spaces, in particular examining the potential of cultural theories that define and evaluate the social function of art, beyond its ‘effect’ as social work.

Emily Johnson, dancer, writer, and choreographer of Yup’ik descent; Artistic Director of Emily Johnson/Catalyst; Organizer for the First Nations Dialogues New York/Lenapehoking

Ken Johnson, Director, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Washington DC
Ken Johnson is currently the Chair of the Theatre Department at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. His career as director, producer and educator spans over thirty years. Before making Ellington his artistic home, he was a founding member of Crossroads Theatre Company and served as it’s Associate Producer and Resident Director.

Patrice Johnson, Director, $#!thole Country Clapback
Patrice Johnson Chevannes is an award winning actress whose Broadway credits include Racing Demon and The Crucible, (with Liam Neeson). Off Broadway: Good Grief; Homecoming Queen; Henry V; Tamburlaine; Steel Hammer; Othello, (Desdemona, opposite Sir Patrick Stewart). Patrice has written and directed three award winning independent feature films; Kings County, NY’s Dirty Laundry and Hill and Gully. She is proud to be a part of the New Netflix Series, Chambers (currently streaming), which stars Uma Thurman and Tony Goldwyn.

Ahmad Kamal, DC-based performer, performing in Round House Theatre's Oslo

Geoff Kanick, Theatremaker, LubDub Theatre Co.
Geoff Kanick is an actor-director-magician-theatremaker. Originally from Seattle, he is now based in NYC. Geoff is Co-Artistic Director of LubDub Theatre Company. For more and a bit of mystery, visit www.geoffkanick.com.

Alexander Karschnia, Lab EUNIC Residency Artist; theatre-maker, andcompany&Co, Berlin, Germany
Alex Karschnia is a theatre-maker, performer, writer and theatre-scientist, co-founder of the Berlin-based group andcompany&Co. He studied with Hans-Thies Lehmann (The postdramatic theatre), specialised in Bertolt Brecht and Heiner Müller. andcompany&Co. is a well-established member of the German Free Scene, recently texts from their performances were published in the US by Matt Cornish (Everything and other performance texts). He is an initiator of artists’ initiative. The Many which connects artists and institutions against the rise of the extreme right.

Jason King Jones, Director and Producer, Olney Theatre Center
Jason King Jones (jkj) is a Missouri native and fell in love with theatre in high school. At Olney jkj is Senior Associate Artistic Director and Artistic Director of National Players. He also functions as the company’s Director of Education. He loves making space and providing tools for people to create their own art.

Amb. Hynek Kmoniček, Ambassador to the United States, Czech Republic

Natalie Kocab, Lab EUNIC Residency Artist; writer, playwright, The Gathering
Natalie Kocab is a writer and playwright from Czech Republic. She has studied screenwriting and dramaturgy and currently is working on a novel called: Home. Natalie doesn’t like to talk about the thing she is currently working on.
Dolapo Kodaoulu, Actor, *The Chibok Girls: Our Story, Renegade Theatre, Nigeria*. A drummer, singer, choreographer, and actor. A founder of Light Bearers Art Academy, a division of Footprints of David Art Foundation (Lagos, Nigeria). Also, serves as the director and founder of 5talents Arts (MD, USA), an organization committed to promoting African culture in the community through the use of the arts and various programs purposed to transform lives. Loves to preach, using the arts to bless lives, and is always ready to impact children, especially with the beauty of the culture.

Héctor Flores Komatsu, International Theatre Director; Julie Taymor World Theatre Fellow; Artistic Director Makuyeika: Theatre Collective, Mexico

Héctor Flores Komatsu is a theatre-maker based in México and the United States. Founder of Makuyeika Colectivo Teatral, created after a year-long exploration of México conducted as an inaugural member of the Julie Taymor World Theatre Fellowship, and director of the play "Andares". HFK has worked with Peter Brook as an apprentice in "Battlefield," (based on The Mahabharata), as an actor in "The Valley of Astonishment," and as adaptor of the spanish-language premire of "The Suit." A graduate of the University of Michigan (BFA Theatre Performance - Directing) where he directed "Sotto Voce", a then unpublished play by Nilo Cruz.

Nikahang Kowsar, Board Member, Cartoonists Rights Network International

Nik Kowsar was a political cartoonist in Iran. In 2000, he was arrested and imprisoned for six days for a cartoon he released in criticism of one of the Iranian regime’s most powerful religious leaders. Michael Cavna, in the 2009 Washington Post article about Kowsar stated that Kowsar had one of the world’s most dangerous jobs.

Thomas O. Kriegsmann, Producer, ArKtype, USA

ArKtype/Thomas O. Kriegsmann is an industry leading management and production company specializing in new work development and touring worldwide. Recent premieres include Bryce Dessner’s TRIPTYCH (EYES OF ONE ON ANOTHER) w/ Roomful of Teeth, John Cameron Mitchell’s THE ORIGIN OF LOVE Tour, Kaneza Schaal & Christopher Myers’ CARTOGRAPHY, Sam Green & Kronos Quartet’s A THOUSAND THOUGHTS, Big Dance Theater / Mikhail Baryshnikov’s MAN IN A CASE, Nora Chipaumire’s #PUNK100%POP*NIGGA, The Freedom Theatre of Palestine’s THE SIEGE and Byron Au Yong & Aaron Jafferis’ TRIGGER based in communities nationwide in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre. Ongoing collaborations include 600 HIGHWAYMEN, Rude Mechs, Adrien M. & Clare B. and Compagnia T.P.O. Upcoming premieres include Nora Chipaumire’s NEHANDA.

Shiloh Krupar, Lab Campus Cohort, Geographer and Provost’s Distinguished Associate Professor at Georgetown University, Field Chair of the Culture and Politics Program, SFS. Shiloh’s teaching and research interests, which span geography, architecture, performance studies, medical humanities, and environmental justice, have explored several interrelated areas: military landscapes; model cities; environmental and financial disasters; medical geographies of waste and bureaucracy.

Irina Kruzhilina, Designer/Visual Dramaturg

Irina is a New York-based designer and visual dramaturg, creating work at the intersection of visual art and performance. Her work has been shown locally and globally, from Times Square to Tokyo Disney, from BAM to the Prague National Theatre, from the NY Philharmonic to Barbican Center. As an educator, she developed "Inside-Out" design and visual dramaturgy method, which she teaches throughout the world. Born in Moscow, trained in Russia and the US, her work embraces the differences in artistry, technique, and creative concepts embedded in both cultures. She is a member of the ITI, TCG, and a Chashama resident.
Joanne Seelig Lamparter, Director of Community Programs, Imagination Stage

Joanne Seelig Lamparter is the Director of Education at Imagination Stage. She is an arts educator with over 16 years of experience managing programs, teaching, and creating performing arts experiences for youth. She has administered programs for Berkeley Rep, Smithsonian, and Capitol Hill Arts Workshop. Joanne has a passion for arts education research and was a Research Assistant on the Cultures of Thinking project at Harvard’s Project Zero. Joanne has been a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Maryland State Arts Council. She has taught in a variety of educational settings including museums, theatres, public schools, and juvenile detention centers. Joanne currently serves as a theatre education advisor for the PBSKids series, Pinkalicious. She has a Masters in Arts in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Kelsey Lawson, Student, Native American Student Council, Georgetown University

Senior in the School of Foreign Service with a major in Culture and Politics, President of the Native American Student Council.

Bryan Joseph Lee, Associate Director, The Public Theater, New York

Bryan Joseph Lee is the Associate Director of Special Artistic Projects at The Public Theater in New York, NY. He currently helps produce Public Forum, a conversation platform dedicated to the intersection of art, ideas, and action collide. Bryan has a specific interest in civic engagement and community organizing through the arts, cultivating diverse audiences through targeted relationship building, and supporting and amplifying Queer and Trans Artists of Color.

Michael Leibenluft, Artistic Director, Gung Ho Projects, US/China education and cultural exchange platform

Michael Leibenluft is a New York-based Obie Award winning director. He is Artistic Director of Gung Ho Projects, a performance and education platform that creates bilingual projects in English in Mandarin in China, the U.S., and elsewhere. He has directed and developed projects at New York Theater Workshop, EST/Youngblood, the Bushwick Starr, New Yiddish Rep, The Flea, the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center, Beijing Tianqiao Theater, and Yangtze Repertory Theater. He is a former Fulbright Fellow, Drama League Fellow, and member of the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab and the Lincoln Center Director’s Lab.

Motti Lerner, Independent Playwright, Israel


Roberta Levitow, Director-Producer, Theatre Without Borders

Director, dramaturg, producer and teacher Roberta Levitow co-founded and directs Theatre Without Borders (TWB), www.theatrewithoutborders.com, a grass-roots all-volunteer network of global theatre artists. TWB projects include: the Climate Change Theatre Action (2015, 2017, 2019) with The Arctic Cycle; HowlRound’s “Theatre in the Age of Climate Change” Convening; The Acting Together Project with the Peacebuilding and the Arts Program, Brandeis University. For 15 years, Roberta has been the Senior Program Associate/International with the Sundance Institute Theatre Program’s Middle East North Africa and East Africa initiatives. She is a Fulbright Ambassador Emerita with Fulbright grants in Hong Kong, Romania, Uganda and Ethiopia.

Benjamin Lillian, Co-Creator and Performer, The Lab’s I Pledge Allegiance, France/USA
Cristian Camilo Linares, Actor, Imagination Stage
Camilo is a D.C. based actor from Bogota, Colombia. Some recent credits include: Picasso in Picasso (GALA Hispanic Theatre), Philadelphia Community Mass (The Kennedy Center), and Oyeme, The Beautiful (Imagination Stage). He holds an associate's degree in theatre performance from Montgomery College and is a graduate of the British American Drama Academy.

Jessica Litwak, Multi-disciplinary International Theater Leader; Artistic Director, The H.E.A.T. Collective
Jessica Litwak, RDT, PhD is an award-winning playwright, drama therapist, performer, educator, puppet builder and leader in the field of socially engaged theatre. She works frequently in Europe and the Middle East, Artistic Director of The H.E.A.T. Collective (www.theheatcollective.org), the founder of Artists Rise Up NY, a core member of Theatre Without Borders and a Fulbright Scholar.

Marty Lodge, DC-based actor, The Admission and The Scream and the Silence
Kate Loewald, Founding Producer, The Play Company, New York

Todd London, Writer-Gatherer, The Dramatists Guild & The New School
Former artistic director of New Dramatists and executive director of the University of Washington's School of Drama, Todd is Director of Theatre Relations for The Dramatists Guild and Head of MFA Playwriting at The New School. His many books include An Ideal Theater; Outrageous Fortune; The Importance of Staying Earnest, and The World's Room, a novel. His second novel, If You See Him, Let Me Know, is due out this year. He was the first recipient of Theatre Communications Group's Visionary Leadership Award and holds an honorary doctorate from DePaul University. He is founder of The Third Bohemia.

Kendell Long, Georgetown University student in African-American Studies, Government and Justice and Peace Studies; Member of Students for GU272 advocacy group

Flo Low, Associate Director, Arts Programs, Israel Institute

Erwin Maas, Lab Think Tank; Theatemaker, Educator, International Arts Advocate
Erwin Maas is a New York based theaetmaker, educator and international arts advocate from the Netherlands. He is the Creative Director International Society for Performing Arts, Fellowship Director International Performing Arts for Youth, Co-founding Director Pan-African Creative Exchange, and Programming Director Off-Broadway Origin Theatre Company. Maas teaches at CUNY Brooklyn College's MFA Performance & Interactive-Media-Arts Program. Erwin is a core-member of Theater Without Borders, Georgetown University's The Lab and the Netherlands-America Foundation Cultural Committee. He serves on the Artistic Advisory Board of ISSUE Project Room Brooklyn, First Nation Spiderwoman Theater, and DecadesOut, an organization at the intersection of Arts-Science-Policy. www.erwinmaas.com

Rahma Maccarone, Ph.D. Student, Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies
Rahma Maccarone received the B.A. in Foreign Languages with a Concentration in Spanish and Literature and a minor in Latin American Studies from George Mason University. Rahma also completed her M.A. in Spanish, Literature and Bilingual Education from George Mason University. While earning her B.A. she spent a semester in Ecuador Studying Spanish in Quito at the University of San Francisco Quito. Prior to coming to Georgetown, she taught Spanish for 4 years in both public and private schools in Fairfax, Virginia. Her main area of interest is African and African Diaspora literature, The Black Atlantic history and Latin American literature of the early Modern period as well as 18th and 19th-century literature. Her M.A thesis focused on exploring the articulation of resistance in the literary works of North American and Caribbean writers such as Juan Francisco Manzano and Omar Ibn Said. She is currently a Patrick Healy Fellow and hopes to work in the Archives to expand her research.

D. Soyini Madison, Professor of Performance Studies, Anthropology and African-American Studies, Northwestern University
Asif Majid, Musician and Theatre maker, Lab Fellow
Asif Majid is a scholar-artist-educator who researches, teaches, performs, and makes work at the intersection of performance and politics. Particularly, he does this in terms of devising, improvisation, and participatory theatre with marginalized communities. Asif is pursuing a practice-based PhD in Anthropology, Media, and Performance at The University of Manchester, earned an MA with Distinction in Conflict Resolution from Georgetown University, and graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a self-designed BA in Interdisciplinary Studies (Global Peace Building and Conflict Management) from UMBC. As an artist, Asif’s performance credits include work with The Stoop (US), the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (US), Convergence Theatre (US), Royal Exchange Theatre (UK), Unity Theatre (UK), and Action Transport Theatre (UK). Currently, he is an inaugural Lab Fellow with The Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics. Asif is online at www.asifmajid.com.

Martyna Majok, Pulitzer Prize-winning Playwright; Hodder Fellow, Princeton University

Ifrah Mansour, Somali Multimedia Artist, Educator; Playwright/ Performer How to Have Fun in a Civil War

Ana Margineau, Lab EUNIC Residency Artist; Director; co-founder PopUP Theatrics
Ana Margineau is a theatre director who works both nationally and internationally. Ana is co-founder of PopUp Theatrics, a partnership creating immersive theatrical events around the world and in collaboration with international theatre artists. Her work has been presented at the 3LD Art & Technology Center, Working Theater, Urban Stages, NYTW, Ensemble Studio Theater and in numerous theaters and festivals in Europe. More about her: www.anamargineau.com or www.popuptheatrics.com

Nikki Massoud is an actor based in New York City. Born in Montreal, Canada and raised in Washington, DC, Nikki speaks fluent Farsi and conversational French and is also an accomplished singer with violin and piano proficiency. Nikki recently Guest Starred on Madam Secretary (CBS) and has a recurring role on Season 4 of Amazon’s Mozart in the Jungle. Her stage credits include Sam Gold’s critically acclaimed production of Othello at New York Theatre Workshop, alongside Daniel Craig and David Oyelowo. Nikki originated the role of Marina Zayeh in the World Premiere of Zealot by Theresa Rebeck at South Coast Rep. In addition to South Coast Rep, she has performed regionally at American Conservatory Theater, Portland Center Stage, Two River Theater, and Trinity Rep. She is a proud graduate of the Brown University/Trinity Rep MFA Program, Georgetown University and BADA (British-American Drama Academy.)

Anita Maynard-Losh, Senior Artistic Advisor/Director of Community Engagement, Arena Stage
Anita Maynard-Losh, Director of Community Engagement/Senior Artistic Advisor, Arena Stage, where she has been director, associate director, text director, or vocal/dialect coach on 40+ productions. Former associate artistic director of Perseverance Theatre in Juneau; traveled extensively within Alaska, working with indigenous populations. Her production of Macbeth was performed in English/Tlingit at National Museum of the American Indian. Dialect/vocal coaching: ACT, Kennedy Center, Washington National Opera, OSF, Portland Center Stage, Broadway revival of Ragtime. Directing/devising with Voices of Now: locally in partnership with Wendt Center for Loss and Healing, internationally in India (2012, 2014), Croatia (2015, 2019), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2019).

Pete McElligott, NYC-based actor, En Garde Arts

Michael McGuigan, Managing Director, Bond Street Theatre, New York
Michael McGuigan is an actor, director and instructor for BST, and has participated in company programs in 50 countries since 1979. Recent projects include projects in Afghanistan with 400+ youth in 25 provinces working on community improvement, funded by the US Embassy and USIP, and Theater for Civic Engagement in Myanmar aimed at countering sectarian violence, funded by the Open Society Foundation. He directs BST’s Young Audience Program and has developed arts-in-education programs for international NGOs. He appeared in the Broadway production of The Tempest with Patrick Stewart, and was stilt consultant for two Broadway productions. His article about the theatre in Burma appeared in American Theatre Magazine.
Clayton McInerney, Actor, Columbia University; Producer and Performer Apologies to the Bengali Lady.
Clayton McInerney is an Actor who recently relocated to NYC and is in his second year of the MFA Acting Program at Columbia University. Recently he has performed with the RSC in King Lear at BAM and in Muscle Beach at Dixon Place. Next up he will be performing in Apologies at The Tank in July. www.apologiesetheplay.com

Joseph Megel, Director New Works, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Joseph Megel is artist in residence in Performance Studies at UNC at Chapel Hill where he runs the Process Series: New Works in Development. Mr. Megel has spent the last 25 years focusing on the direction and development of new works for theatre, film and video. He is Artistic Director of StreetSigns Center for Literature and Performance in Chapel Hill. Most recently he directed Temples of Lung and Air a one man performance by Kane Smego at PlayMakers Theatre and will be taking it to United Solo in NYC in October and Detroit Public Theatre in November.

Mersiha Mesihovic, Lab EUNIC Residency Artist; Artistic Director of CIRCUITDEBRIS; ZVRK Artistic director of CIRCUITDEBRIS, a platform for experimentation in dance and interdisciplinary practice. Co-Director of Zvrk first International Dance/Performance Festival in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Jared Mezzocchi, award-winning Projection Designer, Director, Adapter/ Playwright and Multimedia Artist; Assistant Professor, University of Maryland

David Millstone, Actor, Alliance for New Music-Theatre
NYC actor who's worked with The American Shakespeare Center, Springer Opera House, and other regional theaters. He's currently producing a film.

Tom Minter, Playwright and Teaching Artist, Kennedy Center, Washington DC
I am a playwright, librettist, author and Teaching Artist whose work specializes in issues of diversity, and the tapestry of identity in creating community. The trajectory of my work skews across a sandbox of arts disciplines, so as to thread unique opportunities of storytelling, much of it now being framed for conversations of a global intersectionality. Beginning in early 1990, my work was nurtured by The New Playwright’s Trust, in London, who also presented my first play at The Theatre Museum in Covent Garden. Subsequently I have had productions of my work in London, Berlin, New York, Philadelphia, and most recently in Auckland, New Zealand.

Lucía Miranda, Director, The Cross Border Project
Spanish director and playwright. She’s the founder of The Cross Border Project. Her work has obtained several awards and her shows has been opened at the National Theatre of Spain, the Thalia Theatre of New York, FIBA Argentina, the African Forum Theatre Festival of Senegal, Microtheater Miami and the Sánchez Aguilar Theatre in Ecuador between others. She has led workshops using Applied Theatre in universities and centres of Europe, Africa and Latin America. M.A. in Educational Theatre, NYU; M.A in Arts Management at Complutense University, and Fulbright scholarship. She is a member of the Director’s Lab, Lincoln Center, NY.

Edward Muallem, Actor/Trainer, Ashtar Theatre
Holds a Bachelor’s degree in Theatre Studies. One of the founders of the El -Hakawati Theatre in 1977. In 1991, he co-founded ASHTAR Theatre with Iman Aoun, where he is currently the General Director, as well as an actor, director and drama trainer. Since 1994 he leads drama workshops with children and youth, and since 2004 he leads several workshops in the Forum Theatre technique locally and regionally, and he is the director of the biennial International Theatre of the Oppressed Festival organized by ASHTAR Theatre in Palestine.
Robert Myers, Playwright/Professor, American University of Beirut
Robert Myers is the author of over 15 plays including Atwater: Fixin’ to Die and The Lynching of Leo Frank. He is a Professor of English at AUB and translator and producer of the plays of Sa’dallah Wannous and a number of others. His latest book, from Yale, is Sentence to Hope, and anthology of Wannous’s play.

Shahid Nadeem, Playwright/Director, Ajoka Theatre, Lahore
Shahid is Pakistan's leading playwright, well-regarded for his commitment to theatre for social change and peace. He is Executive Director of Ajoka Theatre and Professor of Film & Television at the Institute for Art and Culture, Pakistan. He has worked for Pakistan Television & Amnesty International. He did fellowships with the National Endowment for Democracy (2014-15) and Getty Scholar/International Pen (2001). He was given President of Pakistan’s Pride of Performance award in 2009. His play "Dara" was presented by the National Theatre, London in 2015. Several of his plays have been performed in the US including "Acquittal" & "Burqavaganza".

Azar Nafisi, Lab Think Tank, Azar Nafisi is best known as the author of the national bestseller Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books, which electrified its readers with a compassionate and often harrowing portrait of the Islamic revolution in Iran and how it affected one university professor and her students. Reading Lolita in Tehran has been translated in 32 languages, and has won diverse literary awards, including the Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger, Non-fiction Book of the Year Award from Booksense, the Frederic W. Ness Book Award, the Latifeh Yarsheter Book Award, the Grand Prix des Lectrices de Elle, and an achievement award from the American Immigration Law Foundation, as well as being a finalist for the PEN/Martha Albrand Award for Memoir. Her most recent book is entitled The Republic of Imagination: America in Three Books (October 2014), a powerful and passionate case for the vital role of fiction in America today.

Kal Naga, Producer, Team-Cairo
Actor and Producer from Egypt based in California.

Alyse Nelson, President, CEO, Vital Voices Global Partnership
Anita Alvin Nilert, Art Consultant, Art to Zebras
Curator and Creator of Georgetown’s Dialogues on Being Human series – is the founder of Art to Zebras, focused on raising awareness about global human rights issues through contemporary arts initiatives. With a 25+ year career in the international art world, including as consultant, editions publisher, curator and artists' agent, Anita speaks seven languages and is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service with an MBA from Columbia University. She advises the NGO Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security (WCAPS) and serves on the boards of Konstig Books, Scandinavia’s leading art bookseller, and of alt_break art fair for social justice, providing contemporary art programming through partnerships with nonprofits.

Ali Mahdi Nouri, UNESCO Ambassador & Secretary General ITI, International Theater Institute & Albugaa Theatre Company, Sudan
The Sudanese actor and stage director Ali Madhi Nouri was designated UNESCO Artist for Peace in October 2012. This title was bestowed upon him in recognition of his support to the reintegration of child soldiers and war orphans in the Sudan through the Al-Bugaa Theatre and his unflagging efforts to promote the cultural heritage of Sudan on national and regional levels. In 2000, he founded the Al-Bugaa Theatre, which travels around conflict zones in Sudan and stages plays performed by child soldiers and war orphans. His creations, inspired by Sudanese cultural heritage, comprise various narration techniques as well as folklore and pantomime, promoting theatre as a tool for conflict resolution by building safe environment. The Al-Bugaa Theatre performed in June 2015 during the Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Honorary and Goodwill Ambassadors at the Organization Headquarters.
Catherine Nunez, Actress; Imagination Stage’s Oyeme The Beautiful!
Catherine Nunez was born in Havana, Cuba, on August 11, 1996 (22 years old). Since childhood, she has consolidated her natural talent for acting with theater workshops, locution, corporal expression and Cuban folk dances. She made her debut in the cinema with the film El Viajero Inmóvil (Dir. Tomás Piard) and made a small participation in the film José Martí, the eye of the canary (Dir. Fernando Perez). She has served as a speaker in Cuban television youth spaces like Quiero Saber, To Be Better, and as an actress in a chapter of the popular fiction series Tras la Huella. In theater, she’s acclaimed for her interpretations in the plays Cats, Grease (Dir. Alexander Milian), Skyscrapers and Eclipse (Dir. Jazz Vilá). With the latter two, she performed in stages of the Dominican Republic and becomes the first actress of the island to star in a Cuban play in English on stage in the United States, where she currently resides.

Kelley Rae O’Donnell, NYC-based performer, En Garde Arts

Wole Oguntokun, Director and Playwright, The Chibok Girls: Our Story; Director Renegade Theatre, Nigeria, Theatre maker. Wole Oguntokun is the Artistic Director of Renegade Theatre and Founder of Theatre Republic. He is also a Fellow of the International Society for Performing Artistes (ISPA). He was the founding producer and resident director of Theatre@Terra, a project he ran weekly for three and half years, staging plays at the Arts Centre known as Terakulture. He is the writer of stage plays such as Prison Chronicles, The Chibok Girls, The Tarzan Monologues and the head writer of the V-monologues—the Nigerian version of The Vagina Monologues, just to mention a few. Worthy of note is his work as Assistant Director to Nigeria’s Nobel laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka in the Nigerian Premiere of The Beatification of Area Boy in the 2015 Muson Festival.

Sasha Olinick, DC-based Performer; performing in Round House Theatre’s Oslo

Michael Orlove, Director, National Endowment for the Arts
Michael Orlove currently serves as the director of Director of State, Regional & Local Partnerships. In that capacity, Orlove provides direction concerning NEA funding and other assistance to the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies, the six regional arts agencies, and local arts agencies across the country. Additionally, Orlove manages the agency’s international activities programs. He was the NEA’s director of Artist Communities and Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works from 2012 to 2019.

Alexis Ortiz, Program Associate, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Alexis Ortiz is a program associate in the Arts and Cultural Heritage program, specializing in performing arts. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2017, Ms. Ortiz held positions at the Kennedy Center, Jazz@Lincoln Center, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Lisa Booth Management. She has also produced performances, tours, television specials, and community events at venues ranging from the White House to SXSW, as well as for PBS. A graduate of Yale University, Ms. Ortiz majored in political science and Latin American studies. She earned an MA at the University of Miami in international administration, with a concentration in culture and sustainable development.

Ricardo Ortiz, Lab Campus Cohort, Ricardo is Chair and Associate Professor of US Latinx Literature and Culture in the English Department at Georgetown University. His first book, *Cultural Erotics in Cuban America*, was published in 2007, and he is currently working on a second book, *The Testimonial Imagination: Cold War Geopolitics and US Latinx Literature*. Prof. Ortiz has published widely in a variety of fields, including cultural studies, performance studies and lgbtq studies; his work has appeared in such venues as *GLQ, Modern Drama* and *Social Text*. 

Jennifer Osammor is stage and Screen Actor. Performs in Nigeria and internationally committed and dedicated at work. She is also into production as a production manager and stage manager.

Magdalene Otanwa, Actor, *The Chibok Girls: Our Story*, Renegade Theatre, Nigeria

An award winning actress from Nigeria who is passionate about story telling and the shedding lights on the issues of the African girl child.

Handan Ozbilgin, Director, LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, Queens, NY

Handan Ozbilgin is the Assistant Director at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center @LAGCC and Independent Theater Director based in NYC. Handan conceived of and cultivated the widely acclaimed LPAC LAB Space Grant Program. Under Handan's leadership, the LAB has hosted more than 80 companies. Handan is also the curator and founder of the Annual Rough Draft Theater Festival as well as the Global Exchange Program: Balkan region at LPAC. More about Handan, please visit www.handanozbilgin.com

Ambassador Martin Palouš, Director of Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, Florida International University;

Martin Palouš is Director of Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy at School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University. He is also President of Vaclav Havel Library Foundation and President of International Platform for Human Rights in Cuba. He belonged to the original signatories of Charter 77. After the fall of Communism, he was a member of Parliament, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the UN.

Aly Panjwani, Lab Programs Assistant; Georgetown University student in Culture and Politics; co-creator and performer *The Lab's I Pledge Allegiance*;

Aly Panjwani studies the role of the arts in political resistance, specifically examining Islamophobic narrative setting in U.S. national security policy and how theatre and the arts can combat these homogenous state narratives. Furthermore, his research focuses on statelessness, occupation, and how the arts can be a powerful tool to express identity in oppression through storytelling. Since he was young, Aly has been involved in his Ismaili Muslim community, teaching religious classes, leading summer camps, and composing contemporary devotional music. On campus at Georgetown, he interned for the Bridge Initiative, a think-tank on Islamophobia, served as the Chair for the Alternative Breaks Program at the Center for Social Justice, and is an activist for different social issues. Aly's ultimate goal is to use education and the arts as an avenue to making politics about our shared humanness.

Jonathan Payne, New York-based playwright

Jonathan Payne’s work has been produced and developed at Long Wharf Theatre, Ars Nova, Fringe Festival NYC, The Bushwick Star, and the Fire This Time Festival. He was a fellow at New Dramatists, Playwrights Realm and The Dramatist Guild, as well as an Ars Nova Play Group. Awards include the Princess Grace Award, Holland New Voices Award, Rosa Parks Award, JohnCauble Short Play Award. He received a BA from the GSA Conservatoire (UK), an MFA in Playwriting from Tisch School of the Arts, and an Artist Diploma Recipient in Playwriting from The Juilliard School.

Katie Pearl, Director, Playwright, Social Practice Artist; co-Artistic Director PearlDamour, New York.

Katie Pearl is an interdisciplinary theater artist and co-Artistic Director of the Obie-winning PearlDamour, a company she shares with playwright Lisa D’Amour. She is the recipient of four Map Fund, two NEA, and a Creative Capital Award. Commissions/presenters: The Kitchen, the Whitney Museum, PS122, Brookfield Arts, HERE Arts Center, Walker Art Center, and the Contemporary Arts Center/New Orleans. Pearl was the 2017 Quinn Martin Guest Chair of Directing at UCSD, a 2016 Anschutz Distinguished Fellow at Princeton, and a visiting lecturer of Socially Engaged Art at Harvard. Currently working on Ocean Filibuster, co-commissioned by the American Repertory Theatre and the Harvard Center for the Environment, premiering 2020.
**Ronee Penoi, Associate Producer, Octopus Theatricals**

Ronee (Laguna Pueblo/Cherokee) is Associate Producer with Octopus Theatricals (Executive/Creative Producer Mara Isaacs), where she supports adventurous multidisciplinary theater projects in the US and internationally. Previously Ronee worked with Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (Producer-in-Residence), the Welders (Creative Producer), and with the Consensus Building Institute to embed theater practices and EDI values in their conflict resolution practice. She is an Advisor for NEFA’s National Theater Project program, and a composer at work on two new musicals (The Carlisle Project, #RESIST) with Annalisa Dias. Fellowships: Global ISPA Fellow, APAP Leadership Fellow, TCG Rising Leader of Color. BA, Princeton University.

**Nicola Pianzola, Actor, Instabili Vaganti Theatre Company**

Nicola Pianzola Performer and theatre pedagogue. He was born in Novara in 1977 and graduated from DAMS in Bologna. In 2003, he received the award Le Arti per la Vita. Co-founder and performer of Instabili Vaganti, he is well-known to the public thanks to the award-winning show MADE IN ILVA, nominee for the Total Theatre Award at Edinburgh Festival 2014.

**Phounam Pin, Performer and Young leader from Battambang Province, Cambodia; Completing Degree at Montgomery College, Maryland**

**Ada Pinkston, Baltimore-based Multimedia Artist, Educator, Cultural Organizer; Fellow, Halcyon Arts Lab, Washington DC**

**Mauricio Pita, Director, Arena Stage**

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Mauricio is currently Arena Stage's Community Programs Manager and one of the directors of Voices of Now. Previously he was GALA Hispanic theater's Director of Education where he led the Paso Nuevo Youth Performance Group. In addition, Mauricio has worked as an educator for Young Playwrights Theatre, as a performer and educator for Superhero Clubhouse and The Society of Educational Arts (Teatro SEA) in New York City, and has worked extensively as an performer with NYC Spanish Repertory Theatre, INTAR, Astoria Performing Arts Center (APAC), The Kennedy Center, The Director's Company, and Studio Theatre, He was part of the artistic team for multiple devised theatre productions at Columbia University and is a graduate of the Acting Program at Marymount Manhattan College and the Shakespeare Conservatory for Actors at Yale University.

**Della Pollock, Professor of Communication, UNC Chapel Hill; Executive Director, Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History, Chapel Hill, North Carolina**

Professor in Performance and Cultural Studies with particular interest in memory, oral history, and the performance makings of everyday life.

**Gail Prensky, Founder, The Jüdische Kulturbund Project**

Gail is a multimedia producer, currently leading initiatives that explore issues of oppression and responses through music and art.

**Heather Raffo, Playwright/Actor, Lab Think Tank**

Heather Raffo is an award-winning playwright and actress whose work has been seen off Broadway, off West End in regional theater and in film. Her plays have been hailed by The New Yorker as “an example of how art can remake the world”. An American with Iraqi roots, Raffo’s work bridges East with West, national mainstages with cultural centers, urban with rural communities and has been performed across America and internationally for almost two decades taking her to the Kennedy Center, The Aspen Ideas Festival, London’s House of Commons, the U.S. Islamic World Forum and into hundreds of classrooms across our nation and internationally.

**Achilles Rakinas, Political Affairs Officer, Embassy of Greece, Washington DC**

**Jay Raman, Director, Cultural Programs Division, US Department of State**

Jay Raman is a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service. Jay is currently assigned to Washington, DC as director of the Cultural Programs Division in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, with responsibility for the State
Department's global performing arts, visual arts, film, and humanities exchanges. He served previously in Cambodia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Estonia, and the Dominican Republic and will transfer this summer to Bogota, Colombia. Jay has a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A. in international studies from the University of Tennessee, with a minor in music performance. He is originally from Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Kathy Randels, Artistic Director, ArtSpot Productions, The Graduates
Kathy Randels, a native New Orleanian and founding artistic director of ArtSpot Productions, has written, performed in, and directed numerous original solo and collaboratively created group works for professional, student and incarcerated ensembles in Louisiana and beyond. Her soul shaking work has been presented in four continents, and over 30 U.S. States. She founded and co-directs the LCIW (Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women) Drama Club in 1996, and The Graduates (an ensemble of formerly incarcerated women/Robert Rauschenberg Foundation’s Racial Justice Fellows) in 2012. Past awards and performances: Sea of Common Catastrophe, Cry You One, and Nita & Zita (2003 Obie Award). Visit www.artspotproductions.org, and www.thegraduates.net.

Devika Ranjan, Lab Fellow; Co-creator and Performer, The Lab’s I Pledge Allegiance
Devika Ranjan tells stories about migration through research, advocacy, and theatre. Devika facilitates theatre workshops and creates performances internationally, specializing in devised performance, verbatim theatre, and drama for social justice. She is currently a Fellow at the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics. Devika holds a degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. She has a distinction from the University of Cambridge for her MPhil work on the electronic tagging of asylum-seekers in the UK. She is currently studying Applied Theatre as a Marshall Scholar at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, working with refugees and asylum-seekers in London.

Tim Raphael, Founding Director Newest Americans, Rutgers University-Newark
Tim Raphael is Professor of Arts, Culture and Media at Rutgers University-Newark, founding director of the Center for Migration and the Global City, and co-founder and director of the Newest Americans multimedia storytelling project. Dr. Raphael is also a theater director, producer, deviser and adapter who has developed over 50 new American plays. He is the author of The President Electric: Ronald Reagan and the Politics of Performance, which examines Reagan’s career in radio, film and television to assess how the techniques and technologies of electronic media have transformed American politics and political representation.

Ryan Rilette, Artistic Director, Round House Theatre, Maryland; Director, RHT’s Oslo

Mubbashir Rizvi, Lab Campus Cohort; Mubbashir is an Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Georgetown University. Dr. Rizvi’s field research analyzes the cultural significance of land relations, caste and religious identity to understand political subjectivity in Punjab, Pakistan. His teaching and research interests range from ethnography of social movements, historical anthropology, environmental anthropology and postcolonial theory. In addition to his research in South Asia, Dr. Rizvi is interested in how Muslim youth negotiate the politics of race in Europe and America. Dr. Rizvi has published an article “Multiple Lives of Black Islam in Hip Hop” that examines how Muslim youth relate to hip hop as they navigate through politics of race and belonging in Europe and America. He holds a PhD from the University of Texas, Austin.

Teddy Rodger, Programs Manager, The Lab; Producer, CrossCurrents
Teddy Rodger is The Lab’s Programs Manager. She was the Associate Director of Audience Development at DC’s Shakespeare Theatre Company, where she launched over 80 programs, workshops, panels, artist residencies, and discussions, and architected FREE WILL, a ticket access program that provided access to over 27,000 free theater tickets. Before relocating to DC, Rodger worked for playwrights Charles Mee and Michi Barall, serving as Barall’s dramaturg for Peer Gynt & The Norwegian Hapa Band (Ma-Yi Theatre). She was the Production Manager for the international premiere of From the Fire by Elizabeth Swados at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She holds a degree in the Arts with a concentration in Theatre from the New School.
Michael Rohd, Lead Artist for Civic Imagination, Center for Performance and Civic Practice
Michael Rohd is founding artistic director of the 19 year old national, ensemble-based Sojourn Theatre. In 2015, he received an Otto Rene Castillo award for Political Theater and The Robert Gard Foundation Award for Excellence. He is an Institute Professor at Arizona State University’s Herberger Institute for Design & the Arts and is author of the widely translated book Theatre for Community, Conflict, and Dialogue. He is Lead Artist for Civic Imagination at Center for Performance and Civic Practice where current initiatives include The Catalyst Initiative, Civic Body & Learning Labs. He was the 2013-2016 Doris Duke Artist-in-Residence at Lookingglass Theater Company in Chicago.

Max Rosenberg, Stage Manager, CrossCurrents Festival
Traveling Stage Manager & Technician. Most recent credits include ASM Madama Butterfly VA Opera, ASM Boston Lyric Opera Barber of Seville, Production Assistant The Irish Repertory Theatre The Dead, 1904 and Alum of the Juilliard Apprentice Program.

Ari Roth, Artistic Director, Mosaic Theater Company of DC
Ari Roth is a playwright, educator and Founding Artistic Director of Mosaic Theater Company of DC, dedicated to creating independent, intercultural, uncensored, socially relevant art. Over 18 seasons at Theater J, Roth built the fledgling DC theater into the largest Jewish theater in North America. Following the abrupt cancelation of his Voices From a Changing Middle East Festival and his controversial dismissal from the DC Jewish Community Center a month later, and buoyed by support from over 120 artistic directors across the country, Roth established Mosaic Theater to continue the Voices Festival and expand his theatrical mission. Mosaic’s inaugural season was heralded by The Washington Post as “one of the most significant developments in Washington theater in years.” Roth’s plays include Born Guilty, a sequel, The Wolf In Peter, Andy and The Shadows, Life in Refusal, Oh, the Innocents, and Love and Yearning in the Not for Profits.

Maya Roth, Lab Campus Cohort; Professor, Director, Dramaturg, Georgetown University
Maya Roth teaches at Georgetown, where she was founding Artistic Director of the Davis Center. As artist and scholar, she specializes in feminist plays, cross-cultural adaptations of classics, multiracial ensemble, and theater that interweaves psychic and social stakes. She is the child of a refugee. She has helped incubate dozens of new works, including as Heather Raffo’s developmental dramaturge for Noura and Fallujah. Maya stewards the Jane Chambers Prize for feminist playwriting (and curation), whose winners include Martyna Majok (Queens) and Christine Evans (Trojan Barbie). Her co-edited Lesbian and Queer Plays from the Jane Chambers Prize is out, with Cross-Cultural Plays coming (NoPassport Press, with Jen-Scott Mobley).

Scott Rozman, Certified Career/Life Coach, Well-Lived Coaching
Prior Movies Finance/Intl Finance Manager at HBO who created own career/life coaching business 15 years ago to help people make positive, long-term sustainable changes in their careers and life. MBA in Intl Business from NYU/Stern. www.scottrozman.com

Julia Rubens, Publications Manager, George Mason University
Julia is the publications manager for the College of Visual and Performing Arts at George Mason University. Her research interests include participatory theatre and increasing engagement opportunities for non-artists in performing arts practice.
Blair Ruble, Distinguished Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington DC
Blair A. Ruble is currently a Distinguished Fellow at the Wilson Center. Previously, he served as the Center's Vice President for Programs, and earlier as the Director of the Kennan Institute while simultaneously coordinating the Center's programming in comparative urban studies. He received his MA and PhD degrees in Political Science from the University of Toronto, and an AB degree with Highest Honors in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has edited more than a dozen volumes and is the author of seven monographic studies including Washington's U Street: A Biography.

Jojo Ruf, Managing Director, Theater J, Washington DC
Jojo Ruf is the Managing Director of Theater J, which she joined after serving as the Managing Director of The Lab for four years. Prior to The Lab, Jojo worked for the National New Play Network for five years and served as the Associate Executive Director for two years. She was the founding Executive and Creative Director of The Welders, a playwrights’ collective. Most recently, her work has taken her to Cuba, China, Chile, Israel, Poland, Peru, the UAE, and throughout the UK, among other places. She will graduate from Georgetown with an MBA in the spring of 2019.

Nikkole Salter, Actress/Playwright/Educator
www.nikkolesalter.com

Victoria Sams, Program Officer, Division of Education, National Endowment for the Humanities

Ambassador Cynthia Schneider, Co-Director Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics; Distinguished Professor of the Practice of Diplomacy, Georgetown University
Cynthia Schneider, a Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at Georgetown University, is the founding co-director of the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics. In addition, she co-directs the Los Angeles-based Muslims on Screen and Television (MOST Resource), and the Timbuktu Renaissance, a Malian-American initiative that supports Mali’s recovery from conflict through a focus on culture. From 1998-2001, Dr. Schneider served as US Ambassador to the Netherlands. Previously an Associate Professor of Art History at Georgetown University, Dr. Schneider has published on Rembrandt and organized exhibitions at the National Gallery of Art and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. @schneidercp


Elizabeth Schreiber-Byers, Cultural Programs Curator, Goethe-Institut; Prior to her position at the Goethe-Institut, Elizabeth was Assistant Professor of German and Head of the German Program at Ball State University and taught at both Duke University and UNC Chapel Hill. Her research explores performative acts of power and submission.

Andrew Sedlack, Devine Technician, CrossCurrents Festival
Andrew Sedlack is a physics/english student at Georgetown College who works and plays in technical theatre and lighting design.
Kate Seelye, Policymaker, Middle East Institute, Washington DC
Kate Seelye is vice president of the Middle East Institute where she oversees MEI’s arts and culture program, including the upcoming opening of the MEI Art Gallery. Prior to joining MEI in 2009, Seelye worked as a broadcast journalist covering the Arab world for nearly a decade from her base in Beirut for NPR, PBS, and UK’s Channel 4. She has also worked as a producer for the PBS Newshour and Marketplace Radio. Seelye is the recipient of several journalism awards, including the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award for NPR’s team coverage of the 2003 war on Iraq. She was awarded a Fulbright scholarship in 2005 for research on the Middle East.

Stefanie Sertich, Professor and Program Director, LaGuardia Community College, Queens, NY
Stefanie Sertich is a Professor and Program Director of the award-winning Theatre Program at LaGuardia Community College, CUNY. She is LaGuardia Mellon Humanities Alliance Scholars Coordinator, Region I Co-Chair of the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) and the ASPIRE Arts Leadership Coordinator (KCACTF). She directs new works, musicals and creates devised theatre pieces for social change. Professor Sertich is a two-time CUNY Salute to Scholar Nominee, Innovative Teaching Award Winner (ATHE), and University of Portland’s 2017 Contemporary Alumni Winner. Currently Stefanie is creating a new musical with Stew, Columbus is Happening (upcoming concert at Joe’s Pub).

Simone Seym, Climate Reality Leader, Goethe-Institut
Ariane Mnouchkine’s art to synergize stage presence and human rights formed me. As a Climate Reality Leader I use theater to foster dialogue about our global climate crisis, social justice and refugees, create an empowering vision of the future, and inspire people to take action.

Howard Shalwitz, co-Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington DC; Howard Shalwitz co-founded Woolly Mammoth Theatre in 1980 and guided the company as Artistic Director for 38 seasons. Under his leadership, Woolly grew from a tiny alternative theatre into one of the nation’s most influential producers of provocative new plays. He has directed dozens of new works by the nation’s most adventurous playwrights and received the 2014 Margo Jones Award for lifetime commitment to new American plays. Howard’s 2012 keynote address at the TCG national conference, reflecting on his travels to Eastern Europe, sparked a national conversation about theatrical innovation. He has spoken nationally about Woolly’s “Connectivity” strategy which promotes civic discourse through theatre, and about the challenge of sustaining provocative theatre in a polarized world.

Joanna Sherman, Artistic Director, Bond Street Theatre, New York
Joanna Sherman has initiated and directed theatre projects in 50 countries worldwide, working toward peacebuilding in communities in crisis. She is a frequent speaker and advocate for Theatre for Social Justice, and a member of the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics at Georgetown University. She received the 2014 Lee Reynolds Award from the League of Professional Theatre Women, the 2015 Otto Award for Political Theatre, and has served as Cultural Envoy in Myanmar (2010) and India (2018). Joanna has a BFA in Fine Arts from Cooper Union, and an MA in Theatre & International Studies from New York University. She also plays saxophone with the Shinbone Alley Stilt Band.

Robert Shimko, Director, School of Theatre & Dance, University of Houston; Executive Director, Houston Shakespeare Festival

Melisande Short-Colomb, Student, Descendant of the GU272, Author/ Performer, Georgetown University, USA
Méli Colomb has emerged as the most articulate and prominent spokesperson for the GU272 and Georgetown University. She’s currently working with Derek Goldman to develop her one person show “Here I Am.” The vision for the show combines Meli’s story with words and excerpts from the GU archives.

April Sizemore-Barber, Professor, Georgetown University
April Sizemore-Barber is an Assistant Professor in Women’s and Gender Studies at Georgetown University. Her research is located at the intersection of performance, queer, and Africana studies, and has been published in Theatre Journal, Theatre Topics, and Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies. She is currently working on her first book project, Prismatic Performances: Queer South Africa and the Fragmentation of the Rainbow Nation (forthcoming, University of Michigan Press), which traces the intersections of performance, South African queer identity, and concepts of post-apartheid citizenship.
Sophia Skiles, Actor, Teacher, Policymaker
Sophia Skiles is a NYC-based theater actor and teacher. She has performed in productions directed by May Adrales, Chay Yew, Ralph Peña, Andrei Serban, Mary Zimmerman, Richard Foreman and David Herskovits. She can next be seen in Michael Kahn's final production for Shakespeare Theatre Company in Ellen McLaughlin's new adaptation of the Oresteia. An experienced educator, Sophia has taught theater at Mount Holyoke College, SUNY Ulster and SUNY Purchase. Sophia was a lead organizer for the Obie Award-winning Theaters Against War (THAW). BS, Performance Studies (Northwestern University), MFA, Acting (Columbia University). www.sophiaskiles.com

Nick Slie, Co-Artistic Director Mondo Bizarro, New Orleans, LA
Nick Slie is a New Orleans-born performer, producer and cultural organizer. He is the Co-Artistic Director of Mondo Bizarro and an Associate Professor of Theater at Nunez Community College. Since 2002, Nick has toured a wide array of imaginative projects to art centers, universities and outdoor locations in 34 states across the country and abroad. However, he is most proud of the work he does at home, where the land kisses the water. Nick's creative endeavors range from interdisciplinary solo performances to large-scale community festivals, from innovative digital storytelling projects to site-responsive productions.

Kane Smego, Writer/Performer, Next Level
Kane Smego is an international touring spoken word artist, emcee, National Poetry Slam finalist, and the Associate Director of Next Level, an international hip hop and cultural exchange program. Kane's one-man show of hip hop theater, Temples of Lung and Air, premiered in 2018 and was selected to be featured at the United Solo Festival in NYC in October 2019. As a recording artist, Kane has featured on Grammy Award-winner King Mez's debut album My Everlasting Zeal, and topped the Spotify Viral 50 billboard in May 2017 featuring on the song North Cack with G Yamazawa.

David Smith, Journalist, The Guardian
I am the Washington bureau chief of The Guardian, reporting on the White House, Congress and the Smithsonian Institution. I was previously the Africa correspondent based in Johannesburg.

Sopheak Soung, Theater Director, Khmer Art Action
Soung Sopheak was born on 10 April 1978, in Phnom Penh. He graduated in BA theater Directing at RUFA (Royal University of Fine Art). In addition, as one of the founders of Khmer Art Action (KAA), he helps many young artists to express their potentials and was trained in International Theatre Festival in Hamburg, German and Media and Production in Australia (2014). As a Theatre Director, he involves actively in performance projects; theatre play such as Empowerment Woman, Drunk Driving, and The Courageous Turtle which is funded by IFA (Institut fuer Auslandsbeziehungen), Smart Company and EU (European Union).

Wole Soyinka, Nobel-Prize winning Nigerian playwright, poet and essayist; presenting excerpts of his new epic poem “A Humanist Ode for Chibok, Leah” as part of performances of The Chibok Girls: Our Story. Nigerian playwright and political activist Wole Soyinka received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986. He was born in 1934 in Abeokuta, near Ibadan, into a Yoruba family and studied at University College in Ibadan, Nigeria, and the University of Leeds, England. Soyinka is the author of five memoirs, including Aké: the Years of Childhood (1981) and You Must Set Forth at Dawn: A Memoir (2006), the novels The Interpreters (1965) and Season of Anomy (1973), and 19 plays shaped by a diverse range of influences, including avant-garde traditions, politics, and African myth.

Janet Stanford, Founding Artistic Director, Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD
Seema Sueko, Deputy Artistic Director, Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, Washington DC
Babak Tafti, NYC-based performer, Sanctuary City
**Jason Tamiru, Producer, Malthouse Theatre**  
Jason Tamiru is a proud Yorta Yorta man passionate about his people and culture. He has worked with many of Melbourne’s most iconic performing arts companies, museums and festivals. As a producer he supports his people’s creativity by building frameworks that complement cultural expressions. Jason is influenced by anything and everything that stimulates his spirit and soul, and he works to inspire the same passion amongst his community and peers.

**Katherine Thesing, Assistant PM/Devine SM, CrossCurrents Festival**  
Katherine Thesing is originally from Berea, Kentucky. Regional: We’ve Come to Believe, You Across From Me, Dracula (2016 - 2018), The Santaland Diaries (2017 & 2018), Pipeline, Airness, Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill, A Christmas Carol, and Macbeth at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Love’s Labour's Lost at Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Julius Caesar, Richard II and Much Ado About Nothing at Kentucky Shakespeare Festival.

**Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Senior Counselor, Albright Stoneridge Group**

**James Thompson, Professor/Practitioner/Writer, University of Manchester**  
James Thompson is a professor of Applied Theatre in the UK and founded inplaceofwar.net, support artists in war zones, and write about theatre in communities. Current working on performance and care.

**Daniella Topol, Artistic Director, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, New York**

**Dmitry Trubotchkin, Professor, Raykin Higher School of Performing Arts, Moscow, Russia**

**Julia (JT) Tvardovskaya, Lab Operations Assistant; Movement Artist; Master of Science in Foreign Service and MBA Dual-Degree Candidate, Georgetown University**  
Born in Lviv, Ukraine, JT has had a strong passion for international affairs and learning about various cultures and languages. Her experience in various movement arts, including but not limited to, Tae Kwon Do, dance, figure skating, yoga, gymnastics, and pole arts have created a passion for movement direction. Although she enjoys performing on stage, she prefers creating art and assisting others at the production table. Ultimately, she hopes to combine her passion in international affairs and movement and use movement as a tool for cultural discussion and conflict resolution. www.julia-tvardovskaya.com @jul_tvard

**Yury Urnov, Director, Center for International Theater Development**  
Stage director, translator, educator. His recent directing credits in the US include Mr. Burns A Post-Electric Play at Wilma Theater, Philadelphia, Putin on Ice at the ACME Corporation, Baltimore, Ubu Roi at Cutting Ball Theater in San Francisco, award-winning Thr3e Zisters at Salvage Vanguard Theater in Austin, The Pillowman at Forum Theater in DC, and also KISS, Marie Antoinette and You for Me for You at Woolly Mammoth Theater Company in DC, which Yury is a member of. Yury is an Associate Director of the Center for International Theater Development, and teaches at Towson University, MD.

**Mark Valdez, Artist/Organizer**  
Mark Valdez is an artist, cultural organizer, and consultant who partners with communities, organizations, civic institutions, and others, using theater and creative tools to address community needs and to lift up community voices.
Drew Valins, Actor, Alliance for New Music Theater
Drew Valins, native of Tampa, FL, has appeared on NY stages for fourteen years. He is a ten year member of the Shakespeare in the Parking Lot troupe and recently directed their Midsummer Night's Dream. Franz Fragments has appeared on numerous stages and alternative spaces along with his solo show “A Report to an Academy” based on the short story by Kafka. Most recently Drew worked with Prague’s Spitfire Company and DC’s Alliance for New Music Theater portraying Vaclav Havel’s alter ego. He has appeared with Columbia Stages, Shakespeare Theater of NJ, The Vital Children’s Theater, and Slava’s Snowshow, and stars in the web series pilot The Mackenzie Dylan Show. His principal trainers are the Shakespeare Theater of NJ, Dell Arte School of Physical Theater, Michael Howard, Larry Singer, Jef Johnson & Anna Brennen. www.drewvalins.com

Sarka Ponroy Vamberova, Cultural attaché, Embassy of the Czech Republic
Since 2007 Czech diplomat, has been posted in Brussels (European Commission), Sydney, Australia and since 2016 in Washington, DC. This year is the president of EUNIC.

Manuel Francisco Viveros, Lab Fellow; Actor, Director
Manuel Viveros has a BFA Acting from Universidad Del Valle in Cali, Colombia. He worked as actor in theatre, movies and tv for a few years and becoming after in one of the new directors generation in his city early 2000’s. Then he moves to Buenaventura in the Colombian Pacific Coast where he was as acting professor at Universidad Del Valle’s Pacifico branch during 5 years. He has a MS in Government and Public Policies from ICESI University in Colombia and actually is Fellow of The Laboratory of Global Politics and Performance from Georgetown University.

Vladivojna La Chia, Celebrated Czech Composer, Singer, Writer, and Producer, performing with her acoustic group & 4Trio.

Gavin Witt, Dramaturg/Director/Translator/Professor, Baltimore Center Stage & Johns Hopkins
Gavin has spent the past 17 seasons at Baltimore Center Stage (after nearly the same length of time in the Chicago theater community) working as a dramaturg, director, translator, and creative producer. Alongside, he has taught for nearly 25 years at the University of Chicago, DePaul, Towson, and most recently Johns Hopkin’s Peabody Institute.

Tamilla Woodard, Director, En Garde Arts
Tamilla is the Associate Artistic Director of WP Theater and co-founder of PopUP Theatrics, which has created immersive and participatory theatre for audiences in Europe, South America, Mexico and the US since 2007. She is a WP Theater Directors Lab Time Warner Fellow, an alumnus of The Lincoln Center Director’s Lab, Usual Suspect at New York Theatre Workshop and a graduate of The Yale School of Drama. Woodard’s work has been seen the A.C.T., Atlantic Theatre Company, The Working Theater, New York Theater Workshop, HERE Arts Center, New Georges among others. Currently, she is the associate director of HADESTOWN on Broadway.

Stephanie Ybarra, Artistic Producer, Baltimore Center Stage
Stephanie Ybarra is in her first season as Artistic Director for Baltimore Center Stage after serving seven years as Director of Special Artistic Projects for The Public Theater in New York. Her career spans two decades includes roles at Dallas Children’s Theater, Dallas Theater Center, Yale Repertory Theater, Two River Theater Company, and Playwrights Realm. In response to the current state of the world, Stephanie co-founded the Artists’ Anti-Racism Coalition, a grassroots effort to help the Off-Broadway community dismantle systems of exclusion and oppression. She holds an MFA from Yale School of Drama, and a deep belief in the power of the Post-it note.

Linda Zachrison, Cultural Counselor, Embassy of Sweden
Artistic director for international performing arts venue c/o Stockholm Stadsteater and Parkteatern in Stockholm, CEO Cirkus Cirkor, Political Advisor for the Minister of Culture and Education in Sweden, head of distribution and international office at the Swedish Film institute.

Amir Nizar Zuabi (joining Via Videolink), Theater Director & Playwright; Author of Remote Theater Project’s Grey Rock, Palestine
Beyond CrossCurrents

The Lab is deeply committed to relationship-building beyond the lifespan of individual projects, and creating substantive dynamic partnerships with theaters, embassies, cultural institutions, and policy organizations both in Washington, D.C. and around the world.

Ajoka Theatre
Al-Bugaa Theatre

Alliance for New Music Theatre

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater

Austrian Cultural Forum Washington

Austrian Embassy Washington

Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs

Belarus Free Theatre

Bisno Productions

Bridges of Understanding

British Council
CalArts

Cambodia Living Arts

Center for International Theatre Development

DAH Teatar

Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies

dog & pony DC

Edinburgh International Cultural Summit

Embassy of Czech Republic

Embassy of Pakistan

Embassy of South Africa

Embassy of Sweden

Embassy of Switzerland
Forum Theatre
Freer-Sackler Gallery
Goethe Institut of Washington
Embassy of Greece of Washington D.C.
HowlRound
Imagination Stage
Embassy of Italy
Jan Karski Educational Foundation
Kamchátka
LaGuardia Performing Arts Center
Laterna Magika
McCarter Theatre

Middle East Institute's Arts and Culture Program

Mosaic Theater

Museum of Jewish Heritage

Museum of the History of Polish Jews

National Museum of African Art- Smithsonian

Octopus Theatricals

Olney Theatre Center

Ping Chong + Company

Pussy Riot

Refuge Productions
Riksteatern Theatre

Romanian Cultural Institute

Round House Theater

Shakespeare Theatre Company

Shared Studios

Sojourn Theatre

Spain Arts & Culture

Studio Theatre

Teatr IMKA

Teatro Línea de Sombra

The Clarice

The Freedom Theatre

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

The Market Theatre
Theater and Performance Studies Program

Theater J

Theatre Without Borders

Trust for Mutual Understanding

University of Baghdad

University of Edinburgh's Institute for International Cultural Relations

US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Václav Havel Library Foundation

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company