DUAF

DOWNTOWN URBAN ARTS FESTIVAL

MAY 5-6.23 & JUNE 7-24.23

PRODUCED BY

CREATIVE AMMO INC.

JOE'S PUB
425 LAFAYETTE STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10003

PETER JAY SHARP THEATER
416 WEST 42ND STREET
@ PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS
NEW YORK, NY 10036

TICKETS:
@ DUAFNYC.COM

NYC Cultural Affairs
New York City Council
arcos COMMUNICATIONS

WELCOME TO THE 21ST SEASON OF THE DOWNTOWN URBAN ARTS FESTIVAL/DUAF

ABOUT US.

In 2001, the theater program at DUAF was founded with the purpose to build a repertoire of new American theatre that echoes the true spirit of urban life and speaks to a whole new generation whose lives defy categorizing along conventional lines. That purpose has been realized many times over, as 200 writers have created and refined their work for the stage and thousands of inspired audience members have applauded their performances. It has been recognized as "one of the world's best festivals for new works" and described as "not only prestigious, but a slice of heaven for playwrights who want the chance to freely express themselves." (Lisa Mulcahy, Theater Festivals, Allworth Press, 2005).

For more info, visit us at duafnyc.com

MAJOR FUNDERS.

NYC Cultural Affairs

DUAF is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

New York City Council

DUAF receives support as part of the Coalition Theaters of Color, a New York City Council initiative to support the operations and programming of theaters and cultural organizations primarily in communities of color.
Arcos Communications is a Founding Sponsor of DUAF.

HUMANITIES NEW YORK

The Conversation with Savion Glover and Reg E. Gaines is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Poets&Writers

This event is funded in part by Poets & Writers through public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

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GET OUT!

Get Out Magazine is our LGBTQ+ media sponsor

THE TEAM.

T. Marc Newell
Producer

Reg E. Gaines
Artistic Director, Theater

Desmond Hall
Film Committee Chair

DeVante Lewis
Coordinator

Reid Sullivan
Production Manager

Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez • Somos Arte
Graphic Designer (somosarte.com)

Daniel DeMello • DanDeMello.com
Publicist

Gaspar Marquez
Photographer

In ***If Trane Wuz Here***, **Savion Glover** and **reg e gaines** (*Bring in da Noise Bring in da Funk*) make a much anticipated return to **The Public Theater.** Celebrating Coltrane's genius, Glover and gaines with a special guest saxophonist use his magical melodies as suggestions for improvisation. Both homage to Coltrane and celebration of his music, *If Trane Wuz Here* is an inspirational and educational evening of music, dance and text.

IF TRANE WUZ HERE

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NEW YORK, NY 10036

TICKETS $50
There is a 2 drink or 1 food item minimum, per person.

TICKETS:
@ DUAFNYC.COM

PETER JAY SHARP THEATER
416 WEST 42ND STREET
PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS
NYC 10036
TICKETS $20
AVAILABLE AT DUAFNYC.COM

JUNE 7

A CONVERSATION WITH SAVION GLOVER & REG E GAINES

A look back and conversation about theatre and their Tony-winning Bring in da Noise Bring in da Funk musical.

ELLSWORTH

by **TAJ RAUCH**

...follows two housemates bonding over their urban trials and tribulations. What starts as a conversation on a rooftop morphs into a modern retelling of the story of the Buddha and his connection to their struggles.

JUNE 8

SILVER MENACE

by **LUCY WANG**

Be Like Water, but don't make a big splash. Be like Smart Water. Don't Be Like John Waters. To be a Model Minority. Sit, smile, study. Practice piano. Stir-fry. Bake cookies. Whatever you do, don't make trouble. But with Anti-Asian Hate crimes spiking, it's time to make some waves. It's time to be the Silver Menace.

CAGED

by **MEL NIEVES**

An illegal immigrant finds herself in a detention center holding cell, separated from her young son when a guard approaches her and tries to assure her that she and her son will be safe even though they both know this is far from being true.

JUNE 9

REMEMBERING MORGAN

by **ANNIE BROWN**

... about grief, remembrance, and encountering death too young. After the unexpected death of a high school student, a journal is discovered full of letters she has written to every person she may have wanted to say goodbye to. It explores the undefinability of grief through heartbreak, masked emotions, and unanswered questions.

CHIQUITA

by **JAMES BOSLEY**

One afternoon in a hotel room in Hollywood, the movie star Steve McQueen met with Jim Morrison. All we know about the meeting is that it was not a success.

JUNE 10

THE BAD IN EACH OTHER

by **ALEXANDER PEREZ**

What begins as a hot fling evolves into a years-long passionate tug-of-war that consumes both parties as they struggle to reconcile their ideologies, lust, and exhaustion. What is creative success but a means to betray your ideals? What is activism if not a means to apologize for privilege? Can't we just stay home and watch tv?

JUNE 14

THE DANDIEST DUO

by **MARCUS HARMON**

Set in an alternative reality where Donald Trump is King and racism is the norm, two brothers come face to face with their morals and dignity while on the Broadway Stage.

BY THE LIGHT OF THE GHETTO MOON

by **SUSAN JUSTINIANO**

...an exploration of self as Jane comes to terms with her past traumas growing up in a patriarchal strict Puerto Rican household. Her perspectives are shared with the most consistent presence through her childhood, the Moon.

JUNE 15

OTIS AND ANNA

by **EMMA DENSON**

When a NYC scenic designer is diagnosed with dementia and dumped by his partner, his world implodes. His former student moves in with him to help him cope. They develop their own language through a shared love of art.

GOOD YEAR, ARIZONA

by **JULIAN SKY**

A community divided. A public education system in tatters. When a collection of parents orchestrate a neo-fascist takeover of a public school board, books are banned, fires are set, and only one teacher stands in the way.

JUNE 16

OVERDOSE

by **SARAH CONGRESS**

Ted and Laila are having the BEST third date ever...until they walk into Ted's apartment to find his roommate, Mike, overdosing on Oxy. What is our role in another person's mental health?

OUR LITTLE SECRET

by **ROLLIN JEWETT**

Darlene is surprised late one night by an armed intruder kicking in the door of her apartment. She soon discovers that the intruder is not what he seems and she must decide whether to help him or turn him in.

JUNE 17

STRAPPED

by **BRYAN-KEYTH WILSON** and **ARELIA JOHNSON**

Seven strangers come to the theatre expecting to see an award-winning playwright's new play but they are told by the stage manager the performance is canceled. Tempers flare, and a mysterious omnipresent voice begins to calm the audience down and interrogate the seven strangers who are upset.

JUNE 22

COLLIDE

by **MARITA A. MCKEE**

The city of Ascension is in turmoil after the killing of a Black teenager. A journalist, community activist, and policeman sit down for dinner. Will they find common ground? Or will their personal traumas force them to collide? Collide explores what it truly means to have a seat at the table on issues of racism, social justice, and police brutality.

JUNE 23

WILLIE GETS NAKED!

by **WILLIE THE GENIUS**

WILLIE, a world-class entertainer, must unpack years of generational trauma to overcome a drug addiction after a series of unfortunate life-altering events forces them to question aspects of their very own existence. They must rely on the guidance of their ancestors, spiritual guides, and people they meet along their way to find their way back to their light.

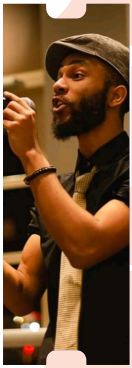
JUNE 24

THE FORMER KINGS OF CLUTCH CITY

by **CRIS ELI BLAK**

The week after the funeral of their friend who took his own life, a group of high school students are forced to open their eyes to the hard realities of life, realizing their worths, their truth, their regrets, their dreams and the secrets that they can't keep inside of them much longer.

PLAYWRIGHTS



CRIS ELI BLAK is an emerging Black playwright whose work has been produced Off-Broadway and around the country; on university stages; as well as in London, Australia, Ireland, and Canada. The winner of the **Black Broadway Men Playwriting Initiative**, he is also currently the artist-in-residence at **SUNY - Oswego** and the recipient of the **Emerging Playwrights Fellowship** from **The Scoundrel & Scamp Theatre**. He was a resident playwright with **Fosters Theatrical Artists Residency, Paterson Performing Arts Development Council;** the recipient of the **Michael Bradford Residency** from **Quick Silver Theatre Company**; and was in the inaugural class of fellows for the **Black Theatre Coalition**.

JAMES BOSLEY is a published, translated, and produced playwright and director. His plays have been produced and performed in theaters across this land and abroad, including **MCC Theatre; The National Theater of Belgium at Ghent, The Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Emerging Artists Theater,** and **Up Theater Company** in Northern Manhattan where he is a founding member. He has held residency fellowships from **Yaddo**, the **MacDowell Colony** and the **Edward Albee Foundation**. The screenplay ***FUN***, which he adapted from his stage play, was nominated for an **Independent Spirit Award**. Bosley was member of the **2018 Lincoln Center Theater's Directors Lab**.

ANNIE BROWN is an Oklahoma based playwright, composer, and director. Beginning as a performer, Annie has always adored theatre and as she got introduced to the various elements, her love only grew! Some other works of her's include Snapshots: a musical in ***13 minutes***, ***Heard It From a Birdie***, and ***Extravagant Toast***. She currently studies at **The Dobbins Conservatory of Theatre and Dance** at **Southeast Missouri State University**.

SARAH CONGRESS's comedy ***KARMA*** will be produced this Winter in the **Queen's Secret Theatre** one-act play festival. Her play **A Thanksgiving to Remember** was published in the anthology ***Borderless Thalia: A Multilingual, Pandemic Comic Collection***. Her play ***DRACULA...in DENVER!*** was produced in the **2022 Secret Theatre One Act Play Festival** (Queens, NY July-August 2022) and in the 2022 **Your Worst Nightmare Theatre Festival** (San Francisco, CA, April 2022). In 2021, her play ***FRESH KILLS*** was selected to be a part of the **DUAF** (NYC, June, 2021) and her full-length play The ***Angel Manual*** was read in the **2021 HB Studio Playwright's Reading Series** (virtual, June, 2021).

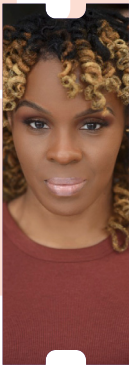
EMMA DENSON is an Alabama-born, Brooklyn-based writer and director of theatre. Selected credits: ***Hunger Staged Reading*** (Director, **Irish Arts Center**), ***sub[vert]way*** (Director/Playwright, **IATI's Mujerstory 2023**) ***The Taming of Kate*** (Director, **Triskellion Arts**), ***Emily*** (Director, **The Chain**), ***I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*** (Director, **Stagedoor Manor**). ***UPCOMING: Hunger Staged Reading*** (Director, **Ukrainian Museum**), When ***David Buckel Saved the World*** (Associate Director, **BRICLab Residency**), ***BURN*** (Director, A**labama Fringe Festival on the Alabama Shakespeare Festival Mainstage**), Artist-in-residence at **Mississippi State University Spring 2023**.

MARCUS HARMON is a playwright, actor, and singer from Columbus, Ohio, now based in Brooklyn, New York. He has staged award-winning plays for the **Chain Theater** (20th Anniversary), **NY Theater Festival** (Edin), and the **2022 Off-Broadway DUAF Festival** (20th Anniversary).

ROLLIN JEWETT is an award winning playwright, screenwriter, singer-songwriter, poet and author. His last DUAF play, ***Socky Tells All***, was nominated for three **2022 Broadway World Awards**, including **Best New Off-Broadway Play**. Jewett's feature film credits include ***Laws of Deception*** and ***American Vampire*** and his poetry and stories have been published in numerous books and magazines. Many of his plays have been performed Off-Broadway and internationally.

ARELIA JOHNSON is a native Houstonian, a product of **Worthing High School** and graduate of **Texas Southern University**. She published her first book, ***Thick: The Ideal of Beauty, the Social Construction of Perfection, and Their Impacts on Women*** in 2013. In 2020, She earned her doctorate from **Howard University**. She worked with the **Normal Anomaly Initiative** and **Bryan-Keyth Wilson** on the play ***sTrapped***. She is a mother of two.

SUSAN JUSTINIANO: As a poet, writer, and community leader, Susan has been involved in Arts nonprofit organizations since 2018, her first experience with the **Jersey City Arts Council**. She also had the honor of serving as board member of In **Full Color**, Vice President of **WordSeed Inc,** Co-Chair of EDI for **Bergen County Players**, and various committees for **Paterson Performing Arts Development Council**, Jersey City **Puerto Rican Heritage, Arts and Culture**, **ArtPride New Jersey, Hudson County Community College Language Collective** and **Hudson County Chamber of Commerce**.



MARITA A. MCKEE is an actor, playwright, and creative entrepreneur who is most passionate about using performance as a means of storytelling. As a professional theater artist, she has performed in both original and classical works, earning a **Georgia Theatre Conference Best Featured Performer Award** (***No Child***) and a **Broadway World Atlanta Award for Best Play Non-Professional** (***Packing Up Polly***). Her first short plays, ***The Dreaded Truth and Check, Please*** were produced by **Two Strikes Theatre Collective** in 2021. In that same year, Marita also co-founded **Bamboo Summer**, a production company specializing in scripted and unscripted series, short films, and narrative visuals.

MEL NIEVES NYC based actor-writer-arts educator
A member of the **LAByrinth Theater Company** and **The Actors Studio Playwright-Director Unit**. His plays, ***Prospect Avenue, The Spirit, The Body & The Blood, In Da Boogie Down*** are published by **Next Stage Press.**

ALEXANDER PEREZ is a Cuban-American Playwright/ Cartoonist/Desk Jockey/Dad making it work in the Big Apple. Since 2015 his plays have been performed in NYC, London, Chicago, and beyond! Recent productions include, ***Randy's Dandy Coaster Castle*** (**Egg & Spoon Theatre Collective, A.R.T/NY. 2022**), ***The In-Between*** (**Pelmear Theatre, London, UK, 2022**). His plays *Randy's Dandy Coaster Castle* and ***The Bad in Each Other*** were finalists for the 2022 SETC Ready to Publish Award. He is a current member of **Playground NY's 22-23 Writer's Pool**.

TAJ RAUCH is a playwright, installation artist and designer with an appetite for creating voyeuristic commentaries on nihilistic worlds. Every piece he creates must contribute to the larger story that he is trying to tell. From the possibilities of divinity to the human mind's ability to manufacture truth to the nature of Blackness, he is obsessed with letting worlds play out long enough to reveal themselves as dystopias.

JULIAN SKY is a Latinx writer, director, actor, and Queens native. He earned a BFA in Acting from **Emerson College** and has produced for a variety of venues including **Town Hall** and **Theater Row**. Julian was the recipient of **Teatro TEBA's 2022 New Play Commission** and was recognized by **Premio Arte Internacional** as an emerging writer. Julian is an advocate for equity in the arts and values diverse representation and previously untold stories in all of his work. He is also a screenwriter - his web series ***Dining In***, and feature film ***The Rite of Appetites*** are both currently in development. Julian has also appeared on **HBO's Masterclass** where he worked with renowned theater maker **Anna Deavere Smith.**

LUCY WANG is an award-winning, produced and published writer across many topics and genres. Her play ***JUNK BONDS*** won an award from the **Kennedy Center** and **Best New Play** from the **Katherine and Lee Chilcote Foundation**. She most recently won **Outstanding Female Artist in L.A.**, and is featured in the short documentary ***Look What She Did!*** Her short play ***Two Artists Trying to Pay Their Bill*** won an international comedy prize, and inclusion in an anthology **Best Ten-Minute Plays 2020**, published by **Applause Books**.

WILLIE THE GENIUS: Willie Dean, professionally known as WILLIE the GENIUS, is an entertainer, producer, and community resource activist from Chocolate Bayou, Houston, Texas currently residing in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, New York. Their work has been called both radical and revolutionary. “I want my work to challenge social norms and to completely dismantle the current social system to create space for a new all-inclusive, equitable society through music, film, and all other mediums of art,” says Willie of their praxis. WILLIE is a 2023-2024 artist-in-residence at the **People’s Theatre Project** where they are currently writing, producing, and starring in their solo-theatre and late-night talk show, ***WILLIE GETS NAKED!*** touring **New York City Housing Community** developments and public spaces summer 2023 ahead of its Off-Broadway debut Fall 2023.

BRYAN-KEYTH WILSON, dubbed the Literary Prince, is a theatre artist/producer who places diversity, equity and inclusion at the forefront of every project. He studied Musical Theatre at **Sam Houston State University**. He is the founding artistic director of **The Creative Co-Lab TX|NYC**. His awards include the **Stories of Diversity Playwright Festival** and Best Audience Award for his ***FOR COLORED BOYZ*** at **DUAF 2022.**