

I'M TIRED OF ALL THIS DRAMA!

A Gathering to Discuss Contemporary Comedy in American Theatre



Attendee List:

Dustin H. Chinn is a Seattle native whose plays include *Snowflakes, or Rare White People, I Am Nakamura*, the EST/Sloan Commission *Herschel: Portrait of a Killer*, *Let's Ninja Science Ranger Team Get!* and *Colonialism is Terrible, but Pho is Delicious*. He's developed work with the Ars Nova Play Group, Ground Floor at Berkeley Rep Summer Residency Lab, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, A.C.T.'s New Strands Festival, the University of Washington via a Mellon Creative Fellowship, Ensemble Studio Theatre, SPACE on Ryder Farm, UMass at Amherst New Play Lab, and Vampire Cowboys. He's also written for the 52nd Street Project.

Jamie Gahlon is the Director and a co-founder of HowlRound. She is a co-creator of the World Theatre Map and New Play Map, oversees the HowlRound Journal and HowlRound TV, supports the work of the Latinx Theatre Commons, and co-administers The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's National Playwright Residency Program, and regularly produces theatre convenings around urgent field-wide issues. Prior to her work at HowlRound, Jamie helped launch the American Voices New Play Institute and the NEA New Play Development Program at Arena Stage. Jamie has also worked for New York Stage & Film, and the New Victory Theatre. She is a proud member of the Latinx Theatre Commons Steering Committee, the Committee of the Jubilee, and a Think Tank Member for the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics. Jamie holds a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service with a focus on Culture & Politics from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. She originally hails from Minnesota, the land of 10,000 lakes, and likes to dabble.

JD Stokely is a trickster-in-training who creates and curates performances around Queerness, nostalgia, the Black body, and home. Stokely has produced lectures, workshops and performances at venues such as: [Sanctuary@HERE](#) Arts Center (NYC, USA), Wilma Theatre (Philadelphia, USA), InterAct Theatre (Philadelphia, USA), Bishopsgate Institute (UK), 198 Contemporary Arts & Learning (UK), and ZLOMVAZ festival DAMU (Czech Republic). Stokely is a founding member of [SUPER|object](#), a Queer curatorial collective that serves as an arts incubator for emerging artists, and A Collective Apparition, a group of LGBTQ Black artists whose work is "rooted in the past, but poised on the crux of the present & future." Stokely received an MA in Advanced Theatre Practice from Royal Central School of Speech & Drama in 2014, and a BA from Hampshire College in 2011. They are also a 2016 graduate of Arden Theatre Company's professional apprenticeship program. They are a karaoke enthusiast, an astrology nerd, and a lover of gourmet ice cream.

Jon Kern - Plays include *Modern Terrorism, or They Who Want to Kill Us and How We Learn to Love Them* (Second Stage Theatre; CATF), *We in Silence Hear a Whisper* (Red Fern Theatre Co.), *Do Not Disturb: a hotel experience* (Roma B.), and *Hate the Loser Inside* (2013 Marathon at Ensemble Studio Theatre). Alumnus: Ars Nova Play Group, Civilians R&D Group, EST/Youngblood, Ma-Yi Writers Lab, Playwrights Union. Awards: 2010-2011 Van Lier Fellowship from New Dramatists, 2012 Laurents/Hatcher Prize, EST/Sloan Grant, Commission La Jolla Playhouse. University of Chicago (BA), Columbia University (MFA). TV: "The Simpsons," "Son of Zorn," "Jeff and Some Aliens."

Julie Felise Dubiner is the Associate Director of American Revolutions at OSF. She was previously on staff at Actors Theatre of Louisville and the Prince Music Theater. She has freelanced as a dramaturg and producer with Defiant, Steppenwolf, KCACTF, Philly Fringe, the O'Neill Playwrights Conference, the New Harmony Project, and elsewhere. She is a co-author of *The Process of Dramaturgy*, a contributor to several anthologies and blogs, and a co-creator of *Rock & Roll: The Reunion Tour*. She was funny as an undergraduate at Tufts and less funny while getting her MFA at Columbia.

Karen Zacarias was recently hailed as one of the most produced playwrights in the US. Her award-winning plays include *Destiny of Desire*, *Native Gardens*, *The Book Club Play*, *Legacy of Light*, *Mariela in the Desert*, *The Sins of Sor Juana*, the adaptations of *Just Like Us*, *Into The Beautiful North*, and *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent*. She is the author of ten renowned TYA musicals and the librettist of several ballets. She is one of the inaugural Mellon resident playwrights at Arena Stage, a core founder of the Latinx Theatre Commons, and a founder of Young Playwrights' Theater.

Lila Rose Kaplan's plays shine light on the stories we don't tell about women. Her heroines live in heartfelt comedies, bittersweet dramas, and musicals for young people. Her plays include *The Villains' Supper Club*, *Jesus Girls*, *Home of the Brave*, *1 2 3 - a play about abandonment and ballroom dancing*, *We All Fall Down*, *Wildflower*, *Bureau of Missing Persons*, and *Biography of a Constellation*. Her musicals for young people include: *The Light Princess*, *The Pirate Princess*, and *The Magic Fish*. Productions include: A.R.T., South Coast Rep, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, New Victory Theatre, Second Stage, San Francisco Playhouse, Neighborhood Productions, Know Theatre, and Perishable Theatre. Development includes: Huntington Theatre, Trinity Rep, Arena Stage, Kennedy Center, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Theatreworks, PlayPenn, and The Lark. Awards: National Science Award in Playwriting and The International Women's Playwriting Award. Fellowships: Huntington Playwriting Fellowship, Playwrights' Realm Writing Fellow, Old Vic/New Voices Exchange, and the Shank Fellowship. Residencies: The Orchard Project, Space on Ryder Farm, New Rep Next Voices, Harvard Business School, and Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics. Coming up next: *The Magician's Daughter* premieres at Geva Theatre Center in January 2019. Lila Rose lives in Cambridge with her marine biologist and her curious daughter. www.lilarose.org

Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, 6'6", is a San Francisco-based playwright whose works include *The Making of a Great Moment* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Z Space 2017), *A House Tour of the Infamous Porter Family Mansion with Tour Guide Weston Ludlow Londonderry* (Z Space 2016), *The Totalitarians* (NNPN premiere 2014), *boom* (TCG's most produced play 2009-10), *BOB* (2011 Humana Festival for New American Plays at Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Barrie and Bernice Stavis Award), *T.I.C. (Trenchcoat In Common)*, *Hunter Gatherers* (2007 ATCA/Steinberg New Play Award, 2007 Will Glickman Prize), *Colorado*, and *Litter: The True Story of the Framingham Dodecutuplets*. His work has been seen off-Broadway and across the country including at Ars Nova, Woolly Mammoth, SPF, Seattle Repertory, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Southern Rep, Kitchen Dog, and in the Bay Area at Z Space, A.C.T., Encore Theatre, Killing My Lobster, Marin Theatre Company, Impact Theatre, and The Bay Area Playwrights Festival. Projects in process include an original musical called *Fall Springs* (NAMT festival 2017) with composer/lyricist Niko Tsakalakos. Peter holds a degree in Theater and Biology from Brown and an MFA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. Peter is an alumna of New Dramatists and is Playwright in Residence at Z Space in San Francisco. He likes to promote himself online at www.peternachtrieb.com.

Ramona Ostrowski is the Producer of HowlRound at Emerson College. Previously, Ramona worked as the Literary Manager at Company One Theatre, the Executive and Development Assistant at ArtsBoston, and the Literary Associate at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. An advocate for new plays, Ramona has worked on various projects as a dramaturg, reads scripts for multiple companies, and was a founding editor of the [New England New Play Alliance](#)'s weekly newsletter. Ramona is a member of [LMDA](#), and has a BA in English and Theatre from Boston University and a Masters Certificate in Gender, Leadership, and Public Policy from UMass Boston.

Rose Oser is the Associate Artistic Director of Z Space and the Co-Artistic Director of FaultLine Theater, both based in San Francisco. She has developed, directed, and/or produced new work by Andrew Saito, Karina Cochran, Nayia Kuvetakis, Barry Eitel, Dan Giles, Luna Malbroux, Jake Jeppson, and Vanessa Flores, among others. She is the book writer of *Tinderella: the modern musical* and hosts *Tinder Disrupt*, a dating show where comedians make PowerPoint presentations to pitch their friends. She holds a B.A. in Rhetoric from U.C. Berkeley.

Sean Daniels is a theatre director who has worked all over the world. He is currently the Artistic Director of Merrimack Repertory Theater in Lowell, MA. Sean has been named "one of the top fifteen up & coming artists in the U.S., whose work will be transforming America's stages for decades to come" and "One Of 7 People Reshaping And Revitalizing The American Musical" by American Theatre magazine. His direction and shows have won "Best Play" and "Best Director" in New York, London, Bay Area, Portland, Rochester, and Atlanta. He's previously served as the Artist-At-Large for Geva Theatre Center and spent four years at the Tony Award-winning Actors Theatre of Louisville as the theatre's Associate Artistic Director

(where he directed seventeen productions including five Humana Festivals). Mr. Daniels is the former Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director of the California Shakespeare Theater and before that spent a decade as the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Dad's Garage Theater Company in Atlanta. He'd love to hear from you. @seandaniels

Vijay Mathew is a co-founder and the Cultural Strategist of [HowlRound](#), based at Emerson College, Boston, USA and is privileged to assist a talented team by leading HowlRound's development of commons-based online knowledge sharing platforms and the organization's notions of cultural innovation. Prior to his current position, he was the Coordinator for the National Endowment for the Arts New Play Development Program for two years, as well as a Theater Communication Group New Generations Future Leader grant recipient under David Dower's mentorship in new work at Arena Stage in Washington, DC. Vijay has a MFA from New School University in New York City and a BA from University of Chicago. He is a board member of [Double Edge Theatre](#) located in rural Ashfield, Massachusetts, USA.

Wendy MacLeod's play *Slow Food* will premiere next season at Merrimack Repertory Theater and *The Laugh Track* is slated to be produced at ACT in Seattle. *Women in Jeopardy!* premiered at Geva Theater and is now being done around the country. Her other plays include *Sin* (The Goodman, Second Stage), *Schoolgirl Figure* (The Goodman Theatre), *The Water Children* and *Juvenilia* (Playwrights Horizons), and *Things Being What They Are* (Seattle Repertory Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre) and *The House of Yes* (Gate Theater and Soho Rep)—now an award-winning Miramax film starring Parker Posey. Her humor and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Dramatist*, *Poetry*, on *Salon*, *The Rumpus*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, and *All Things Considered*. A graduate of the Yale School of Drama, she is a winner of The New Yorker Caption Contest.