



**L.A.
WRITERS'
WORKSHOP
FESTIVAL**

JAN 26-28 AND

KIRKDOUGLASTHEATRE.ORG

**CENTER
THEATRE
GROUP**

Welcome to the Kirk Douglas Theatre and the L.A. Writers' Workshop Festival!

Since 2005, CTG's L.A. Writers' Workshop has invited a cohort of local playwrights to spend a year researching and writing a new work. As sharing a new work in front of an audience is a vital part of the process and development of a play, in recent years, we have gone one step further by having the workshop culminate in a concentrated weekend of readings. As CTG's new Artistic Director, this festival is important to me as it allows two of CTG's Core Values—Artistic Innovation and Centering Los Angeles—to come together through the creative process.

I want to take a moment to thank Amy Berryman, Jasmine Sharma, Inda Craig-Galván, Ramiz Monsef, christopher oscar peña, and Isaac Gómez for letting us be a part of their process and allowing us to be the first to hear these incredible new plays; it is a brave and vulnerable act to put your work out there publicly for the first time. It has been an honor to have this thoughtful, adventurous, and inspiring cohort of writers in residence at CTG over the last year. And last, but not least, a big thank you to all of you joining us over this festival weekend for being here, for taking part in the journey of these new works, and for being supportive of these artists and the new play development process.

If you'd like to support the L.A. Writers' Workshop or get more information about CTG's artistic development programs, please visit us at ctgla.org.

Thank you again for joining us—and welcome to the L.A. Writers' Workshop Festival!

Snehal Desai
Cheers

Snehal Desai
Artistic Director
Center Theatre Group



This performance is made possible in part by the City of Culver City and its Cultural Affairs Commission, with support from SonyPictures Entertainment.

Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones and watch alarms. The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management. Patrons with disabilities: wheelchair seating is available in a variety of theatre locations. When ordering tickets, please indicate any special needs. For our hearing-impaired guests, the theatre is equipped with listening devices; please contact an usher for assistance.

**CENTER
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GROUP**

SNEHAL DESAI Artistic Director | **MEGHAN PRESSMAN** Managing Director/CEO | **DOUGLAS C. BAKER** Producing Director
GORDON DAVIDSON Founding Artistic Director



Playwrights

AMY BERRYMAN, INDA CRAIG-GALVÁN, ISAAC GÓMEZ, RAMIZ MONSEF, CHRISTOPHER OSCAR PEÑA, JASMINE SHARMA

Directors

JAKI BRADLEY, JAIME CASTAÑEDA, JENNIFER CHANG, KHANISHA FOSTER, J. MEHR KAUR, GIOVANNA SARDELLI

Cast

HUGO ARMSTRONG, KAMAL BOLDEN, ANNE GEE BYRD, JUNE CARRYL, PARVESH CHEENA, JULIA CHO, ROLANDO CHUSAN, BEHZAD DABU, NIK DODANI, CHERISH MONIQUE DUKE, HENRI ESTEVE, ANNA KHAJA, KAHYUN KIM, ANNA LAMADRID, REGGIE LEE, BRUCE LEMON JR., RICHARD LICCARDO, SABRINA J. LIU, CYNTHIA KAYE MCWILLIAMS, KATHARINE MEANS, YAMUNA MELETH, SAMANTHA MILLER, RAMIZ MONSEF, JOSH ODSESS-RUBIN, NIJA OKORO, GEORGE SALAZAR, SONAL SHAH, JASMINE SHARMA, EMILY STOUT, JESSICA TOLTZIS, SABINA ZÚÑIGA VARELA, JUAN FRANCISCO VILLA, KT VOGT

CTG Associate Artistic Director

LINDSAY ALLBAUGH

Literary and Artistic Administrative Assistant

TIFFANY SLAGLE

Casting

NICOLE ARBUSTO, CSA

Stage Managers

TAYLOR ANNE CULLEN, EDWARD KHRIS FERNANDEZ, JESSICA KEASBERRY-VNUK, DENISE KHA, LIV SCOTT, ALYSSA SWANN

JAN26–28

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Friday, January 26th 7 p.m.

Help, But Better

by Inda Craig-Galaván
Directed by Khanisha Foster

You know how everybody started baking sourdough bread and growing house-plants during the pandemic? They also went hard on online therapy because we were in the middle of a fucking pandemic. *Help, But Better* is the story of an online therapist who is overworked and needs some help of her own to deal with personal losses amid the nonstop bureaucracy of corporate-run therapy.

CAST

Kamarah.....	Cynthia Kaye McWilliams
Harris.....	Bruce Lemon Jr.
Jordan/Nurse Angelo/Bill from CE.....	Juan Francisco Villa
Leslie/Automated Voice/Pam from HR.....	Jessica Toltzis
Ryan/Rand.....	Reggie Lee
Alex/Zan.....	Samantha Miller
Stage Directions.....	June Carryl
Stage Manager.....	Jessica Keasberry-Vnuk

WHO'S WHO

INDA CRAIG-GALVÁN (*Playwright, she/her*) is a Los Angeles-based playwright and television writer, born and raised on the South Side of Chicago. Her work explores conflicts and politics within the African-American community, grounded in reality, and with a touch of magical realism. Upcoming: *A Jumping-Off Point* (Round House Theatre, April 2024), *Welcome to Matteson!* (Orlando Shakes, Fall 2024). Other plays: The Great Jheri Curl Debate (East West Players), *Black Super Hero Magic Mama* (Geffen Playhouse), *a hit dog will holler* (Playwrights' Arena/Skylight Theatre), *I Go Somewhere Else* (Playwrights' Arena). Awards: Kesselring Prize, Jeffry Melnick New Play Award, Blue Ink Prize, Jane Chambers Award, Kennedy Center's Rosa Parks Award for plays focused on social justice and/or civil rights. Commissions: The Old Globe, Round House Theatre. TV: Co-Executive Producer of ABC's *Will Trent*. Previous: *The Rookie*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, *Demimonde*, *Happy Face*. Inda is an Adjunct Professor at University of Southern California's School of Dramatic Arts, where she received her MFA in Dramatic Writing.

KHANISHA FOSTER (*Director, she/her*). Khanisha Foster's writing includes developing a TV series with K&L Productions (Kay Cannon & Laverne McKinnon) and adapting a Philip K. Dick novel with Electric Shepherd Productions and Julie Hébert. She recently directed *Raisin in the Sun* (SCR) and *A New Brain* (Celebration Theatre & The LGBT Center) khanishafoster.com

CYNTHIA KAYE MCWILLIAMS (*Kamarah, she/her*). Cynthia previously worked with Inda Craig-Galván, starring in the world premier of *Welcome to Matteson* (NJRT) and in The Geffen Playhouse's *Black Superhero Magic Mama*. TV credits include, *Average Joe* (BET+), *Bosch* (Amazon), *The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey* (AppleTV+), *Coyote* (Paramount+) and upcoming feature film, *Hard Miles*.

BRUCE LEMON JR. (*Harris, he/him*). Bruce is a storyteller born and raised in Watts, CA. As a child, his father made him write stories and read them aloud in the hallway as punishment for lies and mischief. He's still in trouble. Co-Artistic Director of Watts Village. Associate Artistic Director/Ensemble with Cornerstone Theater Company. @BALemonJr

JUAN FRANCISCO VILLA (*Jordan/Nurse Angelo/Bill from CE, he/him*). Recently was PABLO FU***** ESCOBAR at The Kirk Douglas in *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord*. Credits: The Public Theater, Steppenwolf, Goodman, and Geffen. Recur: *Blue Bloods*, *General Hospital*, and *The Set Up* w/Hannah Stocking. He worked with Ethan Hawke, Judy Reyes, Vivica Fox, Minnie Driver, Danny Devito and Aubrey Plaza.

JESSICA TOLTZIS (*Leslie/Automated Voice/Pam from HR, she/her*) is an actor and singer. Recent credits include, *Your Honor* (Showtime), *Pleasant* (The Old Globe), *54 Sings Hanukkah* (54 Below), and *Georgianne.MOV* (Best Mockumentary, Austin Comedy Film Festival). Jessica holds an MFA in Acting from UCLA. Follow her @jesstoltzis and visit her website, jessicatoltzis.com.

REGGIE LEE (*Ryan/Rand, he/him*) starred as 'Sgt. Wu' on NBC's hit drama *Grimm*. Most recently, he starred as Deputy District Attorney Thomas Choi on CBS's *All Rise* and Angelo Soto on Netflix's *Lincoln Lawyer*. Before *Grimm*, he was best known for playing Secret Service Agent Bill Kim on FOX's *Prison Break*.

SAMANTHA MILLER (*Alex/Zan, she/her*). Samantha is an actor and writer based in Los Angeles. Previous theatre credits include Squeeze in *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (Center Theatre Group), *Lil Mama in Stew* (Pasadena Playhouse), and Margaret Dashwood/Lucy Steele in *Sense & Sensibility* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). Samantha holds a BFA in Acting from Southern Oregon University.

JUNE CARRYL (*Stage Directions, she/her*). June's plays include *Blue* (Rogue Machine, Edinburgh Fringe Festival), *N*gga B*tch* (residency, the cell theatre) and *Girl Blue* (CTG L.A. Writers' Workshop) and *The Wronged Party* (IAMA Shonda Rhimes Unsung Voices Commission.) Favorite roles include Fraulein Schneider (*Cabaret*) and Gertie Fail (*Failure: A Love Story*) both directed by Michael Matthews.

JESSICA KEASBERRY-VNUK (*Stage Manager, she/her*). Previous credits at Center Theatre Group include *2:22 - A Ghost Story*; *The Secret Garden*; *A Transparent Musical*; and *A Christmas Story, The Musical*. Other theatre companies Jessica has worked at include L.A. Theatre Works, Pasadena Playhouse, The Old Globe, Williamstown Theatre Festival, South Coast Repertory, Laguna Playhouse, and International City Theatre.

Saturday, January 27th 11 a.m.

malcreados

by christopher oscar peña
Directed by Jaime Castañeda

Julian and Erick are estranged brothers reuniting in their recently deceased mother's home. They don't know how to communicate with each other or themselves, and old wounds are rehashed as they argue over their mother's estate and where her ashes are meant to be.

CAST

Julian	Henri Esteve
Erick	Rolando Chusan
Stage Directions	June Carryl
Stage Manager	Denise Kha

WHO'S WHO

christopher oscar peña (*Playwright, he/him*). christopher oscar peña's plays include *the strangers*, which was commissioned and had its world premiere by the Clarence Brown Theatre. In New York, the Flea Theatre produced the world premiere of his play *a cautionary tail*. He collaborated with actress Solea Pfeiffer on her solo show *You Are Here*, which was commissioned by Audible, and played to sold out acclaim at the Minetta Lane Theatre Off-Broadway and is now available on Audible. His play *how to make an American Son* was commissioned by Yale Rep and had its world premiere at Arizona Theatre Company. Currently, Profile Theatre in Portland, Oregon, is producing a season of his work titled the American Generation, which includes the world premiere of his Goodman commissioned play *awe/struck*, and Profile's first ever commission, *our orange sky*. In television, he's written for *Jane the Virgin* (CW), *Insecure* (HBO), *Sweetbitter* (Starz), *Motherland: Fort Salem* (Freeform), and *Promised Land* (ABC / Hulu). He's currently developing a new series with Omar Sharif Jr for STX. A two-time Sundance Fellow, he was the former Artistic Associate at Arizona Theatre Company, an alumni of New Dramatists, and a New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect.

JAIME CASTEÑADA (*Director, he/him*) has directed productions for American Conservatory Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, Dallas Theater Center, Huntington Theatre, Perseverance Theatre, Portland Center Stage, and Atlantic Theater Company. As a theatre producer, he developed over a dozen projects that transferred to Broadway. Princess Grace Award, MFA University of Texas at Austin.

HENRI ESTEVE (*Julian, he/him*). Born and raised in Miami, Henri always knew he wanted to act and moved to NYC to study with Lee Strasberg. Theatre credits include *Romeo And Juliet*, *North Of Providence*, *Does A Tiger Wear A Necktie*, and *Proof*. He can currently be seen on Amazon's comedy *Primo*.

ROLANDO CHUSAN (*Erick, he/him*) emigrated from Ecuador at the age of three and grew up in the South Bronx. He is an Alum of Fiorello H. LaGuardia, LAByrinth Theater Company's 2019 intensive ensemble, and the ABC Discover's 2020 showcase. His series regular debut was in *promised land* where he met chris peña and other titans of the Latinx community. He's elated to be reading *malcreados* at such a historic venue!

JUNE CARRYL (*Stage Directions, she/her*). June's plays include *Blue* (Rogue Machine, Edinburgh Fringe Festival), *N*gga B*tch* (residency, the cell theatre) and *Girl Blue* (CTG L.A. Writers' Workshop) and *The Wronged Party* (IAMA Shonda Rhimes Unsung Voices Commission.) Favorite roles include Fraulein Schneider (*Cabaret*) and Gertie Fail (*Failure: A Love Story*) both directed by Michael Matthews.

DENISE KHA (*Stage Manager, she/her*) seamlessly blends her organizational expertise into event planning at Culver City Downtown Business Association. Thrilled to return to CTG in a different role, she excels in both artistic productions and community events with unwavering commitment.

Saturday, January 27th 3 p.m.

Alien Girls

by Amy Berryman

Directed by Jaki Bradley

Tiffany is pregnant. Her best friend, Carolyn, is trying to be happy for her. When Carolyn's true feelings become public in the form of an essay that goes viral, the fallout may be irreparable. Time traveling through decades of friendship between two writers on the brink of huge life changes, *Alien Girls* is a meta-theatrical dark comedy about the joys and challenges of creating art and creating life.

CAST

Tiffany/t	Nija Okoro
Carolyn/c	Julia Cho
Joy/Gina/Milan.....	Emily Stout
Stage Directions	Katharine Means
Stage Manager	Taylor Anne Cullen

WHO'S WHO

AMY BERRYMAN (*Playwright, she/her*) is a playwright, screenwriter, actor, and teaching artist originally from Seattle by way of West Texas. Her play *Walden*, produced by Sonia Friedman and directed by Ian Rickson, premiered on London's West End in May 2021. *Walden* was also produced at TheaterWorks Hartford in August 2021 (New York Times Critic's Pick) and was published by Faber & Faber. Other full-length plays include *God's Flesh* (MTC/Sloan Commission), *The New Galileos* (O'Neill Finalist 2019); *Three Year Summer*; *Epiphany, Or What Would You?* (Finalist for Shakespeare's New Contemporaries, O'Neill Semi-Finalist 2020); and *The Whole of You* (Commissioned for Rising Phoenix Rep). Her work has been developed at Premiere Stages, Kitchen Dog, Caltech, East 15, Portland Stage, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Valdez Last Frontier Theatre Conference, and AMiOS, among others. Amy has a television project in development at Warner Bros and was awarded a MacDowell Fellowship 2023. amy-berryman.com

JAKI BRADLEY (*Director, she/her*). Jaki is a director for screen and stage. Recent theater projects include DiscOasis, an immersive roller disco in Central Park, The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin (IRT), How to Load a Musket (LTR) White Noise (Berkeley Rep); Radio Island and Good Men Wanted (NYSAF); House Plant (NYTW); and Playing Hot (Ars Nova). Her feature directorial debut, The One, will shoot in 2024. www.jakibradley.com

NIJA OKORO (*Tiffany/t*). Graduate of the Juilliard School. Nija won the LA Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Lead Performance for Blues for an Alabama Sky. Theatre: National Broadway Tour of *Jitney*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*. TV Reoccurring: *Insecure*, *Start Up*, *Monday Mornings*. Film: *Hollywood Stargirl*, *The Stay*, *Rebroken*, *The Black Emperor of Broadway*. Nija has received five LA Drama Circle Awards and an Ovation Award.

JULIA CHO (*Carolyn/c, she/her*). Julia Cho has worked extensively in TV, theatre, and voiceover. She is also one of the producing artistic leaders of Asian American theatre collective Artists at Play. Through her work with AAP, she has helped develop / produce numerous works created by and featuring artists of color locally and beyond. artistsatplay.org

KATHARINE MEANS (*Stage Directions, she/her*) is an actor and theatermaker. She received a BFA in Acting from CalArts. She is the Advertising Manager at Center Theatre Group and a Co-Producer with IAMA Theatre Company. @meanskatharine

TAYLOR ANNE CULLEN (*Stage Manager, she/her*). At the Kirk Douglas Theatre: *Native Son*. Other Theatres: *A Christmas Carol*, *Radio Golf*, *Anna in the Tropics* (A Noise Within); *Hamlet*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *The Little Foxes* (Antaeus); *Seven*, *How We're Different from Animals* (Élan Ensemble); *A Weekend with Pablo Picasso* (Casa 0101).

Saturday, January 27th 7 p.m.

Brother Gary

by Ramiz Monsef

Directed by Giovanna Sardelli

Set in a remote Italian monastery where Brother Gary cannot get his act together and do his one job (ringing the bells at the right time.) Brother Mauro is extremely frustrated and takes his frustration out anyway he can—including constantly complaining and buying expensive Swiss watches. An absurdist adventure that has some insanely good twists and perhaps one Mary J. Blige song.

CAST

Brother Mauro	Ramiz Monsef
Brother Angelo	Josh Odsess-Rubin
Brother Paulo/Brother Paul	Hugo Armstrong
Brother Lorenzo/Brother Larry	Richard T. Liccardo
Brother Ugo/Brother Hugo	George Salazar
The Yolas	KT Vogt
Brother Gary.....	Kamal Bolden
Stage Directions	Katharine Means
Stage Manager	Edward Khris Fernandez

WHO'S WHO

RAMIZ MONSEF (*Playwright, Brother Mauro; he/him*) is an alumni of The EPG at Circle X as well as The Writers' Room at the Geffen Playhouse, where his play *The Ants* was developed and produced. It also was developed at The Ojai Playwrights Conference in 2021. Ramiz is co-author of the musical *The Unfortunates* produced at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and ACT in San Francisco. He wrote that show's accompanying graphic novel as well. He also co-wrote *The Many Deaths of Nathan Stubblefield*, which premiered in the 2017 Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville. His play *3 Farids* was part of The Bushwick Starr reading series and selected to be in the New Works Festival at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, the DNA New Work Series at La Jolla Playhouse, and at Playwrights Horizons. Ramiz is an actor and has appeared in major theatres across the country, most recently playing the title role in Rajiv Joseph's *Letters of Suresh* Off-Broadway at SecondStage, numerous television series including *NCIS*, *SWAT*, *SEAL Team*, *Kidding*, *Shameless*, *Modern Family*, and *Young Sheldon*. He is also in the film *SYNCHRONIC*.

GIOVANNA SARDELLI (*Director, she/her*). CTG: Rajiv Joseph's *Archduke* with Ramiz Monsef. Also with Rajiv and Ramiz, *Guards at the Taj* for Geffen Theatre (2016 Ovation Award for Best Production of a Play), and the Off-Broadway production of *The Leopard and The Fox*. He worked with Giovanna on the Marvel podcast *Squirrel Girl: The Unbeatable Radio Show!* In July, she was named Artistic Director of TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. giovannasardelli.com

JOSH ODSSESS-RUBIN (*Brother Angelo, he/him*) is an actor, writer, and improviser whose theatre credits include South Coast Rep, Theatre of NOTE, Portland Stage, Marin Theatre Company, Ojai Playwrights, A Noise Within, Yale Repertory, Shakespeare OC, Cygnet, American Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Ars Nova. TV: *This is Us*, *Hacks*, *Physical*. Next—*Shayna Maidel* at Laguna Playhouse. @joshangeles1

HUGO ARMSTRONG (*Brother Paulo/Brother Paul, he/him*). Hugo Armstrong is an L.A. Theatre mainstay and proud returner to the LAWW Fest. He is noted for his roles in the sci-fi cult favorite *Coherence* and opposite Harry Dean Stanton in *Lucky*. Various television parts include recurring characters on both *Bosch: Legacy* and *NCIS*. He is a CalArts grad.

RICHARD LICCARDO (*Brother Lorenzo/Brother Larry, he/him*). Originally a Chicagolander, Richard Liccardo is an Actor, Director, and, Teacher living in Los Angeles. He started his career in New York, and quickly began globe hopping, teaching and performing on three continents. After returning

to the United States, Mr. Liccardo spent several years directing and teaching acting, voice and speech, improvisation, and physical character, Richard has worked with the Denver Center Theatre Company, Perry Mansfield Performing Arts School, Colorado Theatre Guild, Circle X Theatre, Shotz LA, Mr. Liccardo received his MFA from the National Theatre Conservatory.

GEORGE SALAZAR (*Brother Ugo/Brother Hugo, he/him*). Broadway: *Be More Chill*; *Godspell*. National Tour: *Spring Awakening*. Off-Broadway: *Be More Chill*; *The Lightning Thief*; *tick, tick... BOOM!*; *Here Lies Love*. Regional: *Little Shop of Horrors*; *The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical*; *The Bottoming Process*. TV: *Superstore*; *Azmerican Crime Story: Impeachment*; and more.

KT VOGT (*The Yolas, she/her*) is delighted to be here! Recently, she has been performing in an ongoing staged reading of *Richard III* starring Al Pacino that tours Los Angeles schools. She was also seen as Stefano in *The Tempest* at the Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles.

KAMAL BOLDEN (*Brother Gary, he/him*). Theatre: *Fences* (American Blues - JEFF Award), *Reparations* (Billie Holiday - AUDELCO Award), *The Opponent* (59E59St) *Immediate Family* (Taper Forum). Film: *Vacation Friends*, *The Night Before*, *Elvis & Nixon*. Television: Series Regular on *The Endgame*, *Insecure*, *61st Street*, *Chicago Fire*, *The Resident*, *Law & Order SVU*, *Rosewood*, *NCIS*, *Major Crimes*, *Betrayal*, *Low Winter Sun*, *Boss*, *Lights Out*.

KATHARINE MEANS (*Stage Directions, she/her*) is an actor and theatermaker. She received a BFA in Acting from CalArts. She is the Advertising Manager at Center Theatre Group and a Co-Producer with IAMA Theatre Company. @meanskatharine

EDWARD KHRIS FERNANDEZ (*Stage Manager, he/him*). Southern California based Filipino-American AEA Stage Manager. Regional Credits Include: *The World Is Not Silent* at The Alley Theatre; *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, *Clyde's* at Center Theatre Group; *The Engagement Party* at Geffen Playhouse; *On This Side of the World*, *Interstate*, *Scrimmage*, *Vietgone* at East West Players; *In The Heights* at Colorado Fine Arts Center; *Clyde's* at The Goodman Theatre, and *The Garden* at La Jolla Playhouse. Graduate of San Diego State University. @ekf_sm

Sunday, January 28th 11 a.m.

Teresa

by Isaac Gómez

Directed by Jennifer Chang

“Love, to be real, has to hurt.” Following the death of one of the most iconic women in history, the nuns she left behind struggle to keep her legacy alive without destroying everything she’s built to get them there. One part ghost story, another part femme fatale, *Teresa* is a meditation on sin, penance, and the great cost of trying (and failing) at being the greatest living saint the world has ever known.

CAST

Superior Sister Pepper	Anne Gee Byrd
Superior Sister Nancy	Sabina Zúñiga Varela
Sister Jane	Cherish Monique Duke
Sister Regina.....	Anna LaMadrid
Sister Kathleen.....	Sabrina J. Liu
Sister Mary	Kahyun Kim
Stage Directions	Nicole Javier
Stage Manager	Liv Scott

WHO'S WHO

ISAAC GÓMEZ (*Playwright, they/them*) is an award-winning Chicago and Los Angeles based playwright and screenwriter originally from El Paso, Texas/Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. They identify as na'wi – the third gender marker of the Rarámuri, a Mexican indigenous community in northern Chihuahua, of which they're a direct descendent. They're currently under commission with LCT3, Steppenwolf Theater Company, South Coast Repertory, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and IAMA Theatre Company. Their plays have been produced by Audible Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Primary Stages, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Goodman Theatre, the Alley Theatre, Seattle Rep, and many others. Their television credits include the Netflix Original Series *Narcos: Mexico*, the upcoming Apple TV+ Limited Series *The Last Thing He Told Me*, the second season of Paramount TV+'s *Joe Pickett*, amongst others. They currently have a series in development with Stacey Sher and FX as well as a full-length feature in development with Focus Features.

JENNIFER CHANG (*Director, she/they*). Upcoming: *The Far Country*: Berkeley Rep; *What Became of Us*: Atlantic Theater. Recent: *King of The Yeas*: Signature Theatre DC; *The Heart Sellers* (world premiere) Milwaukee Rep; *On Gold Mountain* (LA Opera); *Vietgone* (LA Drama Critics Circle Award); New Play Workshops at Williamstown Theatre Festival, South Coast Rep, Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Ashland New Plays Festival, O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. changinator.com

ANNE GEE BYRD (*Superior Sister Pepper*). Anne Gee Byrd has performed locally at The Mark Taper Forum, The Kirk Douglas Theatre, The Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, La Mirada, and Ensemble Theatre Company in Santa Barbara as well as many of the major theatres across the country. She is also active in small theatre in Los Angeles and has received four Drama Critics Circle awards and numerous Ovation nominations. Her recent TV credits include *Lucky Hank*, *911*, *CSI: Los Angeles*, *Shameless*. Indie Film activity includes *And Then There Was Eve*, *A Good Thing*, and *Zero Charisma*.

SABINA ZÚÑIGA VARELA (*Superior Sister Nancy*). On Stage: *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Mojada*, *Bordertown Now*, *Native Gardens*, *Chavez Ravine*, *Oedipus El Rey*, *Tenth Muse*, *El Nogalar*, *You Never Can Tell*, *Water By The Spoonful*, *Bruja*, *Electricidad*. On Screen: *Serpentine Pink*, *Madame Secretary*, *Snowfall*, *American Crime*. MFA USC member of SAG-AFTRA & AEA.

CHERISH MONIQUE DUKE (*Sister Jane, she/her*). Cherish Monique Duke is a multiple award-winning actress who has been blessed to work with phenomenally talented artists on the stage and screen throughout LA, NYC and London. Training: NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA) in London. For more info go to cherishmoniqueduke.net

ANNA LAMADRID (*Sister Regina, she/her*). Anna LaMadrid is an actor and audition coach most likely recognized for her role as “Fake Angela,” opposite Nathan Fielder in HBO’s groundbreaking first season of *The Rehearsal*. Recent TV credits: Recurring as Rocio in Hulu’s *This Fool* & recurring as Lacey Gamble in season 2 of *Shining Vale* opposite Courtney Cox. L.A. Theatre: IAMA, Echo Theatre & Boston Court.

SABRINA J. LIU (*Sister Kathleen, she/her*). Sabrina J. Liu is a Los Angeles-based actor. L.A. Theatre: *The Winter's Tale* (Antaeus Theatre Company). Regional Credits: *Here There Are Blueberries* (La Jolla Playhouse), *In Every Generation* (San Diego Repertory Theatre), *Electra* (National Women’s Theatre Festival). Education: MFA in Acting from the University of California, San Diego, 2023. sabinajliu.com

KAHYUN KIM (*Sister Mary, she/her*). Born and raised in South Korea. Juilliard Grad. Kahyun was recently seen being chased by a coked-up bear in Universal Studio’s film *Cocaine Bear* directed by Elizabeth Banks and is most known for playing New Media on STARZ series, *American Gods*. Theatre credits include A. R. Gurney's *Love And Money* (Signature), starring role in Tracy Letts’ *Linda Vista* (Steppenwolf) and Jeremy O. Harris’ *Daddy* (co-produced by Vineyard and New Group Theatre).

NICOLE JAVIER (*Stage Directions, she/her*) is an actor, teaching artist, and yoga instructor. TV/FILM: *Bosch: Legacy*. Regional Credits: *The Heart Sellers* (World Premiere at Milwaukee Repertory); *The Book of Will*, *Christmas Carol*, *Animal Farm* (LADCC Award Winner). She received her MFA in Acting at University of California, San Diego, and currently resides in Los Angeles with her pup, Zorro.

LIV SCOTT (*Stage Manager, she/her*). Originally from Los Angeles, Liv strives to facilitate powerful storytelling, and she is excited to present *Teresa* with her incredible colleagues. Past credits include *A Play Is A Poem*; *School Girls: Or, The African Mean Girls Play*; 27th, 28th, 30th Ovation Awards, Geffen Playhouse, and Verdi’s *Macbeth*. livscott.com

Sunday, January 28th 3 p.m.

Pigeonhole

by Jasmine Sharma

Directed by J. Mehr Kaur

Kaaya and Dev are siblings with nothing in common except their childhood home in New fkn Jersey. Over fifty years on the day of Raksha Bandhan, or, Rakhi, two siblings played by six actors try to protect each other from their past flying by them in real time. Jasmine Sharma's *Pigeonhole* is a new play about an old Big Ask—can you build a nest where there was none?

CAST

Child Dev.....	Nik Dodani
Child Kaaya.....	Jasmine Sharma
Adult Dev.....	Behzad Dabu
Adult Kaaya.....	Sonal Shah
Prime Dev.....	Parvesh Cheena
Prime Kaaya.....	Anna Khaja
Stage Directions.....	Yamuna Meleth
Stage Manager.....	Alyssa Swann

WHO'S WHO

JASMINE SHARMA (*Playwright, Child Kaaya; she/her*) is a South Asian-American performer/writer/activist and thrilled to be working on *Pigeonhole* with Center Theater Group. She aims to focus her work at the intersection of race/femininity/Americanness. Recent acting includes the west coast premieres of *Wives* and *Calvin Berger: A Musical, The Wolves* (McCarter Theater), and a lot of new work development (ASCAP, NYTW, The Public, The New Group, Ma-Yi, etc). Upcoming: *Much Ado About Nothing* (OSF). Her writing has been recognized /developed/ produced by The Kilroys, The O'Neill, The Kennedy Center, Shattered Globe Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Jackalope Theatre Company, IAMA Theatre Company, The Entertainment Community Fund, Moxie Arts NYC, Ashland New Plays Festival, The Road Theatre, The 24 Hour Plays, AlterTheater Ensemble, Valdez Last Frontier Theatre Conference, The Blank Theatre, and Lime Arts Productions, among others. As a screenwriter, her short film *Conflicted Cuties of Color* is currently in post-production, releasing spring 2024, and she is a 2022-2023 Reel Sisters Fellow. Jasmine has also contributed to @iWeigh. Northwestern University. jasminesharma.org | @jasminesharma

J. MEHR KUAR (*Director, she/her*). J. Mehr Kaur is a director who tells stories that mythicize the lives of ordinary people. Recently: *MAYA* by Cheeyang Ng & Eric Sorrels (MTW reading), *ABCD* by Lily Abha Cratsley (KriyaShakti, Greenway Court), and *I'm Dead Right?* starring Sakina Jaffrey; Colt Coeur Resident Artist, WTF Directing Corps, MTC Directing Fellow, Fulbright-Nehru Directing Grant. MFA: USC Cinema; BA: Smith College. jmehrkaur.com

NIK DODANI (*Child Dev, he/him*) is an actor and writer best known for his role as Zahid in Netflix's *Atypical*, and for roles in *Murphy Brown*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, and *Waitress* on Broadway. He'll next be seen in Lee Isaac Chung's *Twisters*, and as the lead of Warner Brothers' new film, *The Parenting*.

BEHZAD DABU (*Adult Dev, he/him*). Behzad's television credits include *How To Get Away With Murder*, *The Chi*, *The Good Place*, and more—Theatre: CTG, Goodman, La Jolla, Berkeley Rep, Seattle Rep, ATC, and more. Behzad is a company member at TimeLine Theatre and founding member of Chicago Inclusion Project. He is also Director of the Acting Track at Hillman Grad.

SONAL SHAH (*Adult Kaaya, she/her*). Fresh off receiving a Performance of the Year Scenie, Sonal starred in *ABCD* and Hulu's *Four Samosas*. Dubbed a scene-stealer in Netflix's *Definition Please*, she's a member of IAMA Theatre, an NBC Showcase alum, with a DISNEY+ dev deal. She teaches at Art of Acting and John Rosenfeld Studios. @sonalshahofficial

PARVESH CHEENA (*Prime Dev, he/him*) is a native of Chicago. He is an ensemble member of IAMA Theatre Company. Parv also serves as a board member of the Blank Theatre and one the EDIA committee for Celebration Theatre. I am grateful to be working with Mehr and Jasmine again. @parvey

ANNA KHAJA (*Prime Kaaya*). Off-Broadway: *Shaheed* (Culture Project). Regional: *Stuff Happens* (Mark Taper Forum), *Around the World In 80 Days* (Cleveland Playhouse), *Free Outgoing* (EWP). L.A. Theatre: *My Name Is Asher Lev* (The Fountain), *Three Days In The Country* (Antaeus), *Falling* (Rogue Machine). Winner of Ovation, LA Weekly, and GLAAD awards. TV/Film credits include *The Lincoln Lawyer*, *The Walking Dead: World Beyond*, *The Good Place*, and *Hacks*.

YAMUNA MELETH (*Stage Directions, she/her*). Yamuna was most recently seen in Warren Carlyle's *The Secret Garden* as Ayah and she can be heard singing the titles on HBO's *Angel City*. She was on the first national tour of *The Office! A Musical Parody* and performed the role Off-Bway. She is represented by Avalon.

ALYSSA SWANN (*Stage Manager*). Touring: *Pretty Woman: The Musical* (ASM). Regional: *Miss You Like Hell*, *Disney's Freaky Friday*, *Bhangin It* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Darling Grenadine* (Goodspeed Musicals); *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night* (The Old Globe); *Scissorhands: A Musical Tribute* (Mad World Inventions). Live Events: *A Taste In The Heights*, *The Real Housewives UTG* (WB; Peacock, Little Cinema), *Welcome to Earth* (Disney+, NatGeo, Little Cinema) @alyssaswann_

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

NICOLE ARBUSTO (*Casting, she/her*). FILM: Azazel Jacobs's *French Exit* released by Sony Classics. (Spirit Award nomination Best Supporting Actress 2021), *The Lovers* produced by A24 (Best Original Screenplay nomination Spirit Awards 2018) and *Terri* (Sundance Film Festival 2011) and the TV series *Doll & Em* for SkyTV/HBO. Additional films include Rob Zombie's *31*, Sarah Adina Smith's *The Drop* and *The Tao Of Steve*. TV: series Casting Director for *Somebody Somewhere*, four seasons of the anthology series *Room 104* and three seasons of the animated series *Animals.*, (all three shows are produced by Duplass Brothers Productions for HBO), and the 2023 Annie Award winning animated series *Oni: Thunder God's Tale* produced by the Oscar nominated Tonko House for Netflix. L.A. THEATRE: At the Mark Taper Forum, *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*. At the Pasadena Playhouse: *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *King Charles III*, *The Father* (LA Drama Critics Circle Best Production), and *Uncle Vanya* (LA Drama Critics Circle Best Production). *The Golden Dragon* and *The House in Scarsdale: A Memoir For The Stage* both at The Theatre @ Boston Court and the Los Angeles casting for the Steppenwolf Theatre production of *Linda Vista* by Tracy Letts.

CENTER THEATRE GROUP

LINDSAY ALLBAUGH (*Associate Artistic Director, she/her*). Associate Artistic Director for Center Theatre Group and award-winning Los Angeles based director and producer. Recent productions: *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* with Center Theatre Group and IAMA Theatre Company, *Cry It Out* by Molly Smith Metzler (Best Production: Ovation Award, LADCC Award, Stage Raw Award) at the Echo Theatre Company as well as *Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties* by Jen Silverman at the Boston Court Theatre. Lindsay was Co-Artistic Director of the Elephant Theatre Company from 2004–2014, where she directed and produced many productions including *100 Saints You Should Know* by Kate Fodor, *Revelation* by Samuel Brett Williams, and *Never Tell* by James Christy. Selected CTG producing credits include—Mark Taper Forum: *Slave Play*, *Archduke*, *Bent*, *Waiting for Godot*; Kirk Douglas Theatre: Creative Producer behind *Block Party*, *Tambo & Bones*, *Good Grief*, *Throw Me On the Burnpile* and *Light Me Up*, *Endgame*, *Women Laughing Alone With Salad*, *Chavez Ravine*, *different words for the same thing*, *The Nether*.

TIFFANY SLAGLE (*Literary and Artistic Administrative Assistant, she/her*). Tiffany has been working at CTG since 2017, first as the Literary Fellow and then Literary Assistant. She is incredibly proud to work with this group of playwrights and loves these plays. Other experience includes Shakespeare's Globe, Southwark Playhouse. MA Creative Producing from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

SNEHAL DESAI (*Artistic Director, he/him*) was appointed Center Theatre Group's third artistic director in 2023. As an artistic leader, Snehal has sought to raise awareness on social issues that affect Angelenos through impactful and empowering storytelling. Previously, he was the Producing Artistic Director of East West Players. A Soros Fellow and the recipient of a Tanne Award, Snehal was the Inaugural Recipient of the Drama League's Classical Directing Fellowship. He has served on the boards of the Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists (Caata), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), and currently serves on the board of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT). Snehal was on the faculty of USC's graduate program in Arts Leadership and is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

MEGHAN PRESSMAN (*Managing Director/CEO, she/her*) joined Center Theatre Group in 2019. Previously, she served as Managing Director of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (D.C.), Director of Development for Signature Theatre (N.Y.), and Associate Managing Director of Berkeley Rep. She is a graduate of Yale School of Drama/Yale School of Management and serves as a mentor in the Theater Management program. Meghan has served as the Vice-Chair for the Theatre Communications Group Board of Directors and is a member of the Broadway League.

DOUGLAS C. BAKER (*Producing Director, he/him*) joined Center Theatre Group in 1990. Doug is an active member of the Broadway League, the Independent Presenters Network (IPN), and is a proud member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers (ATPAM). In 2013, Doug received the Broadway League's prestigious Outstanding Achievement in Presenter Management Award.

GORDON DAVIDSON (*Founding Artistic Director*) led the Taper throughout its first 38 seasons, guiding over 300 productions to its stage and winning countless awards for himself and the theatre—including the Tony Award for theatrical excellence, Margo Jones Award, The Governor's Award for the Arts, and a Guggenheim fellowship. *The Kentucky Cycle* and *Angels in America (Part One)* won the Pulitzer in consecutive years and, in 1994, three of the four plays nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play were from the Taper (*Angels in America* won). In 1989, Gordon took over the Ahmanson and, in 2004, he produced the inaugural season in the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

CENTER THEATRE GROUP, one of the nation's preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles' leading not-for-profit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Artistic Director Snehal Desai, Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman, and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1,600 to 2,100-

seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the country's leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics, and circumstances to serve Los Angeles. Founded in 1967, Center Theatre Group was led by Founding Artistic Director Gordon Davidson until 2005 when Michael Ritchie became artistic director until his retirement in 2021; Snehal Desai was appointed the organization's next artistic director in 2023. Center Theatre Group has produced more than 700 productions across its three stages, including such iconic shows as *Zoot Suit*; *Angels in America*; *The Kentucky Cycle*; *Biloxi Blues*; *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*; *Children of a Lesser God*; *Curtains*; *The Drowsy Chaperone*; *9 to 5: The Musical*; and *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*. CenterTheatreGroup.org

ADDITIONAL STAFF

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The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers of the United States. This theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The Director and Choreographer are members of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.

Center Theatre Group is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the American Arts Alliance, the Broadway League, Independent Producers' Network (IPN), and the Theatre Communications Group (TCG).

As a nonprofit organization, Center Theatre Group relies on the support of generous theatre-lovers like you. Become a member with a tax-deductible contribution of \$100—or just \$10 per month—and make a vital difference for our future following the most challenging period in Center Theatre Group's history. Your gift will enable us to continue to produce and present the highest caliber theatre, nurture new artists, and provide transformative arts education programs. Plus, your gift will unlock membership benefits to enhance your theatregoing experience, from priority ticket access to members-only events and more!

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Center Theatre Group would like to thank its exceptional staff for their ongoing commitment, dedication, and extraordinary efforts.

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LISA KRON	LYNN NOTTAGE	
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Since 2005, we have invited local playwrights to spend a year researching and writing a new work with the feedback of their fellow writers and artistic staff as part of our L.A. Writers' Workshop.

Learn more at CTGLA.org/Artists.

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