

NORTH CAROLINA  
PLAYWRIGHTS  
LAB

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TR STUDIO THEATRE  
AUGUST 19, 26, 27, AND SEPTEMBER 2, 2023

**Featuring**

***The Learning Curve***  
by Vickie G. Hampton

***It Was June***  
by Steffi Rubin

2 FULL-LENGTH ORIGINAL PLAYS BY  
NORTH CAROLINA-BASED PLAYWRIGHTS

# PLAYWRIGHTS



# PLAYWRIGHTS

## VICKIE G. HAMPTON THE LEARNING CURVE

When a black science teacher from an urban school takes a job at a private, predominately white school, he and the white principal clash in ideologies, perspectives and cultures. Can they navigate a learning curve that has thrown them both for a loop?

Vickie G. Hampton is an award-winning editor and writer who is now expanding her craft to the art of storytelling.

She has had three consecutive plays -- "Sarah and Sally," "Learning Curve" and "I Am Grace" -- selected for staged readings at the National Black Theater Festival, which biennially draws 60,000 theater patrons from around the globe to Winston Salem, N.C., to showcase the best of black theater.

"I Am Grace" was fully staged in May 2021 by Face Off Theatre Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Another play, "I'm Not Buying It," was produced as an immersive experience in June 2021 by 7Stages' Human Lights Festival: A Curious Experience in Atlanta, Georgia. "I'm Not Buying It" will be staged at the 11th Columbus (Ohio) Black Theatre festival in July 2023.

Hampton is a full-time editorial contractor whose projects include editing magazines and newsletters; project managing marketing and fund-raising publications; developing scripts for major events; writing executive-level correspondence and speeches; and creating content for publications, advertisements, public relations collateral, and the Web. She is also the author of two children's books, *My Day at the Zoo* and *My Day at the Aquarium*.

Hampton received a bachelor's degree in English and journalism from Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Miss., and a master's in journalism from Columbia University in New York.



# PLAYWRIGHTS

## STEFFI RUBIN IT WAS JUNE

Andi knocks on Owen's door, greeted by the smell of coffee and bacon grease. She comes with news that takes the old man back to his youth, to a moment at Ocean Beach. Before long, uninvited revelations disrupt the family's collective memory and call into question everything they thought they knew.

Steffi Rubin came to play writing with the main stage premiere of "The Woodstock Tontine," which was also selected for The Road Theatre's Summer Playwrights Festival and Mad Cow Theatre's Women's Voices. Her play, "Always Will," was presented virtually during 2020 and was a finalist at the Garry Marshall Theatre New Works Festival. A commissioned piece, "Ogrowdowa Street," based on the life of Rachmiel Frydland, enjoyed a premiere in Cary, NC in November 2021. "My Other Mother," the musical based on her life as an adoptee (with composer Miriam Kook), has had staged readings in Maryland in 2018 and 2019. Steffi is also the lyricist for "Beyond the Dressing Room," featuring Bianca Leigh, Rebekah Root and Austin Pendleton, which began workshops in NYC, 2019. Originally from the Bronx, NY, Steffi lives in Chapel Hill, NC.



# PANELISTS



**VIVIENNE BENESCH**



**JADE ARNOLD**



**JOE CALARCO**



**JOHANNA MAYNARD  
EDWARDS**



**KATHRYN HUNTER-  
WILLIAMS**

# PANELISTS

## JOE CALARCO

Joe is a multiple award-winning director and playwright. Off Broadway credits include Patrick Barlow's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* (Drama Desk nomination), the world premieres of *Boy* and *In Transit* (Drama Desk nomination), at Primary Stages, *The Burnt Part Boys* and *Floyd and Clea Under the Western Sky* at Playwrights Horizons, the world premieres of *The Summer of the Swans* and *Sarah, Plain and Tall* at the Lucille Lortel, the world premiere of *The Mistress Cycle* for The New York Musical Theatre Festival, the world premiere of *Fugitive Songs*, and the first New York revival of *Bury the Dead* and *The Memory Show* for The Transport Group. He is the adaptor/director of Shakespeare's *R&J*, which ran for a year Off-Broadway and earned him a Lucille Lortel Award.

Regionally Joe has won Best Director Barrymore Awards for both *Ordinary Days* at 11th Hour Theatre Company and *The Light in the Piazza* at Philadelphia Theatre Company. Other shows at PTC include *The Last Five Years* (Barrymore Award Best Musical), *Elegies* (Barrymore nomination), and *M. Butterfly*. At Signature Theatre in Arlington Virginia, he has directed *Assassins* (Helen Hayes Award), the world premiere of *Nijinsky's Last Dance* (Helen Hayes Award), *Side Show* (Helen Hayes Award), *Urinetown* (Helen Hayes Award), *Gypsy* (Helen Hayes nomination), *God of Carnage*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Flick*, *John*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, the world premieres of *Nest*, *The Gulf*, *The Boy Detective Fails*, *Cake Off*, as well as the world premieres of his own plays *Walter Cronkite is Dead* and *In the Absence of Spring* which premiered in New York as the inaugural production of Second Stage's New Plays Uptown series under his own direction. Other regional work includes the world premiere of *Lincolnesque* as well as *The Glass Menagerie* at the Old Globe, the world premieres of the musicals *The Burnt Part Boys*, *The Memory Show*, and *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* (also book writer), as well as *Kiss Me Kate*, *Breaking the Code*, *Romance in Hard Times*, *Ragtime*, *A Doll's House Part 2*, *Into The Woods*, *Sister Sorry* (world premiere), and *Waiting For Godot* (Berkshire Critics Association Award) at Barrington Stage Company where he is an Associate Artist, *The Circus in Winter* and *LMNOP* at Goodspeed, the world premiere of *Short Order Stories* for Charter Theatre in Virginia, the world premiere of *The Religion Thing* at Theater J in Washington D.C. At the O'Neill Musical Theatre Conference, he has directed *Broadcast*, *The Toymaker*, *Sarah Plain and Tall*, *In Transit*, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, and *The Shadow Sparrow*. He is the director of *Twice Charmed*: an original twist on the Cinderella story for Disney Creative Entertainment, and his reworking of *Ring of Fire*: the music of Johnny Cash toured the U.S for over a year.

# PANELISTS

As a writer his published work includes *In The Absence of Spring* (Playscripts and included in *The Best Stage Scenes* of 2004), *Walter Cronkite is Dead* (Dramatists Play Service and included in *The Best Stage Monologues* of 2013), *Shakespeare's R&J* (DPS), his short plays, *Just A Little Sniffle* and *Parting Gifts*, two collections of his plays for teens *Signature in the Schools Volumes 1&2* (Concord Theatricals). His other work for teens includes *295N*, *Smile Lines*, *12 Million Footsteps*, *The Spoken Word*, *Winter Break* and *Spring Break* (DPS) which will soon be followed by *Summer Break*, and *Final Break*, as well as two one acts *17* and *18* (Playscripts). Other adaptations include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Shakespeare Theater Company) which he has reworked once again for 8 actors as *Well Met By Moonlight* and will soon be published by Theatrical Rights Worldwide, and *Antigone Renewed*, which had its first workshop at the National Theater in London.

Other produced work includes *A Measure of Cruelty* (Carbonell Award nomination Best New Work and included in *The Best Stage Monologues* of 2013) at Mosaic Theater and will soon be published by TRW, *Isolated Incidents*, *Watershed*, and *Waiting for Expanded Arts Inc.*, and *Separate Rooms* at 4615 Theatre in Silver Spring, Maryland, which is included in the *Best Stage Monologues* of 2020 and will soon be published by TRW. He is the book writer for the musicals *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* with composer Chris Miller and lyricist Nathan Tysen, which had its West End premiere in conjunction with Mercury Musical Development and its U.S. premier at Barrington Stage Company, for *Golden Gate* with composer/lyricist Richard Pearson Thomas (developed at Second Stage and Lincoln Center), and he was a contributing book writer of the Drama Desk Award nominated *The Audience* (The Transport Group.) His current work in development includes *The Circus in Winter* with composer/lyricist Ben Clark, and *A Rhythmic Me* with collaborators Jared Grimes and Mark Meadows. He served as Director of New Works at the Tony Award winning Signature Theatre in Arlington, Virginia, as resident playwright at Expanded Arts, Inc. for two years, and as Resident Director at Barrington Stage Company. He has been a Joseph Papp artist in residence at Second Stage, sat on the Executive Board of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), is one of New York Theatre Workshop's "usual suspects," is a Drama League directing fellow, and is a member of The Dramatists Guild.



# PANELISTS

## JADE ARNOLD

Jade Arnold is an actor, director, and educator. His main role is of a Father. Born in Durham NC, he earned his Bachelors degree and Masters of a Fine Arts in Acting, has worked with the best theatre companies in the United States, and has worked along side the most talented and hard working actors, writers, and directors in film and theatre. He is happily married, and most grateful for her love and support in this crazy career. He knows one thing for sure, that sometimes in the winds of change we find our direction.

## VIVIENNE BENESCH

Vivienne is starting her eighth full season as Producing Artistic Director at PlayMakers Repertory Company, where she has helmed productions of "Hamlet," "The Skin of Our Teeth," "The Storyteller," "Dairyland," "Life of Galileo," "Leaving Eden," "The May Queen," "Three Sisters," "Love Alone," "RED" and "In The Next Room." In her seven seasons with the theatre, she is particularly proud to have produced eleven world-premieres and launched PlayMakers Mobile, a touring production aimed at reaching underserved audiences around the Triangle. Two new commissions are currently in the works: Bekah Brunstetter's adaptation of "Lysistrata," currently titled "The Game" and an original holiday show by NC local luminaries Howard Craft & Mike Wiley currently titled "Hezekiah Cxxx. For 12 years she served as Artistic Director of the renowned Chautauqua Theater Company and Conservatory, presiding over the company's transformation into one of the best summer theatres and most competitive summer training programs in the country. Vivienne has also directed on Broadway (Noah Haidle's "Birthday Candles" starring Debra Messing,) for the Folger Shakespeare Theatre (Helen Hayes nomination for best direction 2019,) Detroit Public Theater, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Trinity Repertory Company, NY Stage & Film, and Red Bull Theatre, among others. As an actress, Vivienne has worked on and off-Broadway, in film and television, at many of the country's most celebrated theatres, and received an Obie Award for her performance in Lee Blessing's "Going to St. Ives." Vivienne is a graduate of Brown University and NYU's Graduate Acting Program. As an educator, she has directed for and served on the faculty of some of the nation's foremost actor training programs, including The Juilliard School, UNC-Chapel Hill's Professional Actor Training Program, Brown/Trinity Rep MFA Program, and at her alma mater, NYU's Graduate Acting Program. She is the 2017 recipient of the Zelda Fichandler Award given by the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation.

# PANELISTS

## JOHANNA MAYNARD EDWARDS

Johannah Maynard Edwards (she/her) is the Executive Artistic Director of the National Women's Theatre Festival based in Raleigh, NC. She has directed, devised, and produced in NYC, Minneapolis, and the Triangle. Johannah is currently co-creating, directing, and devising THE MOMVERSATIONS PROJECT production and podcast. Other recent directing credits include readings of OUT OF BALANCE by Lindsay Carpenter, NATURAL SHOCKS by Lauren Gunderson (both WTF) and YOU ARE WHAT YOU by Mora V. Harris (Burning Coal) as well as productions of SPACE GIRL by Mora V. Harris (Longleaf School of the Arts) and her original devised work LICKED CUPCAKE (WTF). Recent performance credits include GERTIE AND ALICE BY THE SEA (Gertie) by Caridad Svich and ALABASTER (June) by Audrey Cefaly. Her short form video performance 200 DAYS IN was commissioned by the Raleigh Arts Commission's SEEK Raleigh program. A passionate arts educator, Johannah has been a teaching artist at Raleigh Little Theatre, Arts Together, Sterling Montessori, LearningSpring, NC Governor's School, and at Longleaf School of the Arts. Johannah is a Chief Rep for PAAL, the Parent Artist Advocacy League for the Performing Arts and proudly served on the Arts Learning Community for Universal Access through the Office of Raleigh Arts for 3 years. She has also served on the SETC Equity Diversity Inclusion + Access Task Force and as the Founding Chair of the SETC Disability Inclusion Committee, and the Kennedy Center Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD®) Conference Content Committee. In 2022, Johannah received the LEAD® Award for Emerging Leaders from the Kennedy Center. Johannah is a graduate of NYU/Tisch School of the Arts/Playwrights Horizons Theatre School.

## KATHRYN HUNTER-WILLIAMS

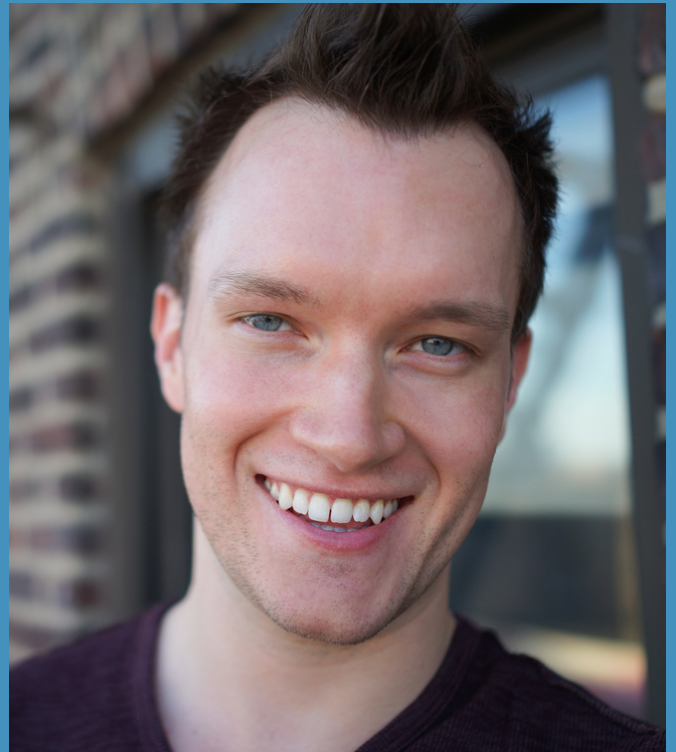
Kathryn Hunter-Williams (B.F.A., UNC School of the Arts; M.F.A., UNC-Chapel Hill) is Chair and an Associate Professor in the Department of Dramatic Art at UNC- Chapel Hill. She is also Associate Director for Hidden Voices, a nonprofit located in Hillsborough North Carolina. A longstanding member of PlayMakers Repertory Company, she recently performed the role of Gertrude in Hamlet. Recent PlayMakers credits include, Mrs. Antrobus in The Skin of Our Teeth, Mrs. Whatsit in A Wrinkle in Time, Jacques in As You Like It, Portia in Julius Caesar. Additional PlayMakers credits include Everybody Skelton Crew, Galileo, Intimate Apparel, Trouble in Mind, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Love Alone, A Raisin in the Sun, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Imaginary Invalid, The Parchman Hour, Angels in America, Doubt, and Yellowman. She has also worked with Living Stage, The Negro Ensemble Company, and New Dramatists and Virginia Stage. Directing credits include They Do Not Know Harlem, Stickfly, Nina Simone: No Fear Blues Long Gone and Count, for PlayMakers. Other regional directing credits are The Mountaintop, The Niceties at Virginia Theater Festival. As Associate Director of Hidden Voices, Kathryn co-created performances with undocumented immigrant youth, families escaping violence, military spouses, survivors of sexual assault, African American communities facing gentrification, refugees, and incarcerated men on death row.

# DIRECTORS



**LORMAREV  
JONES**

The Learning Curve



**TIM SEIB**

It Was June



# DIRECTORS

## **LORMAREV JONES - The Learning Curve**

Lormarev Jones is a Director/Choreographer, Intimacy Director and Educator currently based in Raleigh. She received her MFA in Theatre from Sarah Lawrence College. Lormarev has served as a director and choreographer for many area theatres and high school programs in the Triangle, including Playmakers Repertory Company, Raleigh Little Theatre and many others. She is also a deviser, playwright, and solo performer and is currently the Director of the Theatre Program at Meredith College, her alma mater.

## **TIM SEIB - It Was June**

Tim Seib- Previous directing work in the Triangle: The Play That Goes Wrong, Fun Home, Once, The Secret Garden, Million Dollar Quartet, Pump Boys & Dinettes, and Beehive, all for Theatre Raleigh. Regional work with La Mirada Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, Virginia Theatre Festival, Gateway Playhouse, Cape Fear Regional Theatre, Casa Manana, 54 Below, and the current national tour of Million Dollar Quartet. Based in NYC, Tim also enjoys teaching young artists and students with autism as well as new musical and play development; having worked with notable companies such as The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center and The NYU Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, as well as various workshops in NYC. He is a proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and a graduate of the Webster University Conservatory of Theatre Arts. [www.TimSeib.com](http://www.TimSeib.com)

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# DRAMATURGS

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**KAREN DACONS-BROCK**

The Learning Curve



**LAURA YOUNGBLOOD**

It Was June

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# DRAMATURGS

## KAREN DACONS-BROCK

Karen Dacons-Brock is a former professor of theatre at North Carolina Central University (NCCU). During her tenure at NCCU, she taught performance courses, developed and produced new plays, directed theatrical productions, and promoted the University via edutainment performance tours. She was also the recipient of teaching and directing awards. Beyond the University, Dacons-Brock has collaborated on new play projects, served on boards, and directed productions for various theatre companies in the Triangle. She is a resident of Durham.

## LAURA YOUNGBLOOD

Laura Youngblood (Dramaturg)- is thrilled to be involved in this year's North Carolina Playwrights Lab. With a background in classical vocals and as a recent graduate of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she has been involved in numerous collegiate productions at Carolina and at Playmakers Rep Company. Her most recent credits include Jersey Boys (Production Assistant) and The Weight of Everything We Know (Dramaturg /Associate Director) at Theatre Raleigh.



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# CAST



**CHANDA  
BRANCH**

The Learning Curve



**GIL FAISON**

The Learning Curve



**KEVIN  
FERGUSON**

the Learning Curve



**RYAN P.  
GREGORY**

The Learning Curve



**LIZ HOWARD**

It Was June

# CAST



**JULIE OLIVER**

It Was June



**TEDD SZETO**

The Learning Curve



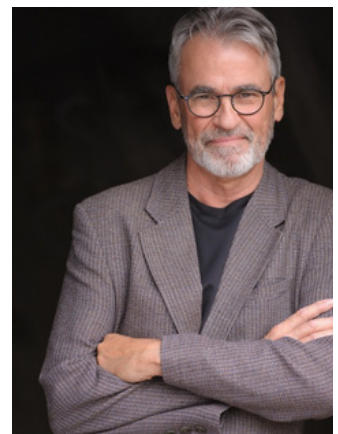
**HEATHER SHORE**

It Was June



**JULIANA  
VALENTE**

The Learning Curve



**JEFFEREY WEST**

It Was June

# CAST

## CHANDA BRANCH

### The Learning Curve

Chanda Branch, B.S. - Speech Communications & Theatre - Tennessee State University & Performing Arts Industry Essentials Certificate - NYU | Tisch X Yellowbrick. Favorite Credits: Smokey Joe's Cafe (Brenda), Hairspray (Lorraine), 9 to 5 (Kathy), Ragtime (Sarah), Porgy & Bess (Strawberry Woman), Ain't Misbehavin' (Charlaine), Big Fish (The Witch), Three Little Birds (Montego), Crowns (Velma), Chicago (Velma), Gypsy (Deloris), Sister Act (Michelle & U/S Deloris), Dreamgirls (Ensemble & U/S Lorell), The Color Purple (Church Lady Darlene & U/S Shug Avery). Appearances at The National Black Theatre Festival & The Women's Theatre Festival Fringe. City, state, and regional titles in beauty pageants and is the longest nationally reigning Ms. Black USA ('19 & '20)! Love to husband Corey & baby Carleigh.

Thanks to Mom and family.

Follow on IG & TIK TOK:

@iammrsbranch / @actupacademy

[bit.ly/actupchanda](https://bit.ly/actupchanda)

## GIL FAISON

### The Learning Curve

Gil Faison, who holds a BA in Theatre and a BS in Biology from North Carolina Central University (NCCU), is eagerly anticipating his acting debut as a high school biology teacher in the 2023 North Carolina Playwrights Lab production of The Learning Curve. With a profound passion for storytelling and a one-of-a-kind blend of theatrical and scientific knowledge, Gil is truly excited to contribute to this creative and collaborative endeavor. Gil's theater accomplishments extend internationally, exemplified by his participation in Raleigh's Burning Coal Theatre Company production of Pentecost at the esteemed Cockpit Theatre in London, UK.

Throughout his career, Gil has cherished collaborations with local professional theater companies, such as PlayMakers Rep, Manbites Dog Theater, and The Justice Theater Project. From captivating performances in Theatre Raleigh's production of Dreamgirls, to portraying captivating characters such as Othello in Shakespeare's Othello and Fielding, in August Wilson's Jitney at Deep Dish Theater, Gil continually finds inspiration in the transformative power of theater and looks forward to future projects that enable him to expand his artistic boundaries and inspire future generations of theater enthusiasts.



# CAST

## **KEVIN FERGUSON**

### **The Learning Curve**

Kevin Ferguson—The last 18 years: director\teacher, Gibbons Drama (Cardinal Gibbons High School). RDU area favorites: Hairspray (Wilbur); The Grapes of Wrath (Reverend Casey); Into the Woods (Baker); Moonlight and Magnolias (Fleming); H2\$ (Finch); Rumors (Glen); Wit (Jason Posner). US Regional: Sunday in the Park with George (Seurat); Big River (Tom Sawyer); Lend Me a Tenor (Max); Little Shop... (Seymour); South Pacific(Billis).

Directing: more than one reasonably should. Grateful to be here; relieved to not be in charge.

## **RYAN P. GREGORY**

### **The Learning Curve**

Ryan is so excited to be working with the North Carolina Playwrights Lab for the first time! He is a senior at Enloe High School and plans to pursue a BFA in Musical Theatre after graduation. He is an active member of the North Carolina Theatre Conservatory. Select Credits: Shrek The Musical (Shrek), The Little Mermaid (Prince Eric), Carrie (Billy). He will be playing Nick Bottom in Something Rotten! in the fall at Raleigh ACT. He would like to thank his friends, family, teachers, and Charlie Brady for this opportunity.

# CAST

## **LIZ HOWARD**

### **It Was June**

Theatre was a big part of Liz's life during her younger years, both as an actor and working behind the scenes. Some of her favorite roles include Gilmer in her high school production of Godspell and Madge Owens in her college production of Picnic. Liz worked at the Studio Theatre in Washington, DC, where she took classes in their acting conservatory and stage managed two of their non-equity shows. After a long hiatus, Liz has found her way back to acting — taking classes at Raleigh Little Theatre and participating in Sips & Scripts. She is thrilled to be making her North Carolina stage debut as part of this production. Liz wants to thank her family for all their love & support and the local theatre community for providing such a welcoming environment.

## **JULIE OLIVER**

### **It Was June**

Julie Oliver– Andi For Switchyard Theatre: Fuddy Meers. For Burning Coal Theatre: The Life of Galileo, Camelot, Churchill Shorts, Stuff Happens, The Normal Heart, Peter Pan & Wendy (also BorderLight Fringe Festival, Cleveland), The Iron Curtain Trilogy (also The Cockpit Theatre, London), The Heretic. For Bulldog Ensemble Theater: The Roommate. For Curious Theatre Collective, Creekside, Sally's Ride. For South Stream Productions, This Doesn't End Will, Seascape. Also, Mr. Burns (Manbites Dog Theater), The Cripple of Inishmaan, Superior Donuts (Deep Dish Theatre) Julie is a retired middle school band director. She is afraid of nothing.

# CAST

## **HEATHER SHORE**

### **It Was June**

Heather Shore has been performing in the Raleigh area for over 15 years after relocating from Wilmington, NC where she also worked in theater and television. She has greatly enjoyed her career in Raleigh which has included working on independent films and commercials as well as stage work with Theatre Raleigh and Moonlight Stage Company. Collaborating with local playwrights and screenwriters to bring their scripts to life is one of her joys and passions. Heather is honored to be working with the North Carolina Playwrights Lab and be part of bringing the role of Sarah to life. She wishes to thank Yvette Holder and Charlie Brady for the opportunity and most of all her three amazing daughters for their love and support.

## **TEDD SZETO**

### **The Learning Curve**

Tedd Szeto (John Chang) just appeared as Mr. Hawkins in Theatre Raleigh's The Prom. Last season, he was in their productions of Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812 (Balaga), City of Angels (Angel City Four), Forever Plaid (Smudge) and Yellow Face (standby for DHH/HYH). NC credits: Young Frankenstein (Dr. Frederick Frankenstein), Freaky Friday (Mike), Side by Side by Sondheim at NRACT, and Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits at Theatre in the Park. Regional Theater: Pacific Overtures, Little Shop of Horrors, Mame, Cabaret, Sweeney Todd. TV/Film: Parks and Rec, Nip/Tuck, Dharma and Greg, Shopping for Fangs. Thank you for coming out and supporting our amazingly talented local playwrights.

# CAST

## **JULIANA VALENTE**

### **The Learning Curve**

Juliana Valente, originally from Texas, is an actor, director, and teaching artist now based in Durham. Juliana holds a MA in Performance/Voice. She has completed post-graduate work at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA). She has performed in 45 US states and seven countries. Juliana's recent acting work includes the 2022 world stage premiere of Caryl Churchill's *Air*, *Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth) @RADA, *1776* (John Adams) touring, *City of Angels* (Alaura) and *Master Class* (Sharon) @Theatre Raleigh, *Venus in Fur* (Vanda) @UCPAC, and the *Olympia Art Performance Installation* (Emcee) @Tribeca Film Center. Juliana teaches acting and dramaturgical application in person, globally online, and at the NCT Conservatory.

## **JEFFEREY WEST**

### **It Was June**

Jeffery West (Owen) is delighted to be working on this wonderful new play. He last worked in Raleigh in NCT's *West Side Story* and before that in Theatre Raleigh's *August Osage County*. He has been an actor, director and teacher for over 40 years. For 17 years he was a Greensboro resident where he appeared in Triad Stage's productions of *And Then There Were None*, *All's Well that Ends Well*, *New Music*, *The Woman in Black*, *Providence Gap*, *Ghosts*, *Bloody Blackbeard*, and *On Golden Pond*. For Triad he also directed *Red*. Other regional work includes *True West*, *Death of a Salesman*, *King Lear*, *The Miser* (PlayMakers Repertory Company), *The Night Before Christmas Carol* (Temple Theatre and Raleigh Ensemble Players), *Angels in America* (AEA Guest Artist, Duke University), *How I Learned to Drive* (Manbites Dog Theater), *Showboat*, *Gypsy*, *42nd Street*, *Big River* (NCT). Television: *All My Children*, *Guiding Light*, *Surface*, *Dawson's Creek*, *One Tree Hill*, *Brookfield* (pilot), *Underground*. Artistic Director, Raleigh Ensemble Players, 1993-1997. Faculty: UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University, UNCG, Elon University, Greensboro College, High Point University. Education: BA, College of William and Mary; MFA, University of Virginia. Proud member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA. Thanks to Charlie for inviting me aboard!



# BEHIND THE SCENES



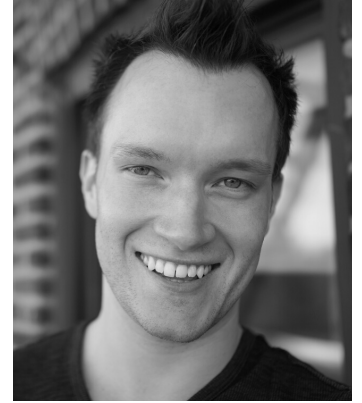
**CHARLIE BRADY**

Founder, CATG



**YVETTE HOLDER**

Founder, Sips & Scripts



**TIM SEIB**

Producer, Director



**LANEISHA BROWN  
FARRAR**

Stage Manager



**PARKER GAGNIER**

Stage Manager



**EVELYN  
MCCAULEY**

Moderator

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## **CHARLIE BRADY**

**Founder, CATG**

Charlie Brady is an actor, director relocated from NYC and now resides in Raleigh with his wife, Lauren Kennedy Brady. A professional actor of almost 30 years, Charlie spent 17 years in New York City and performed on stages on Broadway, Off-Broadway, Equity National Tours and Regional Theater across the country. He brings this variety of experience to his mission to connect our region's theater community and help support more full time opportunities in the industry. Inspired by the commitment and passion of the triangle theater community, Charlie is committed to stimulating productivity, visibility, and the celebration of all our region continues to accomplish.

## **YVETTE HOLDER**

**Founder, Sips & Scripts**

Yvette L. Holder is a native of North Carolina and has studied theatre at three institutions: North Carolina School of the Arts, Lee Strasberg Institute of Dramatic Arts (New York), and North Carolina Central University, where she received a BA in Dramatic Arts. Yvette is a NC playwright advocate and the creator and producer of Sips & Scripts, which supports, promotes, and produces original works, written by emerging to established NC playwrights, founded in 2017. Yvette always looks to the future as she focuses on the next given moment to open doors for new opportunities.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## **LANEISHA BROWN FARRAR**

**Stage Manager, *The Learning Curve***

LaNeisha Brown Farrar is delighted to be a part of North Carolina Playwrights Lab this year. Her stage management credits include productions at Theatre Raleigh (2021 Holiday Cabaret, Into the Breeches, and Bud Not Buddy); Pure Life Theatre (Radio Golf and Loving); Raleigh Little Theatre (Bob Marley's Three Little Birds); and The Justice Theatre Project (A Soldier's Play, Porgy and Bess, and Black Nativity). Favorite credits include The Color Purple with JTP and The Scottsboro Boys with TR. LaNeisha is ever so grateful to her family and loved ones for their unwavering support.

## **PARKER GAGNIER**

**Stage Manager, *It Was June***

Parker Gagnier is a Raleigh sound designer and stage manager. He is excited to be working on this amazing new work. Recent credits include The Weight of Everything We Know (ASM), Jersey Boys (Sound Associate), The Prom (Sound Associate) and the TR in Concert series (Sound Designer).

## **EVELYN MCCAULEY**

**Moderator**

Evelyn McCauley is a singing actress, voiceover artist, director and producer with several Triangle credits that span opera, choral music and musical theatre. She sings most recently with NC Master Chorale and Chamber Choir, St. Stephens Episcopal, Carolina Ballet and NC Symphony, is an active soloist, and avid arts advocate. She shares a home with her husband Lance and two fur babies, Gem and Spike.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## BENEDICT FANCY

### Concept Scenic Designer

Benedict Fancy is the Performing Arts Technical Director at Cape Fear Academy in Wilmington, NC and the winner of the 2023 Broadway World Award for 'Best Scenic Design' for Theatre Raleigh's production ofc Natasha, Pierre and The Great Comet of 1812, Benedict has designed productions in NC, NJ and PA while also teaching at the high school level for the last 15 years. Unwavering love to Ava, Tessa and Emily - my Fancy Girls.

JENNIFER ROBERTSON



## THE HEADSHOT QUEEN



JENNIFER ROBERTSON PHOTOGRAPHY

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