

**PlayGround Celebrates the
Best Writers & Ten-Minute Plays of the Season!
BEST OF PLAYGROUND 22
May 10-27 at POTRERO STAGE**

PlayGround caps off its twenty-fourth season with **Best of PlayGround 22**, a fully-produced showcase of the best new playwrights and short plays selected from more than 150 submissions and 36 works developed as part of the season's Monday Night PlayGround staged reading series. Over the past twenty years, Best of PlayGround has served as a launch pad for some of the Bay Area's most important new writers, including Lauren Yee, Aaron Loeb, Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, Geetha Reddy, Garret Jon Groenveld, and Katie May, among others. Running May 10-27, 2018 (Press Night: May 12) at Potrero Stage, this year's Best of PlayGround features short works by returning alums Ruben Grijalva (2013, 2014) and Erin Marie Panttaja (2015), as well as first-timers Rob Dario, Lauren Gorski, Alanna McFall, and Nic Sommerfeld. Tickets are \$26-\$41 (Pay-What-You-Can Previews, 5/10 & 5/11, \$6-\$41) and are available through the Box Office at 415-992-6677 or online at PlayGround-sf.org/bestof.

Best of PlayGround 22

The six plays to be presented in this year's **Best of PlayGround** are:

Spiskammers by Rob Dario

Living Conditions by Lauren Gorski

Anna Considers a Cocktail by Ruben Grijalva

*Sh*t Farming for Fun and Profit* by Alanna McFall

Factory Girls by Erin Marie Panttaja

A Giant Story by Nic Sommerfeld

ABOUT THE PLAYS

SPISKAMMERS by Rob Dario

A young married couple find the doubts and fears of their future come to bare while viewing an available apartment.

LIVING CONDITIONS by Lauren Gorski

A woman hires a psychic to connect to spirits on the other side, but can she face the consequences of what waits for her?

ANNA CONSIDERS A COCKTAIL by Ruben Grijalva

Anna's new life begins with a long anticipated, better-be-transcendent sip of a tropical adult beverage.

SH*T FARMING FOR FUN AND PROFIT by Alanna McFall

With a methane recapturing plant about to be built just down the road, an environmentally-minded farm couple have to decide whether their difficult decisions can match their good intentions.

FACTORY GIRLS by Erin Marie Panttaja

When enough is enough. #UsToo. Breaking the cycle.

A GIANT STORY by Nic Sommerfeld

A (totally plausible) story of baby giants, elves, a late-night journey across Dublin, and a woman with a bit of explaining to do.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Rob Dario (*Spiskammers*) has been a theatre artist for over twenty-five years. His play *Bagyó* was produced by TheatreFirst, and received the Sui Generis Berkeley Award in 2016. A graduate of CSU Sacramento's Department of Theatre and Dance, his work as an artist and graphic designer has been seen internationally.

Lauren Gorski (*Living Conditions*) is a writer and editor, with a Masters in Writing from USC. She is the Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Exposition Review*, a multigenre journal. Her fiction and poetry have been published in print and online. Her play *Emergency Operation*, based on a short from PlayGround-LA, debuted at Hollywood Fringe 2017.

Ruben Grijalva (*Anna Considers a Cocktail*) is a San Francisco-based playwright and filmmaker. Full-length plays include *Foresight* and *Value Over Replacement*, an O'Neill Finalist and Edgerton New Play Award Winner commissioned and premiered by PlayGround. Short films include *Shadow Ball* and *Value Over Replacement*, based on the 2013 Best of PlayGround short play. He is a writer in residence at PlayGround, developing a new full-length work, *Anna Considers Mars*, under a PlayGround/Planet Earth Arts co-commission.

Alanna McFall (*Sh*t Farming for Fun and Profit*) is a playwright and short-story writer originally from Minnesota. She has published with Mad Scientist Journal, Escape Pod, Alliteration Ink, Atthis Arts and many more. In addition to writing, she works as Publicity Manager for Kinetic Arts Center, a circus theater in Oakland. Follow her work at alannamcfall.wordpress.com.

Erin Marie Panttaja (*Factory Girls*) is a Theatre Bay Area 2017 Titan Award Recipient. Her PlayGround/Planet Earth Arts-commissioned *Preapocalyptic*, based on her 2015 Best of PlayGround ten-minute play, is currently in development with Custom Made's Undiscovered Works Series. She holds BS and MEng degrees from MIT. She has two six-year-olds, a three-year-old, and two cats.

Nic Sommerfeld (*A Giant Story*) is thrilled to be in their first Best of PlayGround! Though originally from Montana, Nic is a graduate of Santa Clara University. To see more of their writing check out *Queering My Lobster* at PianoFight in June, or the SF Olympians Festival in October. Nic is also an actor, haberdasher, and Segway tour guide.

ABOUT PLAYGROUND

PlayGround, the Bay Area's leading playwright incubator, provides unique development opportunities for the Bay Area's best new playwrights, including the monthly Monday Night PlayGround staged reading series, annual PlayGround Festival, full-length play commissions and support for the production of new plays by local playwrights through the New Play Production Fund, among others. To date, PlayGround has supported more than 200 local playwrights in the development and staging of 850 original short plays and 75 new full-length plays, including 22 that have since premiered in the Bay Area. PlayGround alumni – including some of the most distinguished new writers coming out of the Bay Area, such as Aaron Loeb, Lauren Yee, Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, Geetha Reddy, among others – have gone on to win local, national, and international honors for their short and full-length work, including recognition at the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Humana Festival, Sundance Festival, The Lark, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, and New York International Fringe Festival, among others. PlayGround recently completed renovated on its San Francisco home, Potrero Stage: PlayGround Center for New Plays, a 99-seat state of the art performance venue and home to some of the Bay Area's leading new play developers and producers, including PlayGround, Crowded Fire, Golden Thread, and Playwrights Foundation, among others. For more information on PlayGround and Potrero Stage, visit <http://playground-sf.org>.

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National Playwrights Conference, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, New York International Fringe Festival, and Aurora Theatre Company's Global Age Project, among others. Directors and actors participating in PlayGround are among some of the most distinguished theatre professionals, regularly working on leading local stages.

For more information, visit <http://PlayGround.org> or follow PlayGround on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/playgroundsf>) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/playgroundsf>).

WHAT: Best of PlayGround 22
The best short plays by the Bay Area's best new writers!

WHEN: May 10-27, 2018
Thu-Sat at 8pm
Sun at 7pm
PWYC Previews – 5/10 & 5/11
Opening – 5/12
June Anne Baker Prize Night – 5/20

WHERE: Potrero Stage
1695 18th Street
San Francisco, CA 94107

HOW: (415) 992-6677 or <http://PlayGround-sf.org/bestof>
TICKETS: \$6-\$41.

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