

PlayGround 2018/2019

THE 24 HOUR PLAYS: BAY AREA

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Note Following release:

The 24 Hour Plays: Background, Past Participants (*Broadway & Off-Broadway*)

PlayGround 24 years (1994-2018)

Participating Artists: Bios/Background: Playwrights, Directors, Actors and Musicians

For press materials & hi-res color photos, visit: <http://playground-sf.org/press>

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PlayGround Marks Opening of 25th Season with Gala Celebration & New Partnership

PlayGround & The Renowned “The 24 Hour Plays®” Present the Inaugural THE 24 HOUR PLAYS: BAY AREA

Playwrights and Artists at the Center of the Celebration Include
Victoria Chong Der, Ruben Grijalva, Garret Jon Groenveld, Aaron Loeb, Katie May, and
Marisela Treviño Orta, John Walker, Pamela Gaye Walker;
with special musical guests The Kilbanes.

Directors joining in are San Francisco Playhouse Producing Director Susi Damilano,
Britney Frazier, PlayGround Artistic Director Jim Kleinmann, Jeffrey Lo, Aurora Theatre
Company Artistic Director Tom Ross, and Becca Wolff.

September 17, 8PM

Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre
2015 Addison St, Berkeley, CA

BERKELEY (August 27, 2018) — PlayGround, the Bay Areas' and Los Angeles' leading playwright incubator, marks the opening of its twenty-fifth season with a special one-night celebration and performance launching a bold new partnership.

On Monday, September 17, in Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre the legendary (Broadway & Off Broadway) NYC-based The 24 Hour Plays® and PlayGround present the first “The 24 Hour Plays: Bay Area,” fully produced and performed (i.e., off-book) performances of six original ten-minute plays by acclaimed PlayGround alumni playwrights, written and developed over just twenty-four hours, and staged by an all-star group of leading local directors and actors cast.

For this special one-night performance, PlayGround and The 24 Hour Plays have drawn from some of PlayGround's and the Bay Area's most distinguished alumni playwrights of the past twenty-five years. The six confirmed Playwrights and artists at the core of the celebration include Playwrights **Victoria Chong Der** (*Graced*, *The Potrero Nuevo Project*), **Ruben Grijalva** (*Value Over Replacement*), **Garret Jon Groenveld** (*The Empty Nesters*), **Aaron Loeb** (*Ideation*), **Katie May** (*Abominable*), and **Marisela Treviño Orta** (*The River Bride*). The evening's program includes special musical guest, **The Kilbanes** (*Weightless*) and will be co-chaired by producers/actors **John Walker** (Pixar, *The Incredibles 2*) and **Pamela Gaye Walker** (*The Empty Nesters*).

Directors joining in are San Francisco Playhouse Producing Director **Susi Damilano**, **Britney Frazier**, PlayGround Artistic Director **Jim Kleinmann**, **Jeffrey Lo**, Aurora Theatre Company Artistic Director **Tom Ross**, and **Becca Wolff**.

The cast (as of 8/27/18) features actors **Rinabeth Apostol***, **Julia Brothers***, **David Cramer***, **Tristan Cunningham***, **Douglas B. Giorgis***, **Cindy Goldfield***, **Gwen Loeb***, **Lisa Morse***, **Joseph Patrick O'Malley***, **Stephanie Prentice***, **Cathleen Riddley***, **JW Walker***, **Pamela Gaye Walker***, **Reggie D. White***, and **Aaron Wilton***. (AEA)

PlayGround has built a reputation for its award-winning ten-minute play development program, Monday Night PlayGround, involving highly physicalized script-in-hand staged readings of short plays written in just four-and-a-half days. For *The 24 Hour Plays: Bay Area*, PlayGround offers a unique opportunity to see fully-produced performances by PlayGround veterans and special guests, all created in just twenty-four hours! **Performance-only tickets are \$50 (\$25 for students), and tickets including the performance and a VIP pre-show reception are \$100-\$500. All proceeds will benefit PlayGround's soon-to-be-announced 25th season and ongoing playwright incubator programs. For tickets and more information, visit <http://playground-sf.org/benefit>.**

"We're delighted to be making the first visit in our 23-year history to the Bay Area," said Mark Armstrong, Executive Director for *The 24 Hour Plays*, "and to be partnering with an organization that's as passionately devoted to new work and new voices as we are. We're looking forward to celebrating and supporting PlayGround on September 17 and in the years to come." PlayGround Artistic Director Jim Kleinmann added, "We've long admired the work of *The 24 Hour Plays* and the occasion of our 25th season celebration seemed a particularly opportune time to launch this bold new partnership."

The 24 Hour Plays brings together extraordinary artists to create time-limited theater around the world. In addition to **The 24 Hour Plays on Broadway** and **The 24 Hour Musicals**, regular events take place in London, Los Angeles, Dublin, Germany, Minneapolis, Athens, Helsinki, Mexico City and Florence. **The 24 Hour Plays** collaborates with organizations including [The Old Vic Theatre](#), Dublin Youth Theatre, Urban Arts Partnership, Cornerstone Theater Company, The Orchard Project, Bennington College, Hennepin Theatre Trust, The University of Minnesota-Duluth and The Del Sole Foundation, and has raised millions of dollars for charities.

The 24 Hour Plays® (Mark Armstrong, Executive Director) past participants with *The 24 Hour Plays* have included Jennifer Aniston, Elizabeth Banks, Leslie Bibb, Jason Biggs, Wayne Brady, Laverne Cox, Billy Crudup, David Cross, Alan Cumming, Hugh Dancy, Rosario Dawson, Daveed Diggs, Peter Dinklage,

Rachel Dratch, Jesse Eisenberg, Gloria Estefan, Edie Falco, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, America Ferrera, Michael Ealy, Jenna Elfman, Megan Fox, Greta Gerwig, Carla Gugino, Josh Hartnett, Oscar Isaac, Cheyenne Jackson, Scarlett Johansson, John Krasinski, Zachary Levi, Anthony Mackie, James McAvoy, Aasif Mandvi, Julianna Margulies, Eva Mendes, Adrienne Moore, Julianne Moore, Tracy Morgan, Javier Muñoz, Cynthia Nixon, Lynn Nottage, Maulik Pancholy, Anna Paquin, Amanda Peet, Jay Pharoah, Rosie Perez, Phylicia Rashad, Retta, Chris Rock, Sam Rockwell, Emmy Rossum, Liev Schreiber, Amanda Seyfried, Wallace Shawn, Gabourey Sidibe, Jamie-Lynn Sigler, Sarah Silverman, Jordin Sparks, Amber Tamblyn, Tracie Thoms, Maura Tierney, Marisa Tomei, Nia Vardalos, Naomi Watts, Michael Kenneth Williams, Vanessa Williams and many more! In addition to The 24 Hour Plays and The 24 Hour Musicals on Broadway, regular events take place in London, Los Angeles, Dublin, Minneapolis, Germany, Athens, Finland, Mexico City and Florence. Through collaborations with organizations including Dublin Youth Theatre, Roundabout Theatre Company, The Lillys, Urban Arts Partnership, The Orchard Project, Bennington College, Hennepin Theatre Trust, The University of Minnesota-Duluth, Cornerstone Theater Company, and The Del Sole Foundation, The 24 Hour Plays have raised millions of dollars for charities. For more information on The 24 Hour Plays, visit www.24hourplays.com.

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. Founded at San Francisco State University in 1994 by Jim Kleinmann (Artistic Director), Brighde Mullins, and Denise Shama, PlayGround has supported more than 200 local playwrights in the development and staging of 850 original short plays and 75 new full-length plays over the past two decades, including 27 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. In 2017, PlayGround completed renovations 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>.

For more information or to purchase tickets to the inaugural The 24 Hour Plays: Bay Area, visit <http://playground-sf.org/benefit>.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

PlayGround and The 24 Hour Plays® present the inaugural **The 24 Hour Plays: Bay Area**, a one-night gala performance and benefit celebrating PlayGround's 25th season and in support of PlayGround's award-winning playwright incubator programs, featuring original ten-minute plays by Victoria Chong Der, Ruben Grijalva, Garret Jon Groenveld, Aaron Loeb, Katie May, and Marisela Treviño Orta, with special musical guests, The Kilbanes.

WHERE: Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA

WHEN: **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 8pm** (VIP pre-show reception at 6:30pm)

TICKETS: Tickets are \$50-\$500. For more information about **The 24 Hour Plays: Bay Area**, call (415) 992-6677 or visit www.PlayGround-sf.org/benefit.

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Note Following release:

The 24 Hour Plays: Background, Past Participants (*Broadway & Off-Broadway*)

PlayGround's Impact Over 24 Years (1994-2018)

Participating Artists: Bios/Background: Playwrights, Directors, Actors and Musicians

The 24 Hour Plays

Background, Past Participants (*Broadway & Off-Broadway*) & Links

The 24 Hour Plays, Our History

The 24 Hour Plays bring together extraordinary artists to create time-limited theater around the world. We're the creators of The 24 Hour Plays and The 24 Hour Musicals and, since 1995, we've maintained a structurally small organization with a global footprint. Each year, we produce up to four major events in our home of New York City, the mainstays being The 24 Hour Plays on Broadway and The 24 Hour Plays: Nationals, our free professional intensive for young actors, directors, writers and producers. Over 23 years, our shows have become a Manhattan institution, shepherding audiences through cultural and social sea changes: from our 2001 event in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks to the 2017 Nationals after violence in Charlottesville surged into the headlines, our work creates robust conversation about the world we live in, builds new creative communities between artists, and continues our history of urgent, responsive theater which keeps pace with a shortening news cycle.

The 24 Hour Plays unite a group of artists: writers, directors, actors and production staff (for musicals, we add composers, lyricists, choreographers and a live band) who meet on a Sunday night, armed with props, costumes, special skills and a dream — something they've always wanted to do onstage. Following the orientation, writers and directors choose the cast for their play and writers hunker down to write brand new plays, supported with hospitality services, technical support, and caffeine. Writers are encouraged to use as many of the props, costumes, and orientation revelations as they'd like in their show. Final scripts are due at six A.M., followed by rehearsals that continue throughout the day and each cast is afforded a short technical rehearsal to go over blocking on-stage, sound and light cues. Food and hospitality continues to be provided, as the artists soldier on with their work. After rehearsals are completed, the curtain rises on the latest production of The 24 Hour Plays.

In 1995, Tina Fallon and her friends put together an evening of theater that was written, rehearsed and performed in 24 hours at Teatro La Tea on New York City's Lower East Side. Intended as a one-time thing for a group of young friends — all working multiple jobs and short on the time and money to get together and do more than this — the event was so much fun for participants that they began getting together to do it every month or so. Will Eno wrote his first play that night at La Tea and other early participants included Rainn Wilson, Aasif Mandvi, John Flansburgh (They Might Be Giants), Mike Doughty (Soul Coughing) and even Tina's future husband, now-New York Times food editor Sam Sifton, after she recruited him to be a playwright.

In 2001, The 24 Hour Plays made their Broadway debut, in a celebrity benefit for Working Playground that took place on September 24, 2001, less than two weeks after September 11. Artists like Mary-Louise Parker, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Scarlett Johansson, Julianne Moore and others greeted one another, many for the first time since the tragedy. A new tradition was born and, after two years at the Minetta Lane Theatre, The 24 Hour Plays on Broadway moved to the bigger American Airlines Theatre on 42nd Street, where it remains a Manhattan institution.

Shows in Los Angeles and London soon followed, with The 24 Hour Plays ushering in a new generation of London-based talent (many of whom would make their way to New York and to Broadway in the years to come), as well as an annual event at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin

(supporting Dublin Youth Theatre), shows with partner charities in Mexico City, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Athens and more. Recent and ongoing events have supported the work of Roundabout Theatre Company (New York), Hennepin Theatre Trust's Spotlight Education (MN), Cornerstone Theatre Company (CA), and now PlayGround. A volume of collected plays from The 24 Hour Plays New York and London events was published in 2009 as 24x24.

Since 2007, The 24 Hour Plays have maintained a unique program bringing together artists 25 and under for an intensive professional experience. The 24 Hour Plays: Nationals is a rigorous program for artists 25 and under. Over the course of a weekend, six playwrights, six directors, six producers, twenty-four actors and — new this year — one composer — engage in intensive workshops, panel discussions, and finally, their own production of The 24 Hour Plays in an off-Broadway theater. The 24 Hour Plays: Nationals present an opportunity for young artists to meet their peers and build relationships that will serve them throughout their careers. The 24 Hour Plays seeks the very best of the next generation of theatermakers and arms them with what they need in order to find their way in this business—one another.

Since 2009, The 24 Hour Musicals — if the Plays are a long, intense day, the Musicals are a crazy day! — have added composers, lyricists, choreographers and a live band to the mix. First performed in an off-Broadway cabaret atmosphere, The 24 Hour Musicals made their Los Angeles debut in 2017 at the historic United Artists Theatre at the Ace and will return home to New York on October 29 for The 24 Hour Musicals on Broadway. The documentary *One Night Stand*, about The 24 Hour Musicals, debuted in theaters around the country and is available for streaming on Amazon.

Past participants in The 24 Hour Plays

The 24 Hour Plays[®] (Mark Armstrong, Executive Director) bring together extraordinary artists to create time-limited theater around the world. Past participants in The 24 Hour Plays include Jennifer Aniston, Elizabeth Banks, Leslie Bibb, Jason Biggs, Wayne Brady, Laverne Cox, Billy Crudup, David Cross, Alan Cumming, Hugh Dancy, Rosario Dawson, Daveed Diggs, Peter Dinklage, Rachel Dratch, Jesse Eisenberg, Gloria Estefan, Edie Falco, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, America Ferrera, Michael Ealy, Jenna Elfman, Megan Fox, Greta Gerwig, Carla Gugino, Josh Hartnett, Oscar Isaac, Cheyenne Jackson, Scarlett Johansson, John Krasinski, Zachary Levi, Anthony Mackie, James McAvoy, Aasif Mandvi, Julianna Margulies, Eva Mendes, Adrienne Moore, Julianne Moore, Tracy Morgan, Javier Muñoz, Cynthia Nixon, Lynn Nottage, Maulik Pancholy, Anna Paquin, Amanda Peet, Jay Pharoah, Rosie Perez, Phylicia Rashad, Retta, Chris Rock, Sam Rockwell, Emmy Rossum, Liev Schreiber, Amanda Seyfried, Wallace Shawn, Gabourey Sidibe, Jamie-Lynn Sigler, Sarah Silverman, Jordin Sparks, Amber Tamblyn, Tracie Thoms, Maura Tierney, Marisa Tomei, Nia Vardalos, Naomi Watts, Michael Kenneth Williams, Vanessa Williams and many more! In addition to The 24 Hour Plays and The 24 Hour Musicals on Broadway, regular events take place in London, Los Angeles, Dublin, Minneapolis, Germany, Athens, Finland, Mexico City and Florence. Through collaborations with organizations including Dublin Youth Theatre, Roundabout Theatre Company, The Lillys, Urban Arts Partnership, The Orchard Project, Bennington College, Hennepin Theatre Trust, The University of Minnesota-Duluth, Cornerstone Theater Company, and The Del Sole Foundation, The 24 Hour Plays have raised millions of dollars for charities. For more information on The 24 Hour Plays, visit www.24hourplays.com.

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PlayGround's Impact Over 24 Years (1994-2018)

For the past 24 years, PlayGround (1994-2018) has played a central role in developing the Bay Area's most promising new writers for the stage.

Playwrights who've begun their theatrical careers with PlayGround include **Garret Jon Groenveld, Lauren Yee, Aaron Loeb, Geetha Reddy, Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, Mia Chung, Christopher Chen, Samantha Chanse, Katie May, Ruben Grijalva, Robin Lynn Rodriguez, Patricia Cotter, and Victoria Chong Der**, among many others. In addition, through its expansion to Los Angeles in 2012, PlayGround has developed some of L.A.'s top new playwrights, including **Mercedes Segesvary, Vincent Terrell Durham, and Julianne Jigour**, all currently under commission with PlayGround.

Garret Jon Groenveld is a founding playwright with PlayGround. Over the course of two decades, Garret developed 32 ten-minute plays on the Monday Night PlayGround stage and more than a half dozen new full-length plays through PlayGround's commissioning and playwright residency programs. These included MISSIVES, which went on to have its New York premiere at 59E59 Theaters in a PlayGround co-production, and THE EMPTY NESTERS, now touring commercially, including a planned two-month run in Los Angeles in early 2019 all of which follows its premier at the 2015 PlayGround Festival of New Works. His latest play, DISBELIEF, an examination of the Cassandra myth informed by the #MeToo movement, was developed in the 2018 PlayGround Festival and will premiere in San Francisco in 2020. In addition to his work with PlayGround, he has collaborated with New Conservatory Theatre Center, Theatre Rhinoceros, and Playwrights Foundation, where he was a Resident Playwright. Garret participated in his first PlayGround event when the project was launched at San Francisco State University in collaboration with the Creative Writing Department, while Garret was pursuing his Masters.

Lauren Yee joined the PlayGround Writers Pool in 2007, where her ten-minute play, GIVING UP THE GHOST, was developed, initially through the Monday Night PlayGround series and eventually as part of the 2008 Best of PlayGround. She received the 2008 June Anne Baker Prize and the resulting commissioned play, CREVICE, was developed at the 2009 PlayGround Festival and premiered in 2012 at Impact Theatre in a PlayGround co-production. She received another PlayGround commission in 2015 for her new musical work, THE PERSEPHONE PROJECT, a collaboration with Pearl Rhein and Larissa Lury. Lauren has become one of the most produced playwrights in America, with premieres of two of her works scheduled at Bay Area theatres this season, KING OF THE YEES at San Francisco Playhouse and THE GREAT LEAP at American Conservatory Theater. Her new work, CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND, was the hit of Southcoast Rep's 2017 Pacific Playwrights Festival and will have productions around the country this season.

Aaron Loeb began writing for PlayGround in 2002 and over the next eight years he developed 20 ten-minute plays through the Monday Night PlayGround series and had a record 7 plays selected for Best of PlayGround (tied with Groenveld). He received two PlayGround commissions, resulting in FIRST PERSON SHOOTER and ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIG GAY DANCE PARTY, both developed at the PlayGround Festival of New Works and subsequently premiered at San Francisco Playhouse. PlayGround co-produced FIRST PERSON SHOOTER and, when it went to New York (both at the NYC Fringe and later in its Off-Broadway debut), ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIG GAY DANCE

PARTY. Aaron's third San Francisco Playhouse premiere, **IDEATION**, won the **2013 Glickman Award** and has had subsequent productions around the country. Most recently, Loeb was commissioned by Dallas Theatre Center and his play, **THE TRIALS OF SAM HOUSTON**, premiered there this past Spring.

Geetha Reddy began writing for PlayGround also in 2002 and joined the inaugural PlayGround Writers Pool in 2003 when PlayGround relocated to Berkeley Rep. She developed 12 ten-minute plays through the Monday Night series over 7 years, with 5 Best of PlayGround selections. She received the June Anne Baker Prize in 2005 and has received 4 PlayGround commissions. Her commissioned play, **SAFE HOUSE**, premiered in 2010 at San Francisco Playhouse in a PlayGround co-production, helping to launch the Playhouse's Sandbox Series. PlayGround and San Francisco Playhouse went on to co-produce two more PlayGround commissioned works in the Sandbox, including Daniel Heath's **SEVEN DAYS** and Kenn Rabin's **REUNION**. Also a filmmaker, Geetha's short film, **OBIT**, was featured in the PlayGround Film Festival and at film festivals around the country. Geetha has become one of the Bay Area's most sought-after new playwrights, with plays commissioned, developed and/or produced by Playwrights Foundation (where she was a Resident Playwright), Crowded Fire, Central Works (**BLASTOSPHERE**, co-written with Aaron Loeb), Shotgun Players, and TheatreFirst.

In 2009, PlayGround received the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle's Paine Knickerbocker Award for its continuing contributions to Bay Area theatre. In 2014, PlayGround was recognized with the prestigious National Theatre Company Grant from American Theatre Wing, producer of the Tony Awards®. As part of Theatre Bay Area's 40th anniversary, TBA recognized PlayGround co-founder and Artistic Director Jim Kleinmann as one of its 40 @ 40 Honorees for helping to change the face of theatre in the Bay Area.

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The 24 Hour Plays: Bay Area

Participating Artists

Bios/Background: Playwrights, Directors, Actors and Musicians

For this, the first *The 24 Hour Plays: Bay Area*, PlayGround and NYC-based *The 24 Hour Plays*® have assembled 6 playwrights, 6 directors, and 24 actors who, over the course of just 24 hours, will write, rehearse, and perform (i.e., off-book) performances of six original ten-minute plays in celebration of PlayGround's 25th season (2018-19).

The six confirmed playwrights are: **Victoria Chong Der** (*Graced*, The Potrero Nuevo Project), **Ruben Grijalva** (*Value Over Replacement*), **Garret Jon Groenveld** (*The Empty Nesters*), **Aaron Loeb** (*Ideation*), **Katie May** (*Abominable*), and **Marisela Treviño Orta** (*The River Bride*).

Featured performers (as of 8/27/18) include: **Rinabeth Apostol***, **Julia Brothers***, **David Cramer***, **Tristan Cunningham***, **Douglas B. Giorgis***, **Cindy Goldfield***, **Gwen Loeb***, **Lisa Morse***, **Joseph Patrick O'Malley***, **Stephanie Prentice***, **Cathleen Riddley***, **JW Walker***, **Pamela Gaye Walker***, **Reggie D. White***, and **Aaron Wilton***. * Member, Actors' Equity Association.

Directors are: San Francisco Playhouse Producing Director **Susi Damilano**, Britney Frazier, PlayGround Artistic Director **Jim Kleinmann**, **Jeffrey Lo**, Aurora Theatre Company Artistic Director **Tom Ross**, and **Becca Wolff**.

Bios/Background: Playwrights, Directors, Actors and Musicians

Playwrights

Victoria Chong Der has written for several Bay Area companies, including PlayGround, Playwrights Foundation, and Ferocious Lotus. She is a resident playwright of the Playwrights Foundation and PlayGround, received a 2014 PlayGround Fellowship, and has a BA in Creative Writing from Oberlin College. Most recently, she co-wrote for THE POTRERO NUEVO PROJECT, the inaugural production at Potrero Stage, and last summer's VIGNETTES ON LOVE with David Steele, and has had her full-lengths LIKE ME (a PlayGround commission), BALANCING, and ECHOES & SHADOWS developed at consecutive PlayGround Festivals (2016, 2017, 2018, respectively).

Ruben Grijalva is a San Francisco-based playwright and filmmaker. Full-length plays include FORESIGHT and VALUE OVER REPLACEMENT, an O'Neill Finalist and Edgerton Foundation New Play Award Winner commissioned and premiered by PlayGround. He also co-wrote for THE POTRERO NUEVO PROJECT, the inaugural production of Potrero Stage. 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.

Garret Jon Groenveld is a poet and playwright living in San Francisco, and a founding writer with PlayGround. An MFA in Poetry and an MA in Playwriting from San Francisco State University, Groenveld also studied Playwriting with Edward Albee at the University of Houston. His play MISSIVES, commissioned and originally developed by PlayGround, had well-received productions in San Francisco and New York. Groenveld's play, THE HUMMINGBIRDS, was

winner of the Internationalists Global Playwriting Prize, entailing six presentations in six countries and leading to productions worldwide, including an ongoing tour of Romania. His play *THE EMPTY NESTERS*, originally premiered at the 2015 PlayGround Festival, started a commercial tour in San Francisco at Z Below in May of 2016. He co-wrote for *THE POTRERO NUEVO PROJECT*, the inaugural production of Potrero Stage.

Aaron Loeb is a California video game executive and playwright whose work has been performed around the country. His full-length plays include *THE TRIALS OF SAM HOUSTON* (commissioned and premiered at Dallas Theater Center), *IDEATION* (which premiered at San Francisco Playhouse and subsequently Off-Broadway), *THE PROUD*, *ALCESTIS (DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE)*, *BROWN*, *BLASTOSPHERE* (with fellow PlayGround alumna Geetha Reddy), and the PlayGround-commissioned *FIRST PERSON SHOOTER* and *ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIG GAY DANCE PARTY*, both of which premiered at San Francisco Playhouse. *ALBGDP* premiered in New York at the New York International Fringe Festival (named "Outstanding Play" of the Fringe) in 2009 and had its Off-Broadway premiere in 2010. Among Loeb's other playwright honors are: the 2013 Will Glickman Award (*IDEATION*), two Bay Area Theater Critic Circle Awards (*FPS*, *ALBGDP*, GLAAD Media Award Nominee (*ALBGDP*), and seven "Emerging Playwright Awards" from PlayGround. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild.

Katie May's full length plays include *ABOMINABLE* (PlayGround/Symmetry Theatre Company co-production; The Lark Playwrights Conference, NYC; commissioned by PlayGround), *MANIC PIXIE DREAM GIRL* (fringeNYC, A.C.T. Costume Shop, commissioned and co-produced by PlayGround), *BLACK SHEEP GOSPEL* (Great Plains Theater Conference), *A HISTORY OF FREAKS* (Finalist David Mark Cohen Award in Playwriting, developed at the PlayGround Festival of New Works), and *SECRETS OF GARDENIAS* (Piper Center New Play Development Fellowship). Her short play *RAPUNZEL'S ETYMOLOGY OF ZERO* (Best of PlayGround Festival, Short + Sweet Sydney) was published in the Best of PlayGround Anthology, 2011, and was subsequently made into an animated short film that screened in festivals both nationally and internationally. May has been a member of the PlayGround Writers Pool since 2008, and a PlayGround Playwright in Residence since 2014. Her work has received productions in San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Arizona, Idaho, and Sydney, Australia. May is the recipient of grants and fellowships from the Virginia Piper Writing Center, National University of Singapore, Women in Film LA, and a two-time PlayGround Emerging Playwright Award winner. She holds an MFA from Arizona State University.

Marisela Treviño Orta is an accidental playwright. She found her way to the genre while completing an MFA in Writing at the University of San Francisco where she studied poetry exclusively. During her time at USF, Marisela became the Resident Poet of *El Teatro Jornaleño!*, a theatre company comprised of Latino immigrants who devised work inspired by social justice issues. Marisela's first play *BRAIDED SORROW* won the 2006 Chicano/Latino Literary Prize in Drama, received its World Premiere in 2008 at *Su Teatro* in Denver, CO and won the 2009 PEN Center USA Literary Award in Drama. Her other plays include: *AMERICAN TRIAGE* (Marin Theatre Company commission and Repertorio Español 2012 MetLife Nuestras Voces National Playwriting Runner-Up); *HEART SHAPED NEBULA* (2012 O'Neill Playwrights Conference Semi-Finalist, 2013 Aurora Theatre Global Age Project Finalist, and 2015 Shotgun Players World Premiere production); *WOMAN ON FIRE* (2007 Latino Playwrights Initiative commission), and her cycle of Latino fairy tale plays, including *THE RIVER BRIDE* (2013 National Latino Playwriting Award Co-Winner, 2014 production at AlterTheater, 2016 World

Premiere at Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *WOLF AT THE DOOR*, and *ALCIRA*. She was a member of the PlayGround Writers Pool (2009-11), a Resident Playwright at the Playwrights Foundation, and a founding member of the Bay Area Latino Theatre Artists Network (BALTAN). She graduated with an MFA from the Iowa Playwrights Workshop and is a Core Writer at The Playwrights' Center.

Directors

Susi Damilano is co-founder and Producing Director of the San Francisco Playhouse. She is a five-time recipient of the Bay Area Theatre Critic Circle (BATCC) award for Best Female Performance in *Abigail's Party*, *Harper Regan*, *Bug*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *Reckless*. At the Playhouse she has performed leading roles in *Barbecue*, *The Roommate*, *Red Velvet*, *Tree*, *Bauer*, *Abigail's Party*, *Harper Regan*, *Coraline*, *Slasher*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Landscape of the Body*, *First Person Shooter*, *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*, *The Crucible*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Our Town* and *The Smell of the Kill*. Directing credits include Playhouse productions of *Born Yesterday*, *Noises Off*, *She Loves Me*, *Stage Kiss*, *Company*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *Into the Woods*, *A Behanding in Spokane*, *Den of Thieves* and *Wirehead*; the West Coast Premieres of *Honey Brown Eyes*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Coronado*, *The Mystery Plays* and *Roulette* and the world premieres of *Steven Dietz's On Clover Road*, *Rhett Rossi's From Red to Black* and *Daniel Heath's Seven Days in the Sandbox Series*.

Britney Frazier is a Bay Area actor, director, playwright and teaching artist. She has had the blessing of creatively collaborating as an actor with: Campo Santo Theater Co., Cuttingball Theatre, Shotgun Players, Brava: Theater for Women, The Ubuntu Theater Project, Marin Theater Company, The San Francisco International Arts Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, and A.C.T.'s Strand. As a playwright, she has birthed three original plays, *OBEAH*, *DYSPHORIA*, and *PRESSURE HIGH*, and in 2018 TheatreFirst commissioned Brit to write *LAVEAU*, a solo ritual performance tribute to Marie Laveau. She also writes for the Playwrights Foundation's One Minute/Flash Play Festival annually. In June of 2018 she was sent to Stockholm Sweden to adapt August Strindberg's *PARIAH*. As a director, she has completed a directing apprenticeship with PlayGround and directs for them periodically year-round. Recently Brit directed *Star Finch's TAKE THE TICKET*, in the recent production of *The Participants* at TheatreFirst, and debuted her first solo piece, *LAVEAU*, in TheatreFirst's *Between Us*. In Spring of 2018 she collaborated as a writer and performer with Roger Guinevere Smith in *CASA DE SPIRITS* with Campo Santo and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

Jim Kleinmann co-founded PlayGround in 1994, along with playwright Brighde Mullins and director Denise Shama, and has served as Artistic Director since 1996. For PlayGround, he has provided artistic and administrative leadership for the past twenty-two seasons, developing PlayGround's unique array of new playwright and new play incubator programs, including Monday Night PlayGround, the PlayGround Festival of New Works, the full-length play Commissioning Initiative, the New Play Production Fund, and most recently the launch of Potrero Stage: PlayGround Center for New Plays. For PlayGround, he has directed more than one hundred short and full-length plays, including works by Garret Jon Groenveld, Aaron Loeb, Geetha Reddy, Lauren Yee, Katie May, and many others. Recent directing and dramaturgy credits include David Steele's *Vignettes on Love* and Ruben Grijalva's *Value Over Replacement*. He is a veteran arts administrator with more than twenty-five years of experience, including stints leading Traveling Jewish Theatre, Smuin Ballet and Berkeley Symphony, and received his MFA from the Yale School of Drama.

Jeffrey Lo is a Filipino-American playwright and director based in the Bay Area. Recent directing credits include *The Santaland Diaries* at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, *Peter and the Starcatcher* at Hillbarn Theatre, *The Crucible*, *Yellow Face* and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* at Los Altos Stage Company, *Uncle Vanya* at the Pear Theatre (BATCC award for Best Production), *Eurydice* at Palo Alto Players (TBA Awards finalist for Best Direction), and *The Drunken City* at Renegade Theatre Experiment. Jeffrey has also worked with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, San Jose Repertory and is a company

member of Ferocious Lotus Theatre Company and PlayGround. His plays have been produced and workshopped at The BindleStiff Studio, City Lights Theatre Company and Custom Made Theatre Company. His play *Writing Fragments Home* was a finalist for the Bay Area Playwrights Festival and a semi-finalist for the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. He is the Casting Director at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, a graduate of the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute and a proud alumnus of the UC Irvine Drama Department.

Tom Ross inaugurated Aurora Theatre with Barbara Oliver in 1992. For the past 15 years he has served as its Artistic Director. He's directed 27 Aurora productions and produced over 140 solo performers for the SF Solo Mio Festival. Previously, Tom worked as Executive Assistant to Joseph Papp at NY's Public Theatre.

Becca Wolff explores the intersection of the theatrical and the confessional with virtuosic performer/creators. Her work engages deeply personal material in bold new ways. She has created, directed and developed new works at venues including Summerhall@Edinburgh Fringe, ACT, Getty Villa, NY Stage & Film, the Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival, and locally at Theatreworks, A.C.T., New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco Playhouse, Z Space, and PlayGround. An MFA from Yale School of Drama. She is co-founder of SCOTUS Theater and Tilted Field Productions and a member of SDC. www.beccawolff.net

Musical Guests

The Kilbanes (Kate Kilbane, Dan Moses) are a theatrical rock band whose work has been shown at the Public Theater's Under the Radar (upcoming, January 2019), the O'Neill National Music Theater Conference, Z Space, Theatreworks New Works Festival, and Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor, as well as rock clubs in over 30 US cities.

Actors

Rinabeth Apostol* recently appeared in Leah Nanako Winkler's *TWO MILE HOLLOW* at Potrero Stage, Min Kahng's *THE FOUR IMMIGRANTS* at TheatreWorks (TBA Award nomination), Eugenie Chan's *MADAME HO*, and Jiehae Park's *PEERLESS* at Marin Theatre Company. Other world premiere roles include: Tala in *MONSTRESS* (American Conservatory Theatre), Gloria Windham (The Nymphomaniac) in the musical *THE CABLE CAR NYMPHOMANIAC* (FOGG Theater), Ana in Lauren Gunderson's *FIRE WORK* (TheatreFirst), *FIRST* (PlayGround/Aluminous Collective), *THE KITE RUNNER* (Arizona Theatre Company & San Jose Rep) and *Usaping Puki: THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES* (Skirball Center for the Arts, New York). She has also appeared in: *Aliens With Extraordinary Skills* (B Street Theatre Company), *Othello* (Marin Theatre Company), *Of Mice and Men* (San Jose Rep On Tour), *Avenue Q* (San Jose Stage Company), *RED* (TheatreWorks) and *Imelda: The Musical* (East West Players, Los Angeles). Rinabeth has worked with Magic Theatre, Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor, Playwrights Foundation, Crowded Fire, American Musical Theatre of San Jose and the Armory Center for the Arts, Los Angeles. Her TV/film credits include appearances on Nickelodeon, Showtime, LOGO and several independent films, including *LIT*, which received critical acclaim at Frameline, Outfest, and Palm Springs International Film Festivals last summer. Rinabeth is also an educator/activist. When she's not performing, you can find her choreographing for musicals or lecturing on gender and racial inequity in the performing arts. She is also a proud company member of PlayGround, Ferocious Lotus Theatre Company, and SAG-AFTRA. www.rinabeth.com

Julia Brothers* last San Francisco appearance was as God in The Kilbane's rock opera *WEIGHTLESS* at Z Space, directed by Becca Wolff. In the Bay Area, Julia has worked at Magic Theatre, Aurora, Marin Theatre Company, TheatreWorks, A.C.T., Brava! Theatre, San Jose Stage, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Sierra Rep, Sacramento Theatre Company, Pacific Repertory Theatre and is a company member at B Street Theatre and PlayGround. Regionally, Julia has worked at Arizona Rep, Gulfshore Playhouse, GEVA Theatre, The Cape Playhouse, Virginia Stage Festival,

Merrimack Rep and George Street Playhouse; Off Broadway at Westside Arts and on Broadway at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre.

David Cramer* has a BFA from the University of New Mexico, studied at London's Royal Academy and HB Studios in New York. He has performed locally with the Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, Shotgun Players, Word for Word and Ragged Wing Ensemble. Television and film roles include M*A*S*H, The Waltons, Nash Bridges, The Last Word and Falcon Crest among others. He is a delightedly proud member of PlayGround.

Tristan Cunningham's* Bay Area credits include A WINTER'S TALE, THE COMEDY OF ERRORS, MEASURE FOR MEASURE, and A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM with California Shakespeare Theater, THE ARSONISTS with Aurora Theater, TREE with the San Francisco Playhouse and SKELETON CREW with TheaterWorks Silicon Valley. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, Screen Actors Guild, a TBA and BATCC Award winner for her work in *The Taming* at Marin Shakespeare Theater, and a talent with Dan Hoff Agency and Citizen Skull Production Management.

Douglas B. Giorgis* has performed on stages across the country from Off-Broadway (La Mama, Musicals Tonight!) and Indie Theatres (Retro Productions Company Member, Boomerang) in New York, to Regional Houses (San Diego Rep., Barnstormers-NH, Alliance Theatre-GA, Arizona Theatre Co-AZ) and local companies (Marin Theatre Co, San Jose Rep, Aurora, 42nd St. Moon, a 3 Girls Theatre Resident Artist and a PlayGround Company Member). www.douglasgiorgis.com

Cindy Goldfield* is thrilled to be back at PlayGround. An award-winning actor and director, her regional performing credits include: A.C.T., Center Rep, San Jose Rep, TheatreWorks, Broadway by the Bay, Marin Theatre Company, New Conservatory Theatre Center, 42nd Street Moon, and Back It Up Prod. New York credits include D'Arcy Drollinger's Project: Lohan, and Mr. Irresistible, at La MaMa E.T.C. Goldfield also enjoys a thriving cabaret career, collaborating with Scrumby Koldewyn and David Aaron Brown.

Gwen Loeb* has been a company member with PlayGround since 2000 and is delighted to be taking part in the 24-Hour Plays! Gwen is currently in rehearsals for GRAVEYARD SHIFT at SF Playhouse. Other recent productions include: Lady Bracknell in THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, and Mrs. Bennet in PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, at Livermore Shakespeare Festival; Brenda in CAN YOU HEAR ME BABY with Prospect Theatre in New York; Rose in STRANGE LADIES with Central Works; the Nurse in ROMEO AND JULIET with San Francisco Shakespeare Festival; Pauline in A BRIGHT NEW BOISE, and Babette in THE ARSONISTS at Aurora Theatre Company; and Gertrude Stein in the one-woman show THERE THERE with First Person Singular. Gwen is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

Lisa Morse*: Local: Marin Theatre Co., Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Symmetry Theatre, Just Theatre, PlayGround, Playwrights Foundation. Regional: Missouri Rep, Kennedy Center, Boston Playwrights Theatre. NYC: Lincoln Center, CSC, P.S. 122, The Lark. Favorite roles: Maya in BRIGHT SHINING SEA, Woman in THE OTHER PLACE, Beverly Onion in ABOMINABLE, Mom in DOWN A LITTLE DIRT ROAD, Miss Finknagle in the film "MISS FINKNAGLE SUCCUMBS TO CHAOS".

Joseph Patrick O'Malley* is a Bay Area Native and has performed at Cal Shakes, Aurora Theatre Co., Marin Theatre Co., Theatreworks, Shotgun Players, Just Theatre and Killing My Lobster. Regionally: Guthrie Theatre, the Kennedy Center, La Jolla Playhouse and the B Street Theatre. On Film: Blood Ties (Cannes 2014), brief. (NVFF 2017). Joseph is also a teaching artist and holds an MFA from USC.

Stephanie Prentice's* past Bay Area productions include THE CHRISTIANS, COMPANY and OUR LADY OF 121ST STREET with San Francisco Playhouse, VALUE OVER REPLACEMENT, BEST OF

PLAYGROUND 20, and BEST OF PLAYGROUND 19 with PlayGround, THE BOY FRIEND and BAKER STREET with 42nd Street Moon, COMEDY OF ERRORS, ROMEO AND JULIET, and TWELFTH NIGHT with Shakespeare at Stinson, and THE FARM with Shotgun Players, among others. Stephanie is a Bay Area native, and a proud member of Actors' Equity. She is a graduate of the Santa Clara University Theatre and Dance program, and has been a member of the Santa Clara University voice faculty since 2005. Stephanie is a PlayGround company member, and also serves on the Creative Development Board at TheatreFIRST in Berkeley.

Cathleen Riddley* is a multiple award-winning actor who has performed at numerous Bay Area Theaters. She is a company member at PlayGround and Shotgun Players, and a member of AEA and TBA. She is an alumna of The Juilliard School and an ASL Interpreter. A project close to her heart is working with incarcerated men in San Quentin.

JW Walker* returns to his roots as an actor after extensive experience as a producer in both theater and film. He produced the Academy Award winning *The Incredibles* at Pixar and served as associate producer for Warner Bros.' *Osmosis Jones* and *The Iron Giant*. He was an Executive Producer on Disney's *Tomorrowland*. Recently he produced *Incredibles 2*. He was Managing Director at the of the Tony Award winning Victory Gardens Theatre where he produced over 30 new plays. Walker also served as President of the League of Chicago Theaters for three years; as General Manager of the Royal George Theatre; Managing Director of Peninsula Players Theatre; and as General Manager for Cullen, Henaghan & Platt. Walker co-produced John Logan's *Hauptmann* at New York's Off-Broadway Cherry Lane Theatre before moving his career into feature films at Warner Bros.

Pamela Gaye Walker* is a playwright, screenwriter, and director for both theatre and film, and is the president of GHOST RANCH PRODUCTIONS. She has taught acting for 20 years, both privately and in class - most recently at Pixar Studios. OFF-BROADWAY: *Hauptmann*. REGIONAL: *Sea Marks*, Royal George, Chicago, Jefferson Award Nomination; *Hannah Free*, Victory Gardens, Chicago, Actress of the Year; *After The Revolution*, Aurora Theatre; *What We're Up Against*, Magic Theatre; *John Gabriel Borkman*, Aurora Theatre; *The Last Schwartz*, Zephyr Theatre, L.A.; *Alfred Steiglitz Loves O'Keefe*, FCT, L.A. Best Actress & Best Production; *Brooklyn Boy*, Theatreworks, Palo Alto; *Little Shop of Horrors*, Peninsula Players. FILM: *Wooly Boys*, *The Incredibles*, *Last Rites*.
www.pamelagayewalker.com

Reggie D. White* Off-Broadway: *Hundred Days* (NYTW, Public Theater - UTR), *I & YOU* (59E59 Theaters), *FOR THE LAST TIME* (Clurman Theatre). Other Theatrical Credits include: *THE BLUEST EYE* (Arden Theatre), *AND SHE WOULD STAND LIKE THIS* (The Movement Theatre Company), *THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE* (People's Light), *FRONTIERES SANS FRONTIERES* (Bushwick Starr), *THE LAST TIGER IN HAITI* (La Jolla Playhouse/Berkeley Rep), *PARTY PEOPLE* (Berkeley Rep). Film & TV: *Gotham*, *Blindspot*, *The Parent 'Hood*, "Buzzer", "Medias Res", "Stranger In Blood". Training: Atlantic Theater School, Cal State Hayward. Reggie is an Associate Artist at Merrimack Repertory Theatre and a Company Member of The Williams Project - a living wage theatre company. Reggie is also a Barrymore & NAACP Award Nominee and a recipient of the TCG Fox Fellowship. www.reggiedwhite.net

Aaron Wilton* is elated to be working with PlayGround again; he was last seen in their Spring production of *BRIGHT SHINING SEA*. He's been acting for 25 years and has numerous credits in Film, TV, video games, commercials and regional stages. Proud member of Actors' Equity, The Dramatists Guild, SAG-AFTRA and the PlayGround acting company.