

Put A Woman On A Pedestal:
Monologues about Statue-Worthy Women

StatueFest On Stage



Thursday, September 30th, 2021 | 7:00pm | Puerto Rican Traveling Theater

Produced by New Shokan Kitchen Island Project:

Janis Astor del Valle, Cindy Cooper, Cheryl Davis, Deborah Savadge

Directed by Allison Astor-Vargas

Celebrating

***Emma Stebbins, Zora Neale Hurston, Luisa Capetillo, Frances Perkins, Dorothy Parker,
Maria Irene Fornes, Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, Mary Lou Williams***

Emma Stebbins

Written by Heather Jeanne Volanti 1815

Performed by Cathy Haase *

Celebrating Emma Stebbins (1815 - 1882)



Heather Jeanne Volanti is writing a play about Stebbins and Charlotte Cushman. Her play *Waltz of the Exterminator* will be included in Smith & Kraus's *Best Ten-Minute Plays of 2021*. Heather visited Stebbins's majestic Angel of the Waters statue every day during the lockdown of 2020, and she was moved by the resiliency of the New Yorkers who gathered around it to laugh, dance, celebrate life, and honor those who have gone.



Cathy Haase, native New Yorker, is an actress, writer and teacher. Films include *Another 48 Hrs* (Walter Hill), *The Kill-Off* and *The Ballad of Little Jo* (Maggie Greenwald). Theater includes *Good People* (Lindsey-Abaire/Dorset Theatre Festival) and *Firewoman's Lift* (Reese Mickenberg/Edinburgh Fringe and Soho Theater, London). Her book *Acting for Film* is in its second edition with a foreword by Ian McKellen. Her play *Over My Dead Body* is in workshop at the Actors Studio, directed by Allison Astor Vargas. Actors Studio member since 1988. She has taught extensively.

In Review

Written by Cheryl L. Davis

Performed by Nan-Lynn Nelson *

Celebrating Zora Neale Hurston (1891 - 1960)



Cheryl L. Davis received the Kleban Award as a librettist for her musical *Barnstormer* about Bessie Coleman, the first Black woman flyer. Her musical *Bridges* was a finalist for the Richard Rodgers Award, and the short film musical based on characters from *Bridges - Don't Stay Safe* - has won multiple film festival awards and is currently nominated for a 2021 Drama League Award for Outstanding Digital Theater, Individual Production. Her play *Maid's Door* received seven Audelco Awards and was a finalist for the Francesca Primus Prize. This summer she will be the Maven Screen Media Fellow at Stowe Story Labs for her pilot *Swimming Uptown*, based on her play of the same name.



Nan-Lynn Nelson debuted on Broadway creating the role of Nikki Kay Kane in the Tony-nominated musical *Runaways*, followed by additional Broadway roles in *Open Admissions* as well as the replacement for Angela Bassette in August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*. Nan-Lynn has been a principal performer in many television commercials, industrial films, live events, as well as nighttime and daytime episodic television, including *Vikki* on the PBS children's series: *The Bloodhound Gang*; NBC's Ensemble cast feature: *Hot Hero Sandwich*; Vivienne Roxbury-Barnes on *All My Children*; and several principal features on *Law and Order*, *The Cosby Show* and more. Most recently she was a co-star with Tyne Daly: as Mavis in Patrick Wang's, critically acclaimed film: *A Bread Factory*; Dr. Lind in the recently released film: *The Unintended*.

Luisa Capetillo

Written by Magdalena Gomez
Performed by Nikaury Rodriguez
Celebrating Luisa Capetillo (1879 - 1922)



Magdalena Gómez Playwright, Magdalena Gómez is the Poet Laureate of Springfield, MA (2019-2021). Her poems and plays have been staged and produced nationally. She is currently re-drafting a full length play honoring Luisa Capetillo and inspired by the *Put a Woman on a Pedestal Project*. Co-founder of N.O.W., Muriel Fox, tells us: "Magdalena Gómez offers us miraculous combinations: social protest with endearing humor; authentic insights of both U.S. and Puerto Rican Society, and feminist inspiration with universal truths."



Nikaury Rodriguez is an actor, writer, director, teaching artist, diversity & inclusion trainer, and dancer from New York City. Her professional career in theatre, film, television, corporate training, and dance spans a few decades and has been in partnership with innumerable prestigious directors, theaters, organizations, corporations, learning institutions, and production companies. Her most recent credits include: Webseries *Ms/Manage*; Film *Melodies For My Father*, *V.O. Gibson Murder Case*.

That Woman in Washington

Written by Deborah Savadge
Performed by Carole Monferdini *
Celebrating Frances Perkins (1880 - 1965)



Deborah Savadge is a playwright, director and producer. This year, her work has been produced by OUTCAST PRODUCTIONS of Whidbey Island, Washington, and published by *Plays International/Europe*. She wrote the screenplay for *Wedding March*, a Best Short Film selection of Selected Shorts on PBS. A winner of the Playwrights First Award and the Golden Prize for playwriting, she is a member of the Dramatists Guild and the League of Professional Theatre Women and literary manager for Playwrights Gallery. In December, she produced *Insulted-Belarus* for an international audience.



Carole Monferdini: Theatre highlights include *The Club* (Circle-in-the-Square) directed by Tommy Tune (OBIE Award); *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* and playing Diana Vreeland in the one-woman show *Full Gallop*, off-Broadway and in the national tour, among others. Broadway: Standby for Diana Rigg in *The Misanthrope*, etc. Regional theatre in 26 states. Film: *Next Stop, Greenwich Village*; *The Bell Jar*; *The Brass Ring*, *Hank Boyd is Dead & Love, Repeat* (Amazon Prime). Member of Actors Center. www.carolemonferdini.com

Excuse My Dust

Written by Bev Thompson
Performed by Dara O'Brien *
Celebrating Dorothy Parker (1893 - 1967)



Bev Thompson is a playwright, director, actor, adjunct professor, Creative Arts at NYU, former Master Voice teacher at AMDA and ADA, and the Faculty at Omega Institute: Reawakening Spontaneity & Play. *Prisoners*, *Brickdust Row*, *Lots*, *Late Afternoon*, *Musical Chairs*, *Yardlights Ahead* (published in the anthology *Intimate Acts* by Brito & Lair), plays produced at: The Ensemble Studio Theatre, Madison Avenue Theatre, 13th Street Repertory, 18th Street Playhouse, Bucks County Playhouse, and The Irish Arts Center. Recipient of the NYU Michael Rosenberg Scholarship for playwriting, Innovator of The Year Award, State of New Jersey for Writer's Read, a multidisciplinary college arts program. Non-fiction/Fiction publications: *The Magic Feather: Speaking With Confidence*; *Ladies' Mile 17 Stories Up*, a memoir anthology; *Dog-Eared For Death*, runner up for the 2019 Mystery Writers Conference in Key West, Florida.



Dara O'Brien is a playwright and actress based in New York City. Her acting work includes the New York premiere of *Gidion's Knot* by Johnna Adams, directed by Austin Pendleton at 59E59 Theatres, and Lady Capulet in *R&J* for Web Series Shakespeare; other appearances include The Cherry Lane Theatre, Urban Stages, Abingdon Theatre, and Ego Actus. Member AEA, SAG-AFTRA, Dramatists Guild of America. www.DaraOBrien.com

“¡ES POSIBLE!”

Written by Lorca Peress

Performed by Maggie Bofill *

Celebrating Maria Irene Fornes (1930 - 2018)



Lorca Peress is the Founding Artistic Director of MultiStages, a multidisciplinary, multicultural theatre company that discovers, develops, and produces socially impactful new works that embrace a fusion of art forms, races and cultures. She is a past LPTW co-president and current Development Chair. She is an award-winning writer and director with credits Off and Off-Off Broadway in theatre, musical theatre, and opera. Faculty: NYU Tisch Strasberg Studio; Strasberg Institute. Bennington College BA in Drama. <https://multistages.org/>



Maggie Bofill, Actor/Playwright. Founding member of LAByrinth Theater Company, member of Ensemble Studio Theater (EST) & WomanArtistWriters (Dorset Theater Festival). PBS short *CubanAmericanGothic*, written & performed by Maggie B. On Stage: Bella, *The Sound Inside*, Theater Works Hartford Dir. Rob Ruggiero: *24 Hour Plays Viral Monologues*, Blanca, by Michael Garces: Nora, *A Doll's House Part Two*, The Longwharf Theater, Dir. Will Davis: Armida, *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles*, St. Louis Rep. Dir. Rebecca Martinez: Marisol in *NYLON*, by Sofia Alvarez (*To All the Boys I've Loved Before*), Dir. Knudd Adams: *GOD in God Shows Up*, by Peter Felicia (The Playroom), Dir. Christopher Scott: Delia in *Devil of Choice*, Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2019: Florence, *Dutch Heart of Man*, The Public Theater: St. Monica, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, The Public Theater. Dir. Phillip Seymour Hoffman: TV & Film: High Town, The Path, Smash, Law & Order SVU. maggiebofill.com @maggiebofillita

Suffragette Sixteen

Written by Lucy Wang

Performed by Ashley Chiu *

Celebrating Mabel Ping-Hua Lee (1896 - 1966)



Lucy Wang is an award-winning published and produced writer. She has also performed standup and two one-woman shows to sold-out audiences. Her manuscripts are archived at the Huntington Library. In her spare time, Lucy mentors privately, teaches at escript.ws, and serves on the executive committee of Honor Roll!



Ashley Chiu is a New York City based actress, singer, and dancer who believes in the power of storytelling to make the world a better place. Broadway: *Once Upon A One More Time*. Off-Broadway: *KPOP* (Ars Nova). National Tour: *A Chorus Line* (Dir. Baayork Lee). Other favorite roles include *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet), *Legally Blonde* (Elle), *Avenue Q* (Christmas Eve), *The Golden Child* (Eng Ahn). Film/TV: *Madam Secretary* (CBS), *Jimmy Kimmel* (ABC), *This is B.S.* (Ind. Web Series). She holds a BFA in Drama from NYU Tisch with a Minor in Law & Society. @ashleychiuchiu www.ashleychiu.com

The Mary Lou Shine

Written by Martine Sainvil

Performed by Marjorie Johnson *

Celebrating Mary Lou Williams (1910 - 1981)



Martine Sainvil is a Brooklyn-based Playwright and graduate of Boston University, member of The Dramatists Guild of America, Inc. and Playwrights Gallery (NYC), credits include: *Strange Happenings At The School Library* (2021 Luna Stage, 2020 Orange School District), *Indispensable* (2020 Resonance Ensemble Waldman Play Development Program), *Like & Subscribe* (2020 Playwrights Gallery Reading Series), *The Good China* (Finalist 2018 TRU Voices Festival), *Comfort Food* (Winner 3rd Place 21st Annual Henrico Theatre One-Act Showcase).



Marjorie Johnson is thrilled to be a part of *StatueFest On Stage*. Ms. Johnson has created and recreated a wide range of characters. Some of her favorite roles include: Sojourner Truth and Zora Neale Hurston in *The Pen and The Podium* (Edinburg Festival, Scotland), Rose in Joe DePietro's *The Last Romance* (New Theatre, Overland Park, Kansas), Mrs. Antrobus in *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Delaware Theatre Co. Wilmington)—Best Supporting Actress Philadelphia Critics Award Nomination), Dotty in Colman Domingo's *Dot* (NYC - Best Lead Actress AUDELCO Award), and the Candy Lady in Katori Hall's *Hoodoo Love* (NYC - Best Supporting Actress AUDELCO Award). Some TV and film roles include *Bull*, *Modern Love*, *Sneaky Pete*, *Mozart in the Jungle*, *Nurse Jackie*, *The Leftovers*, *Law and Order: SVU*, and *American Gangster*.

Anonymous

All playwrights contributed to the piece
Performed by all actors



Allison Astor-Vargas (Director) has directed several pieces online during the pandemic including The Actors Studio BIPOC Fly on the Wall Series, Week 3 *Stand Back and Stand By*, *The Neighborhood Watch* by Janis Astor del Valle and Say Their Name Festival produced by BIWOC Hall of Fame: *Daughter of the Seas and Sun* also by Janis Astor del Valle. She produced her own adaptation of *The Scarlet Letter* entitled *Scarlet Fever* and has directed many original pieces for such companies as Around the Block Theatre and ELBA. She is an alumna of The Lincoln Center Directors Lab and a current participant of The Actors Studio Playwrights and Directors Workshop. She directed a Zoom version of *StatueFest* in June.



Melany Nunes (Production Stage Manager) is an Arts Manager and current graduate student at Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business for her M.S. in Media Management. Her previous theatrical credits include stage managing productions of *Urinetown*, *The Outsiders*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, the New York Regional Premiere of *Kodachrome*, and three of the four virtual productions of *StatueFest*. She also represents the position of Production Stage Manager at The Hudson Repertory Theater Company.



Kimmarie Bowens (Production Coordinator) is an actor, stage manager, playwright, singer, and producer. As a member of New Circle Theatre Company, she is one of the curators and Associate Producer of the L.B. Williams BIPOC Playwrights Contest and Festival. She is a former member of the 42nd St. Workshop, a founding member of the Black Book Corporation (a theatre development enterprise) and founding member of 7 Friends Acting Company/R.E.A.L. Theatre.



Peri Margolies (Marketing) is a Public Relations and Marketing Specialist in the NYC performing arts space. Currently, she serves as the Administrator of Melodia Women's Choir, in which she also sings with the ensemble. Peri graduated from Ithaca College in 2019, with a Bachelor of Music in combination with Communication, Management, and Design. She is also no stranger to the stage, as she has been involved in numerous theatrical productions, both onstage and off. At the start of 2020, she served as a Public Relations and Digital Media fellow at 21C Media Group, where she assisted various classical artists with digital marketing and media outreach. In her free time, she enjoys teaching private voice lessons and volunteering at the local animal shelter. She would like to thank the incredible NSKIP team for this wonderful opportunity!

Public Relations Consultant: Martine Sainvil

Celebrating these Statue-Worthy Women on October 1st, 2021

Alice Austen, Barabra McClintock, Maria Tallchief, Antonia Pantoja, Yuri Kochiyama, Pauli Murray, Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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