

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

StatueFest On Stage



Friday, October 1st, 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

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

Alice Austen

Written by Fengar Gael

Performed by Bekka Lindström *

Celebrating Alice Austen (1866 - 1952)



Fengar Gael had workshops and/or productions at Detroit Repertory, New Jersey Repertory, InterAct Theatre, Moxie Theatre, Landing Theatre, and in New York: Urban Stages, MultiStages, Resonance Ensemble, and Ego Actus. She is a recipient of the Craig Noel Award, Playwrights First Award, Wilde Award, Julie Harris Award, and commissions from South Coast Repertory, the Hangar Theatre, the National New Play Network, and a fellowship from the California Arts Council. Her website is www.fengar.com



Bekka Lindström spent years in MOM The Rock Concert Musical as Melissa, singing and playing electric guitar. She also played Sister Betsy in *As It Is In Heaven* at the Stonington Opera House in Deer Isle, Maine. She appeared in the NY Fringe as Lori in *The Lightning Field*, which then went on to a run in London. Other New York credits: Medea in *A Jar In The Forest* (The Samuel French Play Festival); the suffragette Ellen Gates Star in *Jane's House* (The Neighborhood Playhouse); and Sylvia in *Stacked* (The Bank Street Theater).

Barbara McClintock Talks About Statues

Written by Judith Pratt

Performed by Jean Brookner *

Celebrating Barbara McClintock (1902 - 1992)



Judith Pratt writes plays, novels and short stories, and has also been an actor, director and teacher, as well as a freelance writer. In 2019, her play *Maize*, about Barbara McClintock was selected by Louisiana State University SciArts for a reading at the inaugural SciArts at LSU Playwriting Prize, and her novel, *Siljeea Magic*, was published. Recently, her stories and essays have been published in Stars and Staffs Magazine, Golden Walkman podcasts, and Synkroniciti Magazine. Her play, *Losing It*, appeared in Best Ten-Minute Plays of 2020. www.judithpratt.com



Jean Brookner Select NY stage credits: *Edith Wharton/ StatueFest June 2021* (zoom reading); *To the Memory of the Lost Children* (Carrie Robbins / zoom reading); *A Matter of Husbands* and *Overtones*, performed back to back in English and French (LIU); *Expiration Date* (59E59 Theaters / Edinburgh Fringe, UK); *Conjugating Stuckitude*, her original one woman show; *Bridge*, original play reading with Elizabeth Ashley. Festivals: Midtown Int'l (nominated outstanding ensemble performance); Samuel French. Upcoming: *The Horseshoe Curve* (Joe Urbinato / zoom reading). Jean is also a classically trained pianist and member of ASCAP, AEA, SAG-AFTRA

Tallchief

Written by Laura Shamas
Performed by Jen Olivares *
Celebrating Maria Tallchief (1925 - 2013)



Laura Shamas' plays include: *Circular*, *Picnic at the Hanging Rock* (adaptation), *Portrait of a Nude*, *Lady-like*, *Chasing Honey*, *The Other Shakespeare*, and *Amelia Lives*. Her new play *Four Women in Red* will be read online at Transformation Theater on November 9, 2021. She's a 2021 member of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Indigenous Writers Collaborative. Enrolled member: Chickasaw Nation. Thanks to John Horsechief of the Osage Nation Cultural Center for his help. www.laurashamas.com



Jen Olivares is an artist, writer, creative director and choreographer and began her professional career in television and commercials at age five. Her work as a stage actor spans the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Atlantic Theater, Yale Repertory Theater, and national touring companies of *Rock of Ages*. Jen is an enrolled member of the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, a tribe indigenous to what is now Southern California. Jen is currently consulting on and directing several up and coming Native works, including *Molly Spotted Elk* with Penobscot Theatre in Maine. Passionate about empowering Native youth through cultural and community connection, Jen writes and produces for the Native youth strengthening organizations The 5th Direction and Red Eagle Soaring. www.jenolivares.com

Antonia Pantoja

Written and Performed by Janis Astor del Valle
Celebrating Antonia Pantoja (1922 - 2002)



Janis Astor del Valle is a Bronx-born Puerto Rican lesbian writer-performer, who uses her plays and films to foster discourse and understanding of LGBTQ issues and cultural diversity. She is a member of Honor Roll! and the Actors Studio's Playwright/Director Workshop. She has served as an Assistant Professor in the Practice of Arts Management and Entrepreneurship at SUNY Purchase since 2013. Janis resides in New Haven, CT, with her wife, their dog and kitten.

CREED

Written by Christine Toy Johnson
Performed by Jo Yang *
Celebrating Yuri Kochiyama (1921 - 2014)



Christine Toy Johnson is an award-winning writer, actor, director and advocate for inclusion. Her written works have been included in the Library of Congress Asian Pacific Islander Performing Arts Collection (Playwrights Division) since 2012. Her screenplay *Jumping the Third Rail* won a 2016 Writers Lab fellowship supported by Meryl Streep, Nichole Kidman and NYWIFT. and her plays and musicals have been developed at such places as the Roundabout, the O'Neill, The Barrow Group, Prospect Theatre Company, Abingdon, Weston Playhouse and more. Obie, Rosetta LeNoire, JACL and Asian American Arts Alliance awards for advocacy in diversity and inclusion. She was recently elected Treasurer of the Dramatists Guild. Details: www.christinetoyjohnson.com



Jo Yang's (AEA, SAG-AFTRA) debut in New York Theatre Workshop's production of *Endlings* was cut short by the pandemic, closing after Opening Night in Oct 2020. Fortunately, she performed in the American Repertory Theatre's premiere production of *Endlings* in 2019, where she originated the same role of Sook Ja, a Korean deep-sea diver. She also workshopped the play at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Festival. Other selected stage appearances in New York and regional theatre include *The Comfort Women* (Urban Stages), *M. Butterfly* (Seattle Repertory Theatre), *Heart Song* (Florida Repertory Theatre), *Ah, Wilderness* (NAATCO), *The Joy Club* (Pan Asian Rep), *The Boys Next Door* (Seattle Group Theatre) and *Love Suicide at Schofield Barracks* (The Odyssey Theatre Ensemble).

Making It Right

Written by Michael angel Johnson
Performed by Alinca Hamilton *
Celebrating Pauli Murray (1910 - 1985)



Michael angel Johnson's plays have been produced in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Cleveland, Amherst, New Haven, and other places across the U. S. *The Price of Solitude* was a finalist in the National Ten-Minute Play Contest at Actors Theatre of Louisville. *The Apartment* earned Michael angel the honor of special participant at the O'Neill Theatre Centre. Her play, *Wild Fires*, was a finalist at the Hollywood Black Film Festival. Stories and essays: *The Echo* (Persimmon Tree) and *A Basket of Biscuits* (On the Issues). Michael angel is a member of The League of Professional Theatre Women and a member of New York Women in Film & Television. She is an Associate Professor at The Fashion Institute of Technology (New York) where she developed and teaches African American Literature. Michael angel is a graduate of The Yale School of Drama in Playwriting.



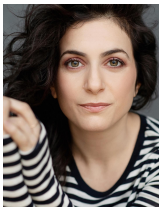
Alinca Hamilton is a first-generation American and native New Yorker born to Jamaican parents. As the child of a Sgt. Major in the Marine Corps and an Aries, Alinca knows a thing or two about discipline, perseverance, and making your bed every morning. Her favorite acting credits include: Calpurnia in *Julius Caesar* (Classic Stage Company); Philly in *Someone Dies at the End* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival); and the title character in *Melody June Cooper: Actress* for Hire*, which she conceived and produced. She holds an MFA in Acting from Columbia University. AlincaHamilton.com

The Brief

Written by Cindy Cooper
Performed by Sarah Baskin *
Celebrating Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933 - 2020)



Cindy Cooper is an award-winning playwright whose works have been produced in the US, Canada and Europe. In New York, her plays have been at Primary Stages, Women's Project, Wings, Lincoln Center's Clark Studio, WOW Café, Museum of Tolerance, New Circle Theatre Company, others, and in Chicago, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Boston, LA, Maryland, Montreal, Budapest and more. In addition, many of her works are included in LGBTQI festivals, and she is the founder of ReproFreedomArts.org. A two-time Jerome Fellow, her plays are in 17 volumes and have won awards from Pen & Brush, Samuel French Off-Broadway Festival, and elsewhere. www.cyncooperwriter.net



Sarah Baskin, originally from Montreal, is a NYC based actor committed to developing new work for the stage and screen. In theatre, Sarah has performed Off-Broadway (Roundabout, Urban Stages, 59E59 +), regionally (Portland Center Stage, Capital Repertory Theatre +), and with several downtown theatre companies. Recent Film / TV credits include *The Equalizer*, *Gossip Girl Reboot* (upcoming), *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, and several independent films. Sarah also recently directed her first short film, *DONUT CHASE*. She is a company member of The Actors Center. BA: Vassar College; MFA: American Repertory Theatre / Moscow Art Theatre School at Harvard University.

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

With special thanks to New York City Artist Corps Grants Initiative
and ASAP/Artist Space At Pregones



We are grateful for the support of our donors:

- Willow Ridge Fund
- Ned Farley
- Glenda Frank
- Dawn Gibson-Brehon
- Gregory Olayvar
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