

Northwestern University

Department of Radio/Television/Film

Spring 2023

Special Announcement

June 2nd -SoC | EPICS + MFA: Writers Panel - New Work & New Writers in a Changing World

2023 MFA WRITERS PANEL

Northwestern
MFA + EPICS

NEW WORK & NEW WRITERS

In a Changing World

**June 2,
2023**
2:00 - 3:30pm

**Ethel M. Barber
Theater**
30 Arts Circle Drive
Evanston, IL 60208

co-moderated by
**Zayd Dohrn &
Erin Courtney**
*Director & Associate Director
MFA Writing for the Screen + Stage*

LIZZIE STERN
LITERARY DIRECTOR AT
PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS

AYANA PARKER MORRISON
MANAGER OF ARTISTIC
PRODUCTION AT MCC
THEATER

HARRY LENGFIELD
MANAGER AT
GRANDVIEW

MINHAL BAIG
WRITER/DIRECTOR

Register here: 

All are invited to attend the culminating weekend of events for the MFA Writing for the Screen & Stage program presented in partnership with EPICS. This year's event will highlight the writer's strike, the massive changes in the NY theatre world, DEI, and more in this changing world. The panel will be co-moderated by the Director and Associate Director of the MFA in Writing for the Screen & Stage program, **Zayd Dohrn** and **Erin Courtney**.

Faculty, staff, alumni, and general public, please register [HERE](#)

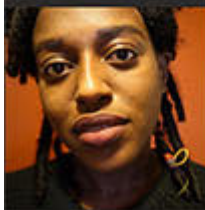
Students, please register [HERE](#)

NORTHWESTERN MFA NEW PLAY FESTIVAL!

■ JUNE 2ND & 3RD
📍 ETHEL M. BARBER THEATRE
FEATURING 4 SHORT PLAYS
AND 4 FULL-LENGTH PLAYS
BY MFA WRITERS

FRIDAY
JUNE 2ND

FOUR SHORT PLAYS
PROGRAM OF WORKS BY MFA WRITERS
3:45 PM



NIJAE DRAINE



SALWA MEGHJEE



JEFFREY HUNTER



MICHELLE HOULE



LOBSTER

WRITTEN BY KALLAN DANA
DIRECTED BY NINI BAGUNDO
8:30 P.M.

SATURDAY
JUNE 3RD

JUNE 3RD



WELCOME TO BRENWOOD!

WRITTEN BY SARAH GRACE GOLDMAN
DIRECTED BY JULIE MONTELEONE
11:30 AM

DR. PREPPER

WRITTEN BY DARYN ROBINSON
DIRECTED BY ZACH FORBES
2:00 P.M.



ONE DICK FOR LIFE

WRITTEN BY SOPHIE DE BRUIJN
DIRECTED BY JUAN BARRERA
4:00 P.M.

Faculty News



Eric LaRue, (United States) –
World Premiere. In the aftermath



New Dramatists produced a
workshop and reading of

of a shocking crime at the hands of their son, two parents seek solace in rival religious congregations in Michael Shannon's emotional directorial debut. Directed by **Michael Shannon**, written by **Brett Neveu**. Produced by **Sarah Green, Karl Hartman, Jina Panebianco**. With **Judy Greer, Alexander Skarsgård, Alison Pill, Paul Sparks**, and **Tracy Letts**.

Ariel Stess's new play *Score*, directed by Jackson Gay in December of 2022. The reading featured Zoë Geltman, Ethan Dubin, Laura Heisler, Brenna Coates, and Noel Allain, among others. This workshop was part of Ariel's seven-year residency with New Dramatists.

Jacob Smith's article published in Screen

Professor Jacob Smith's article, "Mackenzie Crook's Biosemiotic Television," was published in the Winter 2022 issue of SCREEN JOURNAL

Asst. Prof. Nathan Rossi's Research on (U.S) Central American Digital Activism Awarded Recognition from LASA

Assistant Professor of Instruction Nathan Rossi won the Outstanding Dissertation award from the Latin American Studies Association's Latinx Studies Section. He will receive the award at LASA's annual meeting in May 2023.

Neil Verma chairs Largest Media History Ever Held at Library of Congress

Assistant Professor Neil Verma served as conference director and chair of the third Radio Preservation Task Force meeting at the Library of Congress and Smithsonian in Washington DC in April. The largest event of its kind, the four day conference had 80 panels and workshops and more than 350 speakers and panelists. In attendance were keynote speakers The Kitchen Sisters, Jad Abumrad of Radiolab, archivist Rick

Prelinger and the Librarian of Congress, Carla Hayden. The conference brought together academics, broadcasters, government agencies, archivists and others to explore ways to preserve radio and podcasting recordings for posterity, and to launch new projects, including the Black Women in Radio historic initiative.



"The Tattooed Lady" a new rock musical about the radical history of side show women, co-written by **Erin Courtney** and **Max Vernon**, starring **Jackie Hoffman**, directed by **Ellie Heyman** with choreography by **Mayte Natalio**, premiered at Philadelphia Theatre Company in the Fall of 2022. Read more about the piece in [PEOPLE.COM](https://www.people.com) and [WHYY.ORG](https://www.whyy.org).

Eliza Bent's short film **SUMMER'S LAST SWIM** was recently screened as part of **CIAO CHI!** at Links Hall in Chicago. The film was awarded Best LBGTQ+ by Chicago Filmmaker Awards and was a semi-finalist for the Austin International Art Festival, Dublin World Film Festival, and Paris International Short Festival. In June, Bent will perform a work-in-progress of PENGUIN IN YOUR EAR as part of Project Y's Women in Theatre festival at ART/NY and then again at the Brick Theatre in Brooklyn in September.

bentertainment presents:

CIAO CHI!

standup. screenings. schmoozing!

Ebony Bell Bruce G
Anthony Freeper Eliza Bent
Aguinaldo

Wed. May 24th
7:00pm — 8:00pm
Links Hall
\$10 adv tix @ bit.ly/ciaochi
\$15 at the door

A cartoon frog character with large eyes, wearing a red bow tie, positioned in the bottom right corner of the poster.



The Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) has selected **Özge Samancı** for award of \$15K for the Artist Fellowship - Media Arts - 2023. The Artist Fellowship Program recognizes exceptional artists who have created a substantial body of work throughout their career by providing awards to support continued artistic growth.



Stephan Moore was made an artist in residence at the Sound Studies Institute of the University of Alberta in February/March 2023. While there, he created a new installation work, Caldera, for the SSI Gallery, performed in a series of concerts with the Jen Mesch Dance Conspiracy featuring his music, gave an artist talk, and prepared sound materials for a live-performed accompaniment to the 1925 silent film Wunder Der Schoepfung, which was presented at the Block Cinema in Evanston on April 20, in collaboration with performers Rives Collins and Scott Smallwood.

Horror, Mental Health, and More

Robin Means Coleman and **Dave Tolchinsky** were quoted in Maxine Wally's article in March 17 issue of W Magazine on the rise of highbrow horror films.

Tolchinsky also gave a talk on April 11 as part of the prestigious Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum series at Claremont McKenna College covered by CMC News.

Dave Tolchinsky's film "Cassandra" won best horror short at the Hong Kong Indie Film Festival.

On **May 4**, the **Pritzker Pucker Studio Lab** hosted a very special evening with producer **Christine Vachon** of Killer Films (Carol, Beatriz at Dinner, Happiness, Safe, Far from Heaven, Boys Don't Cry, etc). Co-sponsored by the MFA in Writing for Screen+Stage program.

On **May 18**, PPSL had a reading of **Ariel Stess'** play Score up in Evanston at the Louis Theatre.

PPSL (with co-organizers **Rebecca Seligman**, **Peter Locke**, and Screen Cultures PhD Candidate **Kate Erskine**) had its first symposium May 25-27 in Chicago and Evanston, which included a keynote Q&A with **Travon Free** (writer for Samantha Bee, the daily show, and winner of an Oscar for his film Two Distant Strangers) moderated by **Harvey Young**. At the symposium, PPSL had a reading of **Zayd Dohrn's** play, Sick, directed by **Susan Bowen**. And it held screenings/a panel with **Michael Metzger** and **Jacob Smith**/the Block around climate change and mental health. Other keynotes were by professors **Ana Antic** and **Stephen Harper**. Additionally, there was a panel on melancholia and malaise in the 21st century featuring Robin Means Coleman and Miriam Petty. Finally, there were screenings of the films by PPSL student fellows, followed by a panel on mental health and the industry with **AJ Christian**, **Dave Tolchinsky**, **Eugene Park**, and **Adrienne Becker**.

Alumni News



MFA Screen & Stage alum **Sofya Levitsky-Weitz** won the Outstanding New Comedy Series Writers Guild of America award for her work on *The Bear*.



Gazschebet will be performed!

A scene from **Skylar Tarnas'** play "Gazschebet" will be performed at Bramble Theatre Company's 2023 Festival of Unfinished Work, June 29th-July 2nd!



Michael Wilder Frazel (WSS MFA '22) and **Philip Kenner** (WSS MFA '22) produced The Once and Future Festival this past Spring. Featuring two world premieres and four staged readings (including performance of new plays by current WSS MFA candidates **Salwa Meghjee**, **Kallan Dana**, and **Patrick Vermillion** WSS MFA '20), this celebration of new playwriting ran for four weeks in April/May and was a smashing success.

Pictured above: THE MALL THE MALL THE MALL by **Philip Kenner** (WSS MFA '22), directed by **Eli Newell** (NU School of Comm. '18), starting **Emily Zhang** (NU School of Comm. '22), **Kandace Mack** (NU School of Comm. '22), **Andrew Cawley**, **Danny Gadaj**, and **Haley Bolithon**. Photo credits and Set

Design by **Rose Johnson**, Lighting Design by **Josiah Croegaert**, Costume Design by **Grace Barry** (WSS MFA '22), Sound Design by Alex Levatter (SAI MFA '23) and Stage Managed by Michal Brankin. Pictured here from left to right: Emily Zhang, Kandace Mack, Haley Bolithon, and Andrew Cawley.

Current Student News

MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage Class of 2023 Updates

Kallan Dana's play “RACECAR RACECAR RACECAR” was a finalist for the National Playwrights Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.

Sarah Grace Goldman's play “The Last Slave in America” was a semifinalist for the National Playwrights Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.

Salwa Meghjee's musical “U-Haul Mesbians” was a semifinalist for the National Musical Theater Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.

Daryn Robinson recently signed a contract to perform with The Second City National Touring Company.

Department of Radio/Television/Film

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Phone: 847-491-7315



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