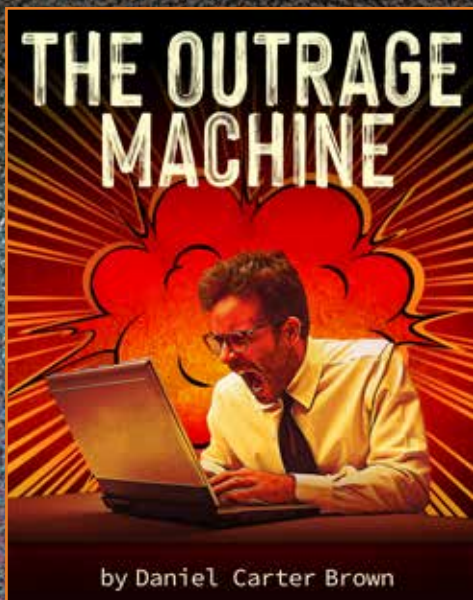
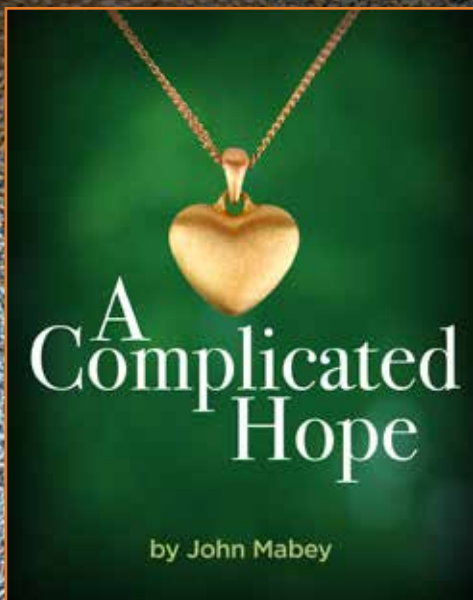


FULTON COUNTY ARTS & CULTURE WEST END PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AND ESSENTIAL THEATRE PRESENT

2022 **ESSENTIAL THEATRE** PLAY FESTIVAL

JULY 29 – AUG 28



Hush Harbor Lab presents

THE WASH
by Kelundra Smith

bare
essentials
play reading series

All readings in the Bare Essentials series are free and open to the public thanks to support from:

Georgia Humanities
Sharing stories that move us and make us



www.essentialtheatre.com

PROGRAM NOTES

In June of this year, I had the honor and privilege of having one of my plays included in the Lanford Wilson New American Play Festival, where I spent a wonderful week. This reminded and reinforced for me the importance of what has long been one of my chief goals for “The Essential Theatre Playwriting Competition” – that it provides the kind of opportunities and positive experience for playwrights that I would like to find for my own work.

Since the annual Essential Festival began in 1999, every year we have produced at least one new play by a Georgia playwright, and since 2012 that has been our sole focus. The Essential Theatre Playwriting Award remains the only competition of its kind, exclusively dedicated to the work of Georgia writers. Some of the plays we’ve premiered have gone on to further productions (Jordan Pulliam’s *Bat-Hamlet* has had well over a dozen productions since its Essential debut) but, more importantly, many of the writers whose early work we showcased have continued to have their work produced around the country. At Essential, we like to think that we don’t just develop plays, we develop playwrights. Lauren Gunderson, the most produced living American playwright of the past few years, and the first winner of our Playwriting Award, is only the most obvious example. Gabriel Jason Dean, who won the Essential prize in 2010, has continued to win awards and have his work produced, with one of them appearing Off-Broadway this past season. Recent winners Emily McClain and Erin Considine are finding a lot of success with their work, as well.



In 2020 we chose two co-winners for the Essential Award, but we were not able to produce them because of the COVID pandemic. This year we’re going back to pick up one of them – Daniel Carter Brown’s *The Outrage Machine*, a satirical look at some of the misuses of digital and social media. In the past two years, those problems have become more apparent to everyone, with many people backing off from Facebook and other platforms. But what gives Dan’s play its staying power, I think, is that it goes deeper than commentary about the pitfalls of a particular technology – it’s about the all-too-human susceptibility to making snap judgments about other people, based on a very small amount of (sometimes inaccurate) information. We see or hear or read one or two things about someone we’ve never met, and we condemn and dismiss them without a second thought.

This year’s winner of the Essential Theatre Playwriting Award is John Mabey’s *A Complicated Hope*, which has also won two other national playwriting honors – the Charles M. Getchell New Play Contest and the Albert and Mildred Panowski Playwriting Award. John’s play is about the sometimes surprising ways we find to connect and heal ourselves when we have lost a loved one. It is a play that seems to exist in its own state of timelessness – the place of grieving, where past and present blur into one another. (Be advised, the play does not always proceed in a strictly chronological manner.)

Rounding out the Festival will be three readings in our Bare Essentials Play Reading Series and, for one night only on August 18, we’ll be hosting a reading by our friends at Hush Harbor Lab. Founded by one of our Education Associates Amina McIntyre, and Addae Moon, Hush Harbor Lab is Atlanta’s Black Play Development Company. The organization is just over two years old, but McIntyre and Moon are well-established playwrights in the local and national theater scene, and Essential is excited to provide a new stage for their vision and talent. They will be presenting a reading of Kelundra Smith’s *The Wash*, an intimate and often funny tale of women who went from workers to fighters, and won, based on true events.

Welcome to the 23rd Essential Theatre Play Festival. We’re so glad you’re here!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Hardy".

Peter Hardy,
Artistic Director



Support the Bill & Martha Nell Hardy Memorial Fund

When you make a donation to the Bill & Martha Nell Hardy Memorial Fund,
you contribute to Georgia playwrights’ success this year,
and continue the Essential Theatre’s mission in the future.





2022 ESSENTIAL PLAY FESTIVAL CALENDAR

WEST END PERFORMING ARTS CENTER • essentialtheatre.com

ESSENTIAL THEATRE CALENDAR LEGEND		The Outrage Machine by Daniel Carter Brown	A Complicated Hope by John Mabey	Hush Harbor Lab: The Wash by Kelundra Smith	Bare Essentials Reading Series	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
JULY 24	25	26	27	Preview 8PM	Opening Night 8PM	Neighborhood Night 8PM
31	AUGUST 1	2	3	Preview 8PM	Opening Night 8PM	Neighborhood Night 8PM
2PM 7PM	Industry Night 8PM	The Exhibit by Ozzy Rose Wagner 7:30PM	Barbie Liberation Organization by Robert Fuson 7:30PM	8PM	8PM	8PM
2PM 7PM	Industry Night 8PM			8PM	8PM	8PM
2PM 7PM	Shark Week by Anneka Rose 7:30PM	Industry Night 8PM	8PM	8PM	8PM	8PM
2PM						

This year's Festival is dedicated to the memories of Fred and Diane Corlett. Who were friends indeed.

ABOUT THE ESSENTIAL THEATRE

Essential Theatre is the longest-running theater company exclusively dedicated to producing new work by Georgia playwrights. Since the first Essential Theatre Play Festival in 1999, we've produced or presented 39 new works by 34 different playwrights, with readings of over 40 more.

The Essential Theatre Playwriting Award has been given to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Parts They Call Deep</i> by Lauren Gunderson (2001) | <i>That Uganda Play</i> by Theroun D'Arcy Patterson (2014) |
| <i>Warts</i> by Bill Gibson (2002) | <i>Lillian Likes It</i> by Josua Mikel (2015) |
| <i>Speaking Nazi</i> by Karen Page (2003) | <i>Dispossessed</i> by Karen Wurl (2016) |
| <i>Background</i> by Lauren Gunderson (2004) | <i>When Things Are Lost</i> by Derek Dixon (2016) |
| <i>Miss Macbeth</i> by Karen Wurl (2005) | <i>Another Mother</i> by G.M. Lupo (2017) |
| <i>Charm School</i> by Larry Larson and Eddie Levi Lee (2006) | <i>Built to Float</i> by Rachel Graf Evans (2018) |
| <i>Leaving Limbo</i> by Valetta Anderson (2006) | <i>Woke</i> by Avery Sharpe (2018) |
| <i>Fix Me So I Can Stand</i> by Jean Sterrett (2007) | <i>Slaying Holofernes</i> by Emily McClain (2019) |
| <i>West of Eden</i> by Letitia Sweitzer (2008) | <i>Babyshower for the Antichrist</i> by Ben Thorpe (2019) |
| <i>Jim Crow and the Rhythm Darlings</i> by Vynnie Meli (2009) | <i>The Outrage Machine</i> by Daniel Carter Brown (2020) |
| <i>Qualities of Starlight</i> by Gabriel Jason Dean (2010) | <i>The Wishing Place</i> by Beverly Trader Austin (2020) |
| <i>A Thousand Circlets</i> by Theroun D'Arcy Patterson (2011) | <i>Raising the Dead</i> by Erin Considine (2021) |
| <i>Evelyn in Purgatory</i> by Topher Payne (2012) | <i>Calming the Man</i> by Anthony Lamarr White (2021) |
| <i>Stray Dogs</i> by Matthew Myers (2013) | <i>A Complicated Hope</i> by John Mabey (2022) |
| <i>Ravens & Seagulls</i> by Karla Jennings (2014) | |



THE OUTRAGE MACHINE

By Daniel Carter Brown

Co-Winner of the 2020 Essential Theatre Playwriting Award

Directed by Peter Hardy

CAST

Rina.....	Hannah Morris
Ellie.....	Ellie Styron
Val Moon.....	Daryl Patrice
Henny.....	Alejandro Gutierrez
Blair.....	Anna Fontaine
Neil, Offstage Voice.....	David Soyka
Marlen, Jude, Whit.....	Jeff Hathcoat
Ari, Evrett, Host.....	Matthew Ferro
Tay, Corie, Kennedy.....	Kelly Nguyen
Rina Understudy.....	Holly Tatem
Val Moon/Ellie Understudy.....	Marita McKee
Ensemble Swing.....	Daniel Carter Brown

SETTING: A major American city

There will be one ten-minute intermission

Playwright.....	Daniel Carter Brown
Director.....	Peter Hardy
Stage Manager.....	Adam Weisman
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Daija Brooks
Fight Choreographer.....	Kristin Storla
Set Designer.....	Gabrielle Stephenson
Lighting Designer.....	Harley Gould
Sound Designer.....	Frederick Philp
Sound Design Consultant.....	Kacie Willis
Costume Designer.....	Savannah Cobb
Props Designer.....	Dionna D. Davis

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT: DANIEL CARTER BROWN

Daniel Carter Brown is an actor, playwright, and director who came to Atlanta from Chicago over a decade ago. He's had two full-length plays produced in Atlanta: *Honor The System* at Out of Box Theatre, and *Steal My Heart* with New Origins Theatre Company. He's also had numerous short plays produced by Onion Man Productions and others, and he wrote, produced, and directed four sketch comedy shows under his former company Give Us Brains! He also wrote and performed political sketch comedy for the podcast Barely Audible Whisper. He has both acted and directed for OnStage Atlanta, Out of Box Theatre, Academy Theatre, and Onion Man Productions. He spent a year as an apprentice at the Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse when he was new to Atlanta and later performed in several plays there including playing Demetrius in *Midsummer Night's Dream*. He also toured several children's shows with Georgia Ensemble Theatre and performed with various other theatre companies, including Tribal Theatre Group and Merely Players Presents. He works at Emory University School of Medicine, training actors to portray patients as part of the medical school curriculum. He is married to the lovely and talented Emily Sams Brown, whom he met at Out of Box Theatre when they played twins in *The House of Yes*. They have a four-year-old future thespian named Rayme and welcomed their second daughter Arden this February.



CAST BIOS

Peter Hardy (Director) - see Staff Bio on page 11.

Hannah Morris (Rina) is stoked to be joining the Essential Theatre family with this production. Credits include *The Wrath of Con II: Into Darkness* (Dad's Garage), *Secrets of a Soccer Mom* (Stage Door Players), and *The Thanksgiving Play* (The Warehouse Theatre). B.F.A. Acting - Point Park Conservatory.

Ellie Styron (Ellie) is a Georgia native with a BFA in Theatre Performance. Previous Atlanta credits include Emily in *Third* at Out of Box Theatre and Jane in *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* at Out Front Theatre Company. Enjoy the show and thank you for supporting live theatre!

Daryl Patrice (Val Moon) is excited to make her Atlanta debut in *The Outrage Machine*! Straight out of Miami, FL, she's an actress, singer, improviser, playwright, and educator. Acting credits include *Groundhog Day: The Musical*, *Dreamgirls*, and *Once on This Island*. She is the proud mama of two short plays, *Regret to Inform You* and *Distance Makes the Heart...* and is a co-founder of the Black Improv Alliance in Miami.

Alejandro Gutierrez (Henny) is thrilled to be back with the Essential Theatre after a 14 year hiatus. Since appearing in *Valhalla* in 2008, he has performed in 48 states. Last seen in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with the Atlanta Shakespeare Co, he will be returning to Colorado, or DC, or maybe California.

Anna Fontaine (Blair) earned her MFA in Acting from East 15 in London. Atlanta credits include Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (ASC), *Love from a Stranger* (OnStage), and Showtime's *The First Lady*. Up next, she'll direct *Much Ado About Nothing* at RoleCall Theatre in September. For more updates visit www.annafontaine.com.

David Soyka (Neil, Offstage Voice) is an actor with an MFA from East 15 in London, UK. Since moving to Atlanta during the pandemic he has worked with RoleCall and OnStage Atlanta, as well as with several digital projects. This is his first show with Essential and he is excited and grateful for the opportunity.

Jeff Hathcoat (Marlen, Jude, Whit) After living and performing in NYC for almost a decade, Jeff Hathcoat moved back home to Atlanta in 2018. That year, he made his Atlanta debut at Synchronicity Theatre in Midtown, followed by his first appearance at Essential Theatre during the summer of 2019 performing in *Slaying Holofernes* by Emily McClain. He is thrilled to be back at Essential Theatre this year making his first "full length play appearance"

since COVID! (NYC Theatre: *Julius Caesar* - Shakespeare in the Park, *Cabaret* - Secret Theater, *All The Presidents Men?* - The Public Theater. ATL Theatre: *Nell Gwynn* - Synchronicity Theatre, *Slaying Holofernes* - Essential Theatre, *The Wickhams* (understudy) - Theatrical Outfit)

Matthew Ferro (Ari, Evrett, Host) is happy to be in his first Atlanta professional production. He has just relocated from Miami, FL where he attended New World School of the Arts. He would like to thank Ms. A, Jen, all four of his parents, and his friends for pushing and supporting him throughout the years. He would also like to thank the cast and crew of this production for putting up with him.

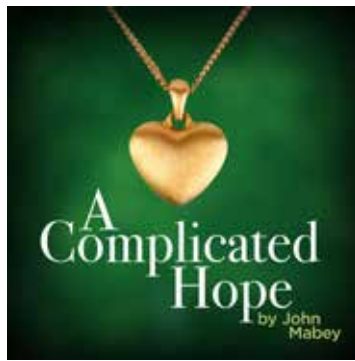
Kelly Nguyen (Tay, Corie, Kennedy) makes her stage debut in Atlanta in *The Outrage Machine*. She has appeared in various stage productions (*Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, *Boy Gets Girl*, and *Rehearsal for Murder*) and film productions (*The Tour* and *The Players*). Kelly is thankful for the opportunity to showcase her talent with Essential Theatre.

Holly Tatem (Rina Understudy) graduated from Florida Atlantic University with her BFA in performance. She directed *Walk, Girl* as part of Synchronicity's Stripped Bare arts incubator project and is known for *Secrets on Sorority Row* on the Lifetime network. Holly is represented by Smith Young Talent. This is her first production with the Essential Theatre and she is excited to join the team.

Marita McKee (Val Moon/Ellie Understudy) is excited to be working with Essential Theatre. As an Atlanta-based actor and emerging playwright, Marita is most passionate about using performance as a means of storytelling. She is always thankful to God for her creative gifts, and to her family and friends for their unwavering support.

Adam Weisman (Stage Manager) is a recent Emory alum who is so happy to join the Essential Theatre family! Born in South Florida, Adam currently resides in Atlanta. Professional credits include Jules in *Tatishcheff Cafe* (Theater Emory) and as a stand-in ASM in *Legacy of Light* (Synchronicity).

Daija Brooks (Assistant Stage Manager) is an artist born in Detroit, Michigan. After moving to Atlanta in her teen years her goal was to find tangible experiences in the creative industry. She has worked in various roles while attending Georgia State University, all leading to her position as assistant stage manager at Essential Theatre. She is grateful to be working with such talented people and hopes everyone enjoys the show.



A COMPLICATED HOPE

By John Mabey

Winner of the 2022 Essential Theatre Playwriting Award

Directed by Ellen McQueen

CAST

Arnie..... Burke Brown
 Rose MarieCamille Monae
 Marie.....Nicole Rose

Setting: The South, U.S.A.

This performance runs approximately 80 minutes with no intermission

**A Complicated Hope was developed by Theatrical Outfit & Working Title Playwrights here in Atlanta and won the Mildred and Albert Panowski Playwriting Award by the Forest Roberts Theatre at Northern Michigan University in 2021 and the Charles M. Getchell New Play Award through The Southeastern Theatre Conference in 2022. This will be the play's first professional production..*

PlaywrightJohn Mabey
 Director Ellen McQueen
 Stage Manager.....Audrae Peterson
 Assistant Stage Manager.....Ashley Freeman
 Run Crew Rebecca Lovett
 Set Designer..... Gabrielle Stephenson
 Lighting Designer Harley Gould
 Sound Designer.....Joshua Cambell
 Costume Designer..... Savannah Cobb
 Assistant Costume Designer Erin Magner
 Props DesignerDionna D. Davis

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT: JOHN MABEY

John Mabey (he/they) is a writer and storyteller whose plays have been produced on stage in 7 countries and throughout the United States. John lived internationally for a decade in London and Amsterdam before residing in Atlanta and continues to work with theatre companies around the globe both virtually and in-person. They are also a certified Mental Health Counselor and published author on the topics of sexual identity and spirituality in academic books and journals. In 2021 and 2022, they had plays published in Smith & Kraus "Best 10-Minute Plays," "Best Women's Monologues," and "Best Men's Monologues."



CAST BIOS

Ellen McQueen (Director) has directed numerous shows for Essential. Some personal favorites are *Ice Glen*, *Sally and Glen at the Palace*, and *Ada and the Memory Engine*. In last year's Festival, she performed in Erin Considine's *Raising the Dead* and directed Shelby Hofer's *High Risk, Baby!* As a lovely, unintended consequence of the pandemic, Ellen has become increasingly involved with another joy—assisting writers in their development of new work.

Burke Brown (Arnie) is proudly making his Atlanta theatre debut with Essential Theatre. He was last on stage as Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Trustus Theatre). He can be seen in Season 11 of *The Walking Dead*, the upcoming Christmas rom-com *Lying Together*, and a new Disney+ series coming this fall.

Camille Monae (Rose Marie) is a recent Atlanta transplant from Texas. Recent credits include Cynthia in *Sweat* at Woodstock Arts, Mildred Loving in *Loving and Loving* at Bishop Arts Theatre Centre and John Wesley Powell in *Men on Boats* with Capital Theatre. Learn more on her website CamilleMonae.com

Nicole Rose (Marie) has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Tuskegee University and a MFA in Acting from Actors

Studio Drama School in NYC. Recently relocated from New York, Nicole is honored to work with Essential, this cast and crew, and especially Ellen & John's creative and exploratory work on this moving play.

Audrae Peterson (Stage Manager) is an Actor/Stage Manager in the Atlanta area. She was last seen onstage in *The Grown Up* (Out of Box Theatre) and recently stage managed *Love From A Stranger* (Onstage) under director Daniel Carter Brown. She is overjoyed at the opportunity to work with Essential Theatre!

Ashley Freeman (Assistant Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be the Assistant Stage Manager for *A Complicated Hope*. Ashley holds a Bachelor of Science in Dance and Arts Management from Oklahoma City University. She can be found performing onstage and working behind the scenes in the theatre and theme park industries in Atlanta.

Rebecca Lovett (Run Crew/Carpenter) is glad to be back with Essential again for the second Festival in a row. Rebecca is a graduate of Clayton State and also works with the Academy Theatre and Peach State Opera, among others. Enjoy the show!

FESTIVAL - PRODUCTION

HARLEY GOULD (Lighting Designer) designs, hangs, directs and runs lights, designs, builds, paints, loads in and strikes sets, and works out all kinds of theatrical special effects. He also creates art (of various disciplines), and sometimes acts (if you can call it that). Oh yes, and sometimes he writes short stories.

GABRIELLE STEPHENSON (Set Designer, Scenic Artist) is happy to return to Essential for a 3rd festival. She regularly works at various theaters throughout the southeast as a designer, artist and actor. Up next, she'll be visiting her alma mater as a guest designer. Check out more work at gabriellescenicartist.com & [@canvasstage](https://www.instagram.com/canvasstage). Love to Isaac & Jet

DIONNA D. DAVIS (Props Designer) hails from Savannah, GA for her Essential Theatre debut. She's grateful to Lionheart, Synchronicity, Marietta's New Theatre in the Square, Horizon, Emory, Academy (Hapeville), and more who allowed her to grow into the well-rounded thespian she is today with roles as actor, stage manager, and now propsmaster. www.DottedDee.com

SAVANNAH COBB (Costume Designer, *The Outrage Machine*) is a local costume designer with recent Louisiana and New England credits. Credits include *Urinetown*, *South Pacific*, *Once on this Island*, *SantaLand Diaries* and *All Shook Up*. She would like to thank all who are a part of the productions and her loved ones.

JOSHUIA CAMPBELL (Sound Designer, *A Complicated Hope*) has a BA in audio production from the Art Institute of Atlanta and co-owns Atlanta trivia company Trivial Matters.

Previous credits include *The Light in the Piazza*, *Simply Simone* and *The Dancing Handkerchief* (Theatrical Outfit). He'd like to thank his personal heroes Ben Burt, Albert Camus, and Karl Marx.

ERIN MAGNER (Assistant Costume Designer, *A Complicated Hope*) went to Brenau University and has worked with Gainesville Theatre Alliance, The Legacy Theatre and Found Stages. This is her second show with Essential.

FREDERICK PHILP (Sound Designer, *The Outrage Machine*) is a sound artist and owner of Philp Since 92', a company specializing in music production, sound design/engineering, and artist development. Philp brings a vision to life without compromising quality. When he's not in the field of sound he employs his talents as an actor and writer.

KACIE WILLIS (Sound Design Consultant, *The Outrage Machine*) is a theatrical sound designer, arts administrator and speaker and is a professional member of the Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association & the Creativity Coaching Association. Her production company **Could Be Pretty Cool**, which produces unique creative experiences to inspire community building through the arts, is a two-time Essential Theatre Playwriting Award Sponsor.

KRISTIN STORLA (she/her) (Fight Choreographer, *The Outrage Machine*) is an Atlanta-based Intimacy & Fight Director, Actor, & Puppeteer. Her work has been seen at Actor's Express, Synchronicity Theatre, The Shakespeare Tavern, Havoc Movement Company, Capitol City Opera, Oglethorpe University, Out of Box, Center for Puppetry Arts, and more. Keep up at www.KristinStorla.com



Hush Harbor Lab: The Wash by Kelundra Smith

One night only: August 18, 2022

Anna, Jeanie, Tommie, Jewel, and Charity work in a laundry co-op barely making 40 cents a week. When ends won't meet and everyone has something to lose, they decide to go on strike. Based on true events, *The Wash* is the intimate and often funny tale of women who went from workers to fighters, and won.

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT: KELUNDRA SMITH

Kelundra Smith is a storyteller whose mission is to connect people to cultural experiences and each other. A Georgia native, she got into theatre because that's where teachers put the kids who talk too much in class. As a playwright, she has a passion for southern historical narratives and writing stories about people who no one else sees. In her other life, she's sometimes a theater critic and arts journalist whose work has been published in the *New York Times*, *American Theatre*, *Bitter Southerner*, *ArtsATL*, *Atlanta Magazine*, etc. Her long-term goals are to land on the *New York Times* bestseller list, open a late-night dessert restaurant and have her plays adapted for television.



ABOUT HUSH HARBOR LAB

Founded by playwrights Addae Moon and Amina S. McIntyre, Hush Harbor Lab is a brave space for the development and production of new and innovative digital, live, and multi-media performance work by Black Atlanta based artists. Hush Harbor strives to be a space that promotes wellness, self-care and the sacred within the Black arts community with the recognition that caring for the full person (body, mind, spirit) encourages better art.

FROM THE FOUNDERS: ABOUT THIS READING

Kelundra's play is an Atlanta story written by an Atlanta playwright, making a powerful contribution to the recent resurgence of interest around the impact of the Washerwoman strike. With Hush Harbor Lab's interest in highlighting and supporting lesser known Southern stories, it was a natural addition to the Essential Theatre Festival.

www.hushharborlab.com



All readings will take place at the West End Performing Arts Center and will start at 7:30 p.m., followed by a discussion with the director, cast and playwright.

August 9 – The Exhibit

by Ozzy Wagner, directed by Carolyn Cook

A young woman leading the way towards an exhibit at the museum where she works, centering on female-oriented artists and subjects, is threatened with the public release of compromising images of herself.

August 10 – Barbie Liberation Organization

by Robert Fuson, directed by Kati Grace Brown

G.I. Joe rescues Barbie from a war and brings her home to his cabin. From that point on they charge ahead through the stages of a "traditional" relationship, becoming parents, and fumbling their way along the path of evolving from dolls into human beings.

August 22 – Shark Week

by Anneka Rose, directed by Cameryn Richardson

The claustrophobic intensity of adolescents at a boarding school becomes a fever-dream of sexual confusion and manipulation. "Dedicated to all the girls and women who were made to feel as though their tragedies were less real than the ones we read on the page."

The Bare Essentials Play Reading Series is curated by Essential's Founding Artistic Director, Peter Hardy, himself a national award-winning playwright who's had over 30 productions of his work done around the country and has had plays chosen for the National Playwrights' Conference and the Lanford Wilson New American Play Festival and received playwriting awards from the National Playwrights' Conference, the Festival of Southern Theatre and the New Southern Theatre Festival. Readings in the Bare Essentials series are free and open to the public thanks to support from Georgia Humanities, in partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, through funding from the Georgia General Assembly.

Essential Education.

An extension of Essential's mission to give Georgia playwrights a voice, our educational offerings are created to give all Georgians a voice *through* theatre by providing the support and tools you need to tell your own story on the stage.



Courses for Writers

Introduction to Playwriting Community Courses – offered in partnership with community organizations throughout the state including virtually through our partnership with the West End Performing Arts Center, Essential Theatre's Introduction to Playwriting course is a six-week introduction to the art and form of playwriting in which participants learn about the elements of playwriting by studying examples, hearing from professional Georgia playwrights, and sharing writing exercises of their own.

"Each class was inspiring."

"The perfect catalyst to get me writing again!"

Resources for Teachers

Introduction to Playwriting for the Classroom aligns with the Georgia Standards of Excellence for Dramatic Arts/Theatre for grades 9-12. Students will learn about the elements of playwriting by studying examples, hearing from professional Georgia playwrights, and sharing writing exercises of their own. Students receive feedback from instructors and peers in a supportive environment that fosters confidence and growth.

Play Buffet – Join Essential for free, fun nights of conversation and connection as we take a look at some of our favorite plays for high school audiences/students. "So often when you're a middle school or high school theater teacher, you're a team of one for your whole school. The Play Buffet is a chance for theater teachers to connect with other teachers doing the same work and facing the same challenges and rewards."

Groups and Field Trips – Did you know we also offer field trips? Bring a group to the Festival and have your own customized Essential experience! Lots of customizations are available: talk to us about hosting a pre-show reception; post-show talkback with the director, cast, playwright, or a special guests of your choosing; a backstage tour; a group photo onstage; and more!



TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT
EssentialTheatre.com/Learn
and sign up for our mailing list,
or email us at
education@essentialtheatre.com

STAFF

PETER HARDY (Founding Artistic Director, *The Outrage Machine* Director) is an award-winning playwright and director who has been working professionally in the Atlanta area since 1986. He has directed more than 100 productions and has won multiple screenwriting awards from film festivals around the world. For the summers from 1990 to 2005 he served as Artistic Director of the outdoor drama *Unto These Hills* in North Carolina. There have been around 30 productions of his plays done around the country, and *Mysterious Connections* was chosen for the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference. Earlier this summer, his play *The Other Part of the Picture* was chosen for the Lanford Wilson New American Play Festival, and this September his play *Kissing Jennifer in the Moonlight* will receive its world premiere from Pittsburgh New Works.

JENNIFER KIMBALL (Managing Director) has been with Essential Theatre since 2003. A production and stage manager and general organizer-at-large in the Atlanta area, Jennifer also actively collaborates with Synchronicity Theatre, 7 Stages Theatre, and Théâtre du Rêve among others. She worked in Student Engagement at Georgia Tech from 2013-2016 and is currently on staff at the Schwartz Center for the Arts at Emory University. Inspired by new creative work and meaningful connection, her goal is to nurture both through her work with Essential.

TOSIN 'TOSINGER' TAIWO (Social Media Coordinator) is a Freelance Marketing Consultant for the Arts and Entertainment industry with over 10 years experience specializing in branding, copywriting, social media management and content generation. She is also a Singer, Actress & Event Curator, passionate about the administration of all forms of the arts, in-front and behind the scenes. She is a graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design's Master of Arts Administration program which focused on helping arts organizations manage projects and promote productions that make them come alive. She remains active artistically in the Atlanta community and beyond, featuring in theatre and music performances, TV and film productions.

CARTER BEVIS (Box Office Manager) has been either running a box office or ushering at theaters throughout Atlanta for 20 years, so at some point in time there is a good chance she's either sold you a ticket or given you a program. But she always looks forward to her annual home with Essential.

ELISABETH COOPER (Production Manager, Education Associate) has been with Essential Theatre since 2016. She is a Teaching Artist and Educator with over 20 years teaching and mentoring students of all levels. She has worked as a teacher with summer camps through the Ferst Center for the Arts at Georgia Tech, a guest lecturer at various high schools, was the Education Director for Dad's Garage Theatre Company, was a member of the Education Advisory Committee for the Georgia Shakespeare Festival, and works with Synchronicity Theatre's Playmaking for Girls program.

EMILY MCCLAIN (Education Associate) is a theatre educator and playwright. She is a proud member of the Dramatist Guild, Working Title Playwrights, New Play Exchange, and WriteStuffATL. Additionally, Emily is an associate artist with the some bodies theatre collective, a group dedicated to new play development in Atlanta. She is one of the theatre faculty at the new School of the Arts @ Central Gwinnett. She holds an M.Ed in Arts Integration in the Curriculum from Lesley University. Her play *Slaying Holofernes* was co-winner of the 2019 Essential Theatre Playwriting Award. She is a two-time finalist for the Risk Theatre Tragedy competition with her plays *Children of Combs* and *Watch Chains* (2020) and *The Rock & The Hard Place* (2021). Her plays have been staged locally at Out of Box Theatre, Merely Players, Atlanta AppCo Alumni, and Actor's Express, and nationally at Raze The Space (Los Angeles, CA), Theatre Oxford (Oxford, MS), Eden Prairie Players (Eden Prairie, MN), Snowdance (Racine, WI). Upcoming productions include *My Brother's Secret Keeper* with Pumphouse Players (Sept 2022), *Owl Creek* with Empty Room Theatre in California (Oct 2022), and *Copper Angel* with Boerne Theatre in Texas (March 2023). She is so proud to be a member of the artistic community at Essential Theatre!

AMINA S. MCINTYRE (Education Associate) is an Atlanta based playwright whose productions and readings include: Actor's Express, Atlanta One Minute Play Festival, Atlanta History Museum, Working Title Playwrights, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Out of Hand Theatre, and The Blues Series (2019 Taurean Award Nominee for Excellence in Theatre). She directed the Marietta New Theatre in the Square production of August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* (2020 Taurean Award nominated production). Her play, *On the Third Day*, produced by Vanguard Repertory Theatre, earned a Suzi Bass Award. Amina has studied and earned degrees in Anthropology, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Playwriting, and Theological Studies at Colby College, Indiana University, Spalding University and Emory University, respectively. She was a 2014-2015 playwriting apprentice at Horizon Theatre Company, Managing Director of Karibu Performing Arts, 2014-2016 Atlanta Region Young Ambassador for the Dramatists' Guild and the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs 2014-2015 Emerging Theatre Artist. She is Co-Founder of the Hush Harbor Lab, in Horizon Theatre's Black Women Speak writer cohort and a Ph.D Student at Vanderbilt University.

RACHEL GRAF EVANS (Education Associate) is a writer, theatre artist, and educator. She holds a brand new MFA in Musical Theater Collaboration, along with Graduate Certificates in Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies and Teaching in Higher Education, from Temple University, and is a current MFA Playwriting Candidate at the Hollins University Playwright's Lab. Her play *Built to Float* was a co-winner of the 2018 Essential Theatre Playwriting Award and she is thrilled to be returning to Atlanta to join the Essential Theatre Education Team. RGE is a proud member of Ring of Keys, Working Title Playwrights, New Play Exchange, Page by Page, and the Dramatists Guild.

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