



**August 19 & 20**

**Spotlight Theatre**

Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Company  
& Women's Playwright Collective  
Presents

The 5th Annual  
**Not Forgotten Play Festival**

**"Return"**

10 Minute Original Plays

**FEATURED PLAYWRIGHTS:**

Amanda DeLalla

Nikki Dos Santos

Courtney Emerson

Kseniya Ignatova-Yates

Esmé Maria Ng

Holly Pepe

Kerry Robinson

Teresa Wroblewski

**With Special Musical Performance by:**

Laura & Melissa Casertano

**Production Staff**

Festival Director.....Ariel Marcus-Hollenbeck

Program Consultant & Mentor.....D.L. Seigal

Stage Manager.....Roe Manzo

Sound Engineering.....Ally Popick

Lighting Design.....Nick Diaz

Graphic Illustrator.....Dr. Danielle Hernandez

Producers.....Cara S. Liander, Frank Williams

# COLLECTIVE'S NOTE

The mission of the Women's Playwright Collective, founded in Staten Island in 2018, is to play one small part in the steady amplification of women's voices in theatre. WPC believes that the showcasing of original, contemporary work is an essential component of any healthy, vibrant local arts community, and is emboldened by, and passionate about, bringing this energy and momentum to the Staten Island arts scene.

For the 2022 iteration of the Not Forgotten Play Festival, the Women's Playwright Collective is exploring the theme of "Return" - returning back to self, the return of the inevitable, the return of the cosmos, and much more!

Enjoy the show!

## AUDIENCE VOTE

Please take a moment to fill out this survey and vote for the play you would like to see remounted in April 2023.



### How To Scan QR Code:

- Open your phone's camera
- Hover over the QR code
- Click link that pops up and you will be redirected to the google form If you need further assistance please do not hesitate to ask!

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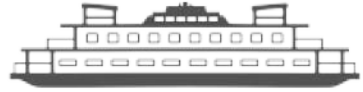
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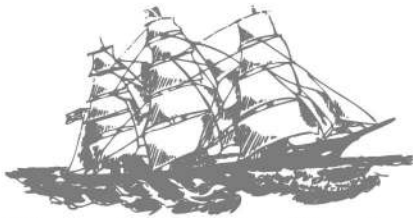
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# Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Company

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The 5th Annual  
**Not Forgotten Play Festival**

**“Return”**

10 Minute Original Plays

**ACT I**

**Esmè Marie Ng: “Liberty”**

*“Liberty” deliberates on whether or not it’s better to return or cut and run.*

Directed by: Mayah Lourdes Burke

LIBBY - Kyla Besett

NAOMI - Christianah Akinsanmi

**Nikki Dos Santos: “Short Girls Unite”**

*“Short Girls Unite” is a return to acceptance and understanding.*

Directed by: J. Giachetti

SHORTY: Aly Marie Mazzie

MADDIE: Alexandra Gullo

NOSY NEIGHBOR/MAN ON PHONE: William Simancas

TALL GIRL: Courtney Emerson

USHER: Marisa Albano

**Kerry Robinson: “Lifelines”**

*“Lifelines” is about returning to the connections that bring you back to yourself when you’re feeling lost.*

Directed by: Lauren Keffler

GRIEF: James McKeon

LIFELINE 1: Joe Gambino

LIFELINE 2: Helene Dubois

**Teresa Wroblewski: “At The End”**

*“In The End” is a return to comfort in the face of the inevitable.*

Directed by: Victoria Gullo

CHARLOTTE: Grace Petrillo

ANJA: Mariah Elle Kane

## 2022 Collective Members

\* denotes founding member of WPC

**Amanda DeLalla** is a NY based writer and actress who currently works at Broadway Licensing. She holds a B.S. in Comm. Arts from St. John's University and is also a proud member of the Dramatists Guild. On-stage roles include Mother (The Oldest Boy), Gilmer (Godspell), and Kiki (Significant Other). As a writer, she is the lyricist and librettist for a musical as well as four full-length dramas and two solo shows. Her work has been presented in a variety of venues, including Lincoln Center, The Tank, Dixon Place, All for One Theater, Snug Harbor, and the Chain Theatre. As a rule, Amanda uses her experiences with living on the autism spectrum to craft stories about emotion and resilience.

**Nikki Dos Santos**, a graduate from William Esper Studio, is the tough, tried and true New Yorker with a strong moral compass. She brings with her a one of a kind balance of true grit, and vulnerability that can make you shed a tear or two, laugh til ur jaw hurts or even crap ur pants a little.

**Courtney Emerson** is a Staten Island based actress and visual artist, who began writing in 2020. This is her first year writing with The Collective, after previously having directed the short play "It's Genetic" by Ariana Nicoletta for 2021's Not Forgotten Play Festival. Her most recent acting roles include Ann Deever (All My Sons) and Patty (Blackout) both at Seaview Playwright's Theatre, as well as Fortinbras (Hamlet) with the Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Company.

**Kseniya Ignatova-Yates** \* is a poet and playwright living and working in New York City. She has been an active member of the WPC since its inception in 2018. Her work with the collective includes one-act plays Yaffa (2018) and Orbit (2019), as well as her first video piece, Perpetuum Mobile (2020), and 7.05 (2021).

**Esmé Maria Ng** (they/she) is an early-career, NYC-based playwright, actor, and dramaturg whose work focuses on the complexities of Asian American identity, femininity, and queerness through a decolonial framework. Their plays include A Milk Kind of Play (2020), First Day (2020), I You and We(s): A Collection of Skits (2021), and F\*\*\*ing Harold (2021). Their work has been independently produced on



virtual platforms and presented by the Snug Harbor Inaugural Porch Plays Festival, the Women's Playwrights Collective of Staten Island, and Wesleyan University. Awards include the Léman Manhattan Excellence in Theater Award and the Wesleyan University Student Script Writers Award (2021). Memberships include: SHADES Student of Color Theater Collective, Ensemble Theater Collective, and the Women's Playwright Collective of Staten Island. Esmé is currently pursuing a Bachelor of the Arts in Theater and American Studies at Wesleyan University.

**Holly Pepe** has been writing since she could hold a pencil. Her mother relishes telling anyone who will listen about the time she ran out of paper and caught four-year-old Holly writing a book on a stack of coffee filters. She uses a Mac now. Holly has written numerous short stories, poems and essays; additionally, she wrote the novella, "Cruise to Nowhere" and she wrote and directed the one act play, "Pumpkin Soup" with the help of her son Chris. The play was later performed at a Staten Island middle school to raise autism awareness. She is also the author of the novel, Lesson Plans. Since 2005, she has had the privilege of teaching English at Staten Island's New Dorp High School. This past summer, she had the amazing experience of playing Lady Montague and The Apothecary in Staten Island Shakespeare's production of Romeo and Juliet. She is honored and humbled to be a part of the Women's Playwright Collective.

**Kerry Robinson\*** is a Staten Island born actor that began writing with the collective back in 2018 when it was founded. After graduating from CSI with a BS in Dramatic Arts, she has spent a lot of time performing on the island, primarily with the Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Company. Her works with the collective have been deeply based on her own inner struggles with anxiety and how she tries to relate to others around her.

**Teresa Wroblewski** was born and raised on Staten Island. Writing has always been her passion, whether it be in scripts or in prose. She is a recent graduate of Brooklyn College with a degree in Film Screenwriting and a minor in Theatre Arts, where she honed her craft and expanded her artistic vision. She hopes to contribute to the Staten Island theater scene and give back all of the good will she has gotten over the years.

# ACT II

## **Holly Pepe: "Game Night"**

*"Game Night" is a Return to honesty and self-acceptance.*

Directed by: J. Giachetti

GIA: Mayah Lourdes Burke

RONNIE: Will Simancas

LOUISA: Marisa Albano

ROB: Eric Rosen

PAT: Jai Sada

Dina: Roseann Marcus

## **Courtney Emerson: "Flexible Fate"**

*"Flexible Fate" explores the return of control to one's own destiny.*

Directed By: Courtney Emerson

BRIAN: Joe Gambino

DANNY: Marco Parrino

DREW: James McKeon

COOPER: Michael Robert Anderson

## **Kseniya Ignatova-Yates: "Beso"**

*"Beso" presents one woman's necessary return to wounds that live just below the surface of daily life.*

Directed by: Victoria Gullo

JESSICA - Rocky Fussner

RITA - Melanie Meilinger

## **Amanda DeLalla: "Cross-Stitch"**

*"Cross-Stitch" is an exploration of and return to our cosmic essences.*

Directed by: Lauren Keffler

BAGEL GUY: Joe Gambino

LUFIA: Roseann Marcus

ESTELLE: Maria Lee Vazquez

CRYSTAL: Mayah Lourdes Burke

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### **Cymbeline's Circle - \$500**

All of the above, plus a pair of complimentary tickets to any SIST winter production; recognition of your generosity on Facebook and social media; and Invite for you and up to four guests to Meet the Artists events after performances.

### **The Royal Box - \$1,000 +**

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### **Ariel Marcus-Hollenbeck (Festival Director)**

Ariel Marcus-Hollenbeck (she/her) is the current Artistic Director of IlluminArt Productions, a performing arts company that uses the arts as a tool to spark conversations across all ages. She is also one of the founding members of the Women's Playwright Collective and is now the Festival Director. She has a love for the spoken word, Colorguard and brings her sense of play into all aspects of her life.

### **D.L. Siegal (Program Consultant & Mentor)**

D.L. Siegel is a born and raised New Yorker, currently residing in Brooklyn. She received her BA in English and Theater from Princeton University and her MFA in Playwriting from The New School for Drama (NSD). Her plays have been produced from coast to coast by HERE Arts Center, Silver Spring Stage, Wyoming Theater Festival, Millibo Art Theatre, Independent Actors Theatre, The Gallery Players, Modern-Day Griot Theatre, Princeton University, The New School for Drama, and the New York International Fringe Festival among others. Playwright Residency, The Amoralists' Wright Club 2015-2016.

### **Dr. Danielle Hernandez (Festival Illustrator)**

Danielle Hernandez (she/her) 's work has been featured in *Felize Zine* and *Bad Pony Mag*. *Danielle's art has been exhibited in the Monroe County Public Library in Indiana.* Website: <https://www.danielledoesntdraw.com/> Instagram: @danielledoesntdraw

### **Laura & Melissa Casertano (Special Musical Performance)**

**Song Title:** "Present"

"Present" is a song that explores a return to the present moment when feeling overwhelmed by past memories and future concerns during a birthday wish.

Laura and Melissa is a duo comprised of Staten Island sisters! They both grew up singing in choirs and musicals, eventually pursuing music degrees of their own. Laura & Melissa's sound combines their influences of pop, indie-rock, folk, jazz, and musical theater styles, along with lots of dissonance and harmony! Follow on Instagram: @thelaurathemelissa for updates!

### **Roe Manzo (Stage Manager)**

**Off-Broadway:** *Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet, King Lear* (New York Classical Theatre); **National Tour:** *Dog Man: The Musical* (TheatreWorksUSA) **Regional:** *Murder at Mt. Hope Mansion* (Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire); *Brick City, Yasmina's Necklace, Year One* (Premiere Stages). BFA from Kean Theatre Conservatory. Much love to Mom, Dad & Meg for all their constant love and support. [www.roemanzo.com](http://www.roemanzo.com)

### **Ally Popick (Sound Engineer)**

Ally is the audio technician for Illuminart Productions touring company. Ally works with Staten Island Shakespearean Theater, Bleacher Report, and SiriusXM doing audio. She originally started on the stage as an actor and musician. Still, throughout her time doing theater and music, she fell in love with what goes on behind the scenes and decided to help create shows and experiences from behind the curtain!

# SI SHAKESPEAREAN THEATRE COMPANY

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By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Jack Dabdoub  
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# STATEN ISLAND ARTS

This project is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency Statewide Community Regrant Program with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; administered by Staten Island Arts.

## **Special Thanks:**

SI Shakespearean Theatre and Women's Playwright Collective would like to extend thanks to Wes Rebisz, Samantha Durst, JLL, Empire Outlets and most especially Mary Lee Aloia, Jacques Stewart and Ross & Catherine Decker from Spotlight Theatre for making this production possible. Thank you to Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, especially Jenny Kelly & Melissa West. Special thanks to Jessica Lauren Richmond, Amy Berryman, Laura Bruij Williams, John Gordon, Kevin Hollernbeck, and the families of all the playwrights, cast and crew for their undying support.

## **Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Company – Board of Directors**

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## **Staff**

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