



TBACONNECT 2025

UNDENIABLE CREATIVITY

FALL CONFERENCE FOR CREATIVES

Presented thanks to the generous support of Bryan Catanzaro

TBA CONNECT 2025

UNDENIABLE CREATIVITY

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Welcome

Welcome to TBAConnect 2025: Undeniable Creativity.

I'm excited to welcome you to this year's Theatre Bay Area conference. We chose Undeniable Creativity as our theme because it names a truth we live every day: the creative spark in this community cannot and will not fade, even when the world makes it harder for us to create, be seen, or belong.

In a time when the future of the arts feels uncertain, the creative pulse of the Bay Area theatre community keeps going. It shows up in rehearsal rooms and classrooms, in design studios and board meetings. Our creative spark shows up because it has to. That's what makes our community undeniable.

You'll see that undeniable spirit reflected throughout today's program. It's in Peaches Christ's fearless keynote—a vision of “undeniable creativity” made loud, glittering, and completely unafraid to tell the truth. It's in our celebration of the new Arts Leadership Residents and the RHE Charitable Foundation Artistic Fellowship, honoring the leaders who will shape what comes next in Bay Area theatre. You'll find it in coaching sessions with Jonathan Spector, Jeffrey Lo, and Melissa Hillman, where artists exchange insights and strengthen one another's work. And it shines through in more than a dozen breakout sessions that ask bold questions about the future of our field.

As Theatre Bay Area nears its 50th anniversary in 2026, we're reflecting on five decades of artists and advocates shaping culture, challenging norms, and standing together through change. If our creativity is undeniable, it's because this community keeps making meaning, even when systems make it hard to keep going.

My deep thanks to the TBA staff, our board, our partners, and our venue hosts—Z Space, Theatre of Yugen, and Joe Goode Performance Group—for bringing this community together. We're especially grateful to our Lead Sponsor, Bryan Catanzaro, and our Spotlight Sponsors, Butch Merideth and Ivan Capanzana, whose generosity sustains this event and the creative community it celebrates, along with all our sponsors and community partners who make TBAConnect possible.

And thank *you* for being here, and for proving every day that Bay Area creativity is, and always will be, undeniable.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sean Fenton'.

Sean Fenton
Executive Director,
Theatre Bay Area

Land Acknowledgment

We are here in celebration at Z Space for the Theatre Bay Area conference, TBACONnect: Undeniable Creativity. We'd like to take this moment to recognize and acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, which encompasses the San Francisco Peninsula. The Ramaytush Ohlone are the original inhabitants and Indigenous stewards of this land. They are still here and have never ceded, nor forgotten, their responsibilities as caretakers of this land, as well as for the people who reside in their traditional territory.

Now, I'd like you to take this moment to open your hearts and minds to a Native way of thinking about land. Ownership of land is a European settler's concept. Native people don't look at land as an object to possess, but rather land is looked at as an Elder or a relative that you have great responsibilities, commitments, and obligations to take care of. To take care of your mother, Mother Earth. Natives don't just live **on** the land; we are **of** the land, with an interconnectedness of traditions and endless futuristic possibilities.

So, today as you participate in TBACONnect at Z Space, as you walk through the homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, through theatres, halls, and streets of the San Francisco Peninsula, I invite you to adopt a Native way of thinking about the land you stand on today; that you are not just **on** this land but rather you are **of** this land.

by Linda Amayo-Hassan

Thank You to Our Sponsors !

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Sean Shelton and Kevin Saephanh
Rik D. Jeffery, Esq., and Conor Welter

 **Benvenuti Arts**
Solutions for the Small and Mighty

SPACE PARTNERS



We want to extend a special thank you to Z Space for being
TBA's administrative home for the past 5 years!

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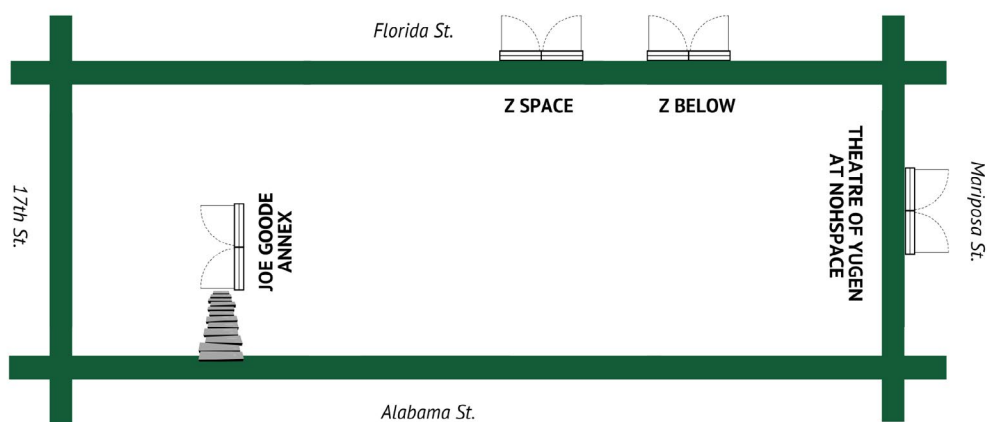
Schedule-At-A-Glance

Time	Event	Location
9:30 - 10 AM	Conference Check-In	Z Space Lobby
10 - 11:15 AM	Morning Plenary <i>Thank you to our Spotlight Sponsors Butch Merideth and Ivan Capanzana for supporting the Morning Plenary session.</i>	Z Space Steindler Stage
	Opening Performance: San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus	
	Welcome by Theatre Bay Area & Z Space	
	Land Acknowledgement	
	The A.C.T. OUT Tour presents an excerpt from <i>Timon of Athens</i>	
	Plenary Panel Create Change: Grassroots Arts Advocacy in Action	
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Breakout Session A	
	Artistic Labor: The Role of Unions in the Theatre Industry and Why You Should Join One	Z Space Steindler Stage
	How Do We Know This Is Red? Collaborating in Color	Theatre of Yugen NOH Space
	Producing Justice: Activist Theatre Now	Z Below
	Yes, and...Teaching: Expanding Your Artistry to include the Classroom	Joe Goode Annex
12:30 - 2 PM	Lunch	
2 - 3 PM	Afternoon Plenary	Z Space Steindler Stage
	Afternoon Performance: Killing My Lobster <i>Thank you to our Spotlight Sponsors Butch Merideth and Ivan Capanzana for supporting this performance.</i>	
	Presentation of Arts Leadership Residents and RHE Charitable Foundation Artistic Fellowship	
	Keynote Address Don't Dream It, Be It: A Glitter Sermon with Peaches Christ <i>Thank you to our Lead Sponsor Bryan Catanzaro for supporting the keynote.</i>	
3:15 - 4:15 PM	Breakout Session B	
	Centered and Unshakable: Somatic and Breathwork Tools for Creative Resilience and Stress Reduction	Z Below
	Financial Literacy: Telling Your Story Through Numbers	Theatre of Yugen NOH Space
	Writing Musical Theatre: Min Kahng and Bryan Pangilinan in Conversation	Joe Goode Annex

Time	Event	Location
	Together We Can Do A Lot: What We Learned Researching Shared Services for Theatremakers <i>Thank you to Benvenuti Arts for supporting this session.</i>	Z Space Steindler Stage
	TRANSformation: Makeup as Manifestation <i>Thank you to Sean Shelton and Kevin Saephanh for supporting this session.</i>	Steindler Stage Dressing Rooms
4:30 - 5:30 PM	Breakout Session C	
	Becoming a Bay Area Stage Manager	Z Below
	Embracing the Hyphen— Live with Art Time Job Podcast	Theatre of Yugen NOH Space
	Your Time to Shine: Audition Workshop	Z Space Steindler Stage
	Queer Worldbuilding: Writing Immersive Performances <i>Thank you to Sean Shelton and Kevin Saephanh for supporting this session.</i>	Joe Goode Annex
5:45 - 6:15 PM	Closing	Z Space Lobby

After the conference you are invited to join us for the official Z Space and Theatre Bay Area TBAConnect karaoke afterparty at Kiitos Cocktail Lounge at 200 Capp St!

Conference Map



Z SPACE (FLORIDA STREET)

Main Lobby
Steindler Stage
Conference Room
Steindler Stage Dressing Rooms (*One of the dressing rooms is the designated Quiet Room*)
Multi-Stall All Gender Restrooms

**THEATRE OF YUGEN NOH SPACE
(MARIPOSA STREET)**
NOH Space Theatre
Multi-Stall All Gender Restrooms

Z BELOW (FLORIDA STREET)

Z Below Lobby
Z Below Stage
Z Below Dressing Room (*Nursing Room**)
Single-Stall All Gender Restroom

*Ask Z Space staff for access

JOE GOODE ANNEX (ALABAMA STREET)
Studio/stage space
Multi-Stall All Gender Restrooms

Accessibility

The venues are wheelchair accessible.

For a low-fragrance environment, we ask that attendees refrain from using perfumes, colognes, and other fragrances on the day of the event. [Learn more about the impact of chemical fragrances and how to reduce your usage.](#)

We're asking everyone at TBAConnect to help reduce the risk of transmission. To prevent everything from negative health impacts to the cancellation of performances, it's important we all work together to reduce risk where we can.

Here's how you can reduce risk:

- Wear a high-quality, fitted mask like a KN95 or N95 when not eating or drinking. If you don't bring a mask, we'll have extras.
- Take a PCR or at-home rapid test at least 2 hours before attending.
- Get the most recent Covid-19 booster or vaccination you are eligible for.

While we will not be enforcing these measures, we strongly recommend you use them as much as you are able. We ask that you do not attend if you have tested positive for Covid-19 within 10 days prior to the event or are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19.

Any other access needs? We will do our best to meet them! If you have a need not being met please find a TBA staff member and let us know how we can better support you and we will do our best to meet those needs.

Quiet Room

We have designated one of the Z Space Steindler stage dressing rooms as a quiet space for decompression. All are welcome to take advantage of this space, we just ask that you maintain a quiet, fragrance-free space.

Media Disclaimer

There will be professional photographers and TBA staff recording and sharing photo and video of the event. By joining us for this conference you are consenting to being recorded. Photos and video from the conference may be used by Theatre Bay Area for marketing purposes.



About Theatre Bay Area

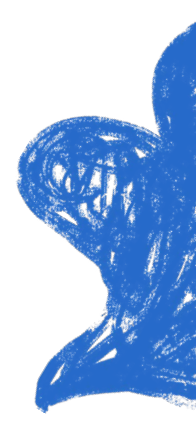
TBA's mission is to unite, strengthen, promote, and advance the theatre community in the San Francisco Bay Area, working on behalf of our conviction that the performing arts are an essential public good, critical to a healthy and truly democratic society, and invaluable as a source of personal enrichment and growth.

Theatre Bay Area is committed to embodying and advancing the values of: community, inclusion, service, impact, and organizational sustainability. To live out our values, TBA is committed to advancing the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) both within our own organization and in the larger field.

We are the largest arts service organization of our kind, supporting the radical creativity of our members with unparalleled access to educational, financial, and professional resources.

Now engaging millions of arts participants each year, our members' work is situated at the dynamic intersections of technology, arts, entertainment, and culture.

The result — our region is one of the most vibrant and unique cultural destinations in the world.

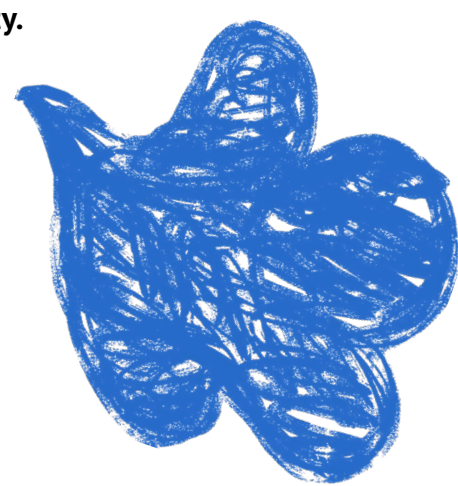


Share Your Theatre Stories

As Theatre Bay Area heads into our 50th year, we have been reflecting on five decades of service, what it means to be an organization “by and for theatremakers,” and the journeys we took to get where we are today. What we know beyond a doubt is that Theatre Bay Area could not be here without all of you!

As we think about our history and the history of this community we know that you, the Bay Area theatre community, are the heart of who we are. **And we want to hear your stories about Bay Area theatre.** Lucky for us, as theatremakers you are magnificent storytellers with a wealth of history and knowledge. If you have a Bay Area theatre story big or small, from recent memory or from years gone by, we want to hear it!

Visit the Z Below Lobby during a break today and step into our story booth to record your theatre memories to share with our community.



TBA Membership

When you join Theatre Bay Area, you become part of a community of theatremakers – a vibrant community of performers, writers, directors, designers, administrators, and performing arts organizations who make up the unique diversity of our Bay Area theatre scene.

Wherever you are in your career, Theatre Bay Area is your home.

Whether you're union or non-union, a professional artist or hobbyist, just starting out or a seasoned theatre veteran, there's something for you at Theatre Bay Area.

Become a Theatre Bay Area member today and gain access to exclusive benefits, including jobs and auditions listings, discount offers, and priority access to professional development resources to boost your career, wherever you are on your theatrical journey.

[Learn more about TBA Member Benefits](#)

Talent Bank

The Theatre Bay Area Talent Bank is a great place to promote yourself to artistic and casting directors in the Bay! It is the definitive directory of theatremakers in the San Francisco Bay Area designed to get your work in the hands of theatre companies hiring and casting across the Bay Area.

With talent listings from every discipline across 11 counties, you will want to make sure your work is posted so you can connect with theatres across the Bay Area. Whether you are an actor, dancer, musician, director, designer, technician, dramaturg, playwright, administrator or many of the above don't miss your chance to showcase your incredible skills in the Talent Bank.

[Create your profile and get hired!](#)

Upcoming Programs



The Writers' Room at Z Space

Fridays 11 AM - 2 PM

Writing is done better near others! Join a weekly, structured playwriting room, intended to create a focused and accountable space for writers to do their craft without distraction.



Teaching Artist Open Call

December 15th 2 - 8:30 PM

A.C.T. Studio, San Francisco

A collection of Bay Area theatre companies, Theatre Bay Area, and Arts Education Alliance of the Bay Area are combining efforts to host an open call for theatre teaching artists.



General Auditions 2026

General Auditions 2026

Saturday & Sunday, January 31 - February 1, 2026

A.C.T.'s Strand Theater in San Francisco, CA

TBA's 2026 General Auditions will bring together casting professionals, artistic directors, and over 250 local actors for a weekend of Bay Area talent.

Role-Based Networking

Virtual Coffee Hours: Managing Directors

First Wednesday of the month

4-5 PM Pacific

Virtual Coffee Hours: Artistic Directors

Third Monday of the month

4-5 PM Pacific

Theatre Services Committee

Third Thursday of the month

12-1 PM Pacific

Theatre For Young Audiences: TYA Roundtable

Fourth Friday of the month

1-2 PM Pacific



Mary Mason Memorial Lemonade Fund

Making Lemons into Lemonade for Over 20 Years.

The **Mary Mason Memorial Lemonade Fund** is a confidential resource for theatre practitioners with critical illnesses, conditions, or injuries who are in need of supplemental financial assistance.

Since 2000, Theatre Bay Area has distributed over \$100,000 to theatre workers in need through the Lemonade Fund. Much of it is made possible through generous donations by fellow artists.

Giving to the Lemonade Fund

Join the hundreds of theatre artists and other supporters who have made tax-deductible donations to the Lemonade Fund. (Please note: A donation cannot be earmarked for a specific person. Monies will be distributed equitably among all qualified applicants.)

[Donate to the Lemonade Fund.](#)

Theatre companies and producers are also encouraged to host Lemonade Nights at their shows to raise money and awareness for the fund. Interested in hosting a Lemonade Night at your upcoming show? Reach out to our Membership and Community Engagement Officer, Meghan at Meghan@TheatreBayArea.org to learn more.

Who is eligible to apply to the Lemonade Fund?

Any resident of the San Francisco Bay Area who has been an active participant in the theatre community – regardless of the income derived from that work – in at least two of the past five years and is currently living with a critical illness, condition, or injury is eligible to apply for the program. Applicants can request \$250, \$500, or \$1000.

*Due to a high number of applications this fall, the **Lemonade Fund is currently closed for 2025.** We are currently fundraising to replenish the fund and anticipate reopening in 2026.*



TBACONNECT 2025

UNDENIABLE CREATIVITY



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Presented thanks to the generous support of Bryan Catanzaro

10:00 - 11:15 AM | MORNING PLENARY

*Thank you to our Spotlight Sponsors Butch Merideth and Ivan Capanzana
for supporting the Morning Plenary session.*

Performance by San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

STEINDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

We will kick off the conference with selected songs performed
by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

Welcome by Theatre Bay Area and Z Space

STEINDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

Performance by San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

STEINDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

Land Acknowledgement

STEINDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

The A.C.T. OUT Tour presents an excerpt from Timon of Athens

STEINDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

The morning session continues with an excerpt from A.C.T. OUT Tour's
Timon of Athens, adapted by Kenneth Cavander.

The popular Timon of Athens is known to give gifts to his friends and hold great feasts, flaunting his wealth. But when he runs out of money and the creditors come calling, his friends turn him away. Director Peter J. Kuo uses Shakespeare's fable to explore income disparity and how wealth bestows status on members of communities of color, specifically Asian-Americans—and how quickly that status is revoked once the value of the of the “model minority” is exhausted.

Create Change: Grassroots Arts Advocacy in Action

Plenary Panel

STEINDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

How do ordinary voices become extraordinary catalysts for justice, equity, and creative renewal? Step into the heart of transformation with the 2025 CA for the Arts Grassroots Artists Advocacy Program (GAAP) fellows as they illuminate the power of grassroots advocacy in the arts. This session invites you to witness stories of artists and arts organizers currently igniting movements from the ground up and explore the alchemy of community, culture, and activism. Come ready to learn practical strategies to turn passion into policy—and vision into victory. Join us for an inspiring morning that will leave you ready to champion change, amplify the unheard, and reimagine what's possible when art and advocacy collide.

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION A

Artistic Labor: The Role of Unions in the Theatre Industry and Why You Should Join One

STEINDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

Unions are a critical part of ensuring workers' rights. There are many unions for theatre workers, as well as sister unions in related industries. But which unions are right for you? How can union membership benefit your career? What is life like as a Bay Area union member? Brian Herndon (AEA), Patrick Dowd (IATSE), Dee Dee Escobedo (SAG/AFTRA), Caitlin McConnell (United Scenic Artists), and Stephanie Coen (SDC) will answer all these questions and more in this informative panel discussion.

How Do We Know This Is Red? Collaborating in Color

THEATRE OF YUGEN NOH SPACE

Become a better collaborative theatremaker and improve your design skills through experimenting with light and color! In this session, led by lighting designer Ray Oppenheimer, you'll learn why and how lighting can change the color of a prop, a costume, or even an actor's hair through a mix of lecture and hands-on activities. Whether you collaborate with lighting designers or are an aspiring lighting designer yourself, this breakout will give you a deeper understanding of lighting color and its impact on other design elements.

Producing Justice: Activist Theatre Now

Z BELOW

Our art has the power to create change! California's activist theatre has had a long, successful, and deeply impactful history. From performances that organize, to political commentary, to the current work of our panelists, the power of theatre to change minds, move hearts, and grow movements is undeniable. Join our panel as they discuss what it takes to create successful activist theatre. Come away with tools to make your voice heard!

Yes, and...Teaching: Expanding Your Artistry to include the Classroom

JOE GOODE ANNEX

Curious about how teaching fits into your artistic practice? Would you like to expand your capacity for consistent, creative employment? Excited to nurture the next generation of theatremakers? Join a hands-on crash course in what you need to know to start your teaching artist journey, led by people who are shaping arts education in the Bay Area. Current teaching artists and theatre education professionals will reveal how the skills you already have will make you a great teaching artist and share some skills you might want to build up to enter the field. Let us tempt you to the dark side! Expand your multi-hyphenate skills to include teaching.

12:30 - 2:00 PM | LUNCH

2:00 - 3:00 PM | AFTERNOON PLENARY

Performance by Killing My Lobster

STEINDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

Thank you to our Spotlight Sponsors Butch Merideth and Ivan Capanzana for supporting this performance.

We start the afternoon session with an original sketch written just for TBACConnect by Killing My Lobster.

Presentation of RHE Charitable Artistic Fellowship and Arts Leadership Residents

STEINDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

The **RHE Charitable Foundation Artistic Fellowship** makes a significant investment in an individual female or nonbinary artist of color that will allow her to take the next step in their career. Nominees are selected by a diverse panel of established Bay Area theatre professionals.

This program is made possible through a generous grant from the RHE Charitable Foundation.

The **Arts Leadership Residency** funds aspiring artistic directors and managing directors in residence at Bay Area theatres for a 12-16 week residency during which the residents will be mentored by the artistic and/or managing director and lead a significant project during the season.

The 2025-26 Arts Leadership Residency is funded through the generous support of the the California Arts Council and the City of San Leandro.

Performance by Killing My Lobster

STEINDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

Thank you to our Spotlight Sponsors Butch Merideth and Ivan Capanzana for supporting this performance.

The afternoon sessions continue with a second original sketch written just for TBACConnect by Killing My Lobster.

Don't Dream It, Be It: A Glitter Sermon with Peaches Christ

Keynote Address

STEINDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

Thank you to our Lead Sponsor Bryan Catanzaro for supporting the keynote.

This year's keynote speaker, drag luminary Peaches Christ, embodies what is possible in Bay Area performance. Drag artist, producer, filmmaker — she is a true multi-hyphenate talent.

Both on stage and in the audience, Bay Area theatre has been a haven for outsiders and cutting-edge artists for generations. This home for experimentation is the only place Peaches could have been born.

Today as queer art and queer artists are under attack nationwide, we stand together, unwavering: art has never been more important. It is undeniable that theatre's ability to change minds, move hearts, and spread a little glitter is needed now more than ever before.

Together, with Peaches Christ as our guide, let's explore the question:
In these turbulent times, what does it mean to be an artist?

Peaches' vibrant and unapologetically queer keynote will inspire us to embrace the artistic work that challenges ourselves and our audiences, remind us of the connective power of performance, and ignite the possibilities of what we can create.

3:15 - 4:15 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION B

Centered and Unshakable: Somatic and Breathwork Tools for Creative Resilience and Stress Reduction

Z BELOW

Life as a working artist can take its toll; it is important to take time for yourself. This one-hour experiential workshop offers practical tools to reduce stress, balance your energy, and connect with your creative center. Through simple breath and body-based practices, you'll be invited to turn inward—to quiet the noise around you and connect with your inner guidance to create a resilient, compassionate space within yourself—beyond labels, expectations, and external validation. Led by Amal Bisharat, 500-hour RYT yoga teacher rooted in chakras, breathwork, meditation, and somatic practices, you'll be guided in listening to your intuition and deeper authentic self, and offered space to ground and nourish both your inner being and your creative practice. All levels welcome; modifications offered. Please bring a yoga mat if desired.

Financial Literacy: Telling Your Story Through Numbers

THEATRE OF YUGEN NOH SPACE

This breakout is in partnership with Intersection for the Arts.

Come explore financial literacy through the lens of storytelling. Learn how understanding the story our financials tell about our relationships, community participation and engagement, along with our values and priorities helps us to communicate our impact, ground our vision, and invite others to support us. This workshop is an introduction to financial storytelling through the “Big Four” financial reports - Profit and Loss / Income Statement, Budget, Balance Sheet, and Cash Flow.

Together We Can Do A Lot: What We Learned Researching Shared Services for Theatremakers

STIENDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

Thank you to Benvenuti Arts for supporting this session.

When making theatre feels more unstable than ever, collaboration is integral to our shared survival as an industry. Over the past year, Theatre Bay Area has undertaken research on various shared service models with the goal of finding solutions that create a collaborative network that strengthens our community’s creative capacity. At this session, Kati Frazier and TBA’s Membership & Community Engagement Officer, Meghan Crosby-Jolliffe, will share what we learned during that research and what possible solutions we identified. Come hear our findings and discuss what we can do today, tomorrow, and ten years from now to make our community more collaborative and sustainable for the future.

TRANSformation: Makeup as Manifestation

DRESSING ROOMS | Z SPACE

Thank you to Sean Shelton and Kevin Saephanh for supporting this session.

Have you dreamed of exploring the magic of drag makeup? Are you ready to dive into this transformational and expressive art form? Join drag expert Chris Steele as they share what goes into creating that perfect drag look. From the creation of makeup-anchored personas, to making active character choices with makeup, to using color and texture for self-expression, this session will cover everything you need to know to get started on your own glamorous drag look. The fun doesn’t stop there; this session will also include practical tips like contouring and highlighting, using shimmer and sparkle effectively, and how to make your makeup looks last through your full performance. Whether you’re new to stage makeup or just new to drag, you’ll come away from this session just a little sparklier than before, ready to make a little magic of your own.

Writing Musical Theatre: Min Kahng and Bryan Pangilinan in Conversation

JOE GOODE ANNEX

Looking to expand your writing practice? Wondering if your dreams of writing musical theatre can become a reality? Learn the tips and tricks to creating a successful musical theatre script and score from Bay Area luminaries Min Kahng (*Happy Pleasant Valley*, *The Four Immigrants*) and Bryan Pangilinan (*Larry the Musical*, *Bombahouse the Musical*). Join these writers as they discuss the joys and the pitfalls of writing musical theatre and get advice to help you hone your craft.

4:30 - 5:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION C

Becoming a Bay Area Stage Manager

Z BELOW

How is the practice of Stage Management in the Bay Area different from other places? How does one get started as a Stage Manager and build a career in the Bay Area theatre community? In this panel, we will examine the variety of theatre styles and the experiences of professionals running shows in San Francisco and beyond. The panel will discuss ways to seek opportunities to work in various theatre spaces and share the unexpected skills needed to navigate the challenges that arise in a production.

Embracing the Hyphen—Live with Art Time Job Podcast

THEATRE OF YUGEN NOH SPACE

Join Tasi Alabastro and Davied Morales for a special live taping of their podcast, *Art Time Job*, as they will dig deep and share what it means to embrace the hyphen. Our theatre industry is full of multi-hyphenates juggling multiple careers and creative outlets. But what does that mean to you? Lean in as Davied and Tasi tackle burning questions like: How do you balance multiple art forms and career paths without burnout? Can the overlaps in your creative practice create greater opportunities for you? Take note as these multi-hyphenate artists share their practical tips on making contracts, collaborations, and creative pivots work for your multi-hyphenate career. Join in the conversation as we hear their take on why it's important to allow yourself to evolve as an artist, and bring your own questions and experiences to add to the mix!

Your Time to Shine: Audition Workshop

STIENDLER STAGE | Z SPACE

Warm up for your next big audition! Whether you are preparing for the General Auditions or simply brushing up your material, this is the place to be. Casting Directors Salim Razawi and Leigh Rondon-Davis will watch your 1-2 minute audition piece and give you useful feedback you can use to sharpen your audition package for the coming year. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up in the morning when you get to the conference!

Queer Worldbuilding: Writing Immersive Performances

JOE GOODE ANNEX

Thank you to Sean Shelton and Kevin Saephanh for supporting this session.

Queer theatremakers are at the forefront of the most successful Bay Area immersive shows. Dani Lancaster-Spinks (*Terror Vault*, *The Twilight Zone Parody Series*) and Eric Garcia (*Detour Productions*) will share how they create immersive queer worlds that are authentic, that are safe for the performers, and that connect to contemporary issues and concerns. Learn what it takes to create fully immersive environments with engaging stories that keep houses full and audiences coming back time after time.

5:45 - 6:15 PM | CLOSING

Closing Reflection

Z SPACE LOBBY

We will round out the day with a closing reflection in the Z Space Lobby.

OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY

Afterparty hosted by Theatre Bay Area & Z Space

KIITOS COCKTAIL LOUNGE

After the conference you are invited to join us for the official Z Space and Theatre Bay Area TBACoconnect karaoke afterparty at [Kiitos Cocktail Lounge](#) at 200 Capp St!

ADD-ON SESSION SCHEDULE

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

30-minute Small Group Q&A with Jonathan Spector

CONFERENCE ROOM | Z SPACE

Thank you to Rik D. Jeffery, Esq., and Conor Welter for supporting this session.

30-minute Q&A with Jonathan Spector, Tony Award-winning playwright of Eureka Day.

3:30 - 5:30 PM

30-minute Individual Coaching Sessions with Jeffrey Lo

CONFERENCE ROOM | Z SPACE

30-minute individual session with playwright and casting director, Jeffrey Lo.

30-minute Individual Coaching Sessions with Melissa Hillman

Z SPACE LOBBY

30-minute individual coaching session with experienced theatre producer, dramaturg, and TBA Programs Officer, Dr. Melissa Hillman.

TBACONNECT 2025

UNDENIABLE CREATIVITY



ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

Presented thanks to the generous support of Bryan Catanzaro

MORNING PLENARY

Thank you to our Spotlight Sponsors Butch Merideth and Ivan Capanzana for supporting the Morning Plenary session.



San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

Founded in 1978, SFGMC sparked a nationwide LGBTQ choral movement after its first public performance at a vigil on the steps of City Hall following the assassinations of Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. Since then, SFGMC has been embedded in the fabric of San Francisco. It has soothed souls in pain, lifted spirits in triumph, and has remained a steadfast beacon of hope.

Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Christopher Verdugo and Artistic Director Jacob Stensberg, SFGMC has established a heightened level of performance standards bringing renewed audience and choral industry acclaim. Recent tours, recordings, and outreach programs have broadened its impact and reputation in the community while maintaining its signature blend of humor, personality, and groundbreaking performances. In 2023, SFGMC renovated a historic facility that has become its permanent home for rehearsals, offices, and intimate performances. The building also serves as The Chan National Queer Arts Center, the first-ever community space for LGBTQ artists and arts organizations



Linda Amayo-Hassan

Linda Amayo-Hassan is an enrolled member of the Spirit Lake Tribe. She's a Native/Chicana actor, playwright, and director. Linda is the Founder & Artistic Director of Theatre Cultura, and a board member with PlayGround. Linda has performed at the Aurora Theatre, Shotgun Players, Oakland Theater Project and Town Hall. She had the honor of a summer residency at Berkeley Rep Ground Floor in 2024. Linda has an MFA from UMKC and teaches at Chabot College.



A.C.T Act OUT Tour

A.C.T.'s Education & Community Programs use the tools of theater to inspire empathy, creativity, and positive social change for students, teachers, and community members. This season, we collaborate with Play On Shakespeare to bring theater offstage, into various economically and culturally diverse communities throughout the Bay Area. Using Shakespeare as a tool for dialogue and social change, the A.C.T. OUT Tour takes a no-frills, bare-bones, honest, and modern performance of a classic tale and reimagines it in, with, and for our local communities.

Plenary Panel



AeJay Antonis Marquis

AeJay Antonis Marquis is a multi-hyphenate performance artist, scholar, educator, and activist whose work centers the decolonization of the theatrical canon, the black avant-garde, and queer political performance practice. Their current research seeks to explore Queer, Transgender and Non-Binary remixing, reclamation and reconciliation of varied Christian dogmas and mad liberation praxis through performative explorations in theatre and dance. Alongside their practice as a theatre and dance educator for a little over a decade, their work has been seen across the Bay Area performance landscape as a director, choreographer, actor, producer, and dramaturg and will continue to marry scholarship with practice in their doctoral journey and advocacy work. They are currently pursuing their PhD in Performance Studies at UC Berkeley. They are currently working on an original devised dance poetry piece based on Romare Beardon's collage Sunday After Sermon (1969) based on interviews with folks who identify as black, queer and on the baptimethocostal spectrum. This work will be presented with BACCE in February 2026.



Hope Mohr

Multidisciplinary artist and licensed California attorney Hope Mohr (she/her) works at the intersection of art and social change as a Fellow with the Sustainable Economies Law Center. After a professional dance career, she founded the nonprofit Hope Mohr Dance and its activist presenting program, The Bridge Project, which supported over 100 artists. In 2020, Mohr co-stewarded the organization's transition to an equity-driven, BIPOC-led model of distributed leadership and a new name: Bridge Live Arts. Her book, *Shifting Cultural Power: Case Studies and Questions in Performance*, was published in 2020 by the National Center for Choreography. As an artist working across dance, theater, visual art, and writing, Mohr explores feminism, gender, and sexuality. For over thirty years, she has made multidisciplinary performance that "conveys emotional and socio-political contents that ride just underneath the surface of a rigorous vocabulary." (Dance View Times). Her work has been presented throughout the U.S. in both theatrical contexts and also extensively in museums and galleries, from SFMOMA, to the Moody Center for the Arts in Houston, and 18th Street Arts Center in LA. She has been named to the YBCA 100 and also named as one of the "women leaders" in dance by Dance Magazine editor-in-chief Wendy Perron. She is currently a Lucas Artist in Residence at Montalvo Arts Center. [Click here to learn more about her law practice.](#)

**Natalia Neira**

Natalia Neira (she/her/ella) is a cultural worker and strategist whose work bridges cultural revitalization, healing, and systemic change. She is the founder of Caracol Collective, a framework based on practical tools and resources to support community leaders in organizing from the inside out, centering ancestral knowledge, somatic embodiment, and self-sovereignty as pathways for collective liberation. She is the former Executive Director of La Peña Cultural Center and is currently a Fellow with Californians for the Arts' Grassroots Artists Advocacy Program (GAAP) and with the Greater Bay Area Arts Coalition (GBAC) where she advances cultural equity through advocacy, strategy, and community-centered design. Natalia is based in Huchiu (pronounced "HOO-CHOON") –Oakland, CA; and is originally from Chile—YES, like Pedro Pascal! You can learn more and connect with Natalia here: campsite.bio/natalianeira

**Brian Herndon**

Brian Herndon has been a member of Actors' Equity Association for 25 years, serving the union as a Western Principal Councilor for the last 3. Brian has performed at A.C.T., Marin Theatre, TheatreWorks, SF Shakes, and numerous other theatres across the Bay. He teaches at Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory and Gunn High School. Brian holds an MFA in Acting from the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and studied at Dell'Arte.

Tasi Alabastro

BREAKOUT SESSION A

Artistic Labor: The Role of Unions in the Theatre Industry and Why You Should Join One



Caitlin McConnell

Caitlin McConnell (she/her) currently serves as Western Region Business Representative for United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, IATSE based out of Los Angeles, CA. Prior to moving to the west coast, Caitlin worked in USA 829's national office in New York City for eleven years where she administered a wide variety of collective bargaining agreements, including USA 829's agreements with the Broadway League, Off-Broadway League, League of Resident Theatres, Metropolitan Opera, and American Ballet Theatre..



Dee Dee Escobedo

Dee Dee Escobedo, Assistant Executive Director, SAG-AFTRA San Francisco-Northern California Local, has been involved in the local industry for a quarter decade, supporting performers in their pursuit of a sustainable, long-term career, while also assisting filmmakers, producers, and industry professionals in creating a successful collaboration throughout each production life cycle. Her current role allows her to be well versed in the various SAG-AFTRA agreements, covering film, television, series, video games, commercials, and corporate/ educational & non-broadcast videos, in order to help guide individuals through the rates and terms for each contract area. Prior to her current tenure with SAG-AFTRA, Dee Dee was the Agencies Director for San Francisco-based JE Agencies for 16 years. Dee Dee is a graduate of UC Berkeley with a major in English and a minor in Theatre Arts. She enjoys connecting with creatives about best practices for projects based in Northern California. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dee-dee-escobedo>



Patrick Dowd

Patrick Dowd is an audio engineer and stagehand with IATSE 16. He's been a union member since 2016 and an employee of the San Francisco Ballet since 2021 and Chase Center since 2019. Outside of these two venues, Patrick has also worked at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, for the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Show, and the San Francisco Performing Arts Commission.



M. Graham Smith

M. Graham Smith is a freelance Director, Educator, and Producer. Recent directing credits: *The Tempest* at Marin Shakespeare. World Premieres of Obie winner Christopher Chen's *Home Invasion*, Kevin Rolston's *Deal with the Dragon* (Magic Theatre & Edinburgh Fringe), *The Mortification of Fovea Munson* (The Kennedy Center); *Father/Daughter* (Aurora); *White Chip* (B Street), *Pickleball* (B Street), *You for Me for You* (Crowded Fire), and *White* (Shotgun). Graham's new play *FDR's Very Happy Hour*, centering d/Disability and Access in an immersive environment had its World Premiere at Actors Theatre of Louisville and will be embarking on a National Tour in 2026. His production of *Gods & Monsters* will open at NCTC in March. He teaches at A.C.T. and Berkeley Rep. He's a graduate of Wesleyan University where he directed the first workshop of *In The Heights*.

How Do We Know This Is Red? Collaborating in Color



Ray Oppenheimer

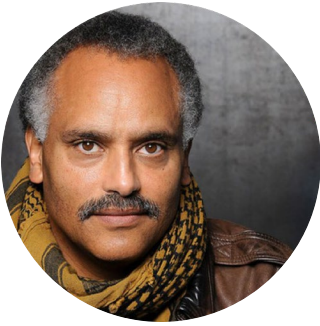
Ray Oppenheimer is a San Francisco Bay Area based lighting designer, digital artist, educator, and creator who has been bringing his boundless curiosity, chimerical aesthetic, and sisyphian perseverance to live design and education since 2005. His design work has also been featured locally at Berkeley Rep, The ACT Strand Theatre, Aurora Theatre, Shotgun Players, Word for Word, The Magic Theatre, Crowded Fire and many more.

Producing Justice: Activist Theatre Now



Levana Saxon

Levana Saxon brings 25 years of experience as a Theatre of the Oppressed Joker and Popular Educator. She coaches groups in applying principles and methods of arts-Based Participatory Action Research to ensure those who are most impacted by an issue are leading change around it. She co-founded Ruckus's old Art Core, BASAT, PFCC, and White Noise Collective. For the past 6 years she has been a caregiver for her partner with ALS and their child.



Michael Gene Sullivan

Michael Gene Sullivan is an actor, writer, director, blogger, and teacher committed to developing theatre of social and economic justice, of political self-determination, and, of course, musical comedy. Michael is also an alum of the nationally-acclaimed Playwright's Foundation, a Djerassi Center Artist Fellow, and in 2022 was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship.

An accomplished veteran of Bay Area theater, with credits from American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, Theatreworks, The Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Denver Center Theater Company, The California, San Francisco and Marin Shakespeare companies as well as many others, Michael is also a Collective Member and Resident Director of the Tony and OBIE award-winning, always revolutionary, and never, ever silent San Francisco Mime Troupe, where he has written, acted in, and/or directed over thirty plays.

As a playwright Michael's work has appeared across the United States, as well as in Germany, Italy, Mexico, Spain, The Netherlands, Argentina, Australia, the United Kingdom, Columbia, Hong Kong, Canada, China, and Ukraine.

Michael's directing credits include work with the San Francisco Mime Troupe, The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, and The African-American Shakespeare Festival.



Polina Mirzad

As founder of Crescent Moon Theater Productions, award-winning theater artist Polina Mirzad creates socially engaged performances that invite wonder and transformation. She has spent years devising documentary theatre with young adult refugees and was recently awarded a National Theater Touring Grant to develop a new project with veterans and refugees from the same conflicts, touring in summer 2026. www.crescentmoontheaterproductions.com



Tatiana Chaterji

Tatiana Chaterji is a practitioner of restorative justice and participatory theatre (Theatre of the Oppressed, Playback Theater, public performance interventions for community healing using Drama Therapy and Psychodrama). She learned theatre in the movements for social change, alongside members of the Indian Peoples' Theatre Association and collectives in Kolkata practicing Jerzy Grotowski's Poor Theatre and Badal Sircar's Third Theatre. She trains in martial arts and uses fight choreography to flip scripts of social dominance.

**Shafer Mazow**

Stephen Shafer Mazow, Executive Director at Z Space, is a writer, theater artist, fundraiser, and activist living in San Francisco and working in program development and strategic initiatives at the intersection of art, science, and social justice.

Prior to joining Z Space as Managing Director in 2018, Shafer was Senior Grants Manager at the Exploratorium and Director of Institutional Giving and Strategy at American Conservatory Theater. He serves on the Boards of the National Queer Theater and Theatre Bay Area. He leads the trans and gender-non-conforming advocacy and empathy project I.P. Freely; and has helped to establish space-sharing initiatives, community-based theater programs, and research and action initiatives to address gender equity in the non-profit theater field. He was a founding member of the gender-bending sketch comedy troupe This Side of Butch. Most recently, he has partnered with exhibit designers and educators to develop and lead a series of temporal experiences in public restrooms that uses participatory practice, immersive theater, and inquiry-based learning to extend awareness and understanding of issues people face when they don't "look" like they belong to a space or a group.

Shafer holds a B.A. in English from Wellesley College and a M.F.A. in English and Creative Writing from Mills College and has focused professional and creative efforts on deepening understanding of gender, its complex intersections with other aspects of identity, and the implications of oversimplified binary categories.

Yes, and...Teaching: Expanding Your Artistry to include the Classroom



Aidaa Peerzada

Aidaa Peerzada (She/her) is a writer and performer who grew up between Baltimore, Maryland, and Lahore, Pakistan. The descendant of two artists from different cultural traditions, her background as an African American and First Generation American Pakistani is at the heart of her artistic practice. She was a 2020 recipient of the Theatre Bay Area Directors Residency. Aidaa studied at the Baltimore School for the Arts and went on to receive her BFA in Drama from Carnegie Mellon University. Some artistic roles she has served in include teaching artist, producer, generative writing facilitator, new play director, new play dramaturg, and audience outreach coordinator. She/her) is a writer and performer who grew up between Baltimore, Maryland, and Lahore, Pakistan. The descendant of two artists from different cultural traditions, her background as an African American and First Generation American Pakistani is at the heart of her artistic practice. She was a 2020 recipient of the Theatre Bay Area Directors Residency. Aidaa studied at the Baltimore School for the Arts and went on to receive her BFA in Drama from Carnegie Mellon University. Some artistic roles she has served in include teaching artist, producer, generative writing facilitator, new play director, new play dramaturg, and audience outreach coordinator.



Al R. Niotta

Al R. Niotta (they/them) is a long time actor and educator who's made a home within SF Shakes for nearly 5 years, culminating in working with youth across the spectrum and adults across the Tenderloin. Thus, with Al's affinity for The Bard and education, finding SF Shakes and embedding themselves within nearly all of their programs has been more than a privilege. Whether it be at Bay Area Shakespeare Camp, where kids can embrace iambs and prose, High School English across the Bay engaging students rather than reading, or SFUSD SPED classes, Al can be found teaching, improv-ing, and possibly lamenting.



Ely Sonny Orquiza

Ely Sonny Orquiza is a Queer Filipino director, dramaturg, and arts educator based on unceded Ramaytush Ohlone land (San Francisco Bay Area). A 2023 YBCA 100 Honoree and inaugural Cali Catalyst Recipient, he is known for work exploring power, identity, and resistance. Orquiza champions new works by BIPOC artists and Global Majority storytellers, examining diasporic histories, ancestral legacies, and Queer politics through a multidisciplinary lens. Learn more at elysonnyorquiza.org.

REUSE



Natalie Greene

Natalie Greene is an artist and educator working at the intersections of performance, consent, and community engagement. Previously Artistic Director of the award-winning ensemble Mugwumpin, currently Director of Education & Community Programs at American Conservatory Theater. Choreography and intimacy work: Aurora Theater, Cal Shakes, Marin Theater, Portland Center Stage, Shotgun Players, and more. Teaching: ODC School, San Francisco State, USF, and more. Natalie specializes in embodied creative experiences that build a culture of consent.

AFTERNOON PLENARY

Thank you to our Spotlight Sponsors Butch Merideth and Ivan Capanzana for supporting this performance.



Killing My Lobster

Killing My Lobster is San Francisco's premiere sketch comedy theatre troupe and nonprofit. They've been an integral part of the Bay Area theatre community for nearly thirty years, creating fast, smart, funny, fearless, and inclusive sketch comedy since 1997.

RHE Charitable Foundation Artistic Fellowship



Jasmine Milan Williams

Jasmine Milan Williams, 2024 RHE Charitable Foundation Artistic Fellow, is a Multidisciplinary artist who uses art as a vessel for change, collaborating with BIPOC artists and organizations to tell bold stories and to shine light on Black and Queer Liberations.

She thanks her family and friends for always encouraging her to follow her dreams, and standing behind an artist that works to change the world through art!

"Nobody's free until everybody's free."- Fannie Lou Hammer

For next up visit: Jasminemilan.com



Jamella Cross

Jamella Cross is a born and raised Oakland California Audience Alchemist. They have been performing for 10 years in the Bay Area and has currently branch their work out to New York City. If you're interested to see what they are up to or what's to come, get connected! Reach out through their website Jamellacross.com

2025-26 Arts Leadership Residents



Joey Pagaduan

Joey Pagaduan is an actor, writer, and storyteller. He was introduced to theatre quite by accident, fell in love, and hasn't looked back. After playing various roles in many productions, Joey decided to expand his experience and impact in the space. He founded Performances @ Solano to give incarcerated theatre artists, poets, and musicians opportunities to write, workshop, and perform their original works. For P@S, he wrote, directed, and curated several short plays. Joey's daily work at a social justice non-profit is close to his heart. He and the team he works with provide wrap-around services and housing to formerly incarcerated people. Their aim is not just reentry into the community, but to build community. He believes in the restorative power of art, that everyone has a story, and that taking control of their narrative is empowering, healing, and builds stronger relationships. He is an Artistic Associate with the Marin Shakespeare Company and works to expand the space in the arts for returning citizens. Joey lives in Berkeley and can often be found running for the hills.



Kimberly Braun

Kimberly Braun is a singer, writer, teaching artist, and director. She earned her Bachelor's of Music in Vocal Arts at the University of Southern California, where she studied opera, musical theatre, and jazz. Kim independently released an album of her own music, *Growing Up*, and wrote and performed the award-winning one-woman musical, *A Woman Grows in Brooklyn*. Kim received her Master of Arts in Theater Arts from San Jose State University, and she launched Citizen Workshops, a haven for performing artists in Los Angeles. Kimberly has worked as a musical theatre teaching artist in the SF Bay Area for 15 years and has enjoyed teaching with the Children's Healing Project (a partnership between TheatreWorks Silicon Valley and the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital), and with the Cabaret Program at A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory. She also works as a music and vocal director for Bay Area high schools, including Cupertino, Monta Vista, and San Leandro high schools, and she acted as the conservatory director at Hillbarn Theatre and Conservatory from 2024-25. As an artist and educator, Kim's underlying philosophy is that the performing arts teach us to be better humans through connection, creativity, joy, and shared humanity. Kim lives with her family in the East Bay and she is extremely grateful to be a recipient of the Theatre Bay Area 2025-26 Arts Leadership Residency Grant, working with A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory.

**Raissa Donato**

Raissa Donato (any pronouns) is a Bay Area-based fight choreographer, director, actor and producer. Born in Manila and raised in Los Angeles, Raissa developed an affinity for theatre in high school under the direction of Russell Copley when he produced an Asian version of Macbeth. There, they learned stage combat and clowning from their mentors Ri Walton and Dennis McLaughlin under the non-profit Passado Action Theatre. Raissa built their theatrical foundations while being a performer at the Renaissance Faire, touring with Passado Action Theatre from San Luis Obispo to Escondido on a shoe-string budget. When they moved to the Bay Area in 2015, they found a home at Bindlestiff Studio, the epicenter for Filipino and Filipino-American Performing Arts in the nation. There, they have performed as an actor, spread their wings as a fight director, shared their knowledge of the craft as a director and got their hands dirty as a producer. Now, they're exploring a new avenue of theatre, working as a shop assistant at Cal Scenic to get well-rounded in all aspects of what makes a theatre function. Raissa is passionate about learning as much as they can about this historical craft of live storytelling and wants to make it their mission to pass down that knowledge to anyone who wants to learn about the magic of theatre, especially in communities who want their story to be told. They are forever in gratitude to everyone who influenced them to follow their dreams, shoot for the stars, and learn from every experience: Russell Copley, Ri Walton, Dennis McLaughlin, Elly Durazo, Nick Gregory, Michelle Talgarow, Chuck Lacson, Linda Maria Giron, mom, dad, and Lola. A special thanks to the Shotgun Players family for their continued support and opportunities to create theatre that makes a difference!

Keynote

Thank you to our Lead Sponsor Bryan Catanzaro for supporting the keynote.



Peaches Christ

Peaches Christ is a San Francisco-based filmmaker, event producer, and theatre creator known for blending drag, horror, and cult cinema into unforgettable experiences. She produces and hosts theatrical events in partnership with PolyArts Management, collaborating with symphony orchestras around the world.

Peaches is the alter ego of Joshua Grannell, writer and director of the cult feature film *All About Evil*. Joshua is also the co-owner of *Into The Dark*, a production company specializing in immersive theatre, including the acclaimed *Terror Vault* series at San Francisco's historic Mint building.

Peaches' drag parody spectacles have toured internationally, selling out iconic venues and earning a global fanbase. She has appeared in numerous films and television shows throughout her career, and currently co-hosts the cult movie podcast *Midnight Mass*.

Jeremy and Camillo

BREAKOUT SESSION B

Centered and Unshakable: Somatic and Breathwork Tools for Creative Resilience and Stress Reduction



Amal Bisharat

Amal Bisharat (she/her) is a Palestinian-American multidisciplinary artist (music/theater/photography) and 500-hr RYT (Register Yoga Teacher). Based in San Francisco and LA, she is Artistic Director & Co-founder of Meem Collective and creator of *Morning in Jenin* Musical, a new musical adapted from Susan Abulhawa's best-selling novel *Mornings in Jenin*. She serves on the board of MENATMA (MENA Theater Makers Alliance) and was 2023 Artist-in-Residence at Golden Thread Productions. Bisharat believes in the transformative power of art and storytelling, whether on a stage, in a photograph, or in the stories we tell ourselves.

Financial Literacy: Telling Your Story Through Numbers



Yesenia Sanchez

Yesenia Sanchez is the Executive Director of Intersection for the Arts, an art service organization fiscally sponsoring and providing support services to over 140 Bay Area arts projects. There she runs the Arts Finance Empowerment Camp working with artists on financial literacy and financial strategy. She has over 20 years of experience working with artists and arts organizations in many capacities. She has been an interim director, finance director, administrative and program director, and executive coach and consultant. She is a finance trainer and coach for the Center for Cultural Innovation. She received her coaching training in 2009 through the Coaching & Philanthropy Project's Coach Training Pilot Program, where she had the opportunity to be a part of a year-long cohort exploring the value of the coaching model in non-profit environments and in under-served communities. Yesenia specializes in business and finance coaching for individual artists, in addition to financial management, fundraising and development, facilitation, executive coaching and team building for arts organizations.



Intersection for the Arts

Intersection for the Arts is a bedrock Bay Area arts nonprofit that's dedicated to helping artists grow. Through vital resources, including fiscal sponsorship, low-cost coworking and event space, and professional development programs, we empower people to continue creating, thinking big, and taking weird and wonderful risks.

Together We Can Do A Lot: What We Learned Researching Shared Services for Theatremakers

Thank you to Benvenuti Arts for supporting this session.



Meghan Crosby-Jolliffe

Meghan Crosby-Jolliffe is a mezzo-soprano, educator, and administrator who is passionate about fostering a vibrant and inclusive environment for all performing artists. They recently graduated from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with a Master of Music in Voice and hold a BM in Voice from the New England Conservatory. As a performer, Meghan crosses over genres, equally at home in Opera, Musical Theater, Early Music, and Chamber music settings. Recent Bay Area performances include; GhostRave with TigerBear Poductions, Sunnydale Prom with Pop Culture Immersives, Rebeareth and On The Same Page with Insight Chamber Players, Jewish Boys with Musical Cafe, and Die Schöne Müllerin in recital at SFCM. When not performing, Meghan Music Directs the Mainstage program at Musical Theatre Works and serves as the Membership & Community Engagement Officer for the Bay Area's theatre service organization, Theatre Bay Area.

Bekah Lynn Photography



Kati Frazier

Kati Frazier is a playwright, arts administrator, nonprofit worker, and consultant with roots in North Carolina, a long history in New York, and a new home in St. Louis. Kati has worked at the intersection of technology and programming with organizations like StoryCorps and The Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York, in addition to their background in nonprofit theatre. Kati is an alum of the New York Community Trust Leadership Fellows and was trained in UX design at the Interactive Design Foundation. When they aren't making spreadsheets, Kati writes gay little plays in their home with too many cats.

TRANSformation: Makeup as Manifestation

Thank you to Sean Shelton and Kevin Saephanh for supporting this session.



Chris Steele

Chris Steele (they/she) is a queer trans nonbinary performance artist, writer, designer, and activist. Their work centers on highlighting queer narratives throughout history and combating narratives of implicit bigotry and white supremacy. Her award-winning drag persona Polly Amber Ross can be found on Instagram @pollyamberross. As a producer, Chris specializes in Marketing and Communications, and is the founder of Poltergeist Theatre Project.

Writing Musical Theatre: Min Kahng and Bryan Pangilinan in Conversation



Bryan Pangilinan

Bryan Pangilinan is the composer and co-executive producer of Larry the Musical and is currently writing Bombahouse, inspired by his experience living with gay Filipinos in late '90s San Francisco. As a performer, he portrayed Tatsuo Kimura in the West Coast premiere of Allegiance. Trained in Filipino folk dance, he led tours with the LIKHA Pilipino Folk Ensemble. Bryan holds degrees in Ethnic Studies from UC San Diego and Music from SF State. A professional fundraiser for 25 years, he is the Director of Individual Giving at A.C.T.



Min Kahng

Min Kahng is an award-winning writer of musicals and plays whose previous works include Happy Pleasant Valley (NAMT Production Grant), The Four Immigrants (Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, Edgerton New Play Award, Theatre Bay Area Award), Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, The Adventures of Honey & Leon and GOLD: The Midas Musical (TBA Award). Kahng is a MacDowell Fellow, a Travis Bogard Fellow, and an alumnus of the Playwrights Foundation Resident Initiative, Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor, and Djerassi. He is also a Richard Rodgers Award Finalist, a Jonathan Larson Grant Finalist, and a Dramatists Guild committee member. www.minkahng.com

Becoming a Bay Area Stage Manager



Jenjen Wong

Jenjen Wong literally ran off with the circus! She was a founding member and Operations Director at Kinetic Arts Center (Oakland), Assistant Director/Stage Manager/Artist Manager at Vau de Vire Society (Bay Area, beyond), and currently serves as Artist and Performance Manager at Club Fugazi (San Francisco) with the current 7 Fingers show Dear San Francisco. With over 15 years in the circus-theatre world, Jenjen has worked to support new and emerging works, edge pushing productions, and numerous radical displays of whimsy. .

Leah Marie



Lori Fowler

Lori Fowler has spent 20+ years wrangling actors, calling cues, and locating gaff tape in absurd places. A Ray of Light veteran, they thrive in glitter explosions and tech week chaos. By day, they're the Facilities Manager for Stanford's Theatre Arts and Performance Studies Department (somehow). Fueled by Diet Dr. Pepper and backstage adrenaline, Lori reminds you: if you can see them, something has probably gone terribly wrong.



Reg Clay

Reg Clay has stage managed off and on since 1988, when he stage managed A Barbershop in Pittsburgh for the Italian American Repertory Theatre in New York. A graduate of Duke Ellington School of the Arts and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Reg has stage managed for many companies in the Bay Area: Central Works, Plethos Productions, Ray of Light Theatre, Lower Bottom Playaz and many more. Reg also has a theatre podcast called The Yay - you can find it on all podcast apps.



Tanya Telson

Tanya Telson is currently part of the Stage Management team at Club Fugazi for the circus show Dear San Francisco and is an active member of the Board at 3Girls Theater Company. Past collaborations include Gravity (SFBATCO), The Pajama Game, Snoopy!!!, and Sugar (42nd Street Moon), Jerry Springer the Opera, Baby (Ray of Light Theatre). She is a member of Actors' Equity Association and has a BFA in Technical Theater from Emerson College in Boston.

Embracing the Hyphen—Live with Art Time Job Podcast



Davied Morales

Davied Morales is an actor and rapper from San Jose, California. Mr. Morales received most of his training through Foothill College where he earned his AA in Theatre Arts and was featured in many of their productions. He has worked for many theatre companies throughout the Bay Area and since the pandemic he has started branching out into voiceover, commercials, TV, and film. Davied teaches improv in prison throughout the week with Red Ladder Theatre company. He releases music under the name “Activepoet” and you can follow him @daviedmorales to keep up with all his acting endeavors.



Tasi Alabastro

Tasi Alabastro (he/him) is a multi-hyphenated artist, SVCCreates Emerging Artist Laureate, and recipient of the Leigh Weimers Emerging Artist Award. Selected acting credits include Sisters Matsumoto (Center REPertory Company), The Play That Goes Wrong (San Francisco Playhouse), A Christmas Carol (A.C.T), Manahatta (Aurora Theatre Company), Every Brilliant Thing, and Vietgone (City Lights Theater Company). Directing credits include Japantown Returning, the inaugural AAPI Playwright Festival (Contemporary Asian Theater Scene), and assistant director of Clyde’s (CLTC). Recent illustrations and designs include SF Mime Troupe’s 2025 poster and projections on Happy Pleasant Valley (TheatreWorks/CenterRep). He is a senior company member of the Red Ladder Theatre Company, a nationally acclaimed, award-winning social justice theatre company. tasialabastro.com | @tasialabastro @arttimejobpodcast



Art Time Job

Art Time Job is a real-talk podcast hosted by two Bay Area artists, Tasi Alabastro and Davied Morales, navigating the ups, downs, and sideways hustle of making a living through creativity. From professional gigs to side hustles, passion projects to burnout, they dive deep into the unfiltered realities of surviving-and thriving—as working artists. Join them each week on YouTube for a visual ad to all those episodes. Or listening to the whole season for honest conversations and behind-the-scenes stories that shine a light on what it really takes to turn art into a job. You can follow them everywhere @arttimejobpodcast

Your Time to Shine: Audition Workshop



Leigh Rondon-Davis

Leigh (they them) is a performer, dramaturg, director, producer, and administrator. They are part of Crowded Fire Theater's Shared Leadership Team, serving as the Leader of Artistic Curation & Marketing. While Leigh wears many hats as a theatermaker, much of their work and personal passion has been to shift the industry and its culture to be more equitable, inclusive, accessible, and sustainable as an anti-racist educator and facilitator in order to cultivate safe and supportive creative spaces.

Robbie Sweeny



Salim Razawi

Salim Razawi is an Afghan-American theatre maker and, in addition to being the casting director at Shotgun Players, he serves as the Artistic Producer and Casting Director at Golden Thread Productions, the first American theatre company devoted to the Middle East. He has supported casting and consulting across the Bay Area including Marin Shakespeare Festival, the Casting Collective, Aurora Theatre, Hillbarn Theatre, Ray of Light, Town Hall Theatre, Las Positas College, and others. Select directing credits include *Once on This Island* (Contra Costa Civic Theatre & Plethos Productions), *The Shape of Things* and *Mean Girls* (City of Milpitas), amongst others. Previous acting credits include *The Play That Goes Wrong* at SF Playhouse, *Disgraced* at San Jose Stage Company, and *Twelfth Night* at Marin Shakespeare Company.-- www.salimrazawi.com

Queer Worldbuilding: Writing Immersive Performances

Thank you to Sean Shelton and Kevin Saephanh for supporting this session.



Dani Lancaster-Spinks

Dani Lancaster-Spinks is a self-taught Special Effects Makeup Artist for film, theatre, and live events. She has been creating Nightmare Fuel for the Bay Area for over a decade. From zombies to killer clowns to monsters under your bed, Dani loves to make audiences horrified and panicked, but also curiously wanting more. When Dani is not terrorizing the masses, she operates the queer theater company, Dreams on the Rocks, and the nonprofit theater venue, Eclectic Box.



Eric Garcia

Eric Garcia is a San Francisco-based devised dance-theater artist, drag queen, community organizer, and the Co-Director of Detour Productions. He creates immersive and site-responsive performances that straddle nostalgia, radical futurism, collaborative ensembles, and queer maximalism. Eric is rooted in the queer nightlife and drag performance scene as Churro Nomi, and produces/hosts Clutch The Pearls, a drag cabaret on the first Sunday of every month at Make-Out Room in the Mission District. Since 2010, Eric proudly serves as Managing Director for both Fresh Meat Productions and the SF Transgender Film Festival.

30-minute Small Group Q&A with Jonathan Spector

Thank you to Rik D. Jeffery, Esq., and Conor Welter for supporting this session.



Jonathan Spector

Jonathan Spector is a playwright and screenwriter based in Oakland, whose work has been produced on and off Broadway, regionally and internationally. His plays include *Eureka Day* (Awards: Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, Dorian, Glickman, TBA, BATCC, Rella Lossy); *This Much I Know* (Awards: Edgerton, Glickman, BATCC); *Birthright*; *Best Available*; *Siesta Key*; and *Good. Better. Best. Bested.* Jonathan's work has been produced locally at Aurora, Shotgun Players, Marin Theater, Custom Made, and Just Theater. He is a former Associate Artistic Director of Playwrights Foundation, and holds an MFA from San Francisco State.

30-minute Individual Coaching Sessions



Jeffrey Lo

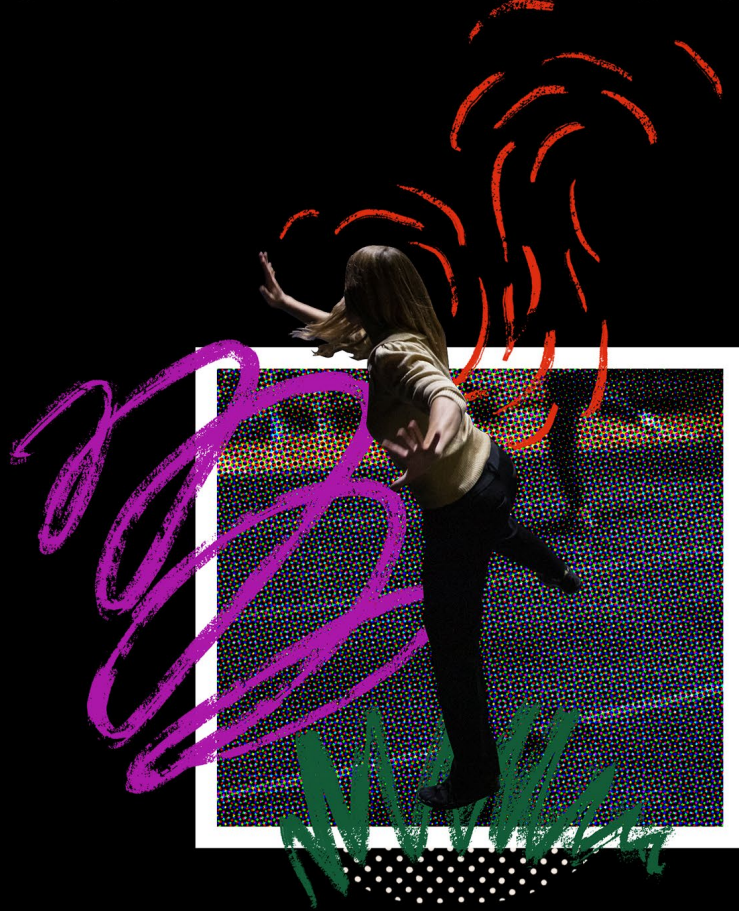
Jeffrey Lo (He/Him/His) is a Filipino-American playwright and director based in the Bay Area as well as the associate producer of casting and literary management at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. Most recently, Jeffrey directed *Happy Pleasant Valley* at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley and Center Rep and his play, *Writing Fragments Home*, had its world premiere at Hillbarn Theatre. For more: www.JeffreyWritesAPlay.com.



Melissa Hillman

Melissa Hillman holds a PhD in Dramatic Art from UC Berkeley and has taught there, CSU East Bay, Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, and more. She was a founding member and artistic director of Impact Theatre, which produced dozens of world premiere plays by writers such as Lauren Gunderson, Lauren Yee, Steve Yockey, Prince Gomolvilas, and many more. She is currently Programs Officer at Theatre Bay Area, works as a consultant for nonprofits, including the upcoming Saga Museum of Star Wars Memorabilia, and works as a dramaturg for playwrights, screenwriters, and theatres across the Bay Area and beyond.

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