

# 2023 THE FELLOWSHIP PLAYS

FIVE NEW PLAYS BY  
FIVE NYC PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL PLAYWRIGHTS

## FEATURING PLAYS BY:

ARIANNA M. COLLADO - *Dead*

BRITNEY CUATLACUATL - *El Niño Que Fue Y No Llego*  
(*The Boy That Went And Never Arrived*)

VICTORIA GORDENS - *A Few Choice Words*

JAZZY PRICE - *Pick Fros, Not Fights*

IMOGEN RUSSELL - *Stalling*



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**Jeffrey and Paula Gural Theatre**

**A.R.T./NY Theatres**

502 W 53rd Street  
New York, NY 10019

**Monday, May 22, 2023**

**LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE**

presents

**THE FELLOWSHIP PLAYS**

The Fourth Annual NYC Public High School  
Playwriting Fellowship Program

Director

**Kimille Howard**

Mentors

**Bleu Beckford-Burrell & Nilan**

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City  
Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

**NYC Cultural  
Affairs**

For more information visit [www.Lortel.org/HSPF](http://www.Lortel.org/HSPF)

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# THE 2023 FELLOWSHIP PLAYS

*Pick Fros, Not Fights* by Jazzy Whittaker

P23 Queens New York City Children's Center Upper School, Queens

Luz ..... DeAnna Supplee  
Lil Black Boy ..... Marcus Jones  
Sandy ..... Sarah Alice Shull

*Stalling* by Imogen Russell

Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School, Queens

Joan ..... Sarah Alice Shull  
Serene ..... Anita Welch Smith  
Josh ..... Jeremiah Clapp

*El Niño Que Fue Y No Llego (The Boy That Went And Never Arrived)* by Britney Cuatlacuatl

Fordham High School for the Arts, Bronx

Narrator ..... Anita Welch Smith  
Miguel ..... Sergio Castillo  
Chito ..... Michael Ortiz  
Marianna ..... Yadira Correa  
Person Interviewed ..... Anita Welch Smith

*A Few Choice Words* by Victoria Gordens

Pathways to Graduation at Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, Brooklyn

Jess ..... DeAnna Supplee  
Hannah ..... Arielle Gonzalez  
Chuck ..... Jeremiah Clapp

*Dead* by Arianna Marie Collado

Fiorello H. LaGuardia School of Performing Arts, Manhattan

Alejandro ..... Michael Ortiz  
Mercedes ..... Arielle Gonzalez

Stage Directions for All Plays: Scotland Newton

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# THE FELLOWS



## **Arianna Marie Collado**

Arianna Marie Collado (*Dead*) attends Fiorello H. LaGuardia school for performing arts. She is a drama major there and hopes to pursue a career in acting some day. She is also a passionate writer as she not only likes telling stories but building them as well. She hopes that whatever she shares with the world will resonate with people and that she is able to help people feel seen.

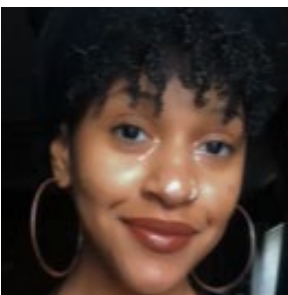


## **Britney Cuatlacuatl**

Britney Cuatlacuatl (*El Niño Que Fue Y No Llego*) is a Fordham High School for the Arts senior drama student. Specializing in acting, Britney uses her experience of exposure to playwriting to bring an abandoned piece to life. She is passionate about people's stories of accomplishments, conflicts, and desires. As an actress and writer, Britney used her imaginative thinking to create a piece that depicted the accurate circumstances of the individuals she spoke to. Her play serves as "una voz" for those struggling to speak up due to the language barrier. "My play brings together the importance of identity, belonging, and acceptance. It strikes people's hearts and becomes absorbed in their minds."

## **Victoria Gordens**

Victoria Gordens attends Pathways to Graduation at Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow.



## **Jazzy Price**

Jasmin Whittaker (*Pick Fros, Not Fights*) is a 17 year old creator rooted in Roatan, Honduras, stemming in the depths of Queens, NY and set to blossom wherever her creations take her. She goes by Jazzy Price as it is first, the name life gave her, and secondly, the maiden name her angel left her. Jazzy finds her creativity in poems and plays that she aspires to one day have published and produced.



## **Imogen Russell**

Imogen Russell (*Stalling*) attends Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School and is honored to be representing Queens with her play. A member of Museum of the Moving Image's Teen Council and Co-Vice President of the GSA, as well as a part of Girl Be Heard's Girls Make Movies, a New Visions leader at her school and a (sometime) film teacher, she loves to compose music, travel around the world and watch as many movies as humanly possible.

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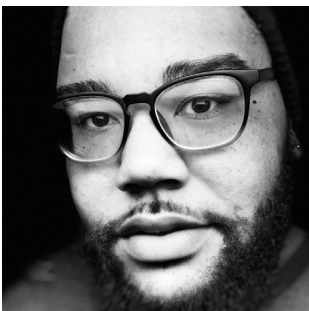
## **Kimille Howard** DIRECTOR

Kimille Howard is a New York based director, deviser, writer and filmmaker. She is an Assistant Stage Director at the Metropolitan Opera and recently worked on the new James Robinson production of *Porgy and Bess*. She is a cofounder of the Black Classical Music Archive. Kimille was awarded Best Director at the 2016 Thespis Festival for *It's All About Lorrie* by Joseph Krawczyk (Hudson Theater) which received a commercial run at The American Theater of Actors in 2017. Her work has also been seen at MultiStages, The Circle in the Square Theatre Circle Series, The Queens Theatre, Juilliard, The Flea, The Lark, JAGFest, NYU, Sea Dog Theater, and Atlantic Acting School, CLASSIX/The Lewis Center, among others. She has worked with Des McAnuff, Rebecca Frecknall, Ruben Santiago Hudson, Emily Mann, Stephen Wadsworth, Lorca Peress and more. She has produced shows at the HERE Arts Center, FIAF, and more. She is a current member of The New Georges' Jam, a participant in New York Stage and Film's inaugural NYSAF NEXUS project, and a former Resident Director at the Flea Theater. She was the Series Producer for American Opera Project's first season of *Music As the Message*.



## **Bleu Beckford-Burrell** MENTOR

Bleu Beckford-Burrell is a first-generation Jamaican-American actor/playwright. Born and raised in New York City, she works for non-profit organizations where she teaches acting to teens, as well as write and direct plays. *Lyons Pride* (2020 Burman New Play Award Finalist, 2019 The Kilroy's Honorable Mention, and Yale Drama Series Award Runner-up, 2018 BAPF, Princess Grace Award Finalist) showcased at Playwrights Realm (Ink'd Festival of New Plays) and EST (Bloodwork Reading Series). *La Race* (2020 Normal Ave Finalist and Theatre 503 International Playwright Award, O'Neill, BAPF, 2021 Princess Grace Semi-finalist) and *Page 73* (Fall 2022 Production). She is *Page 73* Fellow (2021), The Playwrights Realm Fellow (2018), PWC New Voices Fellowship (2018, Finalist), NYTW/2050 Fellowship (2019, Finalist) as well as an I73 playwright (2020), Colt Coeur resident (2021), PWC Core Writer (2020, Finalist), WP Lab (2020, Finalist), Working Farm (2019, Semi-Finalist), et cet. She received the 2020 Playwrights Horizons, Jody Falco & Jeffrey Steinman Commission for Emerging Playwrights, 2021 South Coast Repertory, Elizabeth George Emerging Writer Commission and 2022 Keen Company, Keen Teens Commission. M.F.A. Rutgers University.



## **Nilan** MENTOR

Nilan is a creator, performer, and arts leader. He serves as the Associate Artistic Director of The Drama League of New York. He is the co-host and producer of *TA(L)KING DIRECTION*, the podcast exploring those who help direct a better American Theatre and those influential directors shaping the landscapes of television, film, and theatre. He is the program director and revisionist of *New Visions/New Voices* the only after-school program that teaches the craft of directing to high school students in the NYC area. He is a member and co-founder of the award-winning creative content company A Certain Something (ACS), whose mission is to tell intersectional focused stories. He is known for his works that explore various queer and racial communities and histories in hope of creating a new societal consciousness of these people's humanity. His play *Shadow in the Corner* is published in the 3rd volume of Obie Award-winning *Harlem 9's 48 Hours in Harlem: 10 Minute play anthology*. He is currently working on an immersive promenade about personal displays of affection, the musical *The Great Escape*, which chronicles the decline of dance clubs throughout NYC, and more.

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# THE PANELISTS



## Preston Burger

Preston Burger is an actor, advocate, and educator hell bent on leveling the playing field for people with disabilities in all societal domains he can. Currently, Preston is on the Advisory Board of EPIC Players Neuroinclusive Theater Company (where he also participates as an actor and a mentor) and the Disability Advisory Council for BEAT Global. Outside of his artistic work, Preston is the Recruiter and Candidate Success Specialist for Integrate Autism Employment Advisors, a national nonprofit staffing and recruiting agency that helps Fortune 1000 companies build autism hiring programs. While at BCC, Preston helped start the campus's chapter of the CUNY student advocacy group, the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities (CCSD).



## Mildred Inez Lewis

Mildred Inez Lewis writes films, plays, and podcasts. A Dramatists Guild member, she writes for Central Works, PlayGround-LA, and Towne Street Theatre. She's an associate artist with Rogue Artists Ensemble. Commissions include JUKED for A Different Myth and SMITH'S REVENGE for Ohlone College. In 2021, the Harlem9, Lucille Lortel and National Black Theatre commissioned GHOSTS OF BLACKNESS. Honors include the 2022 Samuel French Off-Off Broadway festival, 2021 L.B. Williams Award (New Circle Theatre) and Humanitas' PLAY LA (2018). Her script for \$10 AND A TAMBOURINE earned a 2021 Ambie nod as part of the Zip Code series.



## A.J. Muhammad

A.J. Muhammad has a background in library public service, dramaturgy and arts administration. He is on the producing team of The Fire This Time Festival and a librarian at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. He is also a member of CLASSIX, an initiative that was founded by Awoye Timpo to explode the theater canon through an exploration of Black performance history and dramatic works by Black writers.



## Cherry Lou Sy

Cherry Lou Sy is a writer/playwright/performer originally from the Philippines and currently based in Brooklyn, New York. She received her MFA in Playwriting from Brooklyn College where she lectures in the English and American Studies Departments. She is also a teaching artist for PEN America's DREAMING Out Loud where she facilitates creative writing classes for undocumented and formerly undocumented immigrants. She's been the recipient of fellowships and residencies from VONA and Tin House among others. She is also the Co-Artistic Director of the International Minor Feelings Trading Company (aka Trade Co) where the collective examines third culture perspectives.



## Gabriel Vega Weissman

Directing work includes *Guards at the Taj* (Central Square Theatre, Cambridge, MA; IRNE nominee for best play; Boston Globe Top 10 Theatre OF 2018), Charles Cissel's *MUST* (Theatre at St. Clements, produced by Bruce Willis); as well as collaborations with Emmy Award nominated actor and musician, Tituss Burgess, on concert events at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. Gabriel is an alum of the Drama League Director's Project, Lincoln Center Directors Lab, Manhattan Theatre Club Directing Fellowship, and Williamstown Theatre Festival Professional Training Program. He recently directed *Measure For Measure* at the University of Kansas and this spring he will act as associate director of Martin McDonagh's *Hangmen* on Broadway.

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# THE PERFORMERS



## Sergio Castillo

NYC: *The Sex Myth* (Break The Sex Myth), *Audience Participation* (Manhattan Repertory Theatre Festival Winner), *The Prenup* (Strawberry Festival Finalist), *Dust* (Third Room Productions), *Kristina* (August Strindberg Repertory Theatre), *The Councilwoman* (West Village Musical Theatre Festival), *After* (End Rape Now), *Plutus* (Curious Frog Theatre Company), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Queens Players), *The Bald Soprano* (Dance New Amsterdam), and *Hello Out There* (Dance New Amsterdam). Regional: *Squabbles* (Hunterdon Hills Playhouse), *The Tempest* (The New Art Theatre), *La Puta Vida Trilogy* (Company Of Angels), *Naked Tales: Unleashed* (Company Of Angels), and *Hecho En America* (Company Of Angels). BA: UCLA; MFA: Actors' Studio; Pace University. SAG-AFTRA/AEA.



## Jeremiah Clapp

Jeremiah Clapp (He/Him/His): Off-Broadway: *Vatican Falls* (World Premiere), *The Tank*. Regional: *On The Grounds of Belonging* (World Premiere), Long Wharf Theatre; *Damascus* (SW Premiere), Florida Rep.; Luna Gale, Cleveland Play House; *Hamlet*, Colonial Theatre; Readings: Phaedra Michelle Scott's *Plantation Black*, Playwrights Horizons; Lia Romeo's *Ghost Story*, New Jersey Rep. Co.; Meg Miroshnik's *Utopia, MN*, CPH. TV/Film: "Gilded Age", "A Far Few Years from Now", "No Place is Home". Education: TAMU-Corpus Christi (BA); CWRU/CPH (MFA) [www.jeremiahclapp.com](http://www.jeremiahclapp.com)



## Yadira Correa

Yadira Correa most recently worked on TRUCKERS at INTAR Theatre. She co-translated and performed MALA by Melinda Lopez in Spanish at Old Globe Theatre. Some of her Regional Theatre Credits include: *Romeo and Juliet* (Old Globe), *As You Like It* (Old Globe), *The Tempest* (Old Globe), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Old Globe), *Mother Road* (San Diego Rep), *2666* (Goodman), *Comedy Of Errors* (OSF), *Water By The Spoonful* (Court), *The Merchant of Venice* (Theatre Squared), *ENFRASCADA* (Renaissance Theatreworks and 16th Street Theatre). Television: *New Amsterdam*, *Chicago P.D.*, *The Punisher*, *Blindspot*. Education: M.F.A. The Old Globe and University of San Diego Graduate Theater Program. @yadeeenyc on Instagram.

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## **Arielle Gonzalez**

Arielle is a Latina actor, singer, and comedian based in NYC. Select credits include: *I'm Going To Make An Academy Award®-Winning Movie* (Ma-Yi Theater Company Short Stacks Playfest), *The Dark* (The Vineyard's Dimson Theatre), and *ZeroSpace* (The Hotel Pennsylvania). You may have seen her in recent Grammarly commercials, she apologizes for spamming your laptop screen. Arielle's theatrical focus has been in new work development where she's had the pleasure to work with artists like Meghan Finn, Itamar Moses, Rachel Chavkin, and many others. She has her BFA in Drama from NYU and is a proud member of The Fled Collective. You can find out more at [ariellegonzalez.com](http://ariellegonzalez.com)



## **Marcus Jones**

Marx is a New York based actor from Texas. They are apart of the Fled Collective with which they've done many projects including *Deliver* by Liz Morgan and MTV's *SPOOKS* by Josiah Thomas Turner. You may have also seen them in last years fellowship readings. I am very thankful for the opportunity to work with High School Playwrighting Fellowship once more.



## **Scotland Newton**

Scotland Newton is a Pennsylvania native. Favorite credits: New York: New York City Children's Theatre (*The Adventures of Honey & Leon*) Directed by Kimille Howard. International Tour: *Dreamgirls*. Regional: Shakespeare Theatre Company (*Macbeth*), Cortland Repertory Theatre (*The Rat Pack Lounge*). Scotland is an actor at The Metropolitan Opera appearing this season in *Aida* and *La Bohème*, and is also currently a marketing and publicity assistant at BOND Theatrical. Training: Point Park University: BFA in Acting. @scotlandcain



## **Michael Ortiz**

Michael Ortiz is an actor, producer, and director based in New York City. He is a co-founding member of The Fled Collective, as well as a resident artist with Breaking & Entering Theatre Collective. He currently produces SERIALS, a late-night short play competition series in TriBeCa, for The Fled Collective. Michael is passionate about the cultivation of new work and creating opportunities for underrepresented artists. He is an avid gamer and loves scary movies, craft beer, Dungeons & Dragons, home cooking, and trash TV!

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## Anita Welch Smith

Anita Welch Smith- THEATER Off-Broadway- *Little Rock* (Sheen Center, world premiere); *Panama Hattie* (York Theatre Company); *Hercules* (The Public Theater, world premiere); *For The Last Time* (Clurman Theatre, world premiere); National Tour: *Avenue Q*; Regional: *A Raisin In The Sun* (The Guthrie Theatre); *Aida* (Axelrod Performing Arts Center); *Ain't Misbehavin'* directed by Tony Award-winning creator Richard Maltby Jr. (Westchester Broadway Theatre); *Cincinnati King* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, world premiere); *The Color Purple* (regional premiere); *A Raisin in the Sun* (Triad Stage). FILM/TELEVISION - *Black Nativity*, *Stuck*; The CROWN Act ad campaign for Dove, "The Last O.G.," "Last Week Tonight With John Oliver," "Nobirthatal," "In the Spotlight." AWARDS/ ACCOLADES - New York Times Critics Pick; Two-time AUDELCO Award nominee for Best Actress. @nitabonita25 (IG), [www.anitawelch.com](http://www.anitawelch.com)



## Sarah Alice Shull

Sarah Alice Shull (she/her) was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, and is now an actor, writer, and creator currently based in NY. Sarah Alice has been seen in several off and off-off Broadway productions, readings, and workshops at various venues and theaters such as Playwright's Horizons, Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, The Flea Theater, The Sheen Center, The Tank, The Kraine Theater, and various comedy venues. Sarah Alice is a UCBNY Comedy school alum, was a part of the inaugural class of Freestyle Love Supreme's improv/musical improv academy at Ars Nova, and she was a member of the BARS program's 5th cohort at The Public Theater. From June 2018 to December 2020, Sarah Alice was a Bat, a Resident Acting Company member, at The Flea Theater, and she is now a founding member of The Fled Collective, an NYC based theater company. Sarah Alice's passion for performance has extended into writing and producing. She is constantly creating new work such as her one act play, *The King*, which premiered at the NY Winterfest; an original web series called "Sassy and MK's Days of Fun"; and her 10-minute play, *Guilt*, which premiered as a part of The Tank Theater's Limefest. Her original work has also been featured as a part of The Wilma Theater's Open Mic Series, Flea Fridays, The BARS program, AMIOS, and CyberTank.



## DeAnna Supplee

DeAnna Supplee is a Philadelphia-born, New York City-trained actress. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, she has also studied at the British American Drama Academy at the University of Oxford and the Actors Studio Drama School (MFA, Acting). NYC Theater credits: *The Winter's Tale* (New York Shakespeare Exchange), *On Strivers Row* (Metropolitan Playhouse), *Much Ado About Nothing* (New York Shakespeare Exchange), *The Trojan Women* (The Flea Theater), *Fires in the Mirror*, *Laundry & Bourbon*, *Platanos Y Collard Greens*, and *Romeo & Juliet* (Occupy Verona). Regional Theater: *B.R.O.K.E.N. code B.I.R.D. switching* (Berkshire Theatre Group), *The Niceties* (Mile Square Theatre), *Skeleton Crew* (TheatreSquared). International Theater: *Look/Alive* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival). DeAnna is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. Website: [www.deannasupplee.com](http://www.deannasupplee.com) IG: @deannasupplee

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## LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE STAFF

Executive Director: **George Forbes**  
Artistic Directors: **Michael Heitzman, Kimille Howard, Caridad Svich**  
Senior Directors: **Jeffrey Shubart and Nancy Hurvitz**  
General Managers: **Alana Canty-Samuel and Maura Le Viness**  
Associate General Manager: **Karla Liriano**  
Facility Manager: **Zebulon Brown**  
House Manager: **Ty Su**  
Assistant House Managers: **Graeme Cohen and Ashley Martin**  
Head Treasurer: **Daigoro Hirahata**  
Concessions Manager: **Sam Rodriguez**  
Digital Designer: **Ellen Chan**

### **ABOUT THE NYC PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PLAYWRITING FELLOWSHIP**

The Lucille Lortel Theatre, in collaboration with the Department of Education Arts Office Theater Program, created the NYC Public High School Student Playwriting Fellowship as an opportunity for young writers citywide to get unparalleled access to NYC professional artists for mentoring. Funded entirely by the Lucille Lortel Theatre, this innovative theater education program sends a high-profile message of inclusivity and artistry to both the educational and professional worlds. The program engages public school students of all levels of ability who devise an original one-act play. Master theater artists from across the professional theatre community and who represent the diverse continuum of the participating students will participate in the program, mentoring and directing the students to create fully realized plays based on their collective experiences and imagination. The free program provides approximately two months for students to write and submit their plays. Fellows then have another two months of play development culminating with a performance. The opportunities provided by this program encourage NYC public high school students to become the next generation of playwrights. For more information, visit [www.lortel.org/hspf](http://www.lortel.org/hspf).

### **ABOUT THE LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE**

The Lucille Lortel Theatre's mission is to foster both new and established artists, increase awareness and appreciation of Off-Broadway, and uphold fair and equitable business and artistic practices in service of creating a larger, more diverse community of theatre makers and audiences. The Theatre most recently produced "Dangerous Acts" in partnership with Howard University, currently streaming on All-Arts' House Seats program. This season the company also produced *Four Saints in Three Acts*, performed by David Greenspan, and co-produced Kate Berlant's sold-out one woman show *Kate*, both New York Times Critic's Picks. Its programs include NYC Public High School Playwriting Fellowship, now in its fourth season, Fellowships in NYC Theatre at Bennington College, The Lortel Theatre Music Theatre Lab: Immigrant Experiences at The New School, Lucille Lortel Awards and Playwrights' Sidewalk, Internet Off-Broadway Database (IOBDB.com), and Non-Profit Theatre Strategic and Management Services. Under the direction of its two new Artistic Directors, Caridad Svich and Michael Heitzman, the company will be announcing more new programs in support of playwrights, composers, and other theatre artists in the near future. For more information, please visit [www.lortel.org](http://www.lortel.org).

### **ABOUT THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

The NYC Department of Education is the largest system of public schools in the United States, serving about 1.1 million students in approximately 1,800 schools. The Department of Education supports universal access to arts education through the ArtsCount initiative, which tracks and reports student participation in arts education and tracks progress at the school and city-wide levels for meeting New York State Instructional Requirements for the Arts. For more information, visit NYC DOE Office of Arts and Special Projects.

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