

# 2026 FELLOWSHIP PLAYS

Six all new plays by NYC public high school playwrights

## FEATURING

*The Winter Thief* by Maya A. Cardona

*Unresolved Love* by Josiah Gordon

*Smile for the Camera* by Siah M. Harris

*The Lost Voyage* by Jaqueline Hernandez-Solano

*Psychiatry* by Nick Shabsels

*Go, Fish!* by Matthew Brandon Tsibelman



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**LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE** presents  
**2026 FELLOWSHIP PLAYS**

The Seventh Annual NYC Public High School  
Playwriting Fellowship Program

Director:  
**Kimille Howard**

Mentor:  
**Azure D. Osborne-Lee**

**Monday, March 30, 2026**

**Lucille Lortel Theatre**

121 Christopher Street  
New York, NY 10014

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 2026 FELLOWSHIP PLAYS**

## ***The Winter Thief* by Maya A. Cardona**

VICKY - Dorothea Gloria  
ROSE - Sarah Alice Shull  
LEO - Andrew Goebel

## ***Unresolved Love* by Josiah Gordon**

JOSIAH - Danté Jeanfelix  
MISA - Jehan Young

## ***Smile for the Camera* by Siah M. Harris**

PHILIP CAWALLEN - Danté Jeanfelix  
JOSHUA CAMERON - Jeffrey Omura  
DAHLIA RIN - Yvonne Pruitt

## ***The Lost Voyage* by Jaqueline Hernandez-Solano**

CAMILA - Sarah Alice Shull  
JORDAN - Jeffrey Omura  
MATEO - Jack B. Murphy

## ***Psychiatry* by Nick Shabsels**

PIERRE - Jeffrey Omura  
DR. MARSHA - Jehan Young  
CHESSY - Dorothea Gloria

## ***Go, Fish!* by Matthew Brandon Tsibelman**

*Edward R. Murrow High School, Brooklyn*

MAN - Andrew Goebel

Stage Directions - Khalilah Smith  
Stage Manager - Erika Graff

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## Kimille Howard DIRECTOR

Kimille Howard: director, writer, Assistant Stage Director at the Metropolitan Opera, Artistic Director of the Lucille Lortel's NYC Public High School Playwriting Fellowship. Recent directing credits: *Plantation Black* (InterAct) *Confederates* (Emerson College), *Common Threads: The Music of Damien Geter* (Chautauqua Institution), *The Oscar Micheaux Project* (Prospect Musicals), *This Little Light of Mine* (Kentucky Opera), TFFT 17th annual Ten Minute Play Program (The Fire This Time Festival). Broadway: *Ain't Too Proud* (Assistant Director) Met Opera: *Champion*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Porgy And Bess*, *Tosca* (Assistant Stage Director). Fellowships: NYTW 2050 Fellowship, MTC Jonathan Alper Directing Fellowship. She is a recipient of OPERA America's 2023 Robert L. B. Tobin Director-Designer Prize and won Best Direction of a play for the 2022 BroadwayWorld Berkshires Award.

[www.kimillehoward.com](http://www.kimillehoward.com)



## Azure D. Osborne-Lee TEACHING ARTIST

Azure D. Osborne-Lee (he/they) is a multi-award-winning Black queer & trans theatre maker and screenwriter from south of the Mason-Dixon Line. Azure is a part-time Lecturer at the School of Drama at The New School. They are a PhD Candidate in Archiving for Disability Dance & Access Aesthetics (2029) at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, and hold a Certificate in Screenwriting (2025) from The New School, an MA in Advanced Theatre Practice (2011) from Royal Central School of Speech & Drama as well as an MA in Women's & Gender Studies (2008) and a BA in English & Spanish from The University of Texas at Austin (2005).



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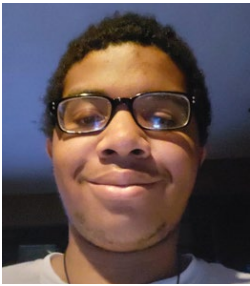
# THE FELLOWS



## **Maya A. Cardona**

*Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy, Bronx*

Maya A. Cardona is a freshman at Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy in the Bronx. She enjoys reading and doing theater, and has also been interested in writing for a very long time, and is very excited to be able to create her very own published play. She is thrilled to be a part of the Lucille Lortel Playwriting Fellowship Program.



## **Josiah Gordon**

*P.S. Q023 @ Queens Children Center, Brooklyn/D75*

My name is Josiah Gordon. I'm 17 years old and I was born in Manhattan and I was raised in Brooklyn, New York my entire life. My interests are writing, video games, reading, and creating any forms of content.



## **Siah M. Harris**

*Curtis High School School, Staten Island*

Siah M. Harris, is a 16 year old Junior student at a high school in Staten Island. Playwriting first truly piqued his interest when he joined the CNL club in his school during sophomore year. CNL was a student-based club run entirely by the students including the sketches, performers and directors. Siah had originally made his own sketches and directed them within CNL, which made him very accomplished and successful. His imaginative mind took him so far within CNL even securing a spot within the UCB theatre, and he couldn't have been happier! He enjoys being the mastermind behind what makes people laugh, cry or relate to and now playwriting has ever since then become one of his most important traits that he possesses.



## **Jaqueline Hernandez-Solano**

*Gotham Tech High School, Queens*

My name is Jaqueline Hernandez-Solano, and I'm a high school student with a deep love for theater and storytelling. I've always been drawn to the way stories on stage can capture emotion, memory, and truth in ways nothing else can. Through this fellowship, I'm excited to explore playwriting more deeply and create work that reflects real experiences and connects with audiences in an honest, meaningful way.



## **Nick Shabsels**

*Repertory Company High School for Theatre Arts, Manhattan*

Nick Shabsels is a sophomore at Repertory Company High School and an aspiring playwright and director! He recently had his first ever play performed in his school's sophomore playwriting festival, titled "Once there was a Caterpillar." Alongside being a playwright, he is a performer and ambassador at Kidz Theater, where some of his most recent roles have included Tobias Ragg in Sweeney Todd, Tom in Schoolhouse Rock Jr, and Ben Weatherstaff in The Secret Garden. He is beyond thrilled to be apart of this program!



## **Matthew Brandon Tsibelman**

*Edward R. Murrow High School, Brooklyn*

Matthew Brandon Tsibelman is a senior at Edward R. Murrow High School in Brooklyn, where he participates in the Concert Band, Virtual Enterprise program, and the Writers Institute, spending most of his time thinking about plays. He has also been inducted into the Edward R. Murrow High School chapter of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts. After seeing productions at the Lucille Lortel Theatre, Matthew is both thrilled and mildly unsettled to be making his professional playwriting debut on the same stage. Matthew aspires to be a playwright and filmmaker. He would like to thank his family, friends, dogs, teachers, and anyone who ever told him to "to get them a ticket when his play is on stage," for the motivation.

# THE PANELISTS



## Preston Burger

Preston Burger (he/him) is an NYC-based multi-disciplinary artist and educator. His creative work explores themes of self-concept, embodiment, and neurodivergence. Choreography credits include *The Perfection of the Donut* (The Tank/dir. Katilin Trammell), *Total Bummer Summer* (Barch PAC/Actionplay), and *Mr. Botibol's First Dance* (Roundabout Theatre Reverb Virtual Arts Festival). He currently sings with the Dalton Chorale and the Cornerstone Chorale. As an educator, he has worked as a counselor in Good Shepherd Services' Young Adult Borough Centers and a career counselor for community college students with disabilities through CUNY LEADS (Linking Employment, Academic, and Disability Services). He is currently a Career Counselor with the Center for Military-Affiliated Students at The New School. He is proud to be serving as a judge for the Lortel High School Playwriting Fellowship for his 4th consecutive year.



## Francisca Da Silveira

Francisca Da Silveira is a Cape Verde born, Boston raised playwright and tv writer. She was recently named a 2025 Women to Watch by the Broadway Women's Fund. Her produced plays include: *CAN I TOUCH IT?*, Rolling World Premiere at Company One Theatre (Boston), Rogue Machine Theatre (Los Angeles), and Cleveland Public Theatre (Cleveland) in 2022; *PAY NO WORSHIP*, a 2023 Finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and World Premiere at InterAct Theatre Company (Philadelphia) in April 2023; *NOT-FOR-PROFIT (OR THE EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PLAY)*, World Premiere at Cleveland Public Theatre in October 2024; and *MINOR-ITY*, World Premiere at WP Theatre, co-produced by Colt Coeur (NYC) in April 2025. da silveira was a 2020-2021 Playwrights Realm Writing Fellow, a member of The Public Theater's 2020-2023 Emerging Writers Group, a 2022-2023 Jerome Fellow with the Playwrights' Center, a member of The Apollo Theater's 2023 New Works Initiative Cohort, and a 2023 NYSCA commission recipient with The New Group (NYC). She has developed work through La Jolla Playhouse, the Banff Centre in Canada, MacDowell, the Venturous Theater Fund, and the National New Play Network. She was recently the 2024-2025 Tow Playwright-in-Residence with WP Theatre (NYC). In TV land, Da Silveira was in the writers' room for HBO's Season 3 of *INDUSTRY* and in development with HBO. She holds a BFA in Dramatic Writing from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and an MSc in Playwriting from the University of Edinburgh.



## Eugene Ma

Eugene Ma is a multidisciplinary theatre-maker and educator currently working across Toronto, New York and Hong Kong. He founded Performance Atelier Toronto, dedicated to liberatory actor training research. Trained primarily as a director, he has helmed the works of Suzan-Lori Parks, Paula Vogel, Thornton Wilder, Moliere, Sarah Kane, Mark Ravenhill and Saviana Stănescu, and most recently *Wild*, a concert-theater spectacle, at the Rose Theater in the UK, garnering a warm reception by Prince Edward and a 5-star

review. He has also developed new works with Lisa Clair, Cherry Lou Sy, Mike Lew, Shane Sakhrani, EllaRose Chary and Sooyeon Lee among others. From 2016 to 2018 he was appointed resident director at The Flea Theatre in New York. As a member of the Actors' Equity Association in the USA, Eugene Ma has worked under Tony Award-winning director Mary Zimmerman and celebrated auteur Stan Lai Sheng Chuan. His acting credits include performances for Theatre for a New Audience, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Yale Repertory Theatre, Seattle Rep, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and the Wallis Annenberg Centre for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles. Eugene Ma is also a Drama Desk-nominated composer and a lauded acting teacher. A certified teacher of Clown and Commedia dell'Arte, he completed his teaching apprenticeship at the Yale School of Drama and at the Juilliard School under Professor Christopher Bayes and has since given workshops and classes at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, The Dome Studio and New York University and has coached on a number of projects for the screen. Eugene Ma has served as a faculty member of Columbia University's Graduate Acting Programme, Yale School of Drama and at Harvard. More recently he has been teaching at Toronto Metropolitan University in Toronto, at the Hong Kong Baptist University and Toronto Metropolitan University.



### **Cherry Lou Sy**

Cherry Lou Sy is a writer and playwright originally from the Philippines currently based in Brooklyn, NY. She received her BA at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at NYU and her MFA in playwriting from Brooklyn College, where she has been an adjunct lecturer in the English and American Studies departments. Cherry is also a teacher with PEN America's DREAMing Out Loud. She has received fellowships and residencies from VONA, Tin House, and elsewhere. *Love Can't Feed You* is her debut novel.



### **Gabriel Vega Weissman**

Directing work includes *Machine Learning* (2023 Elliot Norton nominee for best new play) and *Guards at the Taj* (Central Square Theatre, 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 is a New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect. His collection of short plays, *Loose Canon*, and adaptation, *Aristophanes' The Birds* (co-written with Brian Reno) are licensed and published by Broadway Licensing. He recently directed his first short film, *Clay Pigeons*. Proud father to Caleb and Javier. [Gabrielvegaweissman.com](http://Gabrielvegaweissman.com)

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# THE COMPANY



## **Dorothea Gloria**

Dorothea is an artist from Manila, Philippines. She is currently a teaching artist in several New York city schools as well as a resident artist for Spellbound Theatre and Hedgepig Ensemble Theatre. She is often seen in Bryant Park where she practices her juggling and flow arts. For more info, check her website at [www.dorotheagloria.com](http://www.dorotheagloria.com)



## **Andrew Goebel**

Andrew Goebel is excited and blessed to be back with the Lucille Lortel Theatre HSPF crew! Thank you to Kimille, George, Alana and the whole creative team for continuing a truly incredible program. [www.andrew-goebel.com](http://www.andrew-goebel.com). Check out the Men of Doozy Podcast!

## **Erika Goebel**

New York credits include *Fly You Fools!*, *There Is No Spoon*, *KEVIN!!* with Recent Cutbacks, and *Orlando* at Theater Row. She also was ASM for the Lantern Theater Company in Philadelphia, PA from 2016 to 2020. Love to Andrew.



## **Danté Jeanfelix**

Danté is thrilled to be performing again in HSPF. His theatre credits include: *What Will Happen to All that Beauty* by Donja R. Love, *Playing Hot* (Ars Nova) and *BALLS* (59E59). His various TV and Film credits include: *Survival of the Thickest* (Upcoming), *Everything's Trash* (Freeform), *Law and Order* (Season 21), *Zero Day* (Netflix), *Holiday in Harlem* (Hallmark) and *The Other Two* (HBO Max). He is a proud SAG and AEA actor. Danté would like to thank Kimille and the entire HSPF team! Insta: @dantejeanfel



## Jack Murphy

Jack B. Murphy (he/him) is a Brooklyn based actor, writer, and musician. Favorite credits include *Adventures of Honey & Leon* (Leon); *Tomorrow, The Island Dies*- studio cast recording (Ephraim); *We Foxes*; and *Beautiful* (Righteous Brother).  
Insta: @jackbmurphymusic



## Jeffrey Omura

Jeffrey was recently seen in the MAP Theater's production of James Joyce's *Exiles*. He's known for his work in New York with the Public Theater, Playwrights' Realm, Ma-Yi Theater Company, and National Asian American Theater Company, and around the country with Arena Stage, Weston Playhouse, St. Louis Rep, Hartford Stage, and more. Some television credits include *Hawaii Five-0*, *Succession*, *Elementary*, *Limitless*, *The Blacklist*, *Gossip Girl*; *High Maintenance*. His voiceover work can be heard in more than 50 films and television shows. He's a co-founder of Fair Wage Onstage, Be An #ArtsHero, and Queers for Kamala; and a three-time elected officer of Actors' Equity's National Council. He's a proud graduate of the Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama. Instagram: @jeffreymura. [www.jeffreyomura.com](http://www.jeffreyomura.com).



## Yvonne Pruitt

Yvonne Jessica Pruitt is a New York-based actor and voiceover artist. She was recently accepted into Columbia University's Theater MFA Program for acting. This is her second year participating in the Lucille Lortel Theatre's NYC Public High School Playwriting Fellowship, and she is extremely excited to showcase these incredible playwrights. She is also thrilled to share physical space with all the talented artists participating in these readings. To learn more about Yvonne, her work, and future endeavors, please visit her website: [www.yvonnejessicapruitt.com](http://www.yvonnejessicapruitt.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 NYC. Sarah Alice has been seen in several off and off-off Broadway productions, readings, and workshops at various 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. Sarah Alice is a former Bat, a Resident Acting Company member, at The Flea Theater, and is a founding member of The Fled Collective. Sarah Alice's passion for performance extends into writing and producing, and she is constantly creating new work. Her original work has also been featured as a part of The Wilma Theater's Open Mic Series, Flea Fridays, The BARS program, AMIOS, CyberTank, and more.



## **Khalilah Smith**

Queens based Khalilah Smith, graduate of The University of the Arts in Philadelphia (BFA, Theater Arts/Musical Theater) and former student of the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre has performed regionally in Philadelphia, Bermuda, NYC, Asheville, and Atlanta. Favorite roles include Lila in *St. Louis Woman*, Sarah in *Ragtime*, and Lorrelle in *Dreamgirls*. Since 2021, she has been involved in developing the role of Yemi in Brooklyn based playwright and director Nehprie Amenii's immersive puppetry stage play *HUMAN*, which she's slated to reprise this summer at THE SHED. Khalilah is honoured to take part in the High School Playwriting Fellowship



## **Jehan Young**

Jehan O. Young is an actor, West African dancer and arts manager based in NYC. Jehan (/juh•HAHN/) has performed internationally and appeared on numerous stages across New York City including countless esteemed basements with working pipes and a black curtain. Select theater credits: *Behind The Sheet*, Ensemble Studio Theater, *Is It Supposed To Last*, PlayCo, *Night Keeper*, Aaron Landsman/Chocolate Factory Theater and *THE Harriet Holland Social Club presents The 84th Annual Star-Burst COTILLION in the Grand Ballroom of The Renaissance Hotel*, New Georges/The Movement Theater Company | Drama League Nom., Distinguished Performance. BFA, Spelman College | MFA, Columbia University

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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, Maura Le Viness, Karla Liriano, and Kathryn McCumber**

Administrative Associate: **Rascher Alcasid**

Digital Designer: **John Hayek**

## **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, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, 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 their plays, with the program culminating in a performance. The opportunities provided by this program encourage NYC public high school students to become the next generation of playwrights.

## **ABOUT THE LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE**

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 Company builds on the legacy of its founder, Lucille Lortel (1900–1999), who was a champion of work by artists including Samuel Beckett, Caryl Churchill, Athol Fugard, Jean Genet, Adrienne Kennedy, Larry Kramer, Terrence McNally, Marsha Norman, Sam Shepard, and Wendy Wasserstein, among others. In addition to its Off Broadway theatre, which has been in continuous operation since 1955, the Company is renovating a three-story carriage house in Chelsea that will act as the Company's new headquarters and a new studio theatre committed to the development of new works. The Lortel's programs include The Alcove at the Lortel, a commissioning and development program for early and mid-career playwrights; the 121 Project, a bespoke development program for new musicals; NYC Public High School Playwriting Fellowship, Fellowships in NYC Theatre at Bennington College, the New York Emmy-Winning Dangerous Acts: A Series Uplifting Black Writers from Our Past (in partnership with HBCUs), Lucille Lortel Awards and Playwrights' Sidewalk, Internet Off-Broadway Database (IOBDB.com), and Non-Profit Theatre Strategic and Management Services. [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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