



## THE 2016-2018 WP LAB

### BIOS

#### ROXANNA BARRIOS

Roxanna Barrios is a Florida-born theater producer who traded hurricanes for the MTA and now thrives in the concrete jungle. She currently resides at The Public Theater as the Program Associate for the Mobile Unit, a program that brings free year-round performances to the five boroughs of NYC, inside of community centers, homeless shelters, correctional facilities and more. She has produced for the Cherry Lane Mentor Project and Ugly Rhino Productions (Brooklyn). Prior to NYC (and a brief stint in LA) she spent just under a decade working for a children's performing arts training company in South Florida. Roxanna is a graduate of the University of Florida.

#### MELISSA CRESPO

Melissa Crespo is a New York based director who enjoys directing everything from classical to new plays, as well as musicals and operas. Melissa is most known for Vid Guerrerio's *Figaro!* (2010), a modern day adaptation of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* which had its world premiere at LA Opera and most recently ran at The Duke on 42nd Street. She also directed the undiscovered masterpiece *Voodoo*, a Harlem Renaissance opera by H. Lawrence Freeman that "soared" according to The Guardian. Melissa directed the most recent incarnation of *Tar Baby* written and performed by Desiree Burch with Dan Kitrosser. *Tar Baby* was awarded the prestigious Scotsman Fringe First at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and recently performed at the Auckland Festival in New Zealand and London's VAULT Festival where it was awarded the "Pick of the Week." Upcoming productions include Kieran Lynn's *Crossing the Line* (Amphibian Stage Productions), Karen Zacarias' *Destiny of Desire* (Garden Theatre) and *Bread and Roses*, a new musical by Jill Abramovitz and Brad Alexander (NYMF reading). Melissa has served as the Allen Lee Hughes Directing Fellow at Arena Stage, Van Lier Directing Fellow at Second Stage Theatre, a member of the The Civilian's R&D Group, and is a Drama League Directing Fellow alum where she directed the world premiere of Maggie-Kate Coleman's *The Map of Lost Things* while in residence at the Hangar Theatre. She is a Usual Suspect at New York Theatre Workshop and directed for the 2015 ABC Talent Showcase. Melissa received her MFA in Directing from The New School for Drama. Contact: Alexis Williams, Bret Adams Ltd. <http://melissacrespo.com>

#### MORGAN GOULD

Morgan Gould is a theater writer/ director/ producer who has previously held staff positions at Playscripts, Inc., Lark Play Development Center, Cape Cod Theatre Project, and Young Jean Lee's Theater Company, where Morgan co-created *Untitled Feminist Show* (BAC/PS 122) and worked alongside Young Jean on the premieres of *Lear* (Soho Rep) and *We're Gonna Die* (Joe's Pub/ LCT3) and tours of *Pullman Wa* and *The Shipment*. Morgan is a member at Ensemble Studio Theatre, a New Georges affiliated artist (where she was a participant in their emerging writer/ director lab from 2010-2014), an alumnus of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab, the Stage Director's & Choreographers Foundation Observership Program, the Target Margin Theater's Institute for Collaborative Theater Making, The Civilians R + D Group, and the Ensemble Studio Theatre and Playwrights Horizons Directing Residency Programs. She was an 11-12 BAX (Brooklyn Arts Exchange) AIR with playwright Matthew Paul Olmos and a 12-13 Space Grant Recipient. In 2012, Morgan created her own theater company with 7 actors and 3 designers, Morgan Gould & Friends. MG&F makes satirical work that asks questions about tropes and cliches in storytelling and its impact on identity in America...at least that's what we write in grants. Their work has been featured in and at the New Ohio/ Ice Factory Festival (where the New York Times lauded it "clever"—calling it "soap opera silliness and beyond!"), Dixon Place, The Brooklyn Lyceum, HERE Arts Center, Ars Nova, CAP21, BAX, New Georges, and The Culture Project. Morgan most recently directed the

Off-Broadway premiere of *Kentucky* by Leah Nanako Winkler (EST/ P73), and wrote, directed (with Nate Trinrud), and produced *The Last Great American Webseries* (release date August 2016). B.A. in Directing, Fordham College at Lincoln Center, M.F.A. in Playwriting, Brooklyn College. Winner of the 2016 Beatrice Terry/ Drama League Residency Award for a promising female writer/ director. Morgan's most recent play *I Wanna Fucking Tear You Apart* will have its world premiere as part of Studio Theatre's (Washington D.C.) 2016-17 season. [www.morgangouldandfriends.com](http://www.morgangouldandfriends.com).

### **DONNETTA LAVINIA GRAYS**

Donnetta Lavinia Grays – raised in Columbia, South Carolina - is a Brooklyn based actor and playwright. Plays include *Last Night And The Night Before* (2015 National New Play Network New Play Showcase. 2015 Todd McNerney National Playwriting Contest Winner. 2014 Eugene O'Neill Theater Center National Playwrights Conference Semifinalist), *The Review Or How To Eat Your Opposition* (2013 Eugene O'Neill Theater Center National Playwrights Conference Finalist) *The New Normal*, *The Cowboy Is Dying* and *The B Factor*. And the short story *Peaches With King*. She is a member of the Actors Studio Playwright/Directors Unit, is a Civilians R&D Group and terraNova Collective Groundbreakers Playwright group alum and is the inaugural recipient of the Doric Wilson Independent Playwright Award. Her work has been either produced, developed or read by The Labyrinth Theater Company, New York Theater Workshop, Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Portland Stage Company, Pure Theatre Company, [the claque], Naked Angels, Classical Theater of Harlem, Slant Theater Project, terraNova Collective, TOSOS, and Coyote REP. Acting credits: Broadway: *In The Next room or the vibrator play* and *WELL*. Notable NY performance credits: *O, EARTH* (The Foundry Theatre) *MEN ON BOATS* (Playwrights Horizons/Clubbed Thumb), *SHIPWRECKED!* (Primary Stages), *IN THE FOOTPRINT* and *BE THE DEATH OF ME* with The Civilians as an Associate Artist. Regionally she is a 2-time Connecticut Critics Circle Award recipient and Helen Hayes Award nominee. Regional credits: American Conservatory Theater, Portland Stage Company, Westport Country Playhouse, Arena Stage, Hartford Theaterworks, Centerstage, The Huntington Theatre, Barrington Stage, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and The Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company. Film/TV credits include *Book of Henry*, *Wild Canaries*, *The English Teacher*, *The Wrestler*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Blacklist*, *all Law & Orders*, *Mercy*, *Rubicon*, *The Sopranos* and *A Gifted Man*. Proud member of The Actors Center Workshop Company, SAG-AFTRA, AEA and The Dramatist Guild of America. [www.donnettagrays.com](http://www.donnettagrays.com)

### **ELLIE HEYMAN**

Ellie Heyman is a New York based director of theatre, music, and film. She directed *The Traveling Imaginary*, a theatrical rock show rated "top five shows of the year" by NPR and a Time Out "Critic's Pick" on two continents. Upcoming projects: *The Orbiting Human Circus (of the Air)* (Narrative podcast featuring John Cameron Mitchell and Tim Robbins); *Mr. Pictures* by Dane Terry (PS122); *Beardo* by Dave Malloy and Jason Craig (Pipeline Theater); *Home* by Sami Berat Marcali (Laguardia Performing Arts Center); and ongoing projects with Erin Markey and Becca Blackwell. Recent work includes: *LongYarn* by Jason Craig/Banana Bag & Bodice, *They, Themselves and Schmerm* by Becca Blackwell, *The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence* by Madeleine George, *Deleted Scenes from Fun Home* by Erin Markey and Heather Litterer's *Lemonade*. Ellie's work has been presented by The Kennedy Center, Abrons Art Center, The Bushwick Starr, La Mama, New World Stages (Incite Festival), Brown University, Duke University, The Drama League, Boston Center for American Performance, En Garde Arts and indie rock clubs across America. Currently Ellie is developing *Elevation 506* in Bulgaria with Yassen Vasilev and *Home* in Istanbul with Turkish playwright Sami Berat Marcali. Ellie is the Co-Artistic Director of [The Orbiting Human Circus](http://The Orbiting Human Circus) with Julian Koster (Neutral Milk Hotel). She is a graduate of Northwestern and Boston Universities (MFA) and a Drama League Directing Fellow. [www.ellieheyman.com](http://www.ellieheyman.com)

### **SALLY CADE HOLMES**

Sally Cade Holmes is a New York-based freelance producer hailing from the upstate of South Carolina. Recent and upcoming producing credits include: *Anastasia* (B'way 2016-17); *Boy Gets Violent* (Ars Nova's ANT Fest); *Summer Valley Fair* (New York Musical Festival); *Hug the Lonely Cactus* (an album by longtime collaborator Laura Gragtmans), *Here's Hoover* (in collaboration with Alex Timbers and Les Freres Corbusier); *Hi, Are You Single* (Dixon Place HOT! Festival). Additionally, she is the Associate Producer at Tom Kirdahy Productions (*It's Only A Play*, *The Visit*, & *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*) and the New York Line Producer for Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Play On! initiative. She previously served as the Producing Associate at Williamstown Theatre Festival where she worked on pre-Broadway and off-Broadway productions of *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Fool for Love*, *Living on Love*, *The Old Man and The Old Moon*, and *The Visit*. Other collaborations include: Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, The Theatre @ Boston Court, Keen Company,

SpeakEasy Stage Company, Sans A Productions, and TheatreWorks USA. Sally Cade received a BS in theatre studies with a minor in religious studies from the University of Evansville. [www.sallycadeholmes.com](http://www.sallycadeholmes.com)

### **MJ KAUFMAN**

MJ Kaufman is a playwright and devised theater artist working in New York and Philadelphia. Their work has been seen at the Huntington Theatre, New York Theater Workshop, the New Museum, Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, Page73, Colt Coeur, Yale School of Drama, Lark Play Development Center, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Aurora Theater, Crowded Fire, Fresh Ink Theatre, New Harmony Project and performed in Russian in Moscow.

MJ has received awards and commissions from the Program for Women in Theater, the Playwrights Foundation, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, Young Playwrights Inc., and the Huntington Theatre, where they are also a playwriting fellow. MJ received the 2013 ASCAP Cole Porter Prize in Playwriting, the 2013 Global Age Project Prize, and the 2010 Jane Chambers Prize in Feminist Theatre.

MJ is currently a member of the Public Theater's Emerging Writers' Group and a core playwright at InterAct Theatre. Originally from Portland, Oregon, MJ attended Wesleyan University and recently received an MFA in playwriting from the Yale School of Drama. MJ has taught playwriting at Wesleyan University, SUNY Purchase College, the University of the Arts and as a teaching fellow at Yale College. More at [mjkaufman.com](http://mjkaufman.com).

### **SYLVIA KHOURY**

Sylvia Khoury grew up in Westchester, NY, but didn't speak English until she was five. Her mother is French (by way of Algeria and Tunisia) and her father is Lebanese (by way of Turkey). Her plays include *Against the Hillside* (2016 Eugene O'Neill Theater Conference, 2016 Kilroys' List, 2015 Roundabout Underground Workshop, 2015 NNPN National Showcase of New Plays) and *Selling Kabul* (2016 Bloodworks Reading, Youngblood). She is a member of the 2016-2018 Women's Project Playwright's Lab, EST/Youngblood and is a Dramatists' Guild Fellow. Her plays have been developed at The Kennedy Center, The New School for Drama, Columbia University, and Naked Angels. Semi-Finalist: Jerome Fellowship at the Lark. Sylvia completed her undergraduate degree in Middle Eastern Studies at Columbia University (2012) and received an MFA in Playwriting at the New School for Drama (2015). She lives in New York City, where she is a second-year medical student at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Contact: Kate Navin at Gersh. [www.sylviakhoury.com](http://www.sylviakhoury.com)

### **NIDIA MEDINA**

Nidia Medina is currently the Associate Line Producer at The Public Theater. Before landing there, she had the pleasure of being Associate Producer at INTAR, and also produced an internationally touring one-woman show for charity called "The God Box" that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charities all over. Other independent producing projects include off-off Broadway shows, fundraiser performances, and some wacky variety shows. But that's not all! She's held a variety of other positions in the theater, and has spent the past ten years backstage, onstage and in the offices of some great NYC theater companies -- including Cherry Lane, Ars Nova, MCC, MTC, Theater for a New Audience, and LAByrinth Theatre Company. She makes art, too. It's probably best to just call her a "Theatre Person". She holds a Master's degree in Arts and Cultural Management from Pratt Institute.

### **TYNE RAFaelI**

Tyne was born in London and trained at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and Columbia University. She has directed classics, new plays and musicals in London and the US. Recent productions include: *Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl (American Players Theatre), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Great Lakes Theatre / Idaho Shakespeare Festival), *Othello* (Classic Stage Company). Her work has been seen at: Classic Stage Company, New York Stage & Film, The Atlantic Theatre, The Julliard School, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Playwrights Realm, Great Lakes Theatre, American Players Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival and PlayPenn, amongst others.

She has served as Associate Director on *The King & I* (Lincoln Center Theatre), *Fiddler On The Roof*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Golden Boy* (all Broadway), *Women On The Verge* (London's West End), and she directed the 1st US National Tour of *The Bridges Of Madison county* opening at the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles.

Tyne was awarded the 2013/14 SDCF Sir John Gielgud Fellowship for Classical Direction. Upcoming projects include *The Burdens* by Matt Schatz at the O'Neill Playwright's Conference, *Chasing Rainbows* at Goodspeed Opera and *The Lion In Winter* at Two River Theatre. See more at: [www.tynerafaeli.com](http://www.tynerafaeli.com)

### LAURA RAMADEI

Since graduating from Tisch, Laura Ramadei has been performing and producing across various platforms. She began in production by interning at the Public Theater in marketing and development, and additionally with their Student Ambassador Program, a student discount ticket initiative. She went on to work extensively with LABYRINTH Theater Company, as an intern, production assistant, and finally as resident social media guru, piloting several digital marketing channels and campaigns for multiple productions. She also assisted with script development and screen adaptation of *Jack Goes Boating*, starring and directed by Philip Seymour Hoffman. Since then, Ramadei co-founded Lesser America, a theater company dedicated to accessible, affordable theater, currently in residence at the historic Cherry Lane Theatre. Ramadei now also works as the Director of Creative Development for the American Playwriting Foundation. Select theater performance credits include *Wyoming*, *Carnival Kids* (*NY Times Critics' Pick*), *Just Right Just Now*, *Too Much Too Soon*, *American River*, and *Squealer* with Lesser America; *Ghost Brothers of Darkland County* (with Stephen King and John Mellencamp, in commercial workshop); *Fairytale of New York* (with David Simon and The Pogues in commercial workshop); *Exit Carolyn* (NYIT nomination); *The Year of the Rooster* (EST/Youngblood); *Cloud Nine* (Ambie Award Nomination) and *Love's Labors Lost* with The Nola Project (Founding Member); *Too Little Too Late* (HERE Arts - NYIT Nomination). Film and TV: *Orange is the New Black*, *Starting Out*, *Another Kind*, *Gasoline*, *Eagles Are Turning People Into Horses*. Web/New Media: *Compulsive Love*, *Unicornland* (upcoming). In addition to running Lesser America, alongside co-founders Daniel Abeles, Nate Miller, and Claire Siebers, Ramadei freelance produces across various mediums, working additionally as a writer and content creator. Finally, Ramadei is also known for penning an open letter about sexual harassment and the treatment of individuals in the service industry. The note went viral, resulting in features and interviews with Huffington Post, Gothamist, Jezebel, New York Magazine, The Atlantic, The Meredith Vieira Show and more. [lauraramadei.com](http://lauraramadei.com)

### ZOE SARNAK

Zoe Sarnak graduated from Harvard University where she received an Ann Radcliffe Trust award. Works include: *Mixtape* (Silent Street Productions 2012), *A Lasting Impression* (Pace New Musicals 2012, Off-Broadway 2012, Winner 2013 NJ Playwright's contest), *The Years Between* (Musical Theatre Factory 2014 workshop, March 2016 T-fellowship workshop), *Landed* with Emily Kaczmarek (2015 New York Film Academy commission). Zoe is the winner of the 2015 Davenport Songwriting contest, NY Stage & Film's Founders Award finalist, Fred Ebb Award finalist, as well as residencies at Goodspeed Writers Colony, Williamstown Theatre Festival, NYTW, and Rhinebeck Writers Retreat. Her music has been featured at The Lilly Awards, Women of Note (NYMF), Prospect Theater Company, Cutting Edge Composers and more. Zoe is one half of the indie folk/pop band, *she*, featured in #sheSESSIONS recorded live from The End Studios.

New/upcoming projects include: *Secret Soldiers* (with Marsha Norman), *Transport Group's 20th Century Commission* (with Michele Lowe) and *Teddy & Max* (with Brian Crawley).

### YUVIKA TOLANI

Yuvika Tolani is a producer drawn to the interaction of form, content, and process. As Assistant Line Producer at The Public Theater, she executes the Readings and Workshops program, collaborating with artists to structure processes that best serve the work they are creating. Prior to The Public she was part of the fundraising team at the American Repertory Theater at Harvard. Yuvika began her exploration of the role of a producer in developing new work while pursuing Theater Studies at Yale University. That work later fed into developing an original musical, *Scorched*, alongside writer/director Molly Houlihan and composer Benji Goldsmith. *Scorched* will have its premiere production this October as part of the Araca Project's 2016 season. Yuvika comes to New York with an already-split allegiance to her original hometowns: Mumbai and Singapore. A product of disparate cultures, she is a big believer in the universal impact of a powerful story.

### LEAH NANAKO WINKLER

Leah Nanako Winkler is from Kamakura, Japan and Lexington, Kentucky. Her plays include *Kentucky* (2015 Kilroys List, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Nominee, World Premiere 2016 w/ Ensemble Studio Theatre, Page 73, *Radio Drama Network*, Upcoming West Coast Premiere at East West Players) *Death For Sydney Black* (terraNova Collective, Thinking Cap Theatre in Ft. Lauderdale, FL), *The Internet* (Everywhere Theatre Group/Incubator Arts Project), *Happy Dance Dance Princess Show* (The Brick), *Double Suicide At Ueno Park!!!* (35th Marathon of One-Act Plays at Ensemble Studio Theatre), and more. Her work has been developed by Playwrights Horizons/Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, New York Theatre Workshop, The Bushwick Starr, The Flea Theatre, Primary Stages, Artists at Play and more. She was a 2013 artist in residence with the New Group/ Urban Arts Initiative, an alumna of Terra Nova Collective's Groundbreakers Playwright Group and Youngblood at the Ensemble Studio Theatre. Her collections of short plays, "Nagoriyuki & Other Short Plays" and "The Lowest Form Of Writing" are available on amazon. Other publications include Nanjing University's Stage and Screen Reviews (China, December 2014 edition), Smith and Krauss, and Sam French where she was a winner of the 2015 Samuel French OOB Short Play Festival. She is an affiliated artist at New Georges and member of the Dorothy Strelsin New American Wcan Writers Group at Primary Stages. [www.leahwinkler.org](http://www.leahwinkler.org)

## **MO ZHOU**

Originally from China, Mo Zhou is a theater and opera director based in New York City. She is currently the 2050 Directing Fellow at New York Theatre Workshop as well as the James Marcus Opera Directing Fellow at the Juilliard School, where she apprentices alongside Stephen Wadsworth. Prior to that, she has worked at Wolf Trap Opera, the Merola Opera Program with San Francisco Opera, the Glimmerglass Festival, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Williamstown Theater Festival.

As an assistant director, Ms. Zhou has worked with Mary Zimmerman, Peter Kazaras, Nic Muni, Robert Longbottom, and among others. As the winner of the 2013 biannual OPERA America Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designers Showcase, Ms. Zhou presented her new production concept of Carlisle Floyd's "Susannah" at the annual Opera Conference in Vancouver, Canada. The final model and renderings are on exhibit in the design showcase at the National Opera Center in New York City.

Ms. Zhou graduated from Bowdoin College with a degree in English and received her MFA degree in stage directing from Columbia University, under the tutelage of Anne Bogart and Brian Kulick. [www.mo-zhou.com](http://www.mo-zhou.com)