

MARCH 29 - MAY 4





Artistic Director: Adrienne Campell-Holt Executive Producer: Heather Cohn

Producing Artistic Director: Lisa McNulty Managing Director: Michael Sag

COLT COEUR & WP THEATER PRESENT THE WORLD PREMIERE OF

M11001-it By francisca da silveira

Ďirected by Shariffa Ali

starring

Ato Essandoh

Nedra Marie Taylor

Nimene Sierra Wureh

scenic design Brittany Vasta

costume design Celeste Jennings lighting design Daisy Long

sound design Tosin Olufolabi

hair design Amber Jasmin Morrow

props supervision Samantha Tutasi

dramaturgy Eunice S. Ferreira Jack Phillips Moore

griot consultant Alim Kamara

dialect coach Barbara Rubin production stage manager Caren Celine Morris

casting THE TELSEY OFFICE/ Destiny Lilly, CSA/ Crysilyn Childs

production manager Gary Levinson

press representative Vivacity Media Group, Whitney Holden-Gore, Leslie Papa

minor-ity was originally commissioned by Colt Coeur with support from the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation and developed by Colt Coeur and WP Theater.

#minorityplay

CAST

(in alphabetical order)

Cheikh	Ato Essandoh
Céza	Nedra Marie Taylor
	Nimene Sierra Wureh

minor-ity runs 100 minutes with no intermission

WHO'S WHO

francisca da silveira (playwright) (she/her) is a Cape Verde born, Boston raised playwright, dramaturg and TV writer. Fellowships/Residencies: 2020-2021 Playwrights Realm Writing Fellow, The Public Theater's 2020-2023 Emerging Writers Group, 2022-2023 Jerome Fellow with the Playwrights' Center, The New Group 2023 NYSCA Commission, The Apollo Theater's New Works initiative 2023 Cohort, Winter 2024 MacDowell Fellow, 2024 Banff Playwrights Lab participant, 2024-2025 Tow Playwright-in-Residence at WP Theater. Plays: not-for-profit (or the equity, diversity and inclusion play) (La Jolla Playhouse 2021 DNA New Works Series); can i touch it? (2022/2023 Rolling World Premiere at Company One Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, Rogue Machine Theatre); pay no worship (2023 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Finalist) minor-ity (Colt Coeur Commission). TV: HBO Overall Deal. BFA: New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. MSc: University of Edinburgh. Broadway Women's Fund List of Women to Watch on Broadway 2025. Colt Coeur Company Member.

Shariffa Ali (Director) (she/her) is an international creative leader committed to advancing radical change through the power of art & activism. She works across disciplines directing and producing plays, virtual reality experiences & film. Originally from Kenya and raised in South Africa, Shariffa has been a New York resident since 2013 where she has worked primarily as a director and administrator. She is currently on faculty at Princeton University. Film/VR directing: Ash Land, Atomu (Official Selection at Sundance Festival 2020), "Sink Sank Sunk," "You Go Girl!" (Official Selection at Sundance Festival 2022), "O-Dogg" (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). Selected theatre directing: Sweet Chariot (Public Theater), Mies Julie (Classic Stage Company), School Girls; or The African Mean Girls Play (Pittsburgh Public Theatre), The Copper Children, (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), Mlima's Tale (St Louis Rep) Honors: New Frontier Fellow, Sundance Institute Lab, and the Royal National Theater (UK); POV/PBS Spark Grant. Hermitage Major Theatre Award. Education: BA with honors, Theatre and Performance, University of Cape Town. South Africa.

Ato Essandoh (Cheikh Malick Diallo) (he/him) can currently be seen as a lead in the hit Netflix series The Diplomat opposite Keri Russell. Prior, he was seen as a series regular in the Netflix series Away opposite Hillary Swank for Matt Reeves, Jason Katims and Ed Zwick and in the Netflix feature Reptile opposite Benicio del Toro and Justin Timberlake which premiered at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival. In film, Ato can been seen in Jason Bourne for Paul Greengrass and Django Unchained for Quentin Tarantino. Other credits include X-Men: Dark Phoenix, Get Him To The Greek, Blood Diamond and Hitch. On the television front, Ato recurs as Dr. Isidore Latham on the NBC series Chicago Med. He was also seen as a series regular in the CBS series The Code, the Netflix series Altered Carbon and the HBO series Vinyl. Other credits include Tales From The Loop, Elementary, Copper and Blue Bloods. Colt Coeur Trustee and Company Member. @atoessandoh

Nedra Marie Taylor (Céza Depina) (she/her) holds an MFA from the Actors Studio Drama School. Broadway: The Book of Mormon (Eugene O'Neill), Marvin's Room (Roundabout). Off-Broadway: Good Bones (The Public), The House that Will Not Stand (NYTW), The Underlying Chris (2nd Stage), Mr. Burns, and A Life (Playwrights Horizons), Lost Lake (MTC). TV: Rose Callaway on Invasion (Apple TV+), Brilliant Minds, Elsbeth, NCIS: New Orleans, Orange is The New Black, Random Acts of Flyness, Jessica Jones and more. @nedramarietaylor

Nimene Sierra Wureh (Sami Monroe) (she/her) (NIM-in-knee) Broadway: Our Town, Mary Jane. Off-Broadway: The Apiary (Second Stage) TV: FBI: Most Wanted (CBS), That Damn Michael Che (MAX), Inside Amy Schumer (Hulu). Thank you God, Penny and Jordan, Shariffa Ali, Fran Da Silveira, Destiny Lilly, Jocelyn, Bigmomma, my mom, The Tribe, my brother, my love Kalonjee, and my angel, Sandy. www.nimene.com. @nimenesierrawureh

Brittany Vasta (Scenic Designer) (she/her) Some recent projects include the Off Broadway premiere of Kate Hamill's new play The Light and the Dark (Primary Stages); Julia May Jonas's A Woman Among Women (Bushwick Starr) and the live tour Insidious, The Further You Fear (based on the Sony film franchise). Other work: Dave Malloy's Octet (Signature Theatre/Berkeley Rep); Phillip Howze's Self Portraits (Bushwick Starr/Jack); Bill Irwin's Harlequin & Pantalone (NY City Center); Happy Birthday Wanda June (The Duke); I thought I would die but I didn't (The Tank); Choir Boy, the ripple, the wave that carried me home and Redwood (Portland Center Stage); Welcome to Fear City (KCRep); Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill (Syracuse Stage); August: Osage County (Resident Ensemble Players, Delaware). Long time associate collaborator of Mimi Lien: Uncle Vanya (Broadway, Lincoln Center), The Green (Lincoln Center public art installation); The Lifespan of a Fact (Broadway, Studio 54). Drama Desk Nomination for Octet. MFA, NYU. USA 829 member. brittanyvasta.com

Celeste Jennings (Costume Designer) (she/her) is a passionate costume designer and playwright who is really proud to collaborate on minor-ity with The Women's Project. Most recently, she designed Oh Happy Day and Pride and Prejudice at Baltimore Center Stage, Memnon with The Classical Theatre of Harlem, Rough Crossing with the Resident Ensemble Players, and the summer season at The Arkansas Repertory Theatre and two of her plays, Citrus and 'Bov Water, were fully produced at Northern Stage. Upcoming projects include Appropriate at The Old Globe, Furlough's Paradise at the Geffen, and a reading of her new play Potligha at the Spotlight Series at the Public Theatre. Jennings holds an MFA in costume design from NYU Tisch School of the Arts and recently finished her tenure as a 2050 fellow at New York Theatre Workshop. She's a current member of the Emerging Writer's Group of the Public Theatre.

Daisy Long (*Lighting Designer*) is a lighting designer for theater, opera, concert and dance. New York credits include: The Shed, Keen Company, BAM, Atlantic, The Barrow Group, Primary Stages, Abingdon Theater Company, Mason Holdings, HERE Arts Center, LaMaMa, NYU, AMERINDA, TADA! Youth Theater (National Youth Arts Award for Outstanding Lighting for *The Perfect Monster*), Manhattan School of Music. Regional credits include: Everyman Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, the Alliance, Speakeasy Stage Company (IRNE Award for Best Lighting for *The Scottsboro Boys*), Kitchen Theatre Company, Yale, Connecticut College, Middlebury, Smith, Interlochen. She is the lighting director for Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana, a Roundabout teaching artist, and a USA 829 member. She also writes gentle fantasy stories about farming, teaching and tavern-keeping under the name "James Falcon."

Tosin Olufolabi (Sound Designer) (she/her) is excited to be at WP Theater again. NYC: Dirty Laundry, Bite Me (WP Theater); Stargazers (Page 73). REGIONAL: The Thanksgiving Play (Steppenwolf Theatre); Gloria (2018 Helen Hayes Nomination for Outstanding Sound Design for a Hayes Production); There's Always the Hudson and Hi, Are You Single's; Incendiary; The Sensational Sea Mink-ettes (Woolly Mammoth); Ain't No Mo (Woolly Mammoth/Baltimore Center Stage); Life is a Dream (Baltimore Center Stage); Crying on Television, Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery, The Sound Inside, The Chinese Lady, Crumbs from the Table of Joy (Everyman Theater); School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play; it's not a trip it's a journey (Round House Theatre); A Wind in the Door (Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences).

Amber Jasmin Morrow (Hair Designer) (she/her) is a NYC based hairstylist and wig maker and team member of the Emmy Award Winning Saturday Night Live hair team for 9 seasons. Originally hailing from Chicago, New York has been her home for the last 15 years. Amber's theater career started as Hair and Makeup Supervisor for the National Tours of Monty Python's Spamalot, The Color Purple, and Rock of Ages. She soon moved to Broadway where she was the assistant supervisor then supervisor of the 2014 Broadway Revival of Les Misérables. Amber's main work is as a Hair Department head for film and TV. Most notably - Fire Island, Fantasmas, Life & Beth Season 1, That Damn Michael Che Season 1 & &2, the upcoming Crutch on CBS, and more.

Samantha Tutasi (*Props Supervisor*) (she/her) Ecuadorian-American theater artist, most recent collaborations include: Properties Design - *Golem Owned A Tropical Smoothie* (The Tank); *Dirty Laundry, Munich Medea: Happy Family* (WP Theater); *B*TCHCRAFT: A Musical Play, Coping Mechanism* (Wild Project). She frequently collaborates with Design Action on their immersive theatrical design program, Springboard To Design. BFA: State University of New York at Purchase, 2022. samanthatutasidesign.myportfolio.com

Eunice Ferreira (Dramaturg) (she/her) is a scholar artist who amplifies global majority artists in her research, teaching, and artistic practice. She has produced and directed a variety of plays and musicals, including Black Super Hero Magic Mama, Providence Garden Blues, Once on This Island, Songs for a New World, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Polaroid Stories, and the multilingual premiere of Caridad Svich's The Orphan Sea. As a dramaturg, she specializes in new works that center Black and global majority lives, most recently with WP Theater, Colt Coeur, Capital Repertory Theater, and Brown University. She has published in U.S. and international journals, including the first English translation of a play from Cabo Verde, West Africa. Forthcoming books include Applied Theatre and Racial Justice: Radical Imaginings for Just Communities (co-editor Lisa L. Biggs) and Crioulo Performance: Remapping Creole and Mixed Race Theatre. She served as Black Theatre Association president and is on the board of The Orchard Project. She is Associate Professor of Theater at Skidmore College and was a 22-23 MLK Visiting Professor at MIT. She brings expertise in diversity efforts, cultural competencies, and antiracist practices to all areas of her work. You can follow her Instagram teaching account @BIPOCTheatre.

Jack Phillips Moore (*Dramaturg*) (he/him) is a New York-based dramaturg, teacher and theater administrator originally from the District of Columbia. Jack works as the Associate Director of New Work Development at The Public Theater, where he has served the development of dozens of new plays and musicals over the last decade and leads the Emerging Writers Group. Projects Jack has dramaturged have premiered at theaters across the country and have received numerous honors including Obie Awards, Tony Award nominations, the Princess Grace Award, the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. He has taught courses in dramaturgy, theater history and administration at NYU, the Atlantic Theater School, the Sewanee Writers Conference, and the Tepper Semester at Syracuse University and has served as a juror/consultant for the Windham-Campbell Prize, the Leah Ryan Prize and the Kilroys, among many others.

Alim Kamara (*Griot Consultant*) Acclaimed British-Sierra Leonean storyteller Alim Kamara masterfully fuses traditional West African Djeli (griot) storytelling with contemporary performance, crafting transformative theatrical experiences that bridge cultures and generations. His dynamic performances—featured at prestigious venues like the Royal Albert Hall, and British Library, Kathakar festival—weave together storytelling, spoken word, and music to explore identity, heritage, and social change. As the founder of Storie Storie, Alim has pioneered a unique style that resonates across the globe. His work has reached over 50,000 people, demonstrating the power of storytelling to build community and foster cultural understanding, from intimate theatre spaces to schools and international festivals. Alim's impact extends beyond the stage, earning recognition from British royalty, Sierra Leone's President, and cultural leaders worldwide. His innovative approach to narrative theater has garnered multiple awards, affirming his ability to merge entertainment with meaningful social impact.

Barbara Rubin (Dialect Coach) (she/her) is thrilled to lend her ears to this production and to be reunited with Shariffa Ali after previous collaborations on Mies Julie and Mlima's Tale. For Colt Coeur, she coached Peter Mark Kendall and Rosaline Elbay in Dodi and Diana (HERE). She is a proud WP Directing Lab alumna & ardent supporter! Broadway: The Road to Mecca. Off-Broadway: The Mulberry Tree (La Mama); The Rolling Stone (Lincoln Center); Mies Julie (CSC); Fugard Residency at Signature including Boesman and Lena, Master Harold...and the Boys, The Painted Rocks at Revolver Creek, The Train Driver, My Children! My Africa!, The Blood Knot (Signature). Regional: Crazy for You, My Best Friend's Wedding (Ogunquit); Mlima's Tale (St. Louis Rep); Photograph 51, Chonburi International Hotel and Butterfly Club (Audible/Williamstown); A Raisin in the Sun, A Human Being of a Sort, Dangerous House (Williamstown); Judgement Day (Bard SummerScape).

Film & Television: *Inventing Anna & Ozark* - Julia Garner; *Jigsaw* - Peter Mark Kendall; *Escape from Pretoria* - Daniel Radcliffe; *Official Secrets* - Adam Bakri; *Winnie* - Jennifer Hudson, Terrence Howard. Faculty: AADA.

Caren Celine Morris (*Production Stage Manager*) (she/her) is a multidisciplinary theatre artist from The Bronx. She aims to promote inclusion, diversity, and accessibility in all of her projects. Caren has worked on projects with WP Theater, The Shed, Ping Chong & Company, HERE Arts Center, Audible @ Minetta Lane Theatre, NYC Civic Engagement Commission, Colt Coeur, The Public, Perelman Arts Center, and The Bushwick Starr. Colt Coeur Company Member.

Siobhan Petersen (Assistant Stage Manager) (they/them) is a Brooklyn based stage manager. Their past credits with WP include Bite Me. They're so very excited to be back with WP for another production. Thank you Mom and Dad, for guiding me into the world, and thank you to my partner for accompanying me on this journey.

THE TELSEY OFFICE (*Casting*) With offices in both New York and Los Angeles, The Telsey Office casts for theater, film, television, and commercials. The Telsey Office is dedicated to creating safe, equitable, and anti-racist spaces through collaboration, artistry, heart, accountability, and advocacy. thetelseyoffice.com

Vivacity Media Group (Press Representative) has led the PR campaigns for over sixty theater productions, and ten seasons for the Obie, Lortel & Drama Desk Award-winning WP Theater! Select Broadway credits include: The Great Gatsby; Once Upon a Mattress; Elf the Musical; Alex Edelman's Just For Us; How to Dance in Ohio; Once Upon A One More Time; Mike Birbiglia's The Old Man & The Pool; Jagged Little Pill; POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive; Melissa Etheridge: My Window; On Your Feet!; Rock of Ages; Chicken & Biscuits; Slava's SnowShow. Off-Broadway: Little Shop of Horrors; Titanique; Vinny DePonto's Mindplay; Teeth; Dungeons & Dragons: The Twenty-Sided Tavern; Gary Gulman's Grandiloquent; Heathers: The Musical; Derek DelGaudio's In & Of Itself. Theatrical Institutions: American Theatre Wing, The Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle.

Ningning Yang (*Scenic Assistant*) (she/her) is a scenic designer for theatre and screens. Also an exploring artist currently interested in the audiovisual experience. Born and raised in China, she pursued fine arts until she fell in love with theatre through bootlegs and occasional touring shows, then decided to come to the US to pursue scenic design. She is a Syracuse University and Carnegie Mellon School of Drama alumni. Ningning is very happy and grateful to assist on this production at WP. Recent & upcoming productions include the *Recurring & House of Blue Robes* (LAByrinth Theater Company), *Dragon Mama & WTF Cabaret* (Williamstown Theater Festival), *Pippin* (Syracuse University Drama Department).

Piper Phillips (Assistant Lighting Designer) (she/her) Assistant B'Way: Stranger Things: The First Shadow, Tammy Faye, Harry Potter & the Cursed Child, Merrily We Roll Along.

Mirah Kozodoy (Assistant Sound Designer) (they/them) is a sound artist currently based in New York City. They recently moved back to the city from Vermont where they worked as Sound Engineer at Northern Stage. They are now doing freelance sound design and mixing and are very excited to be working at the WP Theater!



The Designers at this Theatre are Represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA 829



The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



The Director and Choreographer are members of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independant national labor union.

creative team	
playwright	
director	
scenic design	
costume design	
lighting design	
sound design	
hair design	
dramaturgy	
griot consultant Alim Kamara	
dialect coach Barbara Rubin	
castingTHE TELSEY OFFICE/Destiny Lilly, CSA/Crysilyn Childs	
minor-ity production staff	
production stage manager	
production manager	
props supervision	
directing fellow	
scenic assistant	
assistant costume designer	
assistant lighting designer	
assistant sound designer	
assistant stage manager	
associate production manager	
wardrobe supervisor	
production assistant	
lighting/sound board op	
house manager/company manager	
house managers	
front of house staff Thomas Asteff, Aubreyne Brizette, Ana Gates Shields, Petricia Hall,	
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Colt Coeur and WP Theater thank the following shared funders for their support for minor-ity



SPECIAL THANKS

Abena, Gbenga Akinnagbe, MaYaa Boateng, Nadia Brown, You-Shin Chen, Jesmille Darbouze-Smith, Renata Eastlick, Milan Eldridge, Maggie Ellis, Gary-Kayi Fletcher, Amy Groeschel, Ayana Parker Morrison, The New Group, Chiké Okonkwo, Danni Pascuma, Lindsey Steinert, Salieu Suso

Djembe provided by Wula Drum

Floral arrangements courtesy of ByRobin Event Design & Management Group

NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

To create a new play is to commit to whatever journey that story and the characters within it take you on. I must admit that no play has taken me on as wild a ride nor has any play forced me to interrogate or reckon with my own identity as a Black artist as much as minor ity has over the last five years. When Colt Coeur first approached me with an offer of a commission in 2020, I had the faint character sketches of three Black interdisciplinary intergenerational artists, a loose international festival setting and a question that lived deep in my belly. It's a question that Cheikh, a Senegalese-British storyteller, poses to Céza, a Cape Verdean painter with whom he has history: is it worth the cost?

It's undeniable that the art world is one plagued with scarcity and that artists of color are forced to navigate this world with a sharpness that threatens to taint spirits and spirit. The play asks for selfreflection, for generosity and for an expansiveness of what it means to not only succeed but to succeed together. I send the warmest thank you to all the folks at Colt Coeur and WP, all the actors who have participated in each workshop and whom I hope can see the essence of their contributions layered into this production, the designers and the dramaturgs, Alim who has been more than a griot consultant but a brother, and Shariffa whose artistic direction and sisterhood has restored my faith in theatre's collaborative process. Together we have aspired to tell stories about artists from the African Diaspora who don't often get a chance to be bold, messy, vulnerable, seen. And we've done it through a process that centers play without punishment, relationship over transaction and taps into both the sacred and unabashed history of theatre.

francisca da silveira

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This play is an ode to every artist navigating the search for their place in a world that often feels divided. It speaks to the struggles of finding home in a society that commodifies culture and too often places profit over authenticity. Through this process, we have discovered our own sense of belonging in the words, the set, and the community that has come together to bring this work to life. Each hand that has touched this production—whether in development workshops, rehearsal, design, or performance—has contributed to creating something larger than any one individual.

As the African proverb reminds us, "If you want to travel fast, go alone; if you want to travel far, go together." This play stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and the strength we find when we unite in purpose and vision. It is through this shared journey that we have found our collective voice, and it is our hope that you, too, will find something of your own in the world we've created.

- Shariffa Ali

COMMUNITY PARTNERS







ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Post Show Kora Concert and Stories with Salieu Suso

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Black Theater Night Out

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Griot Storytelling Workshop with Alim Kamara

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Childcare Matinee

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Finances for Artists Talkback with fran da silveira

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

ASL Interpreted

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 THURSDAY, APRIL 17 FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Open Captioned Performances

*support for open captioning provided by Theatre Development Fund's (TDF) TAP Plus program

ABOUT COLT COEUR THEATER COMPANY

Colt Coeur is a Brooklyn-based theatre company founded in 2010. Our original, story-driven, visceral theatre embraces the power of intimate live performance—it pulls you close and doesn't let go. Our community of artists nurtures and invests in diverse perspectives to produce work that challenges the boundaries between tradition and experimentation. We embrace the ambivalence, terror and exhilaration of our time with theatre that is an antidote to the pervasive cultural illness of loneliness. We explore themes of coming-of-age, individual and collective identity, nostalgia and history, public versus private, love, lust, and loss.

Through our unique collective process, every theatre artist—actor, playwright, designer—takes part in shared invention and collaborative creation; creating heart- and mind-opening audience experiences unlike any other. We nurture the next generation of theatre artists by providing access, education and a professional pipeline, while amplifying voices and perspectives that have historically been sidelined.

Our 27-member ensemble of actors, designers, playwrights, and directors incubates the next generation of theatre artists through the development and production of new plays—which we create from scratch. Over 15 years, Colt Coeur has produced 18 world premieres, two NY premieres, developed over 50 plays, and provided free arts intensives for over 200 students. We pride ourselves on being a laboratory for exploration while also nurturing the work of emerging artists and providing them a launch pad for their visions.

Colt Coeur has a tremendous reputation among artists and audiences alike. The company is renowned for its high artistic standards, and artists who work with Colt Coeur have gone on to contribute to and excel in every level of the entertainment industry. Colt Coeur has helped launch the multi-faceted careers of Timothée Chalamet, Ato Essandoh, Betty Gilpin, Steven Levenson, Ana Nogueira, and Joe Tippett, among many others. All 18 of Colt Coeur's premieres explored themes of resonance to our times and garnered rave reviews, award recognition, and future productions. Highlights include sold-out premierer runs of *Dry Land* by Ruby Rae Spiegel, *Eureka Day* by Jonathan Spector, and *Seven Minutes in Heaven* by Steven Levenson. Recent world premieres have included *Dodi & Diana* by Kareem Fahmy and *Hatef**k* by Rehana Lew Mirza (co-pro with WP). Last spring Colt Coeur presented the New York premiere of *STILL* by Lia Romeo, which went on to receive a commercial Off-Broadway production in early 2025.

COCO STAFF:

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COLT COEUR MAKES THEATRE THAT PULLS YOU CLOSE AND DOESN'T LET GO.

COLT COEUR WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR INCREDIBLE DONORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT!

(donations of \$100 and above made May 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025)

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- Transformative Workshop We partnered with griot Alim Kamara to workshop francisca da silveira's *minor*ity*, building momentum for its much-anticipated premiere in April 2025.
- 15 Years of Free Arts Access Our annual Education Initiative served NYC students for the 15th year, opening doors for the next generation of creative thinkers and storytellers.
- Commercial Success Our acclaimed production of Still by Lia Romeo, is now set for a commercial transfer in early 2025—bringing Colt Coeur's vision to even larger audiences.
- Supporting New Voices With nearly 200 applications, we handpicked nine Resident Artists through our Open Call, cultivating the talent that will define tomorrow's theatre.
- Mentorship that Lasts Our internship and mentorship programs have never been stronger, connecting emerging artists with experienced mentors for real-world growth and professional success.
- Record-Breaking Benefit Bash This year's Benefit Bash, our most successful yet, celebrated honorees Juliana Canfield & Deborah DeCotis and raised essential support for our mission.
- Growing Our Team We welcomed Maya Smoot as our new Director of Education & Outreach and expanded our company with 13 new members, enhancing our capacity to serve and inspire.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE

ABOUT WP THEATER:

WP Theater, now in its 47th Season, is the nation's oldest and largest theater company dedicated to developing, producing and promoting the work of Women+ at every stage in their careers. For almost five decades, we have served as leaders at the forefront of a global movement towards gender parity, and the example we set and the artists we have fostered have grown into a robust and thriving community of artists in theater and beyond. WP Theater received a 2018 Lucille Lortel Award, a 2019 Obie Award, and a 2020 Drama Desk Award, all for Outstanding Body of Work, recognizing WP's unique place and vital work in the theatrical landscape. WP empowers Women+ of all kinds to reach their full potential and, in doing so, challenges preconceptions about the kinds of plays Women+ write and the stories they tell. As the premiere launching pad for some of the most influential Women+ theater artists today, our work has had a significant impact on the field at large. Nearly every prolific female theater artist has been through our doors, including 2024 Tony Winner for Best Direction of a Musical, Danya Taymor, 2019 Tony Winner for Best Direction of a Musical, Rachel Chavkin, 2018 Tony Winner for Best Direction of a Play, Rebecca Taichman, 2013 Tony Winner for Best Direction of a Play, Pam MacKinnon, 2013 Tony Winner for Best Direction of a Musical, Diane Paulus, 2023 Pulitzer Prize Winner Eboni Booth, 2018 Pulitzer Prize Winner Martyna Majok, and two-time Pulitzer Prize Winner Lynn Nottage. These powerful women found an artistic home at WP and are a testament to our role as a driving cultural force.

WP was founded in 1978 by visionary producer, Julia Miles, to address the significant under-representation of women in theater. Today, WP accomplishes its mission through several fundamental programs, including: the WP Lab, a celebrated two-year mentorship and new play development program for Women+ playwrights, directors, and producers; the Space Program subsidized rental program; the Developmental series of workshops and readings; the Commissioning series, and the Mainstage series, which features a full season of Off-Broadway productions written and directed by extraordinary theater artists. Current artists under commission are: Donnetta Lavinia Grays, Emily Kaczmarek, MJ Kaufman, Zizi Majid, Rehana Mirza, Zoe Sarnak, Rachel Wax, and Leah Nanako Winkler. WP is proud to have the legendary New Federal Theater as our Resident Company.

When we say Women+ we mean: cis women, trans, non-binary, or gender-nonconforming people and all gender identities which have been systematically oppressed throughout history in the theater and beyond.

For more information, please visit www.WPTheater.org.

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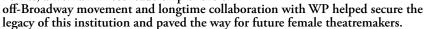
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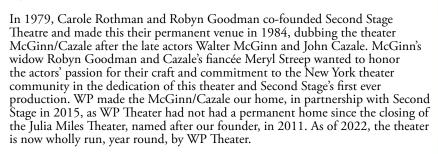
ABOUT THIS THEATER:

WP Theater stands on Lenape Land. Before this building came into existence, this was wooded land filled with villages of families active with trading and gathering spaces. While descendants of those first families live in this area today, many Indigenous People were forcibly removed with the arrival of European settler colonists. It was on an empty corner lot of this land that a small church was built, then taken apart and rebuilt into this building.

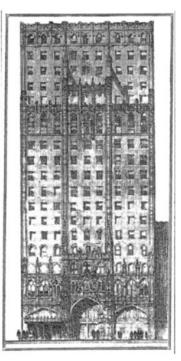
The "skyscraper church" that holds this theater, once the Manhattan Congregational Church, has housed many businesses and residents since its construction in 1930, including 200 WAVES during World War II. In 1969, the first-floor auditorium of the church was transformed into the Promenade Theatre, named after its inaugural production: the María Irene Fornés musical, Promenade, a show recently revived at Encores! Off-Center.

Though WP's theater sits on the third floor, we are delighted to produce work in a building with a theatrical history forged by Fornés, a woman whose leadership of the off-





To encourage this growth, Jann Leeming, Board Chair Emerita, and Executive Director and Senior Trustee of the Royal Little Family Foundation, generously gifted WP a founding grant to support our first three years' residence in this building. WP Theater now celebrates nearly 50 years of challenging preconceptions about the kinds of stories Women+ tell and working towards gender parity in theater. Since WP Theater mounted its inaugural production in this venue, the New York premiere of Dear Elizabeth by Sarah Ruhl, we have been honored to make this storied theater a home for Women+ to reach their full potential.



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For nearly 50 years, WP Theater has remained focused on putting Women+ artists center stage, and that mission has never been more important. Our #WPCommunity includes all of us: artists, donors, staff, audiences, local businesses, and YOU! Your support helps us continue the vital, resilient, and necessary work of Women+ artists-we are so grateful to you for your support

There are various Benefits of Giving available at each contribution level. Learn more about those benefits here.

If you enjoyed the show and want to support WP's mission, please consider donating here.

Thank you so much for joining us for



#minorityplay



