

# OUT-WRIGHT

*continues . . .*

## the Fresh Fruit Festival MONOLOGUES PROJECT



### Winter 2022 “Caring” Developmental LGBTQ filmed solos

Presented by All Out Arts

January - February, 2022  
New York City  
Public viewing & voting



***“The invincible shield of Caring is a weapon from the sky  
Against being dead.”*** – Lao Tzu

This iconic excerpt from the *Tao Te Ching* gave us the theme for the project: Writers submitted scripts from which seven semi-finalists were chosen to produce films.

The Festival provided dramaturgical advice and post production editing. The authors, working under strenuous “virtual” conditions imposed by the current epidemic, are now presented on the Festival’s YouTube Channel for public viewing and voting.

## **the 2022 Monologues Project**

Series Curator, Louis Lopardi

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# **A Suicide Moon**

written and performed by **Dylan Gurrera**

*A nonbinary person preparing for a night out, is seeking the most apt metaphor to describe their gender expression.*

Author’s Note: I am really interested in a person who is trying to make up their mind about their gender; what the right metaphor for their gender is, and how to present that. I’m curious if the metaphors stick or if they just dilute the meaning.



**Dylan Gurrera** is a nonbinary dramaturg, writer, and performer working in New York City with a focus on queer performance art. From new play development to writing their own work, Dylan investigates queerness, mental illness, and societal systems through a compassionate and critical lens. They are currently working on

an Untitled Work in Progress which seeks to find a perception of self beyond borderline personality disorder, beyond their trauma, and beyond the cursed crown of codependency through a solo drag cabaret as a part of a residency at La MaMa ETC. In addition, Dylan has worked as a dramaturg on productions at Columbia University, The Brick Theatre, Exponential Festival, La MaMa, and Portland Stage Company. Dylan is currently in their thesis year at Columbia University, where they expect to graduate with their MFA in Dramaturgy come Spring 2022. [Dylan.gurrera@gmail.com](mailto:Dylan.gurrera@gmail.com)

# Christmas

by Jeffrey James Keyes

directed by Aaron Salazar

featuring Chima Chikazunga

*“Eric manages to embrace the holidays while coping with the loss of his partner to COVID”*



**Chima Chikazunga:** actor/writer/director. FSU graduate. *Addressless* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater), *Solace* (Emergent Theatre Project), *The Eye of the Wake* (Eclectics Festival, MITF), *DUTCHMAN* (New Federal), *For Chance* (DUAF), *Me or You* (The Breath Project), *Sophies Sweet 16*, *For Chance*, *The Accidental Kiss* (TFNC DREAM UP FESTIVAL) *The Overwhelming* (Company One). His play *3 the Hard Way* was part of 11th Annual DUTF, semi-finalist in the Mentor Project, and presented MITF. *Echoes of a Lost Son* was a 2019 PATV WINNER. Other works have been developed by

Classical Theatre of Harlem, Negro Ensemble Company, INTAR, AND Theatre Co., TFNC. Grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Jeffrey and Aaron and bring this powerful new piece to life. [info.forchance@gmail.com](mailto:info.forchance@gmail.com)

**Aaron Salazar** (he/him) is a Latinx New York City award-winning theatre director-producer and a pioneer in creating original immersive and experiential work. He is the Founder and Creative/Producing Director of Alvarez Keko Salazar Productions in New York City (AKS), which includes the award-winning Poseidon Theatre Company, of which he is the Founder and Producing Artistic Director. As a director & producer, Salazar specializes in non-proscenium site-specific works & activations, in both immersive live environments and hybrid interactive digital content & film. [Directorsalazar.com](http://Directorsalazar.com)

**Jeffrey James Keyes:** An interdisciplinary writer and artist, he is a New York Times best-selling author for *Killer Chef* (2016), which he co-authored with James Patterson. He won the inaugural L'Engle-Rahman Prize for Mentorship through PEN America. He is a recipient of the 2019 Artist's Patron Fund and wrote the script for *Digital Arrest*, a new virtual reality experience that won the top prize in Creative Technology at NYC Media Lab '19. Producing credits include *Revealing* for Sundance, MTV's *True Life*, and *Out in GayCities* for Q.Digital. His short form audio plays are currently featured in the new podcast *DRAMA - an aural experience*, through Poseidon Theatre Company and he wrote an episode of the upcoming comedy series *Extra Room*. He is a regular contributor to *Metrosource* magazine and has previously contributed to *Queerty*, *Out*, *The Advocate*, *Passport*, and *Instinct* magazines. MFA Playwriting, Columbia University. [jeffreyjameskeyes.com](http://jeffreyjameskeyes.com)

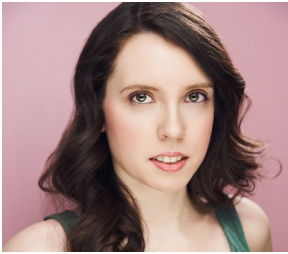
# 9D

written & performed by **Meaghan Beese**

*“Why is it so much easier to say the hard things out loud to strangers than to the people who care about you the most?”*

**Videography, Walter Beese**

Author’s note: This monologue is a study in how age, trauma, and familiarity factor into how we choose to express, or not express, vulnerability.



**Meaghan Beese** doesn't have a ton of fancy credits, but she's always happy to be invited to the party! A writer-performer from New Jersey, she is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University's Musical Theatre program as well as the core Improv program at Upright Citizens Brigade. She originated the role of Monica in her original one-act comedy *Fish, Chicken, Beef* at Manhattan Repertory Theatre. Her pandemic dramedy

*Sleeping Beauties* was published by StageAgent in 2020. @meg\_beese

# Glasál

written and performed by **Adin Lenahan**

*“How much can we truly know about another person . . .  
let alone another species?”*

Author’s note: This monologue will be part of a longer work, about the relationship between a biologist studying eels and an eel farmer, and *their* direct relation to eels themselves.



**Adin Lenahan**, is a writer, performer and administrative assistant. Their work has gone up at The WILD Project, The Tank, Dixon Place, Ars Nova, Judson Memorial Church, and The New Ohio, among other venues. They are also on the board of Undiscovered Countries, a Brooklyn-based incubator of new and developing art. [adinlenahan.com](http://adinlenahan.com)

# Mother's Child

written and directed by Cris Eli Blak

*"A woman finds acceptance in learning to love herself while still hoping that her family will see her for who she was born to be."*

Author's note: A woman who happens to be both a Black woman and a lesbian in America is searching for acceptance, searching for care from both the wider society and her own family. I think we can all relate to wanting to be seen and heard, wanting to know that someone is in our corner, hoping that the people in our lives will care about who we love, that they at least try to understand.

**Sasha Schwartz**, Technical Video and Animation



**Cris Eli Blak** is a playwright whose work has been produced from Off-Broadway, to the West Coast, London, Australia, Canada and Ireland. He is developing new work with American Stage, Derby City Playwrights, and Et Alia Theater. He was the resident playwright at Fosters Theatrical Artists Residency and was shortlisted for the Alpine Fellowship Theatre Prize. He

strives to create work that reflects the world we live in, with all of its different and diverse colors, creeds and cultures.



STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

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The Festival is grateful to the staff of the Screen Actors' Guild, American Federation of Television & Radio Artists, the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society, and the Actors' Equity Association for their understanding and guidance during this time of national health emergency.



**SAG-AFTRA**

# The Last Reading of Charlotte Cushman

written & performed by Carolyn Gage

*Author's Note: Charlotte Cushman was the greatest American actress of the nineteenth century. As a large butch and a very public lesbian, she has been written out of theatre history. In this excerpt, Charlotte narrates an unforgettable experience she had with a dying prostitute as she was researching the role of Nancy Sykes from Oliver Twist.*



**Carolyn Gage** is a playwright, performer, director, and activist. The author of nine anthologies of her lesbian and feminist themed plays and eighty-three plays, musicals, and one-woman shows, she specializes in non-traditional roles for women, especially those reclaiming famous lesbians whose stories have been distorted or erased from history. Many of her plays center on radical narratives for survivors of sexual violence. [carolyngage.weebly.com](http://carolyngage.weebly.com)

# The Laundromat

written & performed by Juan Carlos Salgado

filmed & directed by Robert Jesus Gomez

Born and raised in Bushwick, Brooklyn, **Robert Jesus Gomez** is an Ecuadorian interdisciplinary artist. His work revolves around being a native living in a growing cosmopolitan area that is New York City. [robertjesusgomez@gmail.com](mailto:robertjesusgomez@gmail.com)



**Juan Carlos Salgado** - born and raised in Brooklyn, New York - has always found the arts powerful where we get to create voices that give us responsibility. He's learned his craft at the Borough of Manhattan Community College majoring in theater. He has written other plays that have gotten the chance to be part of festivals. Writing itself is fun; but as well as writing this piece he will also be performing it. Juan Carlos

would like to give a special thanks to everyone for allowing him to be part of this amazing Festival. [Salgadojuancarlos42@gmail.com](mailto:Salgadojuancarlos42@gmail.com)

# Upcoming Festival Programs

The 2022 RadioPLAYS - On **Fresh Fruit Radio**  
Our Winter series, with new plays monthly  
Wherever you listen to Podcasts, or on our website

The 2022 MAINSTAGE Plays, May 2 - 14

The Spring Developmental Readings, June 2022  
on YouTube's Fresh Fruit Channel

**[details at FreshFruitFestival.Com](https://www.freshfruitfestival.com)**

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## **Dennis Corsi - Artistic Director, All Out Arts**

Dennis Corsi (he/they) is a queer director specializing in new work development and queer work. As a certified health & wellness coach, he fosters rehearsal rooms that prioritize well-being. His directing style is fast-paced and bold. Transitions are rehearsed as much as the rest of the play. His casting always prioritizes diversity and inclusion. Dennis is currently studying ASL. His dream is to one day stage a killer exorcism. Dennis is the Director of New Works at Live & In Color, a creative incubator developing new plays and musicals celebrating diversity. Dennis is the co-director of the Chesley Chambers Playwrights Project at TOSOS, NYC's oldest and longest-producing LGBTQ+ theater company. He is currently assistant directing the Boston premiere of *The Inheritance* at SpeakEasy Stage. Dennis is an alumnus of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab, Directors Lab West, and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation Observership program. Associate Member SDC. [www.denniscorsi.com](http://www.denniscorsi.com)

## **Louis Lopardi - Executive Director, All Out Arts**

Artistic Director of the 30-year-old Company Of Players, Louis has directed such staples as *Equus*, *Wozzeck*, *Three-penny Opera*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Don Giovanni*, considerable Shakespeare & Brecht, and Dutch, German, & Russian theatre & opera, both here and in Europe. At the Chekhov Theatre he has directed Fassbinder's *Petra von Kant*, *Lysistrata*, *Cyrano*, and his own plays *The Frankenstein Journals* and *Visiting Grishka*. Louis has received OOB & other awards for Lighting, Sound Design, Original Music, Playwriting, Direction, and has been awarded by the AFM Musicians' Union for "promoting live music for the dance." Better known as a Director, Louis is a published poet and author whose other stage works include a new edition of Buchner's *Woyzeck* and the nationally acclaimed *Purgatory Project*, in which we examine current mores by visiting 4 great figures of the past in purgatories of their own creation. – SDC



**“Fighting Prejudice Through The Arts”**

Executive Director - Louis Lopardi

Artistic Director - Dennis Corsi

Chairman, Fresh Fruit Festival - Jeffrey G. Leeds

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