

OUT-WRIGHT

continues . . .

the Fresh Fruit Festival

MONOLOGUES > Filmed Project



Summer 2023 “Seeing”
LGBTQ solo films preview

A part of the 23-24-25 Fresh Fruit Festival

Curated by Frank Calo
& Louis Lopardi

issue: July-August 2023
New York City



“Patroclus died because He could not see What he really was inside His lover’s armor..”

– Jericho Brown

Do you see things? - dead people, ancient monuments, words floating in air? If you close your eyes are you invisible? Kiss with eyes open? Shut? Have you seen it all? What do you see when looking at yourself? or others? or Art? - Really SEE?

The dazzling imagery by Jericho Brown gave us our rather abstract theme for this year’s ongoing project: “Seeing.” We quote from his 2018 poem “Trojan,” which appears in a book-length anthology titled *The Tradition*, Cooper Canyon Press. Goodreads called it “A striking poetry collection considering Blackness, queerness, history, and intimacy.” It won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for poetry. You can hear the author reading this one-minute poem at: poetryfoundation.org/play/148122

From ongoing submissions we select semi-finalists and shepherd them through the process of turning their thoughts into short films. Monologues receive cash stipends to both Authors and Videographers.

The Festival provides technical or dramaturgical advice and some post production as requested. Upon completion, each of these previews on the Festival’s YouTube Channel. Later in the season there will be a reprise public viewing and voting period for awards.

Learn more about this and our many other projects on our website: FreshFruitFestival.Com
It has everything you need to know.

The Monologues>Filmed Project

Presented in alphabetical order by title

The Bettys

written, directed and performed
by Reneé Flemings

A re-imagined scene from 2012 . . .

On a very hung-over morning a landline phone can be a treacherous thing. Only someone who can truly see themselves will find humor and warmth in a situation primed for disaster. -AOA



Recipient of a residency with ART OMI (2022); an Age Legacy Grant (2022) and the 2020 Quick Silver Theatre Company POC Summit. Plays include *Strange Weather*, (An O'Neill finalist) (readings at Roundabout Theatre Company (NYC), New Federal Theatre, The New Professional Theatre's). *With All Deliberate Speed* (commissioned by N.J. NAACP), *We RIDE!* (Book & lyrics), *empty spaces* (2023 O'Neill Semi-Finalist), The book and lyrics for *Love, Rose* (Readings @ 92nd St. Y and Transgressions Festival of New Works @ HB Studios) Additional plays include *The Brotherhood*, *Rendered*, *Daddy's Home*, *Coyote Calls*, *Monsters*, *Second Hand Smoke*, *Legend*, *BFFS*, *Good Old Days*, *Scars* (Sam French Finalist), *The Box* (Production @ B2 Theatre, Phoenix Arizona) and *The Jam*, (at The Blank Theatre in Los Angeles, CA). Solo shows include: *The Bible Belt*, *...secrets*, and *Women, Power and The Bard*. Publications include *Bounce & Roll*, *Bel Canto*, *Rewind* and *The Visitation* (Bechdel Plays) and monologues in the Best Men's Stage Monologues (2007) and Best Women's Stage Monologues (2021). Reneé is a member of the Dramatist Guild, Honor Roll, AEA, SAG-AFTRA and NPX. Reneé is also a singer/songwriter with the band Alias Smith and Jones.

Videography by Sal Carolei



An experienced filmmaker he has worked in the film industry for over thirty years. As a film technician he has worked on numerous commercials, indie films and music videos as well as episodes of Saturday Night Live in recent years. Sal's projects include the documentaries *Nothin' But The Blues*, *Artisans* (for the international restaurant franchise, EATALY) and *Wine Noir* (recognized by *Wine Spectator* as an outstanding video about wine), the short films in collaboration with Reneé Flemings include *The Brotherhood* and *Blue Light Specials*. Sal has also filmed music videos for many up and coming bands. He is an accomplished musician himself playing blues harp with the band Alias Smith and Jones. (aliasmithandjonesnyc.com)



SEEING

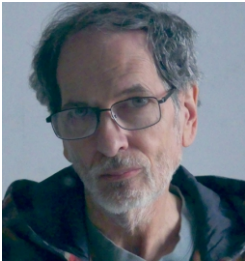
“Patroclus died
because he could not
was see what he really
 inside his lover’s armor”

- Jericho Brown, from *Trojan*, in "Tradition" - Copper Canyon Press 2019



Frank Calo - Artistic Director & Production Manager, The Fresh Fruit Festival, is the Producer of Spotlight-On Festivals since 1999, and a former Artistic Director of All Out Arts. Along with serving as our Production Manager for the Mainstage events, he has produced numerous large-scale festivals in NYC as well as smaller events including variety, cabarets, and specialty shows throughout the tri-state area. He is also the co-founder of NY’s Planet Connections Festivity and co-

produced its first season in 2009. As a stage director, his work has appeared at the Théâtre de Nesle in Paris and numerous other venues.



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 Buchner’s *Woyzeck* and the nationally acclaimed *Purgatory Project*, in which we examine current mores by visiting great figures of the past in purgatories of their own creation. – SDC



“Fighting Prejudice Through The Arts”

Executive Director - Louis Lopardi
Curator & Production Manager - Frank Calo
Chairman, Fresh Fruit Festival - Jeff Goodman

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Our programs made possible in part with support from: The New York City Dept. of Cultural Affairs, and the New York City Council

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The LGBT Community Center, Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation, Nuyorican Poets Café, The Wild Project, Bowery Arts & Science, Stonewall Community Development Corporation, Gay City News, and The Village Voice

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Aprio Consulting, Hon. Gale Brewer, Ellie Coven, Bill Crouch, Myles Cohen, Inez E. Dickens, Erin M. Drinkwater, Daniel Gallant, Hon. Daniel Garodnick, Todd Geringswald, Jeff Goodman, Manny Igrejas, Hon. Robert Jackson, Jerry Kajpust, Lisa Kaplan, Saul Menard, Bill Murray, Hon. Jessica Lapin, Richard Larkin, Charles Leslie, Margaret Lundin, Paul Nagle, Hon. Domenic Recchia, Robert J. Reicher, Esq., Adam Rimes, William Rollo, Floyd Ruhmor, Tony Serrano, the family of Bruce Kessler (Keith Angora)

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