

## LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES THE JOAN JACOBS 2025/2026 SEASON

**SUBSCRIPTION SLATE TO FEATURE TWO WORLD-PREMIERE MUSICALS  
HELMED BY PLAYHOUSE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR CHRISTOPHER ASHLEY:  
*WORKING GIRL AND THE HEART*  
PLUS THREE BRAND NEW PLAYS AND A TONY-NOMINATED BROADWAY HIT**

**SEASON WILL ALSO INCLUDE ANNUAL WOW FESTIVAL  
AND NEW STAND-ALONE WOW EVENT: *THE UNFAIR ADVANTAGE***

La Jolla, CA — La Jolla Playhouse announces the **Joan Jacobs 2025/2026 season**, named for Playhouse Trustee Emerita and philanthropist Joan Jacobs, who passed away in May, 2024.

The new season will feature two world-premiere musicals directed by Tony Award winner **Christopher Ashley**, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse (*Come From Away*): ***WORKING GIRL***, music and lyrics by Tony and Grammy Award winner **Cyndi Lauper**, book by **Theresa Rebeck**, based on the Twentieth Century Fox motion picture written by Kevin Wade; and ***THE HEART***, book and additional lyrics by **Kait Kerrigan**, music and lyrics by **Anne Eisendrath** and **Ian Eisendrath**, based on *Réparer les Vivants*, by Maylis de Kerangal.

The season will also include the Tony Award-nominated play ***JAJA'S AFRICAN HAIR BRAIDING***, by **Jocelyn Bioh**, directed by **Whitney White**, co-produced with Arena Stage, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Chicago Shakespeare Theater, in association with Madison Wells Live and LaChanze; as well as the world premieres of ***INDIAN PRINCESSES***, by **Eliana Theologides Rodriguez**, directed by **Miranda Cornell**; ***ALL THE MEN WHO'VE FRIGHTENED ME***, a Playhouse commission by **Noah Diaz**, directed by Playhouse Directing Fellow **Kat Yen**, developed during the Playhouse's 2021 DNA New Work Series; and **a new play about Julia Child** (title to be announced), by **Claudia Shear** (Playhouse's *Restoration*), directed by **Lisa Peterson** (Playhouse's *An Iliad*), based on the book *Dearie* by Bob Spitz.

Prior to the start of the subscription season, La Jolla Playhouse will mount its annual **WOW Festival**, presented in partnership with **UC San Diego**, taking place on the UC San Diego campus **April 24 – 27, 2025**. The Playhouse will also present a stand-alone WOW event: ***THE UNFAIR ADVANTAGE***, created and performed by **Harry Milas**, to run **February 25 – March 23, 2025**.

“This year’s season – named in honor of the extraordinary Joan Jacobs and her remarkable impact on our theatre and far beyond – features a wonderful mix of new voices, Playhouse veterans, theatrical rock stars...and one *actual* rock star. All of these works are truly heart-forward while engaging with complex issues and thought-provoking themes,” said **Ashley**. “We’ll kick off the subscription slate with a Tony-nominated Broadway hit that I feel is a can’t-miss experience for San Diego audiences. We’ll also be mounting three world-premiere plays by three riveting writers, each of whom brings their singular vision to works that are at once deeply personal and universally relatable. Additionally, I’m delighted to be directing two brand new musicals this season: *Working Girl*, based on the beloved ‘80s film, but very much in conversation with our current moment, and *The Heart*, an adrenaline-fueled, genre-defying show that is unlike any project I’ve directed before. These six productions – along with our WOW programming – make for an unforgettable season that epitomizes the Playhouse’s commitment to developing new work for the American theatre.”

Tickets for the Playhouse’s 2025/2026 season are currently available via a subscription purchase at [lajollaplayhouse.org](http://lajollaplayhouse.org) or by calling (858) 550-1010.

## ABOUT THE 2025/2026 SEASON

### ***Jaja's African Hair Braiding***

By Jocelyn Bioh

Directed by Whitney White

A Co-Production with Arena Stage, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater

In Association with Madison Wells Live and LaChanze

May/June, 2025

Direct from Broadway, this dazzling production welcomes you into Jaja's bustling shop in Harlem, where a lively and eclectic group of West African hair braiders create masterpieces on the heads of neighborhood women. During one sweltering summer day, love will blossom, dreams will flourish and friendships will be tested. When their uncertain circumstances boil over, this tight-knit group must confront what it means to be outsiders in the place they call home. *The Guardian* called it "rapturous," and *The New York Times* raved: "Full of treasurable moments, when the drama feels tightly woven with the comedy." Featuring humor as entertaining as its characters, this extraordinary play by Ghanaian-American playwright Jocelyn Bioh celebrates courage, community and the indomitable spirit of women.

### ***Indian Princesses***

World Premiere

By Eliana Theologides Rodriguez

Directed by Miranda Cornell

July/August, 2025

In the summer of 2008, five young girls of color and their white fathers show up at a community center. With emotions ranging from excited to downright suspicious, some are more ready than others to embark on this adventurous father-daughter bonding program. Over their time as the "Winnebago Tribe," they navigate the joy and confusion of childhood amidst myriad challenges: burgeoning friendships, unfulfilled crushes, intergenerational struggles, grief, financial insecurity and the frustration of not being seen for who you truly are. Eliana Theologides Rodriguez is an exhilarating new voice whose work centers on young women. *Indian Princesses* is based on a real-life YMCA father-daughter program she participated in as a child, which still exists today under different names. Both laugh-out-loud funny and delicately tender, this delightful new play delves into the quirky, messy and magical moments of growing up, while exploring the complexities of race, heritage and family.

### ***The Heart***

World-Premiere Musical

Based on *Réparer les Vivants* by Maylis de Kerangal

Book and additional lyrics by Kait Kerrigan

Music and Lyrics by Anne Eisendrath and Ian Eisendrath

Directed by Christopher Ashley

August/September, 2025

When a young surfer's life is cut short, it means a second chance for a woman who had been making peace with her terminal illness. Over the course of 24 suspenseful hours in San Diego, we follow one precious heart on its vital, life-saving journey from donor to recipient, and meet the people whose lives are impacted along the way. With a gripping book by Kait Kerrigan (Broadway's *The Great Gatsby*), and helmed by the Playhouse's own Tony-winning Artistic Director Christopher Ashley, *The Heart* is based on the highly lauded novel by Maylis de Kerangal, *Réparer les Vivants*. Anne Eisendrath and Ian Eisendrath (music supervisor of *Come From Away*) have crafted a uniquely epic, surging electronic score that takes inspiration from the world of the high-tech hospital. This breathtaking new musical is an enlightening, edge-of-your-seat ride on a powerful wave of emotion.

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### ***All the Men Who've Frightened Me***

World Premiere, La Jolla Playhouse Commission

By Noah Diaz

Directed by Kat Yen

September/October, 2025

Young married couple Ty and Nora are preparing to move into Ty's childhood home to start a family. While they are busy choosing paint colors, lamps and throw pillows, they learn that Nora is unable to carry the child they so desperately want. So Ty, a trans man, makes the impulsive decision to carry the baby himself. Preparations for parenthood begin to collapse when three mysterious men from Ty's past inexplicably begin appearing in their new home. Noah Diaz's rich, multi-layered drama is full of shrewd insights and humor. Helmed by Playhouse Directing Fellow Kat Yen, *All The Men Who've Frightened Me* is the 12<sup>th</sup> play to make the jump from the DNA New Work Series to the main stage. Expect the unexpected in this wildly surprising family story with a huge heart.

### ***Working Girl***

World-Premiere Musical

Music and Lyrics by Cyndi Lauper

Book by Theresa Rebeck

Based on the Twentieth Century Fox Motion Picture Written by Kevin Wade

Directed by Christopher Ashley

November/December, 2025

Tess McGill is a Staten Island secretary with big dreams and even bigger ideas, but when her scheming boss Katharine Parker steals one, Tess decides to take matters into her own hands. With Katharine unexpectedly out of town, Tess seizes the chance to prove herself, making a bold business move that could change her life forever. With some help from her savvy friends and a charming businessman, she's got one shot to pull it off – before the boss returns! This sharp and hilarious adaptation of the iconic 1988 film features an exhilarating original score by the legendary Cyndi Lauper, a smart, fresh book from award-winning playwright Theresa Rebeck, and direction by Playhouse Artistic Director Christopher Ashley. *Working Girl* is the ultimate corporate Cinderella story that's just as much about the power of friendship as it is about chasing ambition and success.

### **A new play about Julia Child** (title to be announced soon)

World Premiere

By Claudia Shear

Based on the Book *Dearie* by Bob Spitz

Directed by Lisa Peterson

February/March, 2026

Before Julia Child became the TV personality we all know, she was a rambunctious rebel against the privileged but bland life expected of her. Directionless but driven, careening from Pasadena to New York to Washington D.C. to Ceylon and finally to Paris's famed Cordon Bleu cooking school, she battled long odds, too-short sleeves, and her own self-doubt before finding both her calling and her true love, her husband Paul Child. Two-time Tony Award nominee Claudia Shear and two-time Obie Award winner Lisa Peterson return to the Playhouse with a funny, colorful and delicious new play about the early life of an endlessly fascinating character – Julia, a girl from Pasadena – and her path from confusion to discovery, fear to strength, failure to success.

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## WOW PROGRAMMING

### ***The Unfair Advantage***

February 25 – March 23, 2025

Created and Performed by Harry Milas

Produced by Pemberley Productions and Parrot Ox

Harry Milas takes audiences on a journey of deception, into a world that very few have experienced and even fewer talk about. *The Unfair Advantage* is a rare and intimate experience, as audiences experience the secrets of card cheating. Already a highly lauded magician, Harry reveals the secrets behind his skills as a sought-after security weapon for the world's top casinos. Before participating in the experience, audiences of just 35 people at a time will be asked to sign a legal contract of confidentiality. Harry explains, "Audience members will join me around a small table, as I reveal – step by step – how magicians, card cheaters and mentalists fool the world."

### **WOW Festival**

April 24 – 27, 2025

Presented in Partnership with UC San Diego

The 2025 WOW Festival will feature four action-packed days of theatre, dance, music, puppetry, spectacle events and more, with multiple performances by renowned local, national and international artists occurring throughout the weekend. A complete roster of artists and projects will be announced in the coming months.

**La Jolla Playhouse** is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 120 world premieres, commissioning 70 new works, and sending 36 productions to Broadway, garnering a total of 42 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

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## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Tony Award winner **Christopher Ashley** (Director: *The Heart, Working Girl*) has served as La Jolla Playhouse's Rich Family Artistic Director since 2007. During his tenure, he directed the world premieres of *Come From Away*, *Babbitt*, *The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical*, *Diana*, *Memphis*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *The Squirrels*, *A Dram of Drummhicit*, *Restoration* and *Chasing the Song*, as well as *His Girl Friday*, *As You Like It*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Freaky Friday* and *Xanadu*. He also spearheaded the Without Walls (WOW) initiative, the DNA New Work Series and the Theatre-in-Residence program. Ashley recently directed *Come From Away* for AppleTV+ and *Diana: The Musical* for Netflix. Other screen credits include the feature films *Jeffrey* and *Lucky Stiff*, and the American Playhouse production of *Blown Sideways Through Life* for PBS. Broadway credits include *Come From Away* (Tony and Outer Critics Circle Awards), *Diana: The Musical*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Memphis* (Tony Award nomination), *Xanadu*, *Leap of Faith* (Drama Desk Award nomination), *All Shook Up* and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle Award nominations). He also helmed productions of *Come From Away* in London (Olivier Award nomination), Toronto, Australia and on national tour. Other national tours include *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Memphis*, *Xanadu*, *All Shook Up* and *Seussical: The Musical*. Additional New York stage credits include *Blown Sideways Through Life*, *Jeffrey* (Lucille Lortel and Obie Awards), *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, *Valhalla* (Lucille Lortel Award nomination), *Regrets Only*, *Wonder of the World*, *Communicating Doors*, *Bunny, Bunny*, *The Night Hank Williams Died* and *Fires in the Mirror* (Lucille Lortel Award), among others. He is the recipient of the Princess Grace Award, the Drama League Director Fellowship and an NEA/TCG Director Fellowship.

**Jocelyn Bioh** (Playwright: *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*) is an award-winning, Tony Award-nominated Ghanaian-American writer/performer from New York City. Her written works for theatre include: *Jaja's African Hair Braiding* (MTC) which premiered on Broadway in 2023 and was nominated for five Tony Awards including Best Play, *Merry Wives* (Public Theater/Shakespeare in the Park), *Nollywood Dreams* (MCC Theater), book writer for the Broadway-bound musical *Goddess* (Berkeley Rep, 2022 and upcoming at The Public Theater, Spring 2025); the multi-award-winning *School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play* (MCC, 2017), which has gone on to have over 70 regional productions and premiered in the UK in 2023. Jocelyn is the 2024 Horton Foote Prize Winner and has won several other writing awards including the Steinberg Playwright Award (2020), the Dramatist Guild Hull-Warriner Award (2018 and 2024), Lortel Award (2018), Drama Desk Award (2022), and was a 2017 Tow Playwriting Fellow. Jocelyn has also written for TV on *Russian Doll*, Spike Lee's *She's Gotta Have It* (Netflix), *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Hulu), the Star Wars series *The Acolyte* (Disney+), and is also writing the live screen adaptation of the hit Broadway musical *Once on This Island* for Disney.

**Miranda Cornell** (Director: *Indian Princesses*) is a Jewpanese director with a passion for the dialectic, the sincere, and the strange. She has directed and developed work with Roundabout Theatre Company, New York Theatre Workshop, Clubbed Thumb, Cleveland Play House, Stages Houston, Playwrights Realm, Ma-Yi and the Asian American Arts Alliance, among others. Associate and assistant directing credits with directors such as Danya Taymor, Robert Icke, Chay Yew, Michael Greif and Rachel Chavkin. Miranda is a former Van Lier Fellow in Theater at A4, a member of the Roundabout Directors Group Cohort 2, a 2022/23 2050 Artistic Fellow at NYTW, and a 2023/24 Clubbed Thumb New Play Directing Fellow. Miranda is thrilled to return to La Jolla Playhouse after serving as the associate director on *Kristina Wong*, *Sweatshop Overlord* and *The Outsiders* in the 2022/23 season, and is currently the Associate and Resident Director of *The Outsiders* on Broadway and upcoming North American tour. BA: Vassar College. [mirandacornell.com](http://mirandacornell.com)

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**Noah Diaz** (Playwright: *All the Men Who've Frightened Me*) is a playwright and screenwriter from the Iowa/Nebraska border. His plays have been produced by Roundabout Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Baltimore Center Stage, The Sol Project, and The Playwrights Realm, where he was a Page One Resident Playwright. Commissions from La Jolla Playhouse, Roundabout Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club/Sloan, Baltimore Center Stage, Audible/Amazon Studios, and Arena Stage. Noah is a recipient of the ASCAP Cole Porter Prize, a six-time recipient of playwriting awards from The Kennedy Center, and a nominee for an Outer Critics Circle Award. In television, he has written on *Nine Perfect Strangers* (Hulu), *Up Here* (Hulu), and *Joe vs. Carole* (Peacock), among others, and has developed projects for ABC, Hulu, 20th Television, The Walk-Up Company, Nyle DiMarco, and Eva Longoria's UnbeliEVAble Entertainment. M.F.A.: Yale School of Drama.

**Anne Eisendrath** (Music and Lyrics: *The Heart*) is an electronic music producer and singer/songwriter. A classically trained musician, Anne attended the University of Michigan where she completed a degree in vocal performance. Anne spent a decade as a musical theatre performer and professional singer in Seattle, and after the birth of her third child, Anne turned her artistic attentions to songwriting and music production. As a composer/lyricist, Anne combines her intense love of electronica with her obsession with poetry, story and classical music. She has recently contributed songs to Bethany Hall's one-woman comedy show *About Those Miscarriages And Other Messes I've Made*, featured Off-Broadway and also in the 2024 Montclair Film Festival. In addition to her musical theatre composition, she writes, records, produces and performs her own brand of theatrical synth-pop as the artist "Anniee." You can find her on instagram @anniee\_music.

**Ian Eisendrath** (Music and Lyrics: *The Heart*) is an Olivier Award-winning, Grammy-nominated music supervisor, music producer arranger and music director for theatre, film and television. Film/Television: Executive Music Producer for Disney's *Snow White*, *K-POP: Demon Hunters* (Sony Pictures Animation); *Only Murders in the Building* Season 3 (Hulu); *Spirited* (Apple); *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile* (Sony); *Diana: The Musical* (Netflix); Fox TV's *A Christmas Story Live*; and *Come From Away* (Apple TV+). Selected Theatre: Music Supervisor and Arranger for the Broadway, Toronto, North American, Australian and UK companies of *Come From Away*, *Diana: The Musical* (Broadway), *A Christmas Story* (Broadway and National Tour), and multiple projects at La Jolla Playhouse, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle Symphony, ACT, TUTS, Ordway, Casa Mañana, and the Banff Centre for the Arts. Ian was the Director of New Work Development and the Music Supervisor at the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre in Seattle from 2003 to 2016. University of Michigan Music graduate.

**Kait Kerrigan** (Book and Additional Lyrics: *The Heart*) is an award-winning book writer, lyricist, and playwright. Broadway: *The Great Gatsby* (book). West End: *The Time Traveller's Wife* (additional lyrics with a score by Joss Stone and Dave Stewart). Off-Broadway: *The Mad Ones* (book and lyrics), *Henry and Mudge* (book and lyrics). Additional regional credits include the musicals *Indigo* (book), *Justice* (lyrics), *Earthrise* (lyrics); the plays *Father/Daughter*, *Imaginary Love* and *Disaster Relief*. Her immersive house party *The Bad Years* (book and lyrics) had two sold-out pop-up productions in Brooklyn. Digital: *A Killer Party* (screenplay with co-writer Rachel Axler). She co-produced albums for *The Great Gatsby*; *The Mad Ones*; *Kerrigan-Lowdermilk Live*; and *Our First Mistake*, which hit #1 on the digital singer-songwriter charts. Her songs including viral hits "Run Away with Me" and "Go Tonight." Awards: Kleban Award for libretto, Jonathan Larson Award for lyric-writing, Most Promising Lyricist Award from the Theatre Hall of Fame, Edgerton Award for *Father/Daughter*, residencies at Page 73, Dramatists Guild Fellows, Rhinebeck, Goodspeed's Johnnie Mercer Project, and MacDowell. She is an alumna of Barnard College and the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop and a member of the Dramatists Guild. @kaitkerrigan on social media.

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**Cyndi Lauper** (Music and Lyrics: *Working Girl*) is a Grammy, Emmy, and Tony Award-winning songwriter and performing artist with global record sales in excess of 50 million. Her iconic voice, influential punk glamor, and infectious live shows have catapulted her to stardom. Lauper won the Grammy Award for Best New Artist with her first album, *She's So Unusual*, and became the first woman in history to have four top-five singles from a debut album, including her anthem "Girls Just Want To Have Fun." Lauper has released ten additional studio albums, featuring classics like "Time After Time" and "True Colors," and is a Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee and NY Times best-selling author. Lauper is also tireless in her advocacy work and has been an activist since day one, always fighting for the underdog – especially women, people living with HIV/AIDS, and the LGBTQ community. In 2006, she made her Broadway debut as a performer as part of Roundabout Theatre Company's acclaimed production of *Threepenny Opera*. In 2013, Lauper made her Broadway debut as a composer, writing music and lyrics for *Kinky Boots*, and became the first solo woman to win a Tony Award for Best Original Score. She also won a 2014 Grammy Award for the show's Cast Album. *Let the Canary Sing*, the definitive feature documentary film on her remarkable life and career, directed by Alison Ellwood, is now streaming on Paramount+, and her international Farewell Tour kicked off this fall. [Cyndilauper.com](http://Cyndilauper.com)

**Harry Milas** (Creator/Performer: *The Unfair Advantage*) is Australia's leading sleight of hand artist and magician, based in Sydney. His signature close up show *The Unfair Advantage* won the award for Best Magic and garnered five-star reviews at The Adelaide Fringe, the largest arts festival in the southern hemisphere, and has been in residence at the Sydney Harbour Bridge Pylon since the beginning of 2023. He regularly combines his work in magic and theatre as both a performer (Bondi Festival seance, Red-Line Productions Cascadia) and consultant having created the magic for Belvoir's *The Master and Margarita* and Red Line Production's *Just!*. His TV appearances are extensive and include the Today Show, ABC and The Disney Channel. He is a fixture in the Sydney improv scene, having won the coveted Cranston Cup twice (2015 and 2017) performing for 2000 people at the Enmore Theatre and hosting and directing the 2019 show. With his long-form improv partner Rob Johnson he sold out seasons across Sydney's independent theatres including The Old Fitz, Enmore Theatre and The Factory Theatre. He regularly appears for Australia's biggest companies and at the most exclusive event spaces. He was commissioned by Google to create a bespoke magic show for their 2023 Christmas event, and regularly entertains for Wetpac, Volkswagen, Cartier, GE, Uber, Optus, Adobe, Merivale, Johnson & Johnson and Qantas. He has performed all over Australia in such prestigious venues as Capella Sydney, Park Hayatt, QT, Crown Towers, The Four Seasons, The Shangri-La and Pier One.

**Lisa Peterson** (Director: a new play about Julia Child) is a two-time OBIE Award-winning director. She wrote and directed *An Iliad* with Denis O'Hare (NYTW, OBIE and Lortel Awards). Directing work includes the world premieres of plays by Doug Wright (*Good Night, Oscar* at the Goodman and on Broadway), Tony Kushner (*Slavs*, NYTW), Beth Henley (*Ridiculous Fraud*, McCarter), Donald Margulies (*Collected Stories*, MTC), Naomi Wallace (*Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*, NYTW), Jose Rivera, Culture Clash, Luis Alfaro, Chay Yew, Miranda Rose Hall and many more. She has directed classic plays at theatres across the country, including the Guthrie, Arena Stage, Hartford Stage, OSF, Baltimore Center Stage, Seattle Rep, ACT and South Coast Rep. She served as Associate Director at La Jolla Playhouse for three years, Associate Director at Berkeley Rep for three years, and Resident Director at CTG for ten years. She has developed many new plays at the Sundance Theatre Lab, where she served as the Guest Artistic Director in 2019, as well as at O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Playwrights' Center and Ojai Playwrights Conference. She is a recent recipient of the Gordon Davidson Award for Lifetime Achievement. Upcoming projects include *The Waves*, adapted from Virginia Woolf; *The Song of Rome*, with Denis O'Hare; and *The Idea of Order*, inspired by the poetry of Wallace Stevens, written with Todd Almond.

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**Theresa Rebeck** (Book: *Working Girl*) is an award-winning and widely-produced playwright whose work has been staged across the globe. Her most recent Broadway play, *I Need That* (starring Danny DeVito), premiered in fall 2023 at the Roundabout Theatre Company's American Airlines Theatre, where it broke the theater's record for the highest-grossing week of any show, play or musical. Additional Broadway: *Bernhardt/Hamlet*, *Dead Accounts*, *Seminar* and *Mauritius*. Other notable plays include the *New York Times* Critic's Pick *Dig* (which she also directed) at Primary Stages/59E59 Theaters' *Mad House*, which played a critically-acclaimed world premiere on London's West End starring David Harbour and Bill Pullman; *Seared* (MCC); *Downstairs* (Primary Stages); *The Scene*, *The Water's Edge*, *Loose Knit*, *The Family of Mann* and *Spike Heels* (Second Stage); *Bad Dates*, *The Butterfly Collection* and *Our House* (Playwrights Horizons); *The Understudy* (Roundabout); *View of the Dome* (NYTW); *What We're Up Against* (Women's Project); *Omnium Gatherum* (Pulitzer Prize finalist). As a director, her work has been seen at The Alley Theatre (Houston), the REP Company (Delaware), Dorset Theatre Festival, the Orchard Project and the Folger Theatre. Major film and television projects include *Trouble*, with Anjelica Huston, Bill Pullman and David Morse (writer and director), *NYPD Blue*, the NBC series *Smash* (creator), the female spy thriller *355* (for Jessica Chastain's production company), and her most recent film *Glimpse*, available for streaming now. As a novelist, Rebeck's books include *Three Girls and Their Brother* and *I'm Glad About You*. Rebeck is the recipient of the William Inge New Voices Playwriting Award, the PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Award, and a Lilly Award.

**Eliana Theologides Rodriguez** (Playwright: *Indian Princesses*) is a writer and dancer whose plays include *Indian Princesses* (2024 Terrence McNally Fellowship, 2023/2024 Playwrights Realm Writing Fellowship), *Marble Rooftop*, *Emma Has Church* (2024 O'Neill NPC Finalist, 2020 John Golden Award for Excellence in Playwriting), *Poor Queenie* (2021 Playwrights Realm Writing Fellowship Finalist, 2021 Goldberg Play Prize Finalist, 2020 Kennedy Center MFA Playwrights Workshop), and *Juniperfect* (2021 commission with Adventure Theatre MTC). She is currently under commission at South Coast Repertory and is a proud member of EST Youngblood and the Clubbed Thumb Early Career Writers Group 24/25. An upcoming production of *Poor Queenie* is scheduled for 2025 at Subtext Studio in Chicago. B.F.A.: NYU Tisch, Dramatic Writing.

**Claudia Shear's** (Playwright: a new play about Julia Child) Broadway credits include *The Smell of the Kill* (dir. Christopher Ashley, Drama League Award), *Dirty Blonde* (dir. James Lapine, Tony and Drama Desk Award nominations for Best Play and Best Actress, Drama League Award, Theatre World Award). London/West End: *Dirty Blonde*, *Chicago*. Off-Broadway: *Blown Sideways Through Life* (dir. Christopher Ashley, Obie Award, Drama Desk Award nomination); *Dirty Blonde*, *Restoration* (New York Theatre Workshop); *Evening at the Talk House* (The New Group). Regional: *The Smell of the Kill* (Berkshire Theatre Festival); *Dirty Blonde* (Kennedy Center; Helen Hayes Award nominations for Best Play and Best Actress; West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Dirty Blonde*, *End of the Day* (Williamstown Theatre Festival); *Blown Sideways Through Life* (Coronet Theatre); *Restoration* (La Jolla Playhouse). TV: *Friends*, *Earthly Possessions* (dir. James Lapine), *Blown Sideways Through Life* (dir. Chris Ashley; winner Montreux Rose d'Or). Film: *Living Out Loud*, *It Could Happen to You*, *The Opportunists*. Ms. Shear has also written for various publications, including *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Vogue* and *Travel & Leisure*. She is a member of the Sundance Screenwriters Lab, NYTW's Usual Suspects and The Dramatists Guild.

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**Whitney White** (Director: *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*) is an Obie Award and Lilly Award-winning, as well as a Tony Award-nominated, director, writer, and musician. She was a staff writer on Boots Riley's *I'm a Virgo* and is a believer of multi-disciplinary work and collaborative processes. Recent directing includes *Jaja's African Hair Braiding* (Broadway), *Jordans* (The Public Theater), *The Secret Life of Bees* (The Almeida, UK), *Soft* (MCC, *New York Times* Critic's Pick), *On Sugarland* (NYTW), *What to Send Up When It Goes Down* (*New York Times* Critic's Pick), *The Amen Corner* (Shakespeare Theatre DC), *An Iliad* (Long Wharf), *Canyon* (IAMA, *LA Times* Critic's Choice), *Jump* (PlayMakers Rep, National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere) and *The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington* (Step-pewolf Theatre). Original works include *Semblance* (NYTW), *Definition* (Bushwick Starr) and *Macbeth in Stride* (ART, The Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival), for which she won an Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Musical Performance. Her four-part cycle deconstructing Shakespeare's women is currently in development with ART and the Royal Shakespeare Company (UK). Whitney has developed work with Sundance, Roundabout, New York Theatre Workshop, The Vineyard, The New Group, Page 73, Playwrights Realm, Juilliard, Trinity Rep, NYU Tisch, Luna Stage, SUNY Purchase, Princeton University, Atlantic Theater Company Acting School, The Drama League, South Oxford, Jack, The Tank, New York Musical Theatre Festival, The Lark, and others. Whitney is a part of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative and is a recent recipient of the Susan Stroman Directing Award, Herb Alpert Award, and Jerome Fellowship. She is an Artistic Associate at the Roundabout and an Associate Artistic Director at Shakespeare Theatre DC. Past residencies and fellowships include Colt Coeur, The Drama League, Roundabout, and the 2050 Fellowship at NYTW. M.F.A. Acting: Brown University/Trinity Rep, B.A.: Northwestern University. Whitney will direct the upcoming Broadway production of *The Last Five Years* featuring Nick Jonas and Adrienne Warren.

**Kat Yen** (Director: *All the Men Who've Frightened Me*) is a Taiwanese-American theater director, born and raised in NYC. Recent productions include *Pipe Dream* by Rodgers and Hammerstein at Berkshire Theatre Group, *Heart Strings* by Lee Cataluna at Atlantic Theater for Kids, and *Happy Life* by Kathy Ng at Walker Space/The Hearth. Recent associate directing credits include *Redwood*, written and directed by Tina Landau and conceived with Idina Menzel, *The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical*, by Joe Iconis, directed by Christopher Ashley, and *The Comeuppance* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, directed by Eric Ting. Upcoming productions include *The Heart Sellers* by Lloyd Suh at North Coast Rep and *The Weather Busters of Beachcastle* by Christin Eve Cato at La Jolla Playhouse POP Tour. Kat is the inaugural Directing Fellow at La Jolla Playhouse, a former Resident Director at The Flea Theater, a Van Lier Directing Fellow at Second Stage Theater and the co-founder and former Artistic Director of Spook-fish Theatre Company. M.F.A. in Directing: Yale School of Drama. [katyen.com](http://katyen.com)

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