



Rising Sun Performance Company

PRESENTS

THE
RITES
OF
SPRING



A Virtual Play Festival

Land Acknowledgement Today, many of us are gathering on the unceded ancestral land of the Lenni-Lenape and many other indigenous nations. We ask you to join us in acknowledging and celebrating the Lenape community, their elders past and present, as well as future generations. We also want to take this time to acknowledge that after there was stolen land, there were stolen people. We honor the generations of stewardship from enslaved and displaced peoples that built this city we occupy today. Since our activities are shared digitally to the internet, let's also take a moment to consider the legacy of colonization embedded within the technologies, structures, and ways of thinking we use every day. We are using equipment and high speed internet not available in many indigenous communities. Even the technologies that are central to much of the art we make leaves significant carbon footprints, contributing to changing climates that disproportionately affect indigenous peoples worldwide. We invite you to join us in acknowledging all this as well as our shared responsibility: to make good of this time, and for each of us to consider our roles in reconciliation, decolonization, and allyship. Thank you.

We would like to thank ART NY for sharing their language and also thank and acknowledge that the section regarding virtual activities was written by Adrienne Wong of SpiderWebShow in Ontario

A Note from the Artistic Director:

We are thrilled to have you with us. This event was a labor of love and an opportunity for our artists to connect and celebrate spring. We gathered our artists on February 19th and each team was assembled randomly, assigned a prop and writing prompt. Our playwrights were then given 48 hours to write their plays specifically for their assigned director and actors. The Directors were then given 10 hours to rehearse with their cast prior to performance. We hope you enjoy this night as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you. Thank you for your support of theatre, especially during this time!

RSPC Staff:

Founding Artistic Director	Akia Squitieri
Associate Artistic Director	Anna Hogan
New Media & Marketing Manager	Rachael Langton
Literary Manager	Rick Benson
Environmental Sustainability Director	William Serri
Social Media Manager	Jennifer Iris Rivera
Legal Counsel	Traci Marquis
Emeritus Executive Director/Co-Founder	David Anthony

The RSPC Ensemble: Akia Squitieri, Andrew Gonzalez, Anna Hogan, Anel

Carmona, Antonio Miniño, Ashleigh Herndon, Ayesha Salah, Ashleen Rowan, Bailey Bass, Becky Saunders, Chelsey Smith, Chris Jumper, Chris Goodrich, Crystal Edn, Corianne Stein, Danielle Bee Smotrich, David Stallngs, Desiree Pinol, Donna Latham, Deanna Alexandra, Eric Parness, Federica Borlenghi, , Ita Korenzecher, Jackie McKenna, Jenna Atickinson, Jennifer Iris Rivera, Joan Kane, Josephine Pizzino, , Julia Geromin, Justin Hsu, Laura Lamberti , Kassime Fofana, Kendra Christel, Kevin Eubanks Jr, Kevin Rabbits, Leka Makenzie, Lluvia Almanza, Luana Seu, Luna G. Reiley, Maya Jasmin Kurokouchi, Mateo Moreno, Michael Hagins, Maera Daniel Hagage, Maggie Kissinger, Mary Sheridan, Michael Pichardo, Nadia Duncan, Nathan Siever, Nicole Harley, Orlando F. Rodriguez, Rachael Langton, Rebecca Kane, Samuel Neagley, Samantha Simone, Stephanie Barney, Raiane Cantisano, Rick Benson, Sara Dove, Sean Phillips, Susan Goodell, Sven Trygve Haabeth, Valerie David, William Serri & Yashebadar Roker

Resident Playwrights: Judd Lear Silverman, Donna Latham, Molly Kirschner, Kati Frazier, Inna Tsyrlin, Eva Meilng Pollitt, Susan Goodell

Our Mission:

Committed to the principle of ensemble process and performance through the collaboration of a company of actors, directors and playwrights, Rising Sun Performance Company's mission is to advance the vitality and diversity of American theater by nurturing artists, encouraging repeatable creative relationships, and contributing new works and revitalized pre-existing work to the national canon. Rising Sun Performance Company realizes this goal by providing a safe artistic home which stimulates risk-taking without limits of genre or agenda. **Learn more at www.risingsunnyc.com @RisingSunNYC**

RSP's work is made possible in part by the generous support of

Fractured Atlas, Horse Trade Theater Group, Alliance of Resident Artists, David Anthony Photography, N-K Photography, Trust for Governors Island, The LIT Fund, Creative Solutions, LLC, Material for the Arts, NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Molloy College and our AMAZING 2020 individual donors : Anne Schellekens, Jill Miersch, Maera Hagage, Wendy Payne, Regina & John Richards, Maureen Serri, Rebecca Saunders, Michael Pichardo, Joan Kane, Cecilia Benson, Linda Dowling, Toby Latham, Gregory Harden, & Nicole Garick. A Special Thanks to our Patreon Donors: Elizabeth Burke, Michelle Schellekens, Leo Blais, Jamie Weisberg & Richard Damaso, Judd Silverman, Emmy Tomes



**We are proud members of The League of Independent Theatres,
Fractured Atlas and Alliance of Resident Theatres/NY.**

DONATE TODAY

Rising Sun Performance Company is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization. Contributions for the charitable purposes of Rising Sun Performance Company must be made payable to Fractured Atlas only and are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

<http://www.risingsunnyc.com/support-us>

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions:

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS

AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS

SAG-AFTRA

through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.



Artistic & Production Team

Producer: Akia Squitieri ^

Graphic Design & Production Consultant: Rachael Langton^

Social Media : Jennifer Iris Rivera ^

Technical Director/Production Manager: Laura Krouch*

Production Stage Managers: Sally Burgos & Addison Herndon

Production Coordinator: Justin Hsu^

Accessibility Coordinator Rebecca Kane ^

Production Assistants: Colby Ourand, Chloe Green, Ivan McGill,

Jemma Harris, & Rosanna Naples

Closed Captions: Colby Ourand, Jemma Harris

Writing Prompts: Rick Benson^, Rebecca Kane^, Mateo Moreno^ & Antonio Miniño^

Design Elements are by each shows director

House music: Bensounds

The Teams & Plays

Team One: The Sweeping Angels

Chasing Juliet

On her quest for the ultimate Instagrammable life, Jane faces obstacles she never expected.

Written by Kati Frazier

Directed by Brock Hill

Cast: Lluvia Almanza^, Anel Carmona^, Orlando F. Rodriguez^,

Maya Schnaider*, Zarra Kaahn

Team Two: Maybe, Maybe Not Knot

The Year of the Fall of May

The Celebration of May parade always a highlight for the citizens of Mayfield. So why are the band, the Queen, and the parade organizer missing with less than an hour until start time?

Written By Susan Goodell^

Directed by Paige Washington

Cast: Jo Walker, Natalie Osborne, Rick Benson^

Team Three: Equinauts

The Rite-ing On The Wall

On the verge of desperation, Alex contacts a mystical agent to help him get rid of the disturbing blotches that mysteriously appeared on his wall.

Written By Anel Carmona^

Directed By Crystal Ramirez

Cast: Johnny Blaze Leavitt†, Mateo Moreno^†

Music Credits: "Astral" - Nomyn "Dawn"- Sappheiros

Team Four: The Virgin Crowns

Riots of Spring - The Audition

A satirical look at an actor's audition, come spring.

Written By Becky Saunders^† *

Directed By Antonio Miniño^†

Cast: Ellie Mae Miller, Sean Phillips^† , Samantha Simone^† *

Music: "Listen Up" by Kathleen Martin

Team Five: Rainy EggYolks

Blue Man Manakins

In this play, as in nature, a troupe of male blue manakins rehearses a collaborative musical theater piece to woo a female of highly discriminating taste.

Written By Molly Kirschner

Directed By Lanise Antoine Shelley

Cast: Ita Korenzecher^, Jennifer Iris Rivera^, Chris Jumper^†*, Stephanie D. Barney^

Team Six: Rockin' Robins

Spring Cleaning for Mrs. J

Mr. J is a wonderful and loving husband, except for one thing; he never listens to his wife. Even when a cursed bird threatens to imprison the couple for all eternity.

Written By Orlando F. Rodriguez^

Directed By Mia Y. Anderson

The Cast: Luana Seu^, Judd Silverman^, Josephine Pizzino^

Team Seven: The Seventh Inning Stretch

Miracle Birds

Miracle Birds tells the story of Stan, who meets three beautiful women, in a "post covid" world. The three women introduce him to these special kind of birds that grant people's finest wishes, but is everything Stan experiencing real or a figment of his imagination?

Written By Ben Dworken

Directed By Paul Andrews

The Cast: Jonathan Wong Frye*, Jennifer Atkinson^, Isabelle Barany, Mary Sheridan*^

Team Eight: The Scrambled Eggs

Eggs In One Basket

Nature-loving Jade takes new boyfriend Josh, a naturephobe, home to meet her family in the woods. And, I mean the whole family, loves. Even fae folk who meddle in mortal ways.

Written By Donna Latham^

Directed By Chelsey Smith^

The Cast: Raiane Cantisano^, Raul Chavez, Samuel Neagley^ & Maggie Kissinger^

^ Denotes Ensemble Member of Rising Sun Performance Company

* Appears Courtesy of Actors Equity Association

† Appears Courtesy of SAG-AFTRA

The Playwrights

Anel Carmona (Playwright/Actor) is a multidisciplinary Theatre Artist originally from Mexico and based in New York City. She has participated in dozens of plays across North America. Her favorite acting credits include HallowStream (RSPC), Tales of the White Diamond Mountain (RSPC), Catch Me in America (Strike Anywhere Performance Ensemble) and Ti Jean and his Brothers (MA's Playhouse) among others. Anel is also the author of plays such as ""Adios Fjord"" (Off-Broadway, Theater at Gibney), ""Ice Cream Fro-Yo"" (Hudson Guild Theater), ""The Church of the Winter"" (Gene Frankel Theatre), and ""Chocolate en la Estación"" (Teatro Jaime Torres Bodet). In 2020 her COVID-19 themed play ""A Seis Pies de Distancia"" had video production in Tabasco, Mexico and Alberta, Canada. It was also featured in the published anthology ""De Pandemia a Pandemonium"" in the Mexican Platform ""Dramaturgia Mexicana." Anel holds an MFA in Playwriting from The Actors Studio Drama School at Pace University; she is also an active member of the Playwrights and Directors Workshop at the Actors Studio, and The Dramatists Guild of America. www.anelcarmona.com IG:@carmonaanel

Becky Saunders (Playwright) is excited to be a part of the New York theatre scene as a resident member of the Rising Sun Performance Company! A lifelong professional singer and actor she intends to drop dead (many years from now, of course) either performing, directing or stage managing. From Las Vegas to the Micronesia Islands, Canada to Tahiti, onstage, on vinyl or on celluloid she has proudly paid her dues and crafted a career. Early training included a scholarship to the Los Angeles Civic Light Opera Association, classes with Estelle Harmon, Michael Holmes and the adult conservatory at South Coast Repertory. Rising Sun Performance credits: Director of GIVE US THIS DAY; Charlotte in CHARLOTTE, CHARLOTTE AND THE BROOM!; The Miller and Grandma in F**D FAIRYTALES. All Zoom productions. Other New York credits: Lauren in a Zoom production of TIGHT (haha nice) (The Tank); Madame Armfeldt in A Little Night Music (Theatre 2020) and on tour Company/Stage Manager for Freedom Train (TheatreWorksUSA). A few favorite roles in regional theatre are; Dotty Otle in NOISES OFF, Lily Harrison in SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS, Nurse in ROMEO AND JULIET and Beverly in THE SHADOWBOX. Director credits: Always...Patsy Cline, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Church Basement Ladies: Away in the Basement, Away in the Manger: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas, and Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. All produced by Sierra Repertory Theatre.

Ben Dworken (Playwright) is a neurodiverse actor/playwright who is very active in the NYC theater community. He is a member of companies such as AMiOS, New Ambassadors, The Playground Experiment and is very excited to be part of his first Rising Sun production. Outside of theatre, he is a strong advocate for the autism community and hosts his own webcast on Facebook called Benny D. Prime Time.

Donna Latham (Playwright) is an award-winning feminist playwright and author from Chicago, temporarily living in Houston. Her plays have been produced coast to coast in the US and in Northern Ireland, Ireland, England, France, Scotland, and Indonesia. Donna's short plays are included in The Best American Short Plays 2016-2017, The Best American Short Plays 2014-2015, and 2016's Best Ten-Minute Plays, and She Persisted: New Plays By Women Over 40, 2021. A resident playwright at Rising Sun Performance Company and a member of Honor Roll Playwrights, Donna's a proud member of the Dramatist Guild.

Kati Frazier (Playwright) is a playwright, dramaturg, and theater administrator from North Carolina, now based in Brooklyn. They have a deep artistic interest in magical realism, non-linear timelines, liminal spaces, and the queering of structure. Their plays include: 'Virtue Of Fools,' 'The Last Year,' '15 Feet: A Story Told From A Distance,' 'The Couch,' 'Patronage,' 'a sex thing (or, a bunch of liberals get uptight about the sociopolitical implications of their desires),' and 'Untitled Calamity Jane Play'. Their work has been seen at City Arts, Greensboro Fringe Festival, The Players Theatre, Brooklyn's The Brick, Random Access Theater, HERE, Oracle Performing Arts, LREI, and more. Their short plays 'Girlfight' and 'My Emotions Are Too Big For This Room' were published by Smith & Krauss.

Molly Kirschner (Playwright) is a playwright and poet. She is a resident playwright of Rising Sun Performance Company. Her play *L'appel du Vide* was produced at UNDER St. Marks Theater in New York City in 2017. A monologue from this play was included in *Best Men's Stage Monologues 2018*, edited by Lawrence Harbison. Her play *Vagabonds* had a staged reading at The Kraine Theater in New York City for the 2019 Estrogenius Festival, and has received further development through Estrogenius. Previously, this play was read at Dixon Place in New York City in 2016, and was included in the 2017 Soundings Reading Series at Writers Theatre of New Jersey. Kirschner's poems have appeared or are forthcoming in numerous journals including the Southern Review and the New Ohio Review, and in Italian translation. Her new manuscript, *Your Body Does the Work of Wings*, was a semi-finalist for the Louise Bogan 2020 Award for Artistic Merit and Excellence. Kirschner's first book of poems, *Hard Proof*, was released in July of 2015 from Red Mountain Press. Her second collection, *Notes For Further Research*, was released in December 2017. You can follow her work at <https://www.facebook.com/Molly-Kirschner-Poetry-2232801933603789/> and at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-bjo2-MI2sQYEcq1kcU91Q>

Orlando F. Rodriguez (Playwright) is a graduate from the University of Texas at El Paso, and has a degree in Theater Tech and Design. He is currently living in NYC to further pursue his career. Credits include (Theater:) Voice 1 in *Betty's Summer Vacation*, Greta in *Bent*, Barrosa in a staged reading of *Itzel the Pirate Queen* (Film:) Ben in *Cleo y Los Cabrones*, Jimmy in *Exponential*, King Ralphy in *Placed*, (Directing:) *Dead Awake*, *The Fall of Wallace Winter*, *A Marriage Proposal* (Playwright:) *The Armando Project*, *Dead Awake*, *Dolores*. Instagram: @orlando.f.rodriguez

Susan Goodell (Playwright) is proud again to collaborate with Rising Sun as a resident playwright. Susan is author of the full-length HEELS OVER HEAD (Tri-State Actors Theatre; Rover Dramawerk's Seconds Award) and HOPE THROWS HER HEART AWAY. The latter premiered at Genesis Theatrical Productions in Chicago with readings at Virginia Stage Company and The Women's Theatre Company. Her short plays have been staged at numerous venues including NYC's Fresh Produce'd , The Abingdon, the Boston Theatre Marathon, The Source Festival and Mildred's Umbrella. Other recognition: inclusion in Best American Short Plays 2014-2015, Best 10-Minute Plays 2016, and 105 Five-Minute Plays for Performance and Study.

The Directors

Antonio Miniño (They/Them) (Director) is a genderqueer native of the Dominican Republic whose work as an actor, director, writer, dramaturg, producer and intimacy coordinator, has been seen in Santo Domingo, New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, Dublin, and Belgrade. Antonio is also an intimacy consultant with Intimacy Coordinators of Color, a Jonathan Alper Directing Fellow (Manhattan Theatre Club, 2019 & 2020), and a two-time Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation Observer. Antonio is the founder and a creative partner of Different Translation, and former founding member, company actor and co-artistic director at Manhattan Theatre Works (2006-16). Outside of the performing arts world, Antonio is also a well-being life coach at Grace in Progress Consulting, and the writer of the #PersonOfChange series on Medium, showcasing persons of color and/or persons who identify as non-binary (soon to be a podcast). You might also catch them performing burlesque as "Mx Dream Beautiful" and hosting the "Queer Dance N8k3d Party". SAG-AFTRA/SDC. www.antonioininino.com

Brock H. Hill (Director) is a New York based director. He is the Producing Artistic Director of the Planet Connections Festivity and Artistic Director of the Altruistic Theatre Company. He is known for ensemble based, organic work. Selected projects include: Helvetica (Rising Sun, current); Mistakes Madeline Made, Humans Anonymous (Tongue in Cheek Prod); Books on Tape (TIC, FringeNYC); Civilization! (Planet Connections Festivity); Choose Your Grown Adventure, Wardrobe of the Living Dead (Altruistic Theatre); Committed(14th St Y); Long Rail North (Soho Playhouse).

Chelsey Smith (Director) is a queer, female, stage director and theater maker. Her most recent works include F***k'd Up Fairytales by Michael Hagins, Quarrel a la Quarantina by Logann Grayce, and "Here and Us" by Ian August. Two of her recent works: "Same" by Logann Grayce and "172 Push-Ups" by Scott Mullen are now published and she is listed as the original director for both productions. She also directed a selection from Spike Heels by Theresa Rebeck as part of a directing showcase at The Drama League. She is particularly proud of "Something by Tolstoi," which she co-created and developed over the course of a year and had sold out runs each night. She also directed the premiere productions of "The Social Drama Play Play" by Ivan Faute and "Conversion" & "Make Believe" by Erica Magrin. She has an affinity for dark humor with a touch of the absurd and loathes capitalism, willful ignorance, and the patriarchy. She is also quite good at solving three dimensional puzzles. Chelseysmithnyc.com

Crystal Ramirez (Director) is a Brooklyn kid currently living in Staten Island. She fell in love with The Stage in elementary school and the love affair carried on until well after college. She's had the pleasure of being ASM and SM for multiple shows, as well as an actor for a few pieces here and there. She is very excited to be in the Director's Seat once again and looks forward to contributing to this new outlet of Theatric Expression.

Lanise Antoine Shelley (she/her) (Director) is an actress, director and playwright. She presently hosts the podcast When They Were Young: Amplifying Voices of Adoptees available on all major platforms including her website. Selected directing credits include: Rastus and Hattie, Black and Blue, and movement consultant for Muthaland (16th Street Theater), Hear Me See Me (Silent Theatre), The Luck of the Irish (virtual reading), Identity Lab (Lookingglass Theatre), The Tenant (Akvavit Theatre), RefuSHE Project (Voices & Faces Project), Rumors (DePaul University), and a staged reading of The Convert (Stratford Shakespeare Festival). As an actress, she is known for Chicago Fire, Empire, Chicago Med, Discovery World, Macbeth HD and Goodman Theatre's live stream of School Girls: African Mean Girls. She holds a BFA in Directing, Acting and Playwriting from Cornish College of the Arts, an MFA from ART/MXAT at Harvard University, and a certificate in Classical Theatre from both BADA in Oxford, England, and Birmingham Conservatory in Canada. Awards/ Fellowships include Stratford Shakespeare Festival's Chicago Fellow 2016 and Victory Gardens Theatre's Directing Fellow 2019. She is the Artistic Director of The House Theatre www.laniseantoineshelley.com

Mia Y. Anderson (Director) is an actress, director and writer. A native of New York, she was born and raised in the Republic of Brooklyn. She spent over 10 years in Boston, where she founded, directed and produced the all-female cabaret troupe *Drag Kings, Sluts & Goddesses*, which ran for a decade and was profiled in the *Boston Globe*, *Color of Change*, *Bay Windows* and the winner of the *Fresh Fruit Festival* Audience Favorite in New York. In Boston as an actress, she performed with companies like *RadioDisney*, *Commonwealth Shakespeare*, *Boston Theatre Works*, *Boston Playwrights Theater* and *Theater Offensive*. Since returning to New York, she has been featured in several award-winning films like *Sleep* and *Production*. As a director she has worked with several theater companies including *Rising Sun Company*, *Construct Theater*, *Culture Project* and she was a 2014 directing fellow with *New Perspectives Theater* and an alum of the 2015 *Lincoln Center's Director's Lab*. As a writer, she has shared at the *Nuyorican Poets Café*, *New York Public Library*, *Fresh Fruit Festival Poetry Night* and *The New American Theatre* and has published essays in the Lambda Literary award nominee *Pinned Down by Pronouns* and *Getting Bi*. She was a 2016 *BarnArts Hamilton Project* writing resident. In 2017, her first solo work "*her, him, prince, michael, and marvin aka love is love is love*" was featured at the 2017 *Failsafe Festival*, a workshop production in 2018 produced by *the Dirty Blondes Theater* and was a 2019 *QuickSilver Theater POC Summit* Finalist work. Check her out www.miayandersonchannel.com

Paige Washington (Director) is a DC-based director, choreographer, and performer. Her past credits include *There is No Hope in the City of Chaos* with Keegan Theatre (Director), *The Infinite Tales* with 4615 Theatre (Choreography), *Soul Redeemer* with LaTiDo- DC (Ensamble) and *By the Hand of a Woman* with Keegan Theatre (Director). She is the Director of Patron Services and frequent collaborator with 4615 Theatre Company.

Paul Andrews (Director) is a director, writer and performer based in Ithaca, New York, who graduated from Ithaca College in 2020 with degrees in theatre and film. Paul's favorite recent projects include assistant director for *Hotel Good Luck* (Cherry Arts/New Ohio) and director/writer/producer of an original musical titled *Wordplay*. Paul is super excited to be working with *Rising Sun* for the first time!!

The Actors

Anel Carmona (Actor) is a Mexican actor and playwright based in NYC. She has performed in dozens of plays in both countries including *Tales of the White Mountain* (Rising Sun Performance Theatre), *Catch me in America* (Strike Anywhere Performance Ensemble), and *Ti Jean and His Brothers* (Ma's Playhouse). Her favorite writing credits include *Adios Fjord* (Off-Broadway), *Chocolate en la Estación* (Guadalajara, Mexico), and her play *A seis pies de distancia* was recently published in the Mexican Theatre anthology *De Pandemia a Pandemonium*. She holds a MFA in Playwriting by the Actors Studio Drama School and is a proud member of the Dramatist Guild of America. www.anelcarmona.com
IG:@carmonaanel

Chris Jumper (Actor) was most recently seen in Ego Actus' reading of *A Shot Rang Out* and Rising Sun's *Hallowstream*. Favorite New York Credits include: "The Music of Karl Jenkins" and *Zimbe!* at Carnegie Hall, *The Hidden Ones*, *The Frankenstein Musical*, *Chess*, and staged readings *Dublin Rising* and *Spice World: A Musical*. Chris is a graduate of The Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University. Chrisjumper.com AEA/SAG/AFTRA

Ellie Mae Miller (Actor) is a theater, film & TV actor, writer, and plus size model. She holds a BFA in Theater Performance from Ohio University. Recent: *The Wind Telephone* (Rising Sun), *LAKE PLAY* (Rising Sun), *ELIZABETHS* (Manhattan Repertory). Film: *Adapting LAKE PLAY* for film, *A MURDER PARTY*, a dark Victorian comedy. Ellie has also been modeling continuously for artists in sketching, painting, and sculpture. Currently: writing new works to be explored in poetry, theater, film, and novel formats.

Isabelle Barany (Actor) holds an MFA in fiction from the University of New Orleans. She has acted in *Vision Quest* (Intramural Theater and KrisP Productions: *My Crazy Childhood Showcase*), the UNO Playwrights Festival, and as an ensemble member in the University of Chicago's *Commedia dell'Arte* troupe. Her play *The National* American Theater Company was performed in the *Unstaged Reading* series, a collaboration between Intramural Theater and Beaubourg Theatre.

Ita Korenzecher (Actor) is very grateful to be in this production. In these trying times, it is wonderful to know and experience first hand that theater is alive and well. She has been a member of Rising Sun for four years now and counts her past experiences on stage with RSP as some of her absolute favorites. They include "Friendly's Fire" at the 14th Street Y and "Elephant" as part of Planet Connections Theater Festivity.

Jennifer Atkinson (Actor, pronouns: She/Her) is an actress, playwright, and screenwriter. She is a recent graduate of Hofstra University with degrees in Drama and Creative Writing. She has experience working in a variety of artistic mediums, including theater, film, and voice over. She serves as the Literary Manager for HERE WE GO: A Site-Specific Production Company, and is a proud ensemble member of Rising Sun Performance Company. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support. IG: [jnatkinson_11](#).^[SEP]

Jennifer Iris Rivera (Actor) is a Latinx NYC based Actress and Costume Designer. She received her Bachelors in Theatre Performance and Costume Design from Marymount Manhattan College. Most recent work includes various virtual performances with her ensemble company, Rising Sun Performance Company. As well, she is the Social Media Manager for Rising Sun. This past year she has also interned with Spellbound Theater as their Family Engagement intern and most recently joined the company full time. Past credits include *F**cked Up Fairytales* (Rising Sun), *12 Angry Women* (AlphaNYC Theater Company), *A Child is Born* (Theatre 315), and *Stalled* (web series from Gal Pals Presents). For more information on her career, visit www.jenniferirisrivera.com.

Jo Walker (Actor) is a New York-based actor, singer, writer, and designer. She is a founding member of Four Quarter Theater, an ensemble-based company that presents readings of new short plays based on a seasonal theme. Favorite roles include: Aunt Jane (Storming Heaven, West Virginia Public Theatre); Woman 5 (Titanic), Dr. Brookner (The Normal Heart), Mrs. Pugh (Annie Warbucks, Signature Theatre), Zinaida (Ivanov), Heidi Von Sturm (Nine), Chorist (The Christians, Playwrights Horizons), Group Leader/Singer (the public domain, Lincoln Center Mostly Mozart Festival). Her short play Underwater was recently produced in Brooklyn. Proud member of the Dramatists Guild.

Johnny Blaze Leavitt (Actor) is an actor, playwright, and comedian. Recent credits: The Stage Manager in 'Don't Stand Up!' (an Amy Losi production, winner of Best Ensemble, Excellence in Direction and Spirit of the Festival awards in the 2020 Hartford Fringe Festival), Zombie Dean Martin in 'The Rat Pack Undead' NY and East Coast tours (Cooper Jordan Entertainment), The Love Doctor in the Off-Broadway run of 'Love is a Bad Neighborhood' (Miller-Coffman Productions), Jason/Male Swing in 'Friendly's Fire' (Rising Sun Performance Company) and The Judge in recent workshop productions of 'Street Walker the Musical' (Mark Barkan, composer). Recent TV/Film: 'Armageddon Rising' (a Tom Zanca Production), 'Creation, the Abbreviated Version' (Solar Plexus Productions) and the Monster in 'MYTH: A Short Movie' (SPOV Productions). He was the Head Writer of the sketch comedy troupe 42nd NIGHT LIVE (NYC's Elektra Theatre) and can still be spotted performing stand-up comedy around NYC (including at Caroline's on Broadway). He is the co-creator and book writer for 'Taking Wing: Legends of Emimencia' which recently had a ZOOM reading with a Broadway cast. SAGAFTRA, EMC

Jonathan Wong Frye (Actor) is a NYC based actor of Chinese, Danish and German heritage. He grew up overseas the son of a US Diplomat and was educated in the French system. He holds a degree in Film from Le Conservatoire Libre du Cinéma Français and a BFA in Performance for Stage and Screen from George Mason University.

Josephine Pizzino (Actor) I'm very happy to be part of Rising Sun's production of Rites of Spring! For our December holiday show I was a caroler in Scrooge, and I've also contributed to the Online Mini Scenes Group both as an actor and also a writer of two under 15 minute shows produced for our Zoom shows. Outside of RSPC, I am an ensemble member in Theatre Nerds, which presents live Zoom murder mystery shows for colleges throughout the US and UK. This summer I portrayed a hapless Hasidic woman, Mrs. Lustig, in the YouTube "Brooklyn noir" web series, Trillo and Suede.

Judd Silverman (Actor) is a playwright/director/actor whose work has been seen across the country and in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. A member of RSP, he has read frequently in the company's various play development projects. Favorite roles over the years include Lindkvist in Strindberg's *EASTER*, Duncan/the Doctor in *MACBETH*, Lord Summerhays in Shaw's *MISALLIANCE*, and Matt Friedman in Lanford Wilson's *TALLEY'S FOLLY*, as well as several characters in *YOU CONNECT THE DOTS*, Bill Beirne's video installation at the Whitney Museum of Art. For several years an acting coach and scene study instructor at Brooklyn College, he currently teaches Composition, Playwriting and Dramatic Literature at Pace University and does freelance voiceover work.

Lluvia Almanza (Actor) To the minorities, immigrants, and refugees you matter and you belong. I love you, Orlando. Thank you. You are my Beast and my Princess Jasmine. Theatre: *The Outside* (Metropolitan Playhouse), *Scrooge! A Zoom Christmas Carol* (RSPC), *Hallowstream* (RSPC), *F**ck'd Up Fairytales* (RSPC), *Why Me?* (Lady B Productions), *Return to Sender* (Provincetown Playhouse), *Itzel the Pirate Queen* (Provincetown Playhouse), *Mother Moon: The Play* (Gene Frankel Theatre). Film: *Cleo y Los Cabrones*, *Mayra*. TV: *Dead of Night* (Discovery ID).

Luana Seu (Actor) I have been interested in pursuing the field of the arts since I was 7 years old. I decided to study classical piano & flute and concurrently spent most of my childhood learning ballroom dancing, at least for long enough to know that I wanted to become a professional dancer. When I turned 13, I had achieved the title of National Ballroom dancing champion. In order to acquire a firm foundation within my chosen profession, I pursued further studies in acting at the Drama National High School, participating in several festival events which included such specialities as drama, workshops, masterclasses, contests & film features. Having graduated from The American Academy of Dramatic Arts just recently, I am currently pursuing my acting career in New York City, enjoying every single day as an aspirant artist. I know that every small step of the creative journey has brought me to this point in time. The adventure has enabled me to create unimaginable moments of wonder, gifted me with inspiration and has moved me to inspire others with my work and vision going forward.

Maggie Kissinger (Actor) has been a proud Rising Sun ensemble member since 2014 after completing the Dramaturgy and Literary Management internship. She served as the Literary Manager for three years and now focuses on acting and casting pursuits within the company. She performed the role of Christiane in the world premiere of Elephant by Eva MeiLing Pollitt, presented by Rising Sun Performance Company at the Planet Connections Festivity in 2018, most recently she appeared in Michael Hagins F'kded up Fairytales- RSP's first foray into Virtual theatre. She looks forward to another fulfilling year with RSP!

Mary Sheridan (Actor) is the recipient of the 2016 Best Featured Actress Award for the Planet Connections Theatre Festivity. Her favorite NYC theatres to work at include: NPTC, The Culture Project, Urban Stages, New York Theatre Workshop & Theatre Row. Her past favorite roles include: Maxine in "Tongue of a Bird", Alma in "Summer and Smoke", Savage in "Savage in Limbo", Ophelia in "Hamlet" & Ann in "All My Sons". Mary has done several short films with J. Boyett (www.jboyett.net), is currently working on a cabaret show and is a Yale University graduate. www.marysheridan.net www.facebook.com/mary.sheridan.50

Mateo Moreno (Actor) is very happy to join Rising Sun as an Ensemble Member. Recent acting credits: 'Art' (The Strollers), Krampus Search 2020 (Rising Sun), MetalBird (The Tank), For the Love of Lina (Conch Shell Productions), An Enemy of the People (The Strollers), Not-Knowing (3LD), Pride & Prejudice (interACT), Snipped/Cut/Tied (Step1 Theatre Project), City of Glass (UTC #61) Dead Wait: A Journey into Afro-Existentialism (Parsnip Ship, dir. Tonya Pinkins). Recent playwriting credits: Pitch (Reset Theatre Coalition), No Hablo Español: Mix-Tape of a Mexi-Can't (NY Fringe), Bohemian Valentine (NY Fringe), Broken Pieces, Within Our Walls, Happily After Tonight. He is also a film reviewer and resides in NYC. Wear a mask. Black Lives Matter. www.Mateo-Moreno.com www.TheArtsWireWeekly.com

Maya Schneider (Actor) is an Israeli-American actress, and received her BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She has continued perfecting her craft and creating theater every chance she gets both in NYC and LA as well. Most recent credits include Maya's first co-star role in NBCUniversal's limited series Angelyne, and originating the lead role of Musket in the highly acclaimed original play Musket and the Rat, which had its world premiere at the Arena Stage Theatre in Los Angeles in 2020. Maya has been a proud member of the RSP family since 2017 and is thrilled to collaborate once again with the beautiful and talented minds that form the company. Member of AEA

Natalie Osborne (Actor) is a Brooklyn based actor and writer. She is an alumna of Bennington College, where she studied drama and anthropology. She's been a member of the Dramatist Guild of America since 2015. After years of being too intimidated to step into the spotlight, Natalie booked a job as a professional clown and fell back in love with acting. She packed her bags, left her New England hometown, and came to NYC. She is incredibly grateful to be able to live her childhood dream of playing make-believe for a living. When she isn't performing, Natalie enjoys exploring new towns, adventuring in the forest, and anything and everything to do with Halloween. Credits include: "The Internet Isn't Awful" The Frigid Festival, "Alice in Wonderland Pop-Up" Portland Fringe Festival, "The North Pole Express" Essex Steam Train, "After the Thin Man" and "Feelin' Lonely" Hubbard Hall, and "Liarsville" Liarsville Gold Rush Camp. She will be a returning member of The Wyldewood Players improv troop this summer..

Orlando F. Rodriguez (Actor/Playwright) is a graduate from the University of Texas at El Paso, and has a degree in Theater Tech and Design. He is currently living in NYC to further pursue his career, and his new found love of writing. Credits include (Theater:) Voice 1 in Betty's Summer Vacation, Greta in Bent, Barrosa in a staged reading of Itzel the Pirate Queen (Film:) Ben in Cleo y Los Cabrones, Jimmy in Exponential, King Ralphy in Placed, (Directing:) Dead Awake an excerpt from "Reveries," The Fall of Wallace Winter, A Marriage Proposal (Playwright:) The Legend of The Beast in That Place with the Woods an excerpt from Rising Sun's HollowStream, "The Armando Project, Dead Awake an excerpt from "Reveries," Dolores.

Raiane Cantisano (Actor) is an award winning actress/singer born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, who moved to NYC to further her education at the prestigious Lee Strasberg Institute. Recent credits include the films "Gym Class Heroes" and "Cyclone", and plays "The Cherry Orchard" at the Schapiro Theater, "BareNaked Reading Series" in LA, "Good Friday" at the Flea Theater. She was nominated for her performance in the ensemble of "Raft of the Medusa" and won Outstanding Lead Actress for "Éléphant" at Planet Connections Theater Festivity. For more info go to www.raianecantisano.com

Raul Chavez (Actor) is a graduate from The University of Texas at El Paso with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance. Raul is also a Director/Instructor at Kids N' Co theatre company. This is his first time working with Rising Sun Performance Company.

Rick Benson (Actor) is a proud member of the Rising Sun ensemble. He has performed such roles as Cyrano de Bergerac, Alceste in The Misanthrope, and the Old Man in The Chairs. He was last on stage with Rising Sun in the short play, Vultures, where he played Kevin Carter. He also loves performing in children's theater.

Samantha Simone (Actor) is a Brooklyn based actor, dancer, voice over artist and teacher. She is a recent graduate of Columbia University's MFA acting program. Samantha can be seen on CBS "Blue Bloods" as McKenna, and on the workout show "The Daily Burn 365." Favorite theater credits include: Nina in "The Seagull", Julie in "Miss Julie", and Amy in the NYC premiere of "Nothing Human." Samantha is so excited to be a part of her second show with Rising Sun Performance Company. To see what Samantha is up to check out www.samanthanicolesismone.com

Samuel Neagley (Actor) is an actor and musician based in NYC. After graduating from Dickinson College with a degree in theater arts and spanish, he studied acting and improv comedy in Los Angeles and now New York. Having worked as an actor, director, composer and writer, Samuel founded Blue Otter Theatre as a means to produce his own work and the work of his very talented friends. His most proud productions include *A Self Help Guide To Killing Your Boss*, *Tween Souls* as part of Hollywood Fringe Festival, and *The Cigar Lounge* as part of Brick Theater's 'Unstageable Festival.'

Sean Phillips (Actor) is a graduate of AMDA and currently a student of Roger Hendricks Simon. Theatre credits include Mother Courage with Meryl Streep, The Treatment (IATI), To Kill A Mockingbird (Cornish Playhouse), Knock Me A Kiss(New Federal Theatre. Film/TV: Evil, Prodigal Son, Madam Secretary, The Good Wife, Difficult People.

Stephanie D. Barney (Actor) is a stage and film actress who received her degree in Musical Theater Performance from Rhode Island College. This is Stephanie's second virtual performance with Rising Sun and she is so happy to be back again creating with such talented people. Some of her favorite roles include Mayzie LaBird (*Seussical*), Fraulein Kost (*Cabaret*), Velma Kelly (*Chicago*), Meg McGrath (*Crimes of the Heart*) and Jacques (*As You Like It*). For more information, visit <https://www.stephaniedbarney.com/>

Zarra Kaahn (Actor) is a multi-lingual actress and writer who trained at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London, England.

The Production Team

Addison Herndon (Stage Manager) is so excited to work with RSPC as a stage manager! Some of her favorite credits include Lovesong (Imperfect) with Dark Planet Productions Miranda from Stormville with Random Access Theatre. Her favorite part is watching a show come together as a collaborative process from beginning to end, which is what excites her about Rites of Spring!

Akia Squitieri (Founding Artistic Director) is an award-winning Producer, Director, and Arts Administrator. She is the Founding Artistic Director of Rising Sun Performance Company and Co-Executive Director for the Innovative Theatre Foundation, where she has also served as Company Manager, and on the honorary awards committees and as an at large judge. She served as the Company Manager for the international sensation, Blue Man Group at the Astor Place Theater for 10 years. Akia has received critical praise for her direction of multiple productions including “Hellcab”, “Goodnight Lovin’ Trail”, “The Last Supper”, “Crapshoot”, “Bug”, “The Glory of Living” & “Elephant”. Past notable credits include working on staff at Horse Trade Theatre Group, serving as General Manager for FRIGID New York’s inaugural year, and returning in multiple positions for each subsequent year; as Production Coordinator for nationally acclaimed Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre, overseeing the playwrights’ unit and INSIGHT 13 production series and on the Advisory board of the Paul Butterfield Fund & Society. She has been on staff at Dance Entropy, Form Theatricals, The Book of Merman, The Play Company and Drunk Shakespeare. She is a recipient of the New York Innovative Theatre Awards “Founders Award” for her contributions to the organization and Off-Off Broadway Community and Two Time “Congeniality” and “Outstanding Director” Award Winner from the Planet Connections Theatre Festival. She is an anti-sexual harassment advocate and the founder of “creating safe spaces”- the first theatrical based anti-harassment training program in the US. She is also a co-founder of the NYC Theatre Standards which will be launching in 2021. Alumni of Commercial Theatre Institute and Directors Lab North. Member of the League of Professional Theatre Women, and The League of Independent Theatre. When not absorbed in theatre, she is an avid traveler and scuba diver. You can learn more about her work here at www.akiasquitieri.com and www.risingsunnyc.com @AkiaSquitieri

Anna Hogan (Associate Artistic Director) is a theatrical director and actress based in New York City. Anna's passion lies in developing new work, working closely with playwrights, and creating accessible live theatre for modern audiences. Her directing experience spans large ensemble musicals like *Urinetown: The Musical* (Duke's Eye Productions, The Peoples Improv Theater), avant-garde new works that dabble in magical realism like *Friendly's Fire* (NYC Premiere, Rising Sun Performance Company with the Theatre at the 14 St Y), and intimate, semi-immersive ensemble pieces like *Éléphant* (Co-Director, Rising Sun Performance Company, "Outstanding Direction" Winners, The Flamboyán Theater, Encore at the Kraine Theater). Anna has assistant directed over 40 union/non union productions with many established NYC directors - including her most recent endeavour with Obie winning playwright and Oscar Nominee José Rivera on his World Premiere of *Lovesong, Imperfect*. Anna received a BA in musical theater from West Texas A&M University. She continued her acting education under the mentorship of The Juilliard School of Drama alumnus Joseph Muzikar with an emphasis on classical texts and styles. As Cassie Flowers in the NYC premiere of *The Long Rail North*, Anna was reviewed as "... A beautiful powerhouse of whom the grey and blue are unworthy" - *Theatre is Easy*. This production received an extension and transferred Off-Broadway to The Soho Playhouse. Anna also received a nomination for "Best Lead Actress" from the Nice International Film Festival for her work in *My Name is Leigh*. As a producer & arts administrator, Anna interned under the administrative director of The League of Professional Theater Women and assisted on their Oral History Project at Lincoln Center and the Theater Women Awards.

Justin Hsu (Production Coordinator) is an Asian-American stage and production Manager who has been a proud member of the Rising Sun family since 2016. Justin lives for the art of creating live theatre and establishing a creative, collaborative, and innovative working environment in every project. Justin has worked on numerous RSPC projects over the years with some of his favorites including *F***ed Up Fairytales*, *Once Upon A Midnight Dreary*, the 48 Hour Play Festival, *Speakeasy*, and more. Recent stage management credits outside of RSPC include *Happy Hour Prohibition* (NCL/Happy Hour Entertainment), *Wine Lovers The Musical* (NCL/Happy Hour Entertainment), *Kinky Boots* (NCL), *Jersey Boys* (NCL/Dodger Properties), the New York Innovative Theatre Awards, and *May Day* (NewYorkRep).

Laura Krouch (Production Manager/Technical Director) Over the years, Laura's traveling boots have taken her to all but three states in the U.S. and across an ocean. Some adventures include: Ajijaak on Turtle Island (Ibex Puppetry @ New Victory Theater on 42nd Street), In the Heights (John w. Engeman Theatre), Jesus Christ Superstar (Bristol Riverside Theatre), and third national tour of John Tartaglia's ImaginOcean (Gables Grove Productions). She would like to thank her family for being there for her and encouraging her pursuits, and to Kirk, Addison and Emily, her 2C family. Enjoy the show!

Rebecca Kane (Accessibility Coordinator) is an Astoria, Queens-based playwright, stage manager, indie theatre producer, intimacy director in training, and oat milk enthusiast. Her writing has appeared in the Rising Sun Performance Company 2019 Laboratorium Residency on Governor's Island, the Naked Angels Tuesdays@9 readings, and the New York Theatre Festival, among others. In summer of 2019, her parody Almost Maimed performed simultaneously in LadyFest at The Tank and in the inaugural season of Rogue Theatre Festival. She's had two new works appear in CyberTank 2020, The Tank's virtual 2020 season. She has worked with numerous other companies in other capacities, including Urban Stages, NYC Fringe, the Orlando Fringe Festival, Hey Jonte! Productions, The Telling Company, the Juilliard School, and the Playwrights Horizons Theater School.

Sally Burgos (Stage Manager) is a passionate stage manager of live entertainment. She has been working in this magical industry for the last decade wearing every hat and creating tons of storytelling. She is thrilled to be apart of the stage management team for Rising Sun Performance Company's Rites of Spring. She worked with Rising Sun just last year for the wonderful production of SCROOGE!

The Volunteer Team

Colby Ourand (Volunteer) is ecstatic to be joining Rising Sun Performance Company working on his first production with them. He joined the production team as a volunteer from Pace University where he studies acting. He is so happy to be able to help bring theatre to all of you.

Ivan McGill (Volunteer) is a Junior at Pace University with a major in Film and Screen Studies and a minor in Arts & Entertainment management. He is currently pursuing a career in the PR or Film/ Television industry and hopes to be a useful asset to the arts & entertainment industry.

Jemma Harris (Volunteer) Class of 2021 at Pace University, is excited to work with Rising Sun Productions to help produce independent theatre in the digital space at a time when digital theatre is the smart and safe option.

Rosanna Naples (Volunteer) is a senior at Pace studying Arts and Entertainment Management, pursuing a career in Music Business. With an adoration for the arts, she hopes to aid the theatre community during the coronavirus pandemic and practice Rising Sun's mission.

THE RITES OF SPRING

**Team One:
The Sweeping Angels**



 Kati Frazier	 Brock Hill	 Anel Carmona	 Lluvia Almanza
 Zarra Kaahn	 Maya Schnaider	 Orlando F. Rodriguez	

THE RITES OF SPRING

**Team Two:
Maybe, Maybe Not Knot**



 Susan Goodell	 Paige Washington		
 Rick Benson	 Jo Walker	 Natalie Osborne	

THE
RITES
OF
SPRING

Team Three:
Equinauts



Anel Carmona



Crystal Ramirez



Johnny Blaze Leavitt



Mateo Moreno



THE
RITES
OF
SPRING

Team Four:
The Virgin Crowns



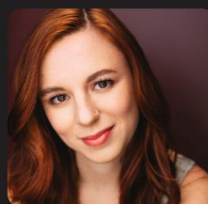
Becky Saunders



Antonio Miniño



Sean Phillips



Samantha Simone



Ellie Mae Miller

THE
RITES
OF
SPRING

Team Five:
Rainy EggYolks



Molly Kirschner



Lanise Antoine Shelley



Jennifer Iris Rivera



Ita Korenzecher



Chris Jumper



Stephanie D. Barney

THE
RITES
OF
SPRING

Team Six:
Rockin' Robins



Orlando F. Rodriguez



Mia Y. Anderson



Josephine Pizzino



Judd Silverman



Luana Seu

THE RITES OF SPRING

Team Seven:
The Seventh Inning Stretch



Ben Dworken



Paul Andrews



Jennifer Atkinson



Jonathan Wong Frye



Isabelle Barany



Mary Sheridan

THE RITES OF SPRING

Team Eight:
The Scrambled Eggs



Donna Latham



Chelsey Smith



Raiane Cantisano



Samuel Neagley



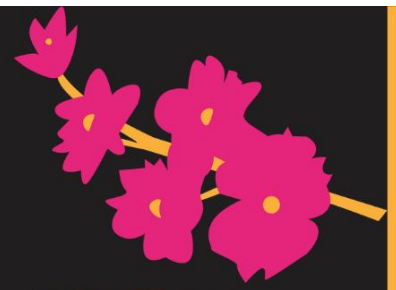
Raul Chavez



Maggie Kissinger

THE
RITES
OF
SPRING

Team
Stage Management



Laura Krouch



Addison Herndon



Sally Burgos



Justin Hsu



THE
RITES
OF
SPRING

Production & Creative
Team



Akia Squitieri



Anna Hogan



Rachael Langton



Rick Benson



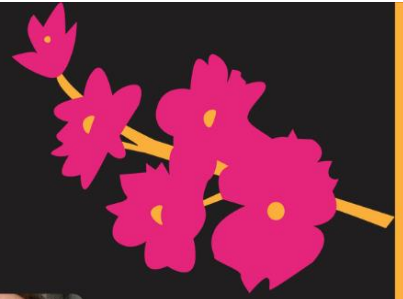
Rebecca Kane



Jennifer Iris Rivera

THE RITES OF SPRING

Production Assistants



Ivan McGill



Rosanna Naples



Colby Ourand



Chloe Green



Jemma Harris