

## PLAYWRIGHTS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES ARTISTIC TEAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL Live Streaming July 16-25, 2021

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (13 July 2021) —**Playwrights Foundation** has announced the artistic teams for this summer's 44<sup>th</sup> annual **Bay Area Playwrights Festival (BAPF)**. The casts for BAPF's live streamed readings spotlight acclaimed actors including TV/film actor and theatre mainstay **Emily Kuroda**, known for her role as Mrs. Kim in "Gilmore Girls," as well as Bay Area theatre veterans **Halili Knox**, **Tasi Alabastro**, **Keiko Shimosato Carreiro** and **Michael Ray Wisely**, plus many others. Acclaimed theatre makers and scholars have been enlisted to aid the playwrights as content experts helping to develop the worlds of their plays, including Tony Award-winning designer **Clint Ramos** (Broadway's *Eclipsed*, *Violet*, *Once on This Island*, *Slave Play*) serving as content expert for **Sam Hamashima's** *Supposed Home* and **Wei Ming Dariotis**, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University, acting as content expert for **Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin's** *Tiger Beat*.

In addition, Playwrights Foundation has announced several special events in which members of the public can hear more about this year's playwrights, including their processes and inspirations – as well as sampler platter of other works. Events include the **Honorable Mention & BAPF Staff Playslam**, a late-night celebration offering excerpts from standout applications to this year's festival and stellar BAPF staff playwrights; a **Conversation with the BAPF Playwrights**; and **Resident Playwrights Initiative (RPI) Snack Pack**, an artistic showcase featuring **Megan Cohen**, **Star Finch**, **Bennett Fisher**, **Nick Mwaluko**, and **Dan Wolf**. Information on these events and others can be found online at [playwrightsfoundation.org](http://playwrightsfoundation.org).

The 2021 BAPF features ten readings of five new works, including **Jaisey Bates' *Real Time remix***, a new selection of short works in which four storytellers crisscross paths across dimensions; **Miyoko Conley's *Human Museum***, a wildly imaginative drama depicting a future where a human museum is curated by robots; **Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin's *Tiger Beat***, a coming of age story about pop stardom in the 2000s; **Sam Hamashima's *Supposed Home***, a time-bending anime adventure investigating the lasting effects of the Japanese American Concentration Camps; and **Johnny G. Lloyd's *The Problem with Magic, Is:***, a magical exploration of family, gentrification, and a spell gone wrong.

**Bay Area Playwrights Festival** runs **July 16-25, 2021**. The public may purchase streaming access on a sliding scale for individual readings (\$5-20) or an All Access Festival Pass (\$25-175). This pass includes access to all festival readings as well as an invitation to all events

including two in-person gatherings 2-5pm PDT Sunday, July 18 and Sunday, July 25. Streaming tickets and more information are available at [playwrightsfoundation.org](https://playwrightsfoundation.org) or by calling 415-626-2176.

**Bay Area Playwrights Festival** is one of the nation's oldest and most successful new play development programs. Now led by Executive Artistic Director **Jessica Bird Beza**, the Festival was established in 1976 by acclaimed director Robert Woodruff, and has built a stellar reputation for discovering original and distinctive new voices in the theater, investing in the development of their work, and launching storied careers. The BAPF's ongoing success in supporting exceptional, newly emerging writers and launching their groundbreaking new work is its enduring legacy.

The Festival lineup is as follows:

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## **Real Time remix**

By **Jaisey Bates**

Co-directed by **Jeanette Harrison and Nailah Harper-Malveaux**

Dramaturgy by **David Geary**

**5:30pm PDT Saturday, July 17** (*by invitation only*) • **11:30am PDT Sunday, July 25**

### Cast

One: **Kaili Turner**

Two: **Jenny Marlowe**

Three: **TBD**

Four: **AeJay Mitchell**

Production Assistant: **Emily Preis**

In *Real Time remix*, four storytellers crisscross paths across dimensions as they journey through this new selection of short works where words are alive and every breath is a riot of beauty, a revolutionary act of courage grit grace faith fire. In a mortally wounded world rapidly running out of time, how can we find ways to survive? To heal ourselves, our words, and our worlds, and to, together, thrive?

## **Human Museum**

By **Miyoko Conley**

Directed by **Bob Shryock**

Dramaturgy by **Divinia Shorter**

**11:30am PDT Sunday, July 18** • **5:30pm PDT Saturday, July 24**

### Cast

Avery: **Natalia Duong**

Delivery Bot: **Cassie Grilley**

Director: **Indiia Willmot**

Robot 65: **Greg Ayers**  
Robot 237: **Joyce Domanico-Huh**  
Scientist: **Cathleen Riddley**

Production Assistant: **Katie Grant**

Set in a future where humans have gone extinct, ***Human Museum*** follows a group of robots on Earth that run a museum dedicated to organizing the physical and digital artifacts of human life. On the centenary of human extinction, an unexpected radio call upends everything the robots thought they knew about the last days of humanity.

## **Tiger Beat**

By **Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin**

Directed by **Jessica Holt**

Dramaturgy by **Natalia Duong**

**11:30am PDT Saturday, July 17 • 5:30pm PDT Friday, July 23**

### Cast

Ashley: **Sarah Traisman**

JP: **Chris Stevens**

Mr. Johansson: **Michael Ray Wisely**

Poppy: **Kimberly Hollkamp-Dinon**

Tess: **Katie Lee Hill**

Vivian: **Erin Mei-Ling Stuart**

Content Expert: **Wei Ming Dariotis**

Production Assistant: **Tessa Saito King**

***Tiger Beat*** follows the Girls Next Door, a pop girl group rising to fame in the early 2000's. The group's Asian American songwriter Tess finally gets a chance to sing lead, but the opportunity comes at what cost? This play with music is a coming of age story about pop stardom, 2003 fashion choices, and the pursuit of artistry on one's own terms.

## **Supposed Home**

By **Sam Hamashima**

Directed by **May Liang**

Dramaturgy by **Miranda Cornell**

**5:30pm PDT Sunday, July 18 • 11:30am PDT Saturday, July 24**

### Cast

Cactus/ Cat: **Lisa Hori-Garcia**

Grandson/ The Guard: **Futaba Shioda**

Old Shiyoko: **Emily Kuroda**

Rattlesnake: **Keiko Shimosato Carreiro**

Tanuki: **Tasi Alabastro**

Young Shiyoko: **Sango Tajima**

Content Expert: **Clint Ramos**  
Production Assistant: **Sabrina Sonner**

Shiyo left the Japanese American Concentration Camps a long time ago...or so she thought. Past and present become one landscape for this anime adventure as enemies are revealed, companions are found, trauma is unpacked, and what was only thought becomes (un)spoken word.

## **The Problem with Magic, Is:**

By **Johnny G. Lloyd**

Directed by **Leigh Rondon-Davis**

Dramaturgy by **Adrena Williams**

**5:30pm Friday, July 16 • 5:30pm PDT Sunday, July 25**

### Cast

Clarence: **Kenny Scott**

Ila: **Anna Marie Sharpe**

Jabari: **Dorian Lockett**

Jodi: **Summer Brown**

Voice in the Darkness: **Halili Knox**

Production Assistant: **Eliza Mascoll**

After the death of their mother, Jodie goes back home to help her brother, Clarence, run the family magic shop. As the pressure to keep the business alive grows, they find themselves dealing not only with loss and new responsibility but also the forces of gentrification – and – a snake deity conjured from a spell gone wrong.

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### SPECIAL EVENTS:

## **A Conversation with the Playwrights of BAPF 2021**

**3pm PDT Saturday, July 17**

Jaisey Bates, Miyoko Conley, Kaela Mae-Shin Garvin, Sam Hamashima, and Johnny G. Lloyd gather to discuss their plays, their writing processes, BAPF 2021, and the possibility for theatrical storytelling to provide healing during a year of many plagues.

## **Resident Playwrights Initiative (RPI) Snack Pack:**

**An Artistic Showcase featuring Megan Cohen, Star Finch,**

**Bennett Fisher, Nick Mwaluko and Dan Wolf**

**5:30pm PDT Wednesday, July 21**

Audiences are invited to learn more about Playwrights Foundation's Resident Playwrights in an artistic snack sampler that investigates who they are as artists, explores their past work, and provides a sneak peek at work in process. Available to stream from the comfort of home, audience members can mingle with Resident Playwrights in an After Party directly following the event.

## **Honorable Mention & BAPF Staff Playslam**

**7:45pm PDT Friday, July 23 (following the reading of *Tiger Beat*)**

In this hybrid event, a collection of honorable mention and BAPF staff playwrights from Potrero Stage to the East Coast will read short excerpts of their work aloud. Audiences are invited to attend a late-night celebration of some of the standout plays from behind the scenes of BAPF 2021.

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### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:**      **Playwrights Foundation**, the West Coast's premier launchpad for plays and playwrights, presents the 44th annual **Bay Area Playwrights Festival (BAPF)**. The festival, which invites audiences this year to "Gather Around Bold New Plays," will present public readings of five new plays by five bold, multi-award-winning playwrights: nomadic theatre/spoken word artist **Jaisey Bates**, playwright/games writer/scholar **Miyoko Conley**, writer/producer/performer/educator **Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin**, prize-winning playwright **Sam Hamashima**, and New York-based writer and producer **Johnny G. Lloyd**. The acclaimed festival is scheduled to stream online, providing the opportunity for audiences around the globe to experience exhilarating new work by emerging theater artists.

**WHEN:**      **Play readings Friday, July 16 – Sunday, July 25, 2021**  
5:30pm PDT Friday, July 16: *The Problem with Magic, Is:*  
11:30am PDT Saturday, July 17: *Tiger Beat*  
5:30pm PDT Saturday, July 17: *Real Time remix*  
11:30am PDT Sunday, July 18: *Human Museum*  
5:30pm PDT Sunday, July 18: *Supposed Home*  
5:30pm PDT Friday, July 23: *Tiger Beat*  
11:30am PDT Saturday, July 24: *Supposed Home*  
5:30pm PDT Saturday, July 24: *Human Museum*  
11:30am PDT Sunday, July 25: *Real Time remix*  
5:30pm PDT Sunday, July 25: *The Problem with Magic, Is:*

### **Free Virtual Special Events**

3pm PDT Saturday, July 17: A Conversation with the Playwrights of BAPF 2021  
5:30pm PDT Wednesday, July 21: Resident Playwrights Initiative (RPI) Snack Pack  
7:45pm PDT Friday, July 23: Honorable Mention & BAPF Staff Playslam

2021 BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL – PLAYWRIGHTS FOUNDATION  
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*RSVPs are required to attend special events or included in the All Access Pass.*

**In-person gatherings**

2-5pm PDT Sunday, July 18 and Sunday, July 25

**WHERE:** **Online.** Patrons who purchase tickets will be emailed links to stream the programs at home on their computer, SmartTV or other device.

**TICKETS:** All Access Festival Passes (\$25-175) and individual tickets (\$5-20) are now available at [www.playwrightsfoundation.org](http://www.playwrightsfoundation.org) or by calling **415-626-2176**.

The All Access Festival Pass includes access to all festival readings as well as an invitation to all events including two in-person gatherings 2-5pm PDT Sunday, July 18 and Sunday, July 25.

**PRESS:** Contact Lauren Goldfarb, Carla Befera & Co.  
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**PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available here:  
<http://www.cbpr.co/press/2021BAPF>