

INTENSIVE MENTORSHIP READING SERIES 2023

Produced by
Latinx Playwrights Circle



AXE-HOUGHTON
FOUNDATION

Curtis W. McGraw
Foundation

INTENSIVE MENTORSHIP 2023

About The Play



Time, Don't Take It Away
by Justin Santory
Directed by Benjamin Villegas
Randle

Léo stumbles on a vintage store and buys a t-shirt that comes with an unusual surprise sewn inside. Under special circumstances, Léo meets a beautiful dancer named Benny (except Léo doesn't know that). Meanwhile, Léo's best friend and platonic life-mate Roxy is crushing it at work and new opportunities are on her horizon. How will Léo navigate his way through the heartbreak of the change that comes with time, even when that change can be good?

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Meet the Playwright



Justin Santory is a gay native Nuyorican playwright and performer. In July 2021, his first play *Three's a Party* had its world premiere produced by Teatro Bravo and Mesa Community College in Arizona. He was part of the inaugural Creative Access Grant cohort at Primary Stages. Justin's second play, *On a Higher Vibration*, received a reading at 59E59 Theaters. He also contributed to *DIQUE*, a commissioned piece for the Arte Pa Mi Gente Festival. Justin's goal is to write plays that add a pinch of adobo to the American theatrical canon.

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Meet the Mentor



Georgina H.L. Escobar is a Mexican American playwright originally from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. She is a MacDowell Fellow, Djerassi Resident and recipient of the Kennedy Center Darrell Ayers Playwriting Award. Her work has been featured in the Kilroys List, The Texas Review, Los Bárbaros, McSweeney's Anthology, and New Passport Press. Her plays have been produced across the USA and internationally in Mexico, Denmark, and Sweden. Artistic homes and presenters include INTAR, New York Children's Theatre, Project Y, Clubbed Thumb, Lincoln Center, Bushwick Starr (NY), Two Rivers (NJ), Milagro (PDX), Aurora Theatre (GA), and Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre (IN). Recently Escobar penned the book for the upcoming musical Little Duende and is slotted as a librettist alongside composer Linda Bouchard for the opera Onset Was Sudden. Currently, she is the Visiting Professor of Practice; Playwriting at the University of Texas at El Paso and has presented at the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER), Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), and at the upcoming Seventeenth International Conference on Technology, Knowledge, and Society, at University of Melbourne.

CAST

SKITTELEZ ORTIZ
MAMA SAL



SkittLeZ Ortiz is a Latine artist from the Bronx, New York. With over 150k followers across platforms, SkittLeZ has been creating content that uplifts the community and celebrates pride for the last decade. SkittLeZ first became a viral sensation in 2012, when they created the Telemundo Premios Tu Mundo nominated hit "Sh*t Spanish Girls Say." SkittLeZ acting experience spans from the stage, to television and voice over work. They have appeared in plays at The PIT and The Flea in New York City. They've appeared in season 2 and 3 of HBO's High Maintenance and can be heard as the voice of Debbie in SyFy's animated series Wild Life. They can also be heard as the voice of Juni, in Rattlestick theatre's MTA Radio Plays: "The Miseducation Of Juni Rodriguez."

KATHERINE GEORGE
ROXY



Katherine George is an Afro-Latina multi-hyphenate artist and educator from the Bronx, NY by way of the Dominican Republic. She received a BA in Theater from Brooklyn College and most recently her MFA in Acting at Columbia University. Recent acting credits include: Halfway Bitches Go Straight to Heaven (Lenfest Center for the Arts), The Cooking Project (NYTW), Locked Up B*tches (Flea Theater), and The Unusual Tale of Mary and Joseph's Baby (NYC Fringe Festival). She co-stars in the film Crabs in Barrel which was the winner of HBO's 2021 Latinx Short Film competition. She is a proud member of the Dominican Artist Collective.

CEDRIC LEIBA JR
LEO



Off Broadway: Kingdom (The Public), The Marchers (Pregones/PRTT), Yellow Brick Road (Lucille Lortel), Sweet Charity (New Harlem Arts Theatre, HOLA Award). Paris: Carmen La Cubana (Théâtre du Châtelet). National Tours: Rent, Miss Saigon. Regional: West Side Story (The MUNY), La Cage (Goodspeed), Chad Deity (TheatreSquared), Sweat (McCoy Rigby Entertainment). Television: High Maintenance (HBO), The Blacklist (NBC). Film: Bros, Gets Good Light, Millie and The Lords. Cedric is the Co-Founder of DominiRican Productions which has been featured in GMA, The Advocate, ALL ARTS and has created content for Roundabout Theatre Company, Pregones/PRTT, Bombazo Dance Company, Nasdaq and The NuYorican Poets Cafe.

CAST

JULIAN ELIJAH MARTINEZ BENNY



Broadway: Network. **Off-Broadway:** This Land Was Made (Vineyard Theatre); Sanctuary City (New York Theater Workshop); Anatomy of A Suicide (Atlantic Theater Company) Mud (Boundless Theater Company); Alligator (New Georges). **Regional:** King Lear (Shakespeare Theater Company); Father Comes Home From The Wars Part 1, 2, 3 (co-production Yale Rep and A.C.T); and 9 Circles (Forum Theatre, Helen Hayes nomination). **TV:** Wu-tang: An American Saga; Law and Order: SVU; That Damn Michael Che Show; Prodigal Son; and Elementary. **Other:** Company member of The Acting Company, and Board member of Developing Artist. **Training:** MFA Yale School Of Drama.
julianelijahmartinez.com

FLOWER ESTEFANA RIOS STAGE DIRECTIONS



Flower is a queer Chicana from the borderlands of Laredo, Texas! She is a singer, actress, drag performer, and all around good time gal! Recently studied with LABrynth's Intensive Ensemble and Breaking the Binary's Musical Theater Intensive.

CREW

BEN VILLEGAS RANDLE

DIRECTOR



BEN VILLEGAS RANDLE directed the West Coast premiere of Christopher Oscar Peña's *How to Make an American Son* for Profile Theatre (Portland, OR). In NYC: *Hello Again* by Michael John LaChiusa (The Drama League's DirectorFest, as 2019 Drama League Leo Shull Musical Theatre Directing Fellow); *Dance Nation* (NYU/Atlantic Acting School), Lauren Yee's *Hookman* (Atlantic Training Company). In SF, world premieres include: *Sagittarius Ponderosa* by MJ Kaufman; *warplay* and *Into the Clear Blue Sky* by JC Lee; *The Fisherman's Wife* by Steve Yockey. Ben has also worked at New York Stage and Film, BAM, Aurora Theatre and West Edge Opera. B.A. from San Francisco State University; Manhattan Theatre Club Directing Fellow; Lincoln Center Theatre Directors Lab.

"CURLY" KAREN SCHLEIFER

STAGE MANAGER



"Curly" Karen Schleifer (Production Stage Manager) Favorite Credits include: Off-Broadway: *SMALL* (59E59, Penguin Rep & Chita Rivera in assn. w/ Ted Snowdon & Flying Carpet Theatre Co.), *The Panic of '29** (59E59); Regional: *The Shot** (NJ Rep), *Secret Hour** (Capital Rep Theatre), *SMALL** (Penguin Rep Theatre), *To The Moon** (Creede Rep Theatre), *King Lear*, *Pericles*, *As You Like It** (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival), *Hello Again*, Annual Drama League Awards & Annual Drama League Gala (The Drama League), *Driving Miss Daisy* (The Laguna Playhouse), *Jews, Christians & Screwing Stalin** (The Matrix Theatre), (*denotes world premiere); An accomplished singer-songwriter (@shotguncurlly), Karen played "Kate" for 2 years in the original Broadway production of *Annie!* B.A. SUNY Purchase, member AEA/SAG-AFTRA. She dedicates her theatrical career to her mentor, Jennifer Straniero.

INTENSIVE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Intensive Mentorship is a blind application-based opportunity for LPC community-members to work closely with an established playwright mentor to develop a full-length play that results in a developmental reading festival.

Each playwright receives an artist stipend, access to writing space in NYC, monthly work sessions, one private table reading, and a public industry reading at the end of their residency. Past mentors have included Migdalia Cruz, Carmen Rivera, Cándido Tirado, and C. Julian Jiménez.

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