

# **TC SQUARED PLAYWRIGHTS LAB**



MAY 19, 2014

**BOSTON PLAYWRIGHT'S THEATRE** BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



### ROSALIND THOMAS-CLARK, Artistic Director

The Next Stage: TC Squared – New Theatre Outside the Box - moves forward today with our first Ten-Minute Play Festival. Nine plays are in development, with the help of dramaturg Marty Kingsbury, culminating in this Staged Reading at Boston Playwrights Theatre.

We are proud of the work that has emerged from our Playwriting Lab since September 2013. We are

also proud of our skilled ensemble. These people have volunteered their time to bring these pieces to life on the stage.

TC Squared first presented *The Next Stage* in 2008. Since then, there have been five Staged Readings of new work, a One-Act Play Festival, and three Weekend Retreats and Readings for playwrights and actors at WHAT (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre). We have also been invited to perform at several special events, and have been running our Playwriting Lab for the past nine months.

The TC Squared Board, Raiza Cheng, Jadira Figueroa and Nikki Prefontaine, have made this happen. We continue to uphold our cherished belief that the voices of our young writers and actors must be heard and will contribute to awareness and social change in our community.

Thank you for coming and for your continued support.



#### MARTY KINGSBURY, Dramaturg

My relationship with TC2 started by chance. I ran into Ros one afternoon at Porter Square Books. She had her grandchildren with her, didn't have time to talk, but on the fly she asked – "Are you a good dramaturg?" Naturally, I said, "Yes." For the next two years I developed plays to be performed at WHAT (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre). That was two years and five new plays ago.

The playwriting workshop, however, did not happen by chance. It was an idea that Nikki Prefontaine and TC Squared had been working with for many years, and in September 2013, it started with five playwrights. We gathered around Ros's kitchen table. We read. We improvised. We talked. And when there was time, we wrote together. Revisions emerged with ideas that I never would have imagined. Each and every playwright is in each and every play disguised as an idea, a fact, a design, a character, or a new point of view.

What we present tonight is the beginning of a journey, the germination of scenes that will grow into larger, more complicated plays. Keep an eye on us.

#### BLOODY MARY BY ARIKA NABUTOVSKY • DIRECTED BY VERONICA WELLS

Isabel wakes in the middle of the night to discover that Sarah, her imaginary friend, is missing. Isabel learns from the Monster Under The Bed that Sarah has been kidnapped by the nightmarish Bloody Mary. To rescue Sarah, Isabel must enter the bizarre and dangerous underworld of childhood.

Mother, 20s ...... Jadira Figueroa

Isabel, 8 ..... Inès de la Cruz

Monster Under the Bed .... Joe Kidawski

# SHAMELESS BREATHING

### BY MILOURDES AUGUSTIN • DIRECTED BY VICTORIA MARSH

Stuck sharing a room in a mental institution, three women are brought together by a common thread of trying to escape their realities.

Steph ..... Laura Menzie

Kim ..... Liz Eng

Nina ..... Blyss Cleveland

# DIRTY LAUNDRY

### BY JECENIA FIGUEROA • DIRECTED BY ROSALIND THOMAS-CLARK

One son's mistake causes an all-American Latino family to plunge into a dysfunctional, crumbling ensemble. For Luz Lacosta, a mother's love is the only force that can keep her sane, but at what cost? *Ernesto, 40s* ........ Danny Mourino *Lus* ......... Inès de la Cruz

News Reporter ..... Joe Kidawski

# STIR-FRYING WITH MAHJONG

### BY CHRISTINA CHAN • DIRECTED BY VICTORIA MARSH

A one-person show about the fall of a successful Chinèse-American cooking show host who has an addiction. *Winnie Tang, 30s* ......... Christina Chan

### HOW I BECAME A SAXOPHONE

### BY GIDEON BAUTISTA • DIRECTED BY MICHAEL KNOWLTON

Odie, 30s ..... Josh Santora

There will be a ten-minute intermission.

# CHASING GRATITUDE

BY JAHCOBIE COSOM • DIRECTED BY ROSALIND THOMAS-CLARK

Dealing with the effects of terrorism - months of flashbacks, pill popping to sleep, and the steady destruction of his reality - Malik gets a harsh wake up call from his long term partner, Eric.

Malik, 20s ...... Elyas Harris Eric, 20s, Malik's partner ..... Josh Santora LA Therapist ...... Joe Kidawski Lola, 20s, Malik's friend ...... Inès de la Cruz Bum ...... Alex Castillo-Nunez

# MY SON'S MOTHER

by CATHERINE M. O'NEILL • directed by ROSALIND THOMAS-CLARK

Gabby's son finds his birth mother, who is richer, better-looking and famous. His joy sucks Gabby's life away; his pain resurrects it.

Gabby, 60s	Lynne Hall
Katie, 20, Gabby's sister	Jadira Figueroa
Alec, 40, Gabby's adopted son	Josh Santora
Josie, 38, Alec's wife	Blyss Cleveland
Samantha, 60s, a high-ranking busInèss woman	Laura Menzie
Christopher, 50s, Samantha's Lawyer	Joe Kidawski
Waiter	Alex Castillo-Nunez

# MARRIAGE FOR ALL

### BY RAIZA CHENG • DIRECTED BY VICTORIA MARSH

Melissa must find a husband before she turns thirty. She must choose between marrying into wealth to save her family or unearthing her secret. *Melissa, late 20s* ....... Christina Chan *Emma, mid 20s* ....... Liz Eng *Kelly, mid 20s* .......... Laura Menzie

# LOST CONSTELLATIONS

### by SABINA LINDSEY • directed by VERONICA WELLS

Keira ...... Jadira Figueroa

Natalie ...... Inès de la Cruz

ALL STAGE DIRECTIONS READ BY

# **CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**



MILOURDES "MIMI" AUGUSTIN PLAYWRIGHT



GIDEON BAUTISTA PLAYWRIGHT



ALEXANDER CASTILLO-NUNEZ ACTOR



CHRISTINA R. CHAN ACTOR/PLAYWRIGHT



RAIZA CHENG PLAYWRIGHT



BLYSS CLEVELAND ACTOR



JAHCOBIE COSOM PLAYWRIGHT



INÈS DE LA CRUZ ACTOR



LIZ ENG ACTOR



JADIRA FIGUEROA ACTOR



JECENIA FIGUEROA PLAYWRIGHT



LYNNE HALL ACTOR

# **CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**



ELYAS HARRIS ACTOR



JOSEPH KIDAWSI ACTOR



MICHAEL KNOWLTON DIRECTOR



SABINA LINDSEY PLAYWRIGHT



VICTORIA MARSH DIRECTOR



DANNY MOURINO ACTOR



LAURA MENZIE ACTOR



ARIKA NABUTOVSKY PLAYWRIGHT



CATHERINE M. O'NEILL PLAYWRIGHT



JOSH SANTORA ACTOR



VERONICA WELLS DIRECTOR

**MILOURDES AUGUSTIN**, *Playwright* Milourdes (Mimi), is really excited to be a part of this showcase. Her previous experience with writing is in poetry and short stories, so she is excited to make her playwriting debut and hopes she finds the time and the sanity to continue down this journey! As an actor, Mimi has performed in several shows, including *Reflections on Salvador Dali Make Me Hot* at Wellfleet Harbor Actor's Theatre and *Hookman* at Company One.

**GIDEON BAUTISTA**, *Playwright* Gideon has appeared throughout Boston's fringe scene, including with Fresh Ink, Fiasco Productions, the Gold Dust Orphans, and Apollinaire. He co-everything-ed N/A Theater's *Mindy & Brenda* with Andrew Gerst and is a proud alum of MCASB and Emerson. See him monthly in live sitcoms with Comedycazi in Davis Square and on the Freedom Trail as the lively smith of tin and story, James Blake.

#### ALEXANDER CASTILLO-NUNEZ, Actor

Graduating from Boston Arts Academy in 2008 as a theatre major, Alexander's theatre credits include: The Sing Song Show, House Of Blue Leaves, Ring Round The Moon, Blues For Mister Charlie at Boston Arts Academy; Romeo and Juliet at the Publick Theatre; Pink Panther Strikes Again at Salem State University; Angel Academy at Berubian Theatre, Hollywood, California. Film credits: Broke and By Chance for Beyond Measure Productions (Boston, MA). In addition to theatre and film, he is a photographer, poet, and progressive filmmaker, with photo exhibitions in Los Angeles. He performs poetry at open mics/hip hop events in Boston and New York.

CHRISTINA R. CHAN, Actor/Playwright Christina is a member of SAG. Her passion is telling the stories of Asian American women and immigrants. Christina is the recipient of numerous artist fellowships and artist in residencies. She has created, performed and produced several highly acclaimed solo and ensemble performance pieces. She received her acting training at Trinity Rep. Conservatory in Rhode Island and The Royal National Theatre in London. Christina is the co-founder of The Breaking Silences Project (www.thebreakingsilencesproject.com). This multi-faceted artistic project seeks to raise awareness and educate about the alarmingly high suicide and depression rates of Asian American girls and young women.

#### RAIZA CHENG, Playwright

Raiza (Boston Arts Academy '05) is a Founding Board member of TC Squared, and has been instrumental in launching this BAA alumni theatre company. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, with a concentration in Finance, and a minor in Economics. While at BAA, Raiza won the Technical Theatre Award, and was credited as Production Manager for several shows. She has produced all the Staged Readings to date with TC Squared. Her play Voice in Her Head was performed as part of the TC Squared One-Act Play Festival at the Boston Centre for the Arts in 2013. Her recent play, Marriage for All, has been developed in the TC Squared Playwrights Lab with dramaturg Marty Kingsbury.

#### BLYSS CLEVELAND, Actor

Blyss feels most at home when she's on stage because it's the only place where all the nonsense in her head can be put to good use. When she first came up with the name in 2007, she has been passively trying to recruit members for her band, *The Shapely Bolsheviks*. Blyss recently performed in Company One's Showcase for professional actors. She also took Intermediate Acting and Acting Shakespeare at Harvard. Currently, Blyss is playing Lady in Gold in Pariah Theatre Company's production of *for colored girls...*.

**JAHCOBIE COSOM**, Playwright Jahcobie is a Bi-Coastal Writer, Director, and Award winning Educator, based in Los Angeles. He is a native of Boston, MA, and was raised in the Dorchester/ Roxbury communities. He is a graduate of the Boston Arts Academy, where he studied Theatre Arts and became the school's first Media Arts Maior. He holds a BFA from California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, CA. His work has been featured across America and abroad, including Germany, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Los Angeles RedCat Theater, Dallas, and Philadelphia. Just recently his film, ... Moments... became available on Comcast Xfinity throughout New England. He has also worked for The City of Santa Clarita Heroin Kills film campaign. His poetic writing Metempsychosis was featured in Psychic Outlaws. at CalState University/ Los Angeles Luckman Arts Complex. He is an active playwright fellow for TC Squared and his piece, Qui'Mo Chic, has been developed in readings at the Boston Playwrights Theatre, WHAT, and the Boston Centre for the Arts Plaza Theatre.

#### INÈS DE LA CRUZ, Actor

Inès hails from Boston and is of Dominican origin. She has received training from Company One's Professional Development for Actors program, The Actor's Workshop, and Boston Casting's Media Performance Institute. She is featured in various MassArt student films, ESL, and Spanish language educational videos. Inès has been a member of Escena Latina Teatro (ELT) since 2006, and has performed in various company productions. She was recently cast as Anyula in ELT's production of the Argentine play, La Nona by Roberto Cossa. Inès was one of four actors selected for the TC Squared ensemble in The Great War Theatre Project: Messengers of a Bitter Truth. She is delighted to be bringing these new plays to life on the stage.

#### LIZ ENG, Actor

Liz is excited to work with TC Squared and the talented writers, cast and directors. Liz is a SAG-AFTRA actress who also enjoys producing films. Liz has appeared in *Chinglish* at the Lyric Stage, and *Songs of the Dragons Flying to the Heavens* with Apollonaire Theatre Company. In her free time she loves running international marathons. Special thanks to Ros and Victoria who made this possible.

#### JADIRA FIGUEROA, Actor

Jadira's love of theatre began when she was a theatre major at Boston Arts Academy. Acting credits include Escena Latina Teatro, Underground Railway Theatre, and TC Squared. Her recent stage managing credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *Hidden Faces of Courage*, and Stage Manager for *Vinegar Tom*, TC Squared's *Qui Mo Chic* and *The Great War Theatre Project: Messengers of a Bitter Truth*. She is happily back on stage for these roles in the Staged Reading. JECENIA FIGUEROA, Playwright As a freelance writer, Jecenia has been in love with this creative outlet ever since she was taught how to form sentences, and many filled notebooks are proof to that truth. Though her passion for the arts has grown stronger throughout her years, it was only recently that she was able to share her ideas. She was fortunate enough to be a part of TC Squared Playwrights Lab this past fall, which was an amazing experience. Many thanks and love to Marty Kingsbury and Rosalind Thomas-Clark for their guidance and support. Jecenia is part of L'Escena Latina Teatro, a community-based theatre company in Boston. Her theatrical experience includes a staged performance of Mujeres de Arena directed by Dr. Christina Marin of Emerson College.

#### LYNNE HALL, Actor

After 27 years working in the Cambridge Public Schools, Lynne is embarking on a new venture, acting. She has taken the Company One Professional Development for Actors course twice and has appeared in two showcases. She played Edna, a 74 year old working prostitute, in Paula Vogel's The Oldest Profession; Mama in 'Night Mother by Marsha Norman; Miranda in The Devil Wears Prada by Aline Brosh McKenna; and Eleanor in Tom Stoppard's Rock 'n' Roll. She is delighted to be a part of TC Squared's Staged Reading. Lynne looks forward to many more roles and theatrical challenges ahead.

#### ELYAS HARRIS, Actor

Ely is a recent graduate from Bucknell University where he appeared in many of the university's theatre and dance performances. He studied political science and education at Bucknell before becoming a first grade teacher in the Boston Public Schools. He graduated from Boston Arts Academy in 2009 as a theatre major. Some of his acting credits include: *Night Train, Bolina, Macbeth, No Exit*, and *Pride and Prejudice*. Ely was a featured dancer in two Bucknell Dance Company Concerts where he performed *Choreographic Offering* by José Limón. He was pleased to be chosen as a member of the cast of *The Great War Theatre Project: Messengers of a Bitter Truth*. The Playwrights Lab is offering Ely a chance to develop several interesting characters.

#### JOSEPH KIDAWSKI, Actor

Joseph is pleased to be making his TC Squared debut! You can see him next in Macbeth with Brown Box Theater. Some previous Boston credits include: We Are Proud to Present... and Hookman with Company One; Soul Mates with the Boston Actors Theater; Cyrano De Bergerac and Slasher with the Apollinaire; Benjamin Franklin and Abraham Lincoln with Young Audiences, Solace with the Science Fiction Theater Co., and Much Ado About Nothing with Artist Theater of Boston. Joseph splits his time between theater, film, and music. Find out more at www.kidawski.com. As always he thanks his parents for their unwavering support.

MARTY KINGSBURY, Dramaturg Marty's plays have been produced across the United States, in Sydney, Australia, and London, England. She has been published in numerous magazlnès and anthologies, including Fresh! Literary Magazine, Telling Our Stories -- Roll, The Animal Anthology Project: True Tails, and Tough Acts To Follow. Her novel for young readers has just been published: Rescuing Oricito, The Almost True Story Of A South American Street Dog. She teaches English at the Urban College of Boston, and is delighted to work with the talented young voices of TC Squared. As TC Squared's resident dramaturg, she currently leads the Playwriting Lab which is holding this first Ten-Minute Play Festival.

MICHAEL KNOWLTON, Director Michael grew up and currently resides in Dorchester, and graduated from Boston Arts Academy in 2003. Formally an instrumentalist at Berklee College of Music, he became hooked on theatre at an improv class, and now continues to be in most TC Squared performances while continuing his work as an actor on the Boston stage. His recent credits include Our Town (Huntington Theatre); Splendor and Bengal Tiger At The Baghdad Zoo (Company One); and References To Salvador Dali Make Me Hot (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre). He is delighted to be directing for TC Squared.

SABINA LINDSEY, Playwright Sabina, born in Boston, MA, discovered a passion for the arts at a young age, attended Boston Arts Academy, and is now at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, majoring in theatre. Acting credits at BAA include Caucasian Chalk Circle, Saint Joan, The Wedding Band, Rent and Beyond Therapy. Sabina participated in the METG, playing Angel in 3014. One of her proudest moments as an artist was having her play Circus of Nightmares produced for her Senior Showcase. At UMass, Boston, she was cast in The Vagina Monologues. Her belief is that performing is not only about entertaining an audience, but also about taking them on a journey.

#### VICTORIA MARSH, Director

Victoria has worked closely with Boston area playwrights on new play development throughout her career as a director. Productions include the The Emancipation of Mandy and Miz Ellie by Lois Roach (Company One), The Gibson Girl and by Kirsten Greenidge (Company One), At the Ready by Kirsten Greenidge (Company One for the Boston Theatre Marathon), Break-It-Down by John ADEkoje (Company One for the Boston Theatre Marathon), Sailing Down the Amazon by Rosanna Yamigiwa Alfaro (Boston Playwrights Theatre), Haiku by Kate Snodgrass (Boston Playwrights Theatre), 103 Within the Veil by Kirsten Greenidge (Company One), Lost City by Conrad Bishop and Elizabeth Fuller (Company One), Twilight: Los Angeles 1992 by Anna Deavere Smith (Company One), Rash Acts by Conrad Bishop and Elizabeth Fuller (Company One), Bobby Pins Up Our Nose by Judy Tso and Christina Chan, and Unbinding Our Lives (Asian American Theatre Project). Marsh led new development workshops of The Glider by Kate Snodgrass for the Women on Top Theater Festival, White Ashes by Barbara Blatner for the Playwrights Platform Festival of New Plays, and Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro's Cowboy Samurai for New Theater, Inc. As the managing director of New Theatre, Inc. Marsh produced three NeWorks festivals, featuring Boston writers. Victoria is a Programming Coordinator for WGBH Television. She is an Honorary Board Member of TC Squared Theatre Company, producers of staged readings of new work by Boston Arts Academy alumni and other local artists.

#### DANNY MOURINO, Actor

Boston native Danny, an alumnus of Boston Arts Academy, made his professional debuts in the 2003 Boston Fringe Theater Festival and the 2004 African American Theatre Festival. He was later seen in Company One's The Last Days of Judas Iscariot. Currently, Danny is involved with the BAA alumni theatre company, TC Squared, founded by Rosalind Thomas-Clark, where he was recently understudy for The The Great War Theatre Project: Messengers of a Bitter Truth. His most recent main stage performances were in Company One's Splendor, and the TC Squared Staged Reading of Qui' Mo Chic at the Wellfleet Harbor Actor's Theatre. He is delighted to appear in this staged reading of new work from the TC Squared Playwrights Lab. Stay tuned for future performances.

#### LAURA MENZIE, Actor

Laura is thrilled to be a part of this Staged Reading. Recently, she was a cast member in TC Squared's unique theatre piece *The Great War Theatre Project: Messengers of a Bitter Truth.* Some Boston credits include *Soul Mates* with Boston Actors Theatre, *Songs of the Dragons Flying to the Heavens* with Apollonaire Theatre Company and the IRNE nominated *Nina Variations* with Brown Box Theatre Project. This summer Laura will be devising a piece with Brown Box and Icaro Teatro. She holds a BA in theatre from Clark University and studied at the Accademia dell'Arte.

ARIKA NABUTOVSKY, Playwright Arika is so glad to have participated in this project! As someone who is committed to having as much fun as possible, she reads and writes voraciously and contrives ways to travel the world with her charming husband. She is extremely interested in child protection and juvenile justice and currently earns her pittance by wrangling high schoolers. Thanks to Marty, Ros, and Victoria, and the fantastically creative, insightful, and supportive playwrights and actors in this Lab.

**CATHERINE M. O'NEILL**, Playwright Catherine lives and writes in Boston. She holds her MFA in Playwriting, a BS in Communications and Journalism and a graduate Certificate in Screenwriting from Emerson College, where she currently teaches in the Creative Writing Studio Program. Her plays have been produced by Boston Actors Theater, Argos Productions and Actor's Shakespeare Project. O'Neill is a published Smith and Kraus author; Best Male Monologues for the Stage 2012, and The Resurrections, BTM XIII. O'Neill's full length play The Fence will run March 2015 at Boston Center for the Arts. O'Neill is a community relations consultant in Boston for real estate developers (a playwright has to pay bills). O'Neill is grateful to Marty Kingsbury, TC Squared and the Kingsbury playwrights for allowing her to be part of their creative community, and giving My Son's Mother its first voice.

### JOSH SANTORA, Actor

Josh, a Jamaica Plain native, is ecstatic to rejoin the theatre community after nearly a decade in other worlds. He began his thespian journey as a theatre major at Boston Arts Academy, where his roles included Egeus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Lt. Byrd in *A Soldier's Story*; Tiger in *Fresh Flags* of America; Matt Galloway and Aaron McKinney in *The Laramie Project*; and multiple roles in *Grand Magic*. Whoopi Goldberg awarded Josh the accolade of Best Male Actor for his role in *The Lost Elevator* at the Emerson High School Theatre Festival. He was assistant to director Ros Thomas-Clark for the production of *You Must Not Speak*. Josh was delighted to be a member of the TC Squared Ensemble in the world premiere of *The Great War Theatre Project: Messengers of a Bitter Truth*. He is challenging himself again with several roles in this Staged Reading, and is inspired by the quality of the writing that came out of the Lab.

#### **ROSALIND THOMAS-CLARK**, Director

Rosalind has worked professionally as an actor and director for stage, radio, and film, but her passion has always been the development of arts and education. As founder and director, she was involved in several start-up arts organizations in Britain, New Zealand, and the US. She was the Founding Chair of Theatre at Boston Arts Academy, and continues coaching professional actors at Company One Theatre, where she also serves on the theatre's board of directors. Committed to theatre for social change, Ms. Thomas-Clark started her own theatre company in 1999—TC Squared: New Theatre Outside the Box—and directs productions with local playwrights and actors which address relevant contemporary issues. Among her many honors and awards, she was the recipient of a SURDNA Arts Teacher's Fellowship to study with Augusto Boal in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at the Center for the Theatre of the Oppressed. She also received Boston's Teacher of the Year Award in 2005, and a SURDNA Artist Colony Grant in 2008. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, near her three children and five grandchildren.

#### VERONICA WELLS, Director

Veronica is a Boston native. She majored in theater at Boston Arts Academy, and majored in film at Massachusetts College of Art and Design where she obtained her BFA. She is a member of the local Latino theatre organization, Escena Latina Teatro, and is a video freelancer. As videographer, she was honored to have been a part of the creative development of *The Great War Theatre Project: Messengers of a Bitter Truth.* Her directing credits include plays for young people, as well as these two plays for the TC Squared Staged Reading.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Boston Arts Academy, Boston School of Modern Languages, Company One, Emma Seale, Ayesha Patel, Bridget Franciose, Jane Myers, Rob Caplis, Susan Werbe, Margie Schaffell

#### **PROGRAM DESIGN**

Kelly Mastracchio, kellymastracchio.com











PHOTOS: Phyllis Bretholtz



OUTSIDE THE BOX

#### **Rosalind Thomas-Clark** ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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TC Squared encourages and produces staged readings of new works by Boston-based artists who are now writing and acting in the professional theatre. Our role is to mentor young artists to reach diverse audiences through socially relevant theatre, which challenges opinions and pushes artistic boundaries to produce transformative theatre.