Kansas City Public Theatre
Arts Organization of the Year

Theatre Lab FEST
A Festival for Playwrights

• A World Premiere One-Act
• Plays-in-Development
• Playwriting Jam
• 5-Page Fringe
• And More!

MAY 6-8
THE BLACKBOX
All events are FREE
Arts Organization of the Year

Kansas City Public Theatre has been named Arts Organization of the Year by the Missouri Arts Council and the State of Missouri. But…

We cannot do this without your help!

Support our mission of **Radical Hospitality** by making a **tax-deductible donation**!

CLICK HERE TO DONATE

From the Missouri Arts Council

“[KCPublic is a] four-year-old professional theater company that has already made its mark through its mission of deploying “Radical Hospitality” to provide theater to every person: presenting all shows free of charge in a variety of accessible locations, performing plays both classic and contemporary that are topical and full of diverse actors and stories, hiring area playwrights for the Theatre Lab series of staged readings and small productions, and further building community through audience conversations and local partnerships.”
Thank you to the donors who make possible our mission of increasing arts accessibility in Kansas City!

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- Karissa Bettendorf
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- Laura Blumenberg
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- Meredith Burton
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- Emma Carter
- Laura Carter
- Wendy Casebier
- Tehreem Chaudhry
- Darrington Clark
- Jonathan Cokely
- Jennifer Cooper
- Amber Cox
- Erika Crane Ricketts
- Ian Crawford
- Sarah Crawford
Friend ($10+) Cont.

Shelly Crawford
Don Dagenais
Sadie DeSantis
Sarah Dickey
Jacob Downing
Shanna Dykes
David Ebke
Alan Edelman
Polly Edelstein
Anthony Edwards
Joshua Efron
Kevin Fewell
AJ Fontana
Joseph Fouriner
Kay Frances
Melissa Freeman
Lorrie Furrer
Anna Garcia
Sidonie Garrett
Trey Gilliam
Katie Gilchrist
Hayley Gimblett
Michael Golliher
Kaitlin Gould
David Hanson
Lisa Hightower
Kevin Hobbs
Kathy Hogan
Antonio Johnson
Hanna Johnson
Michelle Tyrene Johnson
Rene Kammeier
Ami Kellogg
Shea Ketchum
Kevin King
Sarah LaBarr
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Patrick Rippeto
Jerry Rivera
Chris Roady
Chantal Roberts
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Eric Rosen
Theo Ross
Casey Scoggins
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Jess Simmons
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Nix Song
Andrew Spangler
Ron Stevenson
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Joshua Sukraw
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Jeff Talley
Thank you to our Sponsors and Partners who made this production possible!
WHO WE ARE
Kansas City Public Theatre is a non-profit theatre company which provides access to the arts through aesthetically diverse professional theatre entertainment free-of-charge to the public.

Elizabeth Bettendorf Bowman – Executive Artistic Director
Nathan Bowman – Producing Artistic Director

Prisca Jebet Kendagor – 2021-22 Resident Playwright
Soph Marsh – New Works Dramaturg
Camryn Warner – Production Intern

Board of Directors:
Margaret Shelby – President
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GET INVOLVED!
Donate    Volunteer    Audition    Submit a Play
Become a Board Member

Learn more at KCPublicTheatre.org
May 6-8, 2022 – The Black Box

SCHEDULE

Friday, May 6
7:30PM  LA INTREVISTA
A WORLD PREMIERE ONE-ACT by FREDDY ACEVEDO
9PM OPENING FESTIVAL RECEPTION

Saturday, May 7
6PM  BLACK MAN, MO
PLAY-IN-DEVELOPMENT by TERRACE WYATT JR.
7:30PM THE HEAD OF MEDUSA
PLAY-IN-DEVELOPMENT by EMMY PANZICA PIONTEK,
                 KITTY CORUM, and NATHAN BOWMAN
9:30PM LIFE, DEATH, AND LIBRARIES
PLAYWRITING JAM DEvised PLAY

Sunday, May 8
2:30PM 5-PAGE FRINGE
4PM DEAD ZONE
PLAY-IN-DEVELOPMENT by LINDSAY ADAMS
In this new, one-act play about intercultural relations between an immigrant and their “American” comrade, LA INTREVISTA gives the audience a deeper look into the new identity a naturalized citizen is expected to adopt as well as what they should leave behind.
Freddy Acevedo

Playwright, Choreographer

Freddy Acevedo is a Chicano theatre artist from Fort Worth, TX. He is a graduate of the MFA acting program at UMKC. Locally, he has worked with the Coterie, Unicorn, KCAT, Heart of America Shakespeare, KC Public Theatre, and KCRep. Non-local work includes acting at the William Inge Theater Festival, LAByrinth Theater, Playwriting for A Call to Conscience Theatre for Social Change, and a National Tour in Bolivia.

Jerry Mañan

Director

Jerry Mañan is a graduate from Avila University where he earned degrees in both Acting and Film + Digital Media. You may have seen Jerry on stage with theatres like Heart of America Shakespeare, KCAT, KCPublic and more. He directed a number of short films before transitioning to directing theatre last year with the radio play Three Skeleton Key, found on the Kansas City Actors Radio Theatre podcast. Most recently, he has directed The Avocado Tree for KCPublic’s Theatre Lab.

World Premiere | The Black Box | May 6, 2022 | 7:30pm
Amanda Arany
Stage Manager, Associate Producer

Amanda Arany is a queer Hunga-Rican theatre administrator with a BA in Theater from Florida State. She has worked professionally as the Production Manager at Limelight Theatre in St. Augustine, FL., and more recently as Company Manager at KCRep. She is the Board Vice President of Theatre Community Fund of KC. Amanda’s focus is on supporting the humanity at the center of the art, and doing the work to ensure safe, compassionate, & efficient spaces for creativity to thrive.

Zack Pierson
Sound Designer

Zack Pierson currently lives and works in his hometown of Seattle, Washington. After focusing for a few years on producing albums and developing interactive Virtual Reality experiences, Zack is thrilled to return to designing for the stage and collaborating with storytellers on La Intrevista. An alumni of UMKC, his previous work includes The Wolves, King Lear, Freedom Summer and Nomad Motel.
Denniel Correa

Mexicano

Denniel Correa was born and raised in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. He moved to Lawrence, KS 7 years ago with his family to finish his education. He has worked in the KC film industry for the past 3 years and is making his KC Public Theatre debut this year as Mexicano in La Intervista, as well as performing in the staged reading of The Avocado Tree.

World Premiere | The Black Box | May 6, 2022 | 7:30pm

Adam Cardenas Sisk

Chicano

Adam Cardenas Sisk is currently a Graduate Student and Researcher at UMKC and a part-time zookeeper from Springfield, Missouri. Throughout his time acting, he has been primarily involved in UMKC’s University Theatre Association and is always excited to return to the acting world! Being Mexican-American, Adam is proud and honored to be a part of this production and help bring this story to life. ¡Muchísimas gracias a todos por su apoyo!

World Premiere | The Black Box | May 6, 2022 | 7:30pm
Play In Development Reading

Black Man, MO
By Terrace Wyatt Jr.

May 7, 6:00
The Black Box
FREE Admission

BLACK MAN, MO provides a look into a mother-son relationship as they deal with questions of violence right here in Kansas City, MO.
TERRACE WYATT JR.
Playwright
Terrace Wyatt, Jr. is beyond excited to present his play with KC Public Theatre for the first time! Since graduating with a B.F.A in Theatre at William Jewell College in 2020, he’s been blessed with acting opportunities in the KC area since the pandemic such as The Royale (KCRP), Something Rotten! (The White Theatre), A Christmas Story: The Musical (MTKC-Pro), Camelot (Music Theater Heritage), The Snowy Day (Mesner Puppet Theater), Seussical (Leawood Stage Company) and more.

ROBERT E. COPPAGE III
Director
Robert E. Coppage III is from Wyandotte County. He is prolific in storytelling and improvisation. Over the course of his career he has worked with theatres throughout the KC metro area as an improvisor/actor. He loves acting in film and teaching improv to the students of Tribe University.
ALYSHA GRIFFIN
Dramaturg

Alysha Griffin is a poet, theatre artist, and scholar from Appling, GA. Inspired by her rural upbringing and deep family roots, she loves to tell stories about collisions between the past and present. She is a graduate of Spelman College (BA, English and History) and the University of Kansas (MA, Literature; PhD Theatre and Performance).

AUTUMN TRIBITT
Diane

Autumn Tribitt is a tv actor who has appeared in several local and national campaigns. You may have seen her in commercials for Hy-Vee, MO Lottery, Hallmark, Sprint, and MetLife to name a few. She has also been in 3 short films out of KC: Aftergrad, No Margrettes, and Kody Switch. At her parent’s urging she pursued and obtained a BS in Chemistry from the first all-black all-female college, Bennett College in Greensboro, NC. Upon returning home to Kansas City for what she thought was a brief stay in-between jobs, she attracted a KC modeling agent from Voices & agency and began what has turned out to be a very active career in the Kansas City commercial acting and print modeling industry.
JAMES HAWKINS
Mitchell

James Isaac Jermaine Hawkins, a Kansas City native, is quite the accomplished young thespian at the young age of 15. Making a name for himself in the theatre community, he is blessed to share his passion for singing and acting with the world. He has already performed in eight productions.

In his spare time, James enjoys writing and playing music. He has recently picked up the piano and guitar and thoroughly enjoys mentoring kids through the Youth Traveling Troupe (YTT), sponsored by the Kansas Academy of Theatrical Arts (KATA).

THOMAS SMITH
Officer Joseph

Thomas Smith may have pretended and acted to be many things as he grew up in Kansas, but it wasn’t until 2018 that began commercial and film acting professionally. He is excited to lend his voice to the reading of “Black Man, MO.”; his first foray into theater. The importance of this play and the mission of the Kansas City Public Theatre’s Theatre Lab Fest is what compelled him to participate. He wholeheartedly believes that you can build and strengthen community through access to diverse and challenging story telling.
A musical re-imagining of the mythological monster, THE HEAD OF MEDUSA follows Medusa as she calls for justice following a violent encounter with the god Poseidon.
EMMY PANZICA-PIONTEK

Playwright--Euryale

Emmy Panzica-Piontek is a Kansas City native and is thrilled to be working with Kansas City Public Theatre once more. Emmy is a graduate of the University of Central Missouri with a BFA in Theatre Performance. Recent credits include: Oedipus the King, Miss Julie, and Bang (Kansas City Public Theatre), Taming of the Shrew and the Summer House (Rising Tide Productions), The Ironing Man (KC Melting Pot Theatre), Kiss and Tail (The Living Room), and Orphan’s Home Cycle (Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre). Emmy would like to thank her family and friends for their continuing support.

KITTY CORUM

Playwright--Medusa

Kitty Corum is a Kansas City native with a bachelor's in Theatre from Truman State University and she first found her love of performing with The Heart of America Shakespeare Festival. Recent credits include: The Tempest (Heart of America Shakespeare), Tartuffenthope (KC Moliere), Oedipus the King (KCPublic Theatre). She wrote and performed in the radio theatre show "The Voice From the Other Side" with Kansas City Actors Theatre, but "The Head of Medusa" is her first stab at writing for the stage. She is thrilled to develop her show and continue writing more stories. Kitty is an Advanced Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors.
NATHAN BOWMAN
Playwright--Director
Music
Nathan is the Producing Artistic Director of KC Public Theatre. He holds a PhD in Theatre from the University of Kansas and is a faculty member at Benedictine College. He is Co-Chair of the Playwriting Symposium at Mid-America Theatre Conference. He is trained in Suzuki-Viewpoints actor training through SITI Company. Nathan worked at KC Rep over the course of seven seasons. He has published and presented work nationally and abroad including his own translations of Greek tragedy. Recent directing credits include: The Trojan Woman (Oiniades, Greece), Oedipus the King, Mirrors, Bang, Medea (KC Public Theatre), Tartuffenthope (KC Moliere), Electra (KU).

L.D. KELLEY
Dramaturg
L.D. Kelley is a multidisciplinary theatre artist making their debut as a dramaturg with THE HEAD OF MEDUSA. They graduated in 2019 with a BFA in Theatre Arts from Stephens College, with study emphases on acting and directing, and received Intimacy Design Certification from Heartland Intimacy Design and Training in 2020. Their passion for new play development brought them to the KC Public Theatre for their mainstage production THE HOLY TRINITY by Prisca Jebet Kendagor, as well as the recent Theatre Lab reading of Sofiana Olivera Abalan's EL ARBOL DE AGUACATE.
CASEY JANE
High Priestess

Casey Jane is a producer, writer, editor, and director currently working on adapting a book-to-stage on local history, creating a music video, and preparing to make her theatrical directing debut at the 2022 KC Fringe Festival. KCPublic credits: "The Holy Trinity", "Side Effects May Vary," "Heirlooms." Recent credits include: Barbecue (KC Melting Pot Theatre), When/Time (No Divide KC), The Taming of the Shrew (Rising Tide), Wicked Creatures (Confluence Theatre), Alphabet Soup (Whim Productions), and Elephant (Rising Tide). Check out her website at bit.ly/caseyjanekc.

PATRICK RIPPETO
Poseidon

Patrick Rippeto is an actor and musician that loves to call Kansas City home. He is a graduate from the University of Missouri- Kansas City’s undergraduate theatre program. He has studied Commedia dell’Arte with Antonio Fava’s school in Reggio Emilia, Italy. Patrick is also co-founder and artistic director of Commedia Kansas City with his producing partner Beth Byrd-Lonski.

Outside of the theatre world he is the current bass player for the KC based rock band Attic Light. And, he also has a deep passion for the tabletop role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons where he both plays and runs games.
ERIKA CRANE RICKETTS
Athena
Erika Crane Ricketts is thrilled to be back with KC Public Theatre! Favorite roles include: Madame Tam in "The Medicine Man" (KCAT radio play), Medea in "Medea: An American Tragedy" (KC Public Theatre), Orangutan in "Water by the Spoonful" (Unicorn Theatre), and Comrade Chin in "M. Butterfly" (MET). You can see her in BRTKC's "Redwood", running May 13-22. Much love to her family and the Supers.

BRANDIS OUTLAW
Chorus
This is Brandis's debut with Kansas City Public Theatre. Her last performance was Sophie in Flyin' West at Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre along with many other projects and performances around the Metro area. She'd like to thank her family, friends, and patrons for their continued support for live theater.
CAMRYN WARNER

Chorus

Camryn Warner is the directing intern at Kansas City Public Theatre, and is excited to be assisting the directors during this year’s Theatre Lab Fest. Camryn is a college student pursuing a degree in psychology, as well as an actress pursuing her love of theatre in Kansas City. She first started working with KC Public Theatre last summer, and was drawn to the theatre because of its mission of radical hospitality. She has assisted in productions with KC Public such as “We Are Blood,” “Heirlooms,” and “Boxed,” and is excited for everyone to see the new productions being performed at Theatre Lab Fest.
Arthur Miller drama meets ecological absurdism in this comedy which finds a catfish family facing the slow decline of their neighborhood due to pollution.
LINDSAY ADAMS
Playwright

Lindsay Adams is an award-winning, internationally produced playwright. Her plays, *River Like Sin* and *Rattler* have been honored by the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference and *Her Own Devices* received the Judith Barlow Prize and was previously produced by KC Public Theatre. Her work has been produced and developed across the US with companies like Theatre Alliance, Actors Theatre of Indiana, Keegan Theatre, Midwest Dramatists Center, and others. She is also a proud member of the Dramatists Guild. MFA: Catholic University of America. PhD: (in process) Saint Louis University.

SHAWNA PEÑA-DOWNING
Director

Shawna Peña-Downing is multi-disciplinary artist, arts educator, career coach, and professional actor. She is represented by Exposure Model and Talent agency as a commercial and voice talent and a performer with a variety of Kansas City theater companies. Including, the Coterie Theatre, Unicorn Theatre, Mesner Puppet Theatre, Kansas City Actors Theatre, The Fishtank Theatre, and The Living Room Theatre. She is happy to be returning to KCPT as a director.
ALYSHA GRIFFIN
Dramaturg

Alysha Griffin is a poet, theatre artist, and scholar from Appling, GA. Inspired by her rural upbringing and deep family roots, she loves to tell stories about collisions between past and present. She is a graduate of Spelman College (BA, English and History) and the University of Kansas (MA, Literature; PhD Theatre and Performance).

TERRACE WYATT JR.
Junior

Terrace Wyatt, Jr. is a KC native living the life of theatre! He graduated with a B.F.A in Theatre at William Jewell College in 2020 and has recently been seen in The Royale (KCRep.), Something Rotten! (The White Theatre), A Christmas Story: The Musical (MTKC-Pro), Camelot (Music Theater Heritage), The Snowy Day (Mesner Puppet Theater), Seussical (Leawood Stage Company) The Music Man (Theatre In the Park), Footloose (Starlight Theatre) and more. Terrace's play Black Man, MO will be presented at KCPublic's Theatre Fest on May 6th. You can also catch Terrace perform in the upcoming play Redwood (Black Rep KC) May 13-15 & 19-22 at The Black Box!
MEREDITH WOLFE

Ma

Meredith Wolfe is thrilled to be making her Kansas City Public Theatre debut with the Theatre Lab Festival. Most recently, she concluded a tour of *The Snowy Day & Other Stories* with Mesner Puppet Theater at the Center of Puppetry Arts in Atlanta, GA. Recent local productions include *The Tempest* (UMKC), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (The Black Repertory Theatre of Kansas City), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Midwest Trust Center), and the upcoming *Romeo & Juliet* with Heart of America Shakespeare Festival. When not performing, Meredith is a teaching artist with HASF, The Coterie, Mesner Puppet Theater, and BRTKC.

BRIANA VANDEUSEN

Darby

Briana Van Deusen is a Kansas City native. After taking a theatre hiatus upon receiving her degree, she returned to the stage in 2018 and has since appeared in several works across the city including *Taming of the Shrew* (Rising Tide Productions), *Products of Conception* (KC Fringe Festival), and *Deadlines*. Additional performances include *No Sleep November* (The Living Room Theatre) as well as a number of staged readings for Stuffed Buffalo Productions. Her screen credits include the 2021 short film *Faring Through the Ages* (Rising Tide Productions), and most recently in *Barbecue* (KC Melting Pot Theatre). She is so excited to work with KC Public Theatre for the first time!
JOSHUA GLEESON
Dirk
Joshua Gleeson is overjoyed to once again join the KCPublic Theatre team. His previous KCPT readings include Heirlooms by Bethany Vermillion and Deceit by Derek Trautwein. Joshua has also been recently seen in KC Rep's The Royale and will be seen this summer for HASF’s Romeo and Juliet. Joshua would like to personally thank all those involved in this amazing production, and of course, infinite gratitude is owed to his incredible wife Kaitlynn for without her love and support, nothing would be possible.

TEHREEM CHAUDHRY
Ziggs
Tehreem Chaudhry is an actor based out of Kansas City. She received a B.A. in theatre-performance and a B.S. in accounting. Her professional credits include Juliet in Romeo and Juliet (Idaho Shakespeare Festival Education Tour), Marcellus et al. in Hamlet, Starveling/Cobweb in A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival), Madeleine in Her Own Device, Zara/Doctor in Mirrors, Meredith in Heirlooms (Kansas City Public Theatre), and ensemble in Musings of Fire (Island Shakespeare Festival).
KITTY CORUM
Harley

Kitty Corum is a Kansas City native with a bachelor's in Theatre from Truman State University and she first found her love of performing with The Heart of America Shakespeare Festival. Recent credits include: The Tempest (Heart of America Shakespeare), Tartuffenthrope (KC Moliere), Oedipus the King (KCPublic Theatre). She wrote and performed in the radio theatre show "The Voice From the Other Side" with Kansas City Actors Theatre, but "The Head of Medusa" is her first stab at writing for the stage. She is thrilled to develop her show and continue writing more stories. Kitty is an Advanced Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors.

TEISHA M. BANKSTON
Grey

Teisha M. Bankston (she/her/hers) is so very happy to join KCPublic Theatre for this project. Teisha is an actor and teaching artist involved in KC arts for over 15 years with a BA in Theatre and a minor in Spanish Language from UMKC. She has been the host of SciTech Now on KCPT, featured as a dancer in Neil Young's Kansas City Tour (choreography by Russ Tamblyn), and is the voice of Barbara Johns in the French Documentary, Barbara Johns the Making of an Icon. She has been seen onstage at The Coterie, The KCRep, The Unicorn, and Theatre for Young America. Teisha is a proud KCAT Board of Directors and Committee member.
Thank you to our supporters, audiences, and especially artists, who made our 2021-2022 season a success!

See you Fall of 2022!

BeRadical