

## LaGuardia Performing Arts Center

Evelyn Lowmark...Interim Executive Director

Handan Ozbilgin...Artistic Director/Assistant Director

Carmen Griffin...Theatre Operations Manager/Technical Director

Toni Foy...Education Outreach Coordinator

Isabelle Marsico...Office Manager

Lindsay Timmington... Development Coordinator

Ryan Prado... Marketing Coordinator

Elodie Dufroux...Performing Arts Liaison

Julio Chabla...House Manager

## Technical Staff

Glenn Wilson...Stage Manager/Assistant Technical Director

Melody Beal...Lighting Designer

Alex Desir...Master Electrician

Ronn Thomas...Sound Engineer

Marland Harrison...Technician

Denton Bailey...Technician



&



**PROUDLY PRESENT**



U.S. Small Business Administration

*LPAC programming is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council*

LITTLE THEATER  
**MARCH 4TH - 10TH**

LaGuardia Performing Arts Center - 31-10 Thomson Avenue, LIC, New York, 11101

**WWW.LPAC.NYC**

# A NOTE FROM HANDAN OZBILGIN (ROUGH DRAFT'S CURATOR)

---

We are proud to present the 11th annual Rough Draft Festival. The festival is a celebration of meaningful work under development by a wide array of talented artists, students and organizations.

For the first time this year, we are introducing a student segment to Rough Draft. We are very happy to discover these uber talented students before the world discovers them.

We hope you'll join us to see their exciting new work. They are as diverse in form as they are in content and cover a wide range of themes.

- Handan Ozbilgin

Scan the QR code for  
information on the upcoming  
Rough Draft Playwright  
Readings March 16-23



# "JEN KNOWS"

---

## SYNOPSIS -

Joe knows that Jen knows how he should move forward with his life. Joe knows that Jen knows he needed to leave his job, his wife, his kids. Joe knows that Jen has a good reason for taking Kay's credit cards and moving all of her stuff into storage - that she needs to sleep in her car for a while. Joe knows he can't let her into the office. A fractal fantasia examining the many iterations of self, Jen Knows dares to question the base need for certainty in our lives.

---

## BIO -



Sam Walsh is a New York based playwright, performer, and multi-disciplinary artist. She writes plays about America and the people who inhabit it – the ways we in which we attempt to connect – our humanity and the things that make us inhumane. Some of her full length plays include The Mountain (Finalist, Chain Theater Playwriting Lab 18'), Break (Staged Reading, Team Awesome Robot, 19', Semi-Finalist, Play Penn 20'), Ether (Semi-Finalist, Unicorn Theatre New Play Reading Series 20'), The Things We Say (Reading, The Barrow Group 21'), Should You Find Yourself Prepared (Semi-Finalist, National Playwrights Conference 21'), The Visible (First Fridays, Barrow Group 22', Finalist, Theatre Viscera 22'; Reading, Threshold Theater 22'), Salem (Semi-Finalist, National Playwrights Conference 22', Semi-Finalist, Princess Grace Award 22', Semi-Finalist, Judith Royer Excellence in Playwriting Award 23', Workshop, stroller scene 23', Staged Reading, Hippodrome State Theater 23'), the stranger (Roundtable Reading Series, Hunter MFA Program 23'), and The Smiths (Reading, Urban Stages 24'). She was a semi-finalist for The Hearth's 2023 Virtual Retreat. She received her BFA in Acting from the University of Florida and is an MFA Playwriting Candidate at Hunter College (Class of 24').

# "THE SWAN"

---

## SYNOPSIS -

*Depictions of violence, mental illness, themes of suicide & self harm, psychiatric hospitals & healthcare, and medical trauma.*

A storyteller's world falls apart around them, so they hold fast to the first sure-thing they can get their hands on: Olympic figure skating. But as everything continues to crumble for our unreliable narrator, and for the athletes trapped in their screen, they begin to learn that nothing is ever a sure-thing. They must battle the obstacles of their own mind and events taking place halfway across the world in order to get somewhere. Where we're headed is hard to say.

---

## BIO -



Emma Rey Dias (she/they) is a senior Playwriting student at Marymount Manhattan College. An imaginative child who was born and raised in southern New England, she began writing at the age of 5. Her recent writing credits include a staged reading of *The Swan* at Marymount Manhattan College and a reading of her play, *The Gospel of Judas*, at the Community College of Rhode Island. Emma dedicates this play wholly to herself, but also wishes to acknowledge the extraordinary work of Hanyu Yuzuru most reverently.

# STUDENT READINGS LINE UP

---

**COME AS YOU ARE** by Chloe Selavka  
| Mon, March 4 at 7pm |

**ROCKSTARS NEED EYELINER** by Hamad Naroze  
| Tue, March 5 at 3:30pm |

**THE WORD OF THE DAY** by Cori Diaz  
| Tue, March 5 at 7pm |

**A WHITE GIRL'S UNDERSTUDY** by Isabel Beatriz Tongson  
| Fri, March 8 at 2:30pm |

**IN LOVING MEMORY** by Drew Nova  
| Fri, March 8 at 7pm |

**GUILT (OR THE US ARMY FIELD MANUAL ON GOLD STAR FAMILIES)** by Mohammed Ali Alani  
| Sat, March 9 at 3pm |

**THE SWAN** by Emma Rey Dias  
| Sat, March 9 at 5pm |

**JEN KNOWS** by Sam Walsh  
| Sun, March 10 at 3pm |

# “COME AS YOU ARE”

---

## SYNOPSIS -

Mara copes with the aftershocks of her mother’s sudden passing while moving to Boston and preparing for her older sister’s wedding. After meeting her new roommates Mara discovers how her queerness and plus sized body are not things she should be ashamed of, despite what she believed growing up. A coming of age story, coming out story, found family story, and love story all rolled into one. Spanning one summer across the state of Massachusetts, Mara discovers what it means to truly love yourself, be loved unconditionally by others, and what it means to be alive.

---

## BIO -



Chloe Selavka (she/they) is an NYC based playwright, director, and songwriter. Chloe likes writing realism with a twist of magic and is inspired by taking real moments of absurdity and putting them into fiction. They write and create for queer audiences who are good at holding grudges.

Recent works include PHASES (Clocktower Players),

Peonies (The Tank & NY Theater Festival), and Synonyms For Goodbye (Marymount Manhattan College).

To get in touch please contact [20chloe24@gmail.com](mailto:20chloe24@gmail.com).

# “GUILT (or the US Army Field Manual on Gold Star Families)”

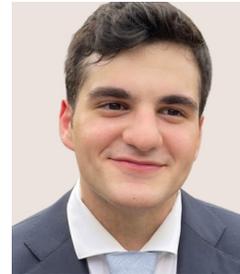
---

## SYNOPSIS -

After a year and a half of being Missing in Action (MIA), Captain Sam Al-Jundi is officially declared dead. The Al-Jundi family, an upper-middle-class Iraqi American household, is thrust into turmoil as they grapple with the devastating news. However, their grief takes a backseat as they must put on a facade of normalcy for the impending arrival of guests: none other than Donald Rumsfeld and Officer Tilden, who come with an invitation to the White House for a ceremony in honor of their son’s heroic sacrifice and contribution to his country.

---

## BIO -



Mohammed Ali Alani, a Brooklyn-based playwright, navigates the complexities of human existence through his work, delving into the absurdity of war, politics, family dysfunction, and personal turmoil. His work tries (and often fails) to reconcile the irreconcilable, choosing instead to settle into the absurdity of the endeavor. He’s

endlessly fascinated by those who seek to shape the world in their own image, and how their ambition impacts their reality (and that of their loved ones). Art itself is always in question, endlessly doubting and reevaluating its role in the narrative. His plays offer poignant reflections on the complexities of identity, grief, and societal norms. Mohammed holds a BA from NYU and is currently pursuing an MFA in Playwriting at Hunter College.

# "IN LOVING MEMORY"

---

## SYNOPSIS -

When you lose someone chances are someone else lost them too. Death takes things from us too soon or maybe just in time. Our only choice as the living is to grieve what's lost. But that's hard, isn't it? Especially, when everyone around sees things differently than you do. They all have an opinion but it's up to you to define yours. This is a play meant to analyze grief and family. Forcing the audience to ask themselves who have they lost and who they grieve. Grieving is reconciling with the loss of a person, of someone meaningful. But do you always grieve who you knew, who everyone else thought they were, or who they are?

---

## BIO -



My name is Drew Rivera, pen name Drew Nova. I'm a writer, actor, and activist from New York City! I currently attend Marymount Manhattan College. My reason for creating has changed over time. My ultimate goal for my work is to change people's hearts for the better. To provide perspective on different experiences and give compassion to those who need it. We all deserve to be seen, heard, and accepted. But most of all, we all need the chance to grow.

# "ROCKSTARS NEED EYELINER"

---

## SYNOPSIS -

My play, Rockstars need Eyeliner, follows Jespal "Jesse" Singh as he enters college life and starts trying to live a life that is not of his father's design and against his expectations. His journey also strains his relationship with his older sister, Aasha, and best friend, Blake. Jesse traverses through these difficulties, trying to make sense of what he really wants, and who he really is.

---

## BIO -



Hamad Naroze is a Pakistani playwright from Queens, New York, and a senior at Hunter College. Initially pursuing a career in game narrative, I now focus on theater and playwriting. As a playwright, I have discovered the ability to achieve greater ends than anything I had previously attempted, not only through appearances and settings but also through action and inaction.

# "THE WORD OF THE DAY"

---

## SYNOPSIS -

*The Word of the Day* is an experimental drama about a woman who thinks she's being communicated with via the word of the day.

---

## BIO -



Cori Diaz is a playwright currently studying at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She was a house team performer and sketch writer at the Sea Tea Comedy Theater in Hartford, CT. For playwriting, she has been a finalist in Hartford Stage's Write On!, a selected candidate in Middlebury College's Young Writers' Conference, and a Selected Playwright at the Eugene O' Neill Theater Center's Young Playwrights Festival. She has also done training for improv, sketch, and stand-up with Second City, People's Improv Theater, The Groundlings, AsylumNYC, and Sea Tea Improv. For the past two years, Cori has worked as a Managing Actor-Educator for the nonprofit Speak About It!, a theater company that teaches boundaries and consent education to college students.

# "A WHITE GIRL'S UNDERSTUDY"

---

## SYNOPSIS -

Lyn Talaga has achieved her childhood dream. She is an off-stage understudy in the new Broadway play *Speakeasy Love* and covers the principal female role. However, her greatest love is the show's leading man and dating the leading woman. During a performance of *Speakeasy Love*, Lyn is forced to confront the reality of her job, recalling memories of how she attained what she thought was success in an industry that does not cater to her, and, along with other artists who have been forced out of the spotlight, reflects on how her work has changed her identity. Lyn imagines herself in scenarios onstage playing opposite of the play's star, but as the drama of *Speakeasy Love* bleeds into her reality and Lyn attains more than she bartered for, she must ask herself if her greatest desires are truly what she wants.

---

## BIO -



Isabel Beatriz Tongson is a playwright, actor, and director based in New York City. Most notably, she is a two-time winner of the Blank Theatre Young Playwrights Festival, a two-time Gold Key winner for Dramatic Script from the Scholastic Art and Writing Association, winner of Best in Show at the Central Florida Theatre Festival for Dramatic Script, a Winner of the Valencia College BIPOC Playwrights Festival, a Semi-Finalist for the Gary Garrison National Ten-Minute Play Award by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Her play *Droplets Pellets Bullets* was published in anthology and is available for licensing by Concord Theatricals. [isabeltongson.com](http://isabeltongson.com)