

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAMS ANNOUNCED FOR
ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE'S SECOND ANNUAL
NEW WORKS
NORTHWEST FESTIVAL

*20 New Works - 5 Days - 20 Seattle Playwrights – All at ACT.
Playing October 30 – November 3, 2024*

NW²
NEW WORKS
NORTHWEST

SEATTLE, WA (October 3, 2024) — ACT Contemporary Theatre has announced the cast and creative teams for the second annual **New Works Northwest Festival (NW2 Festival)**, presented October 30 through November 3, 2024 in ACT's Bullitt Theatre. Featuring 20 new works over the 5 day event, ACT Contemporary Theatre continues as the epicenter of groundbreaking new work that promises to captivate, challenge, and inspire. **All tickets are pay-what-you-choose** and are available now at acttheatre.org or by calling the ACT Box Office at (206) 292-7676.

Performed as readings in an intimate setting, audiences will get the chance to witness the workshop process of bringing stories from script to stage. Two plays initially performed at the 2023 festival went on to join ACT's 2024/25 Season: Andrew Lee Creech's [Golden](#) and the upcoming [Mrs. Loman is Leaving](#) written by Katie Forgette.

ACT's 2024 New Works Northwest Festival features readings of new plays by local playwrights **Holly Arsenault, Amontaine Aurore, Yussef El Guindi, Gloria Majule, and Naghmeh Samini**. Each reading will be followed by a conversation with the playwright and audience, moderated by ACT Artistic Associate **Shana Bestock**.

In a new addition to the festival, ACT is partnering with local organizations **SCRIBLAB** and **Rain City Projects** to present **Solo ACT**, an evening of original monologues all based on the theme “The Choice.” Solo ACT kicks off the festivities on Wednesday, October 30.

On October 28, ACT will kick off the 2024 NW2 Festival with a dinner celebrating the lasting legacy of **John Langs**, hosted by **Steven Dietz** and **Sarah Rudinoff**. [Learn more about this fundraiser here >>](#)

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCES

WHAT:

New Works Northwest Festival (NW2) 2024

20 new works. 5 days. 20 Seattle playwrights.

ACT Contemporary Theatre is the epicenter of groundbreaking new works that promise to captivate, challenge, and inspire. The second annual New Works Northwest Festival features readings in an intimate setting, where audiences can engage in the process of bringing stories from script to stage. [More information >>](#)

WHEN:

October 30 – November 3, 2024

WHERE:

ACT Contemporary Theatre, located at 700 Union Street in Downtown Seattle.

SOLO ACT

a monologue slam

Solo ACT: A Monologue Slam

Wednesday, October 30 at 7:00pm [Tickets >>](#)

An electric evening of hot-off-the-presses monologues from 15 local playwrights on the theme “The Choice.” From poignant to punchy, complex to cathartic, these pieces explode with energy, emotion, and enthusiasm.

Curated in partnership with [SCRIBLAB](#) and [Rain City Projects](#).

Playwrights featured are **Shanna Allman, Tess Berger, Pamela Hobart Carter, Rachel Chin, Rebecca Tourino Collinsworth, Kate Danley, Stacy D. Flood, Anamaria Guerzon, Monique Hebert, JW Marshall, Aleks Merilo, Vanessa Miller, Marcus Gorman & Kiki Penoyer, Tommer Peterson, and M Yichao.**

The monologues are directed by **Jasmine Lomax, Jasmine Jean Sim, and R. Hamilton Wright**; performances by **Kataka Corn, Brittany Rupik, Chip Sherman, Amy Thone, and Lindsay Welliver.**

REFUGEE RHAPSODY

Refugee Rhapsody

by Yussef El Guindi

Directed by Anita Montgomery

Friday, November 1 at 7:00pm

[Tickets >>](#)

Sakinah, a Middle Eastern American woman, is being evaluated by a mental health professional to determine her responsibility for a violent crime. What did she do to Emily, the rich heiress who tried to help Sakinah and her boyfriend? And more importantly – why did she do it? Featuring witty comedy and biting drama, this play explores how complex layers of race, class, and privilege collide in today's culture.

PERFORMED BY: Newsha Farahani, Alan Garcia, Morgan Claire Roberts, Ayo Tushinde, and Jarron A. Williams

ABOUT YUSSEF EL GUINDI (PLAYWRIGHT)

Born in Egypt, raised in London and now based in Seattle, Yussef El Guindi's work frequently examines the collision of ethnicities, cultures, and politics that face Middle Eastern and Muslim Americans. His *Hotter Than Egypt* was staged at ACT (World Premiere), Marin Theatre Company, and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. A previous ACT World Premiere, *People of the Book*, will be staged this Fall in NYC at Urban Stages, directed by former ACT Artistic Director John Langs. He is the recipient of several honors, including the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award, American Blues Theater's Blue Ink Playwriting Award, L.A. Weekly's Excellence in Playwriting Award, Seattle's Gregory Award, and the Middle East America Distinguished Playwright Award. In 2023, he was selected to be a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in the U.K.

UHURU

Uhuru

by Gloria Majule

Directed by Faith Bennett Russell

Saturday, November 2 at 4:00pm [Tickets >>](#)

Mshale, a Mount Kilimanjaro tour guide, dreams of marrying a white woman and moving to the West. Sprite doesn't like white people and sets out to decolonize what he deems "his mountain." Henry and Frannie are white missionaries who claim to be Tanzanian. *Uhuru* is a dramedy that follows this unlikely foursome as they journey together to the roof of Africa.

PERFORMED BY: Chris Clark, Melanie Hampton, Arlando Smith, and Patrick Tolden

ABOUT GLORIA MAJULE (PLAYWRIGHT)

Gloria Majule is a storyteller born and raised in Dodoma, Tanzania. She seeks to tell stories that bring multiple black voices together from across the world, and are accessible to black audiences no matter where they are. Gloria has been commissioned by Audible and Atlantic Theater Company. Her work has been supported by Vassar's Powerhouse Theater, The New Harmony Project, The New Group, and Great Plains Theater Commons among others. Her canon includes *Culture Shock* (Winner: Leah Ryan Prize, Finalist: O'Neill, Alliance/Kendeda, BAPF), *Uhuru* (Finalist: Blue Ink Award, Premiere Stages, BAPF), *My Father was Shot in the Back of the Head* (Finalist: O'Neill, Seven Devils, Orchard Project), and *Fifteen Hundred* (Finalist: Seven Devils). She holds a BA in Performing & Media Arts and Spanish from Cornell University, and was the first African woman to receive an MFA in Playwriting from Yale School of Drama.

LEGACIES: A GHOST STORY

Legacies: A Ghost Story

by Amontaine Aurore

Directed by Bretteny Beverly

Saturday, November 2 at 7:00pm

[Tickets >>](#)

The roof is caving in, the floorboards are shifting beneath her feet, and the walls crumble at the slightest touch. Cashew's house is falling down around her, and she must get out before it collapses. As she packs to leave, she encounters buried memories: documents, memorabilia, and long-forgotten residents. A poetic and psychologically rich story of redemption.

PERFORMED BY: Varinique Davis, Tim Gouran, Kelly Karcher, Anjelica McMillan, Shaunyce Omar, and Calder Shilling

ABOUT AMONTAINE AURORE (PLAYWRIGHT)

Amontaine Aurore is a storyteller, playwright, actor, director, producer, and performance artist. She is committed to presenting stories that illuminate multiple perspectives and explore human complexity. Her solo play, *Free Desiree*, was named as one of the Best New Plays of the New York Fringe Festival by Indie Theater Now. *Don't Call it a Riot*, her play about Seattle activism, was a finalist in the Bay Area Playwright's Festival and premiered in Seattle in 2018. Amontaine has received artist grants from Artist Trust, 4Culture, the Puffin Foundation, and the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture. She's been a writer-in-residence at Hedgebrook Writers' Retreat and the Seattle Public Library. Amontaine is a 2024 Jack Straw Writing Fellow, and is currently working on an autobiographical novel.

UNDERWATER WEATHER

Underwater Weather

by Holly Arsenault

in collaboration with ACT's [Young Core Company](#)

Directed by Sunam Ellis

Sunday, November 3 at 4:00pm

[Tickets >>](#)

How do you save the world when the seas are rising, the forests are burning, and your roommate keeps eating your yogurt? Gregory Award-winning playwright Holly Arsenault (*Undo*, *The Great Inconvenience*), in collaboration with ACT's Young Core Company, creates a world premiere play about activism and apathy, rage and hope, and the joy and agony of having to actually deal with the ones you're trying to save.

Performed by ACT's Young Core Company

ABOUT HOLLY ARSENAULT (PLAYWRIGHT)

Holly Arsenault writes plays. Some are funny with sad parts, while others are sad with funny parts. Her plays, which often talk about families (chosen, circumstantial, and biological), have been produced in Seattle, Florida, Chicago, and Detroit. She is the recipient of the 2013 Theatre Puget Sound Gregory Award for her play, *UNDO* and her play *Court* was selected for the National Women's Playwriting Festival in 2019. She has been nominated for a Princess Grace

Award and the American Theatre Critics Association Osborne Award, and was a finalist for Heideman Award at the National 10-Minute Play Contest at Actors' Theatre of Louisville. Holly is an alum of the Seattle Rep Writers Group and a proud member of the Dramatists Guild of America. She lives in Edinburgh, Scotland with her family.

HOME

Home

By Naghmeh Samini

Directed by Parmida Ziaei

Translators: Hossein Nazari & Ghazal Ghaziani

Co-presented with [Seda Iranian Theatre Ensemble](#)

Sunday, November 3 at 7:00pm [Tickets >>](#)

Trapped in a shrinking house, an Iranian family of five lives in isolation, locked in separate rooms, revealing their loneliness, regrets, and their lack of communication only to the audience. *Home* offers a glimpse of what goes on inside an Iranian household, telling familiar stories of the fragility of the human psyche and the vulnerability of a family in a world that is breaking down.

PERFORMED BY: Newsha Farahani, Parsa Kaffash, Ramin Khoie, Pooria Manouchehri, Sahra Tabibzada, Roan Tierney, and Azadeh Zanjani.

ABOUT NAGHMEH SAMINI (PLAYWRIGHT)

Naghmeh Samini is an award-winning playwright from Iran. Samini received her BA in Drama and MA in Cinema both from the University of Tehran and holds a PhD in Drama and Mythology. She has been a professor at the University of Tehran since 2005 and an affiliate Professor of UW since 2019. More than twenty of her plays have been staged in over 3 countries, and she has published over 30 plays and articles. Some of her awards and achievements include: Best Book of the Year in Iran for *Myth's Theatre/ An Archetypal Approach to Iranian Dramatic Literature* in 2009, Winner of the Best Playwright in the Second Playwright's Forum Festival in 2008, Winner of the Best Dramatic Adaptation in 2023. Her recent play, *The Forgotten History of Mastaneh*, directed by herself and produced by Seda Theatre which she is a co-founder of, was acclaimed by Seattle audiences.

TICKETS:

All tickets are pay-what-you-choose and are available now at acttheatre.org or by calling the ACT Box Office at (206) 292-7676.

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGES

For available pre-production headshots or artwork, [please visit our Press Room online >>](#)

CONNECT ON SOCIAL:

acttheatre.org

Facebook - [/ACTtheatreSeattle](#)

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Show tags: #ACTtheatre #ACTSeattle #NW2 #NW2ACTtheatre #NewWorksNorthwest

ABOUT ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

Steadfast in its dedication to producing work that sparks an authentic curiosity about the human condition, ACT produces bold, audacious works of contemporary theatre from its home in Seattle. Over the last 59 years, ACT remains the voice of contemporary theatre in the Pacific Northwest, presenting necessary and relevant works on current themes and producing more than 300 plays and musicals, including 47 world premieres. Currently led by Interim Producing Artistic Director Elisabeth Farwell-Moreland, ACT nurtures theatre-makers of the next generation, with a mission to be a contemporary theatre where artistic ambition and civic engagement unite.

ACT is here to challenge how stories are told. For more information on ACT Contemporary Theatre please visit acttheatre.org.

Thank you to ACT Contemporary Theatre's Season and Theatre Sponsors: 4Culture, ArtsFund, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, The Shubert Foundation, Nesholm Family Foundation, ArtsWA, Bowery Valuation, The Grousemont Foundation, NBBJ, and Katharyn Alvord Gerlich.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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