

The Decameron Project Hollywood Presents

1 Minute Play Festival - Los Angeles 2025

Greetings!

Welcome to our fourth One Minute Play Festival! The plays you will be seeing were chosen from over 400 submissions from around the world and are distinctive and wide ranging. The One Minute Play format offers a unique opportunity to the cast, writers, directors, and producers. Contrary to the current administration and political atmosphere, The Decameron Project focuses on bringing diversity to the theatre, giving voice to the community, and offering inclusiveness to all who find home in the arts.

The Decameron Project started in June 2020 when we knew that the Covid pandemic was going to inhibit live performances everywhere. We were determined, however, to continue to create theatre and have been meeting online weekly ever since. In 2023 we were able to offer live performances in Burbank, California.

We enjoyed a spectacular Tokyo premiere at Sooo Dramatic! In November, 2024. This year, we started our 2025 season with a first-time ever festival in Ventura, California where we performed at the Namba Performing Arts Space and honored founder Ben Bunji Namba, who migrated from Japan after World War II. This was also the first time I produced a festival remotely from Tokyo, and I want to thank and acknowledge all our US team members for making it happen.

This year's LA show at the Whitefire Theater features 50 new plays! The Decameron Project returns to Tokyo in November 2025 and plans for a third LA show in Spring of 2026.

I am personally grateful to all the writers, directors, and actors who have been so gracious with their time and energy. Some of these talented friends have been working with me for over 30 years! YES...that means since I was 5 years old!

Thank you all for supporting the Decameron Project's vision of creativity, inclusiveness, and diversity.

Kaz Matamura - Producer

WHO WE ARE The Decameron Project - Hollywood

Since shortly after the start of the pandemic in 2020, Director/Producer Kaz Matamura has been guiding a weekly gathering on Zoom of many of her creative associates to form The Decameron Project - Hollywood. Writers, actors and directors have been collaborating on short plays and films, which find a home on the Decameron Project Hollywood's YouTube Channel. Kaz's simple yet profound idea was to help her creative friends stay active, productive and engaged during the very uncertain months, and eventually years, of the pandemic. A key long term goal of the Decameron Project was to prepare for the eventual return to live performances onstage.

The Decameron Project accepts submissions from around the globe. [Facebook profile](#) **Meet Up Group:**
[Hawaii -Japan-LA](#)

PLAY	PLAYWRIGHT	DIRECTOR	CAST
Forgiveness Sake	Felix Racelis	Jonathan	Michele & Carolita
Jack n Jill	Thomas J. Misuraca	Jonathan	Nic & Katie
Practice Makes Perfect	David Simpatico	Kaz	Alia & Mimi
Thank You	Thomas J. Misuraca	Kaz	Kent & Egon
Photo Bomb	Felix Racelis	Jonathan	Nic & Joyce
Presence	Ruben Carbajal	Jonathan	Darrel & Mimi
Essentials	Robert Weibezahl	Carolita	Ellen & Alia
Those Time Traveling Teens	Jonathan Joy	Carolita	Celeste & Katie
Here's Looking at You	Felix Racelis	Kaz	Mariah & Joe
The Kiss	Karen Siff Exkorn	Kaz	Carolita
Groundhog Day	Christian Simonsen	Katie	Nic & Joe
Jane Comes Home	Thomas J. Misuraca	Kaz	Ellen & Mariah
Don't Say	Thomas J. Misuraca	Carolita	Darrel & Kent
Intrusive Thoughts and me	Kyle Smith	Kaz	Mariah, Michele & Kent
Now Boarding	Tom Moran	Ellen / Felix	Darrel, Mimi & Celeste
Cindy and Dave Drive Home from a Party	David Malouf	Carolita	Joyce & Joe
Now You See Her	Felix Racelis	Jonathan	Darrel & Michele
I'm Your Huckleberry	Clyde James Aragon	Kaz	Alia & Egon
Next in Line	AJ Layague	Felix	Nic & Joyce
Shopping Shuffle	Ellen Bienenfeld	Kaz	Joe, Ellen & Kent
Creation V2.0	David Vazdauskas	Katie	Joyce & Egon
Que Sera	Felix Racelis	Jonathan	Katie & Izzy
Ashleigh Opens the Door	Shelly Goldstein	Kaz	Mimi & Michele
Top Contender	Emmett Spaw	Carolita	Ellen & Joyce
Et Tu?	Katie Brady		
<u>.....Intermission.....</u>			
Epitaph	Ruben Carbajal	Kaz	Ellen & Joyce
The 10th Circle	Thomas J. Misuraca	Kaz	Joe & Nic
Brains	Evan Baughfman	Katie	Ellen & Izzy
Day Six	Emily Hageman	Katie	Celeste & Egon
They Won't Bug Me	Thomas J. Misuraca	Kaz	Katie & Nic
Hot Wings	Felix Racelis	Ellen	Izzy & Egon
Take Me Out at the Ball Game	Felix Racelis	Ellen	Nic & Michele
Blue	Janis Butler Holms	Felix	Izzy
Encounter	Michael Helms	Kaz	Mariah & Joe
Leaves	James McLindon	Kaz	Alia & Izzy
No If, And, Or	Felix Racelis	Jonathan	Alia & Nic
Those Were the Days	Felix Racelis	Carolita	Michele & Darrel
What's in a Name	Thomas J. Misuraca	Kaz	Mariah & Katie
Diary Room	Thomas J. Misuraca	Carolita	Nic & Alia
Mussolini	Steve Gold	Carolita	Egon
Never Forget	Thomas J. Misuraca	Kaz	Katie & Ellen
Just Another Day	Thomas J. Misuraca	Katie	Mariah & Carolita
Up In Smoke	Michael Helms	Kaz	Alia & Joe
Hugh Done It	Evan Baughfman	Jonathan	Mimi & Alia
Ryan's Tooth	Alex Dremann	Ellen/Felix	Michele & Kent
March of I'ds	Mark Harvey Levine	Felix/Ellen	Egon & Izzy
Real Life	Thomas J. Misuraca	Ellen	Darrel, Mimi & Michele
Remember That Time	Roger Henry	Kaz	Kent & Nic
Ex-Ghosts	Arthur M. Jolly	Jonathan	Darrel, Carolita & Ellen
One Minute at a Time	Mimi, Michael, Kaz & Alia		ALL

Team Members:



ALIA SPRING (Actor) is a Los Angeles born and raised Actor, Singer, and Songwriter. They host community based shows showcasing local talent at their home in Atwater Village. They're also known to perform at State Social House on Sunset Boulevard. They are an avid advocate for reproductive healthcare and LGBTQ+ rights. They do not love long walks on the beach, but they do love Piña coladas and getting caught in the rain. <https://www.instagram.com/ayrsmusic/>
<https://www.facebook.com/missspringlovesya> TikTok @ayrsmusic



CAROLITA BLYTHE (Director) is an actor, director, author, and television script supervisor. She made her Decameron Project debut at their One-Minute Play Festival in Tokyo, Japan, in 2024, both as an actor and director. She has also directed her own independent film projects. Carolita has worked as a script supervisor on numerous network television, cable, and streaming productions, and is currently a member of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. As a published author, her works include the novels *The Cricket's Serenade* (Genesis Press) and *Revenge Of A Not-So-Pretty Girl* (Random House/Delacorte Press) -- a Publisher's Weekly recommended read and Kirkus Book Reviews starred selection. A graduate of Syracuse University, Carolita was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and grew up in Brooklyn, New York.
www.carolitablythe.com
www.facebook.com/carolita.blythe <https://www.instagram.com/carolitablythe/>



CELESTE HERNANDEZ (Actor) is a middle school student. Celeste just completed 6th grade. Celeste participated in the Decameron Project's Inaugural One Minute Play Festival in Ventura. She is following her new found passion in acting and is extremely excited and honored to be invited to perform once again alongside this amazing group of adults.



DARREL GUILBEAU (Actor) has performed in multiple theater productions throughout Los Angeles, including several years with the Independent Shakespeare Company. Film & TV credits include *LBJ*, *Windtalkers*, *Minx*, *Alias*, and *Victorious* among others. He can also be heard in voiceovers for video games, anime and other projects. Darrel is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts (AADA).

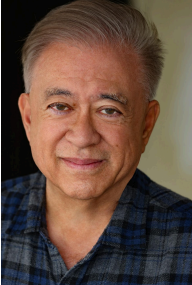


EGON STERNECKER (Actor) moved to Los Angeles in 2013 and quickly caught the bug and developed an interest in acting. When not on stage, Egon works in animation and tech-art for video games. Though new to theatre, he's excited to be here and ready to perform. Thanks to the cast, crew, and friends for the support.



ELLEN BIENENFELD (Director / Actor / Playwright) has performed in live theater since 2009 in the Los Angeles area. She has worked at Groundlings Theater with Austin's Dog Bread improv troop, led by Gary Austin, Groundlings Founder. Ellen is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA, and is thrilled to be doing live theater once again. Ellen is excited to be writing as well as directing again.

<https://www.instagram.com/ellenbienenfeld/>



FELIX RACELIS (Playwright / Director) is an LA playwright whose produced full-length plays include *As Straw Before the Wind*; *Fallen Comrade*; *Fearless Bloodsuckers of Hollywood*; and a short play evening, *Motherload!* Other full length plays include *Suicide Interruptus*, *Fault Lines*, and *Manimal Crackers*. Over 90 of Felix's one-act, ten-minute and one-minute plays have been produced around the country and internationally and many have been published. Felix participated as a writer and director in the Decameron Project's Inaugural One-Minute Play Festival at the Victory Theatre in 2023, in Decameron's Inaugural One-Minute Play Festival in Tokyo in 2024 and in the Inaugural One-Minute Play Festival in June 2025 in Ventura. Felix's play *Uncommon Threads* won First Place in Fire Rose Productions' Ten-Minute Play Festival and his *Bride of Godzilla* is published in one of Smith & Kraus's Best Ten-Minute Plays Anthologies. Felix is a member of First Stage, the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights and the Dramatists Guild of America. [Facebook.com/felix.racelis](https://www.facebook.com/felix.racelis); Insta: [@felixracelis](https://www.instagram.com/felixracelis); www.felixracelis.com.



IZZY SPRING (Actor), a native of Los Angeles, first discovered her passion for the arts in the vibrant theater community of North Hollywood. While acting played a pivotal role in her formative years, Izzy's heart now primarily resonates with music. A multi-talented musician, and songwriter, she spends much of her time singing and playing harp, piano, and guitar. Though her foray into acting has been on a hiatus, Izzy is thrilled to be stepping back onto the stage.



JOSEPH D'AGOSTA (Actor). I left home after the army to head for Hollywood to study acting. I enrolled in a Theatre class, developed a relationship with a Little Theatre and between the two acted in: *Stage Door*, *Who Was That Lady*, *My Three Angels*, *Bus Stop*, *Night Must Fall*, *Compulsion*, *A Greek Wedding* - got an agent who was of no use. I was recognized by a casting director in *Night Must Fall*, who sent me on two auditions, then recommended me for a job casting extras at MGM. I assisted him before getting my first television series to cast that led to a pretty good career. After thirty-five years of casting for every studio and network in town, I returned to acting. I auditioned for Joanne Linville at The Stella Adler Academy of Acting and have been there since doing studying and performing in plays: *Golden Boy*, *The Seagull*, *Rise of Arturo Ui*, *Hughie*, *Swan Song*, *Romeo & Juliette*, *Three Sisters*, *The Proposal*, *Waiting for Lefty*. I directed: *Bus Stop*, *Ethan Frome*, *Blue Denim*, *Compulsion*, and *This Property is Condemned*.



JONATHAN LEVIT (Director) holds an MFA in Film / Animation from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He is a Directing member of The Actors Studio West and has worked in many theaters in the LA area both as Director and Assistant Director on straight plays and musicals. He has also worked in television on multi-camera sitcoms as a Script Supervisor and Associate Director since 1996. Jonathan is happy to be working with Kaz again, and with such a talented group of actors, directors and writers.



JOYCE SINDEL (Actor) is a versatile actor playing senior women who range from comedy to strong, feisty emotional characters. She has appeared in commercials; film (*Castle of Enhancement*, *Max and Me*, *Slipway*, *Not Yet*); and television (*World of Hope*, *Sex Sent Me to the ER*, *Justice for All* with Christine Perez). She has appeared on the stages at the Sierra Madre Playhouse, Hollywood Fringe, Stella Adler, and various stages in NoHo. Joyce is pleased to participate with The Decameron Project Hollywood since its inception. She is grateful to be in the One Minute Play Festival with so many talented people.



KATIE BRADY is a writer/director and sometimes actor who has been working in film and television for the last decade in various capacities. She directed her first film, *Such a Lovely Place*, in 2023, and is currently in pre-production on her next two films. She participates with Force of Nature Productions and has joined their Creative Community of writers. She has acted in classic plays from Shakespeare to Fools.

<https://www.instagram.com/katiegoldenbrady/>



KAZ MATAMURA (Executive Producer / Director) has been a theatre producer in LA since 1995. She was a founder of the Secret Rose Theater in NoHo Arts District and she keeps the secret about this name to this day. She has taught acting in LA at the Stella Adler Academy of Acting, at Art Center in Pasadena, at the Kumu Kahua Theatre in Honolulu, and at various theaters in Tokyo, Japan. She is completing the Royal Shakespeare Company's program for Advanced Instructor Certification this fall. Currently, she resides in Tokyo as a Drumpf refugee. In 2026, she is launching the Tokyo International Fringe Festival, while expanding the one minute play festival to Vietnam and Taiwan.

<https://www.instagram.com/kazmatamura/> www.matamura.com "Let's keep the oldest profession alive."



KENT HATCH (Actor) has been in various independent films and shorts since the wee age of twenty-years-old. At the ripe age of fifty-four, he returns to the stage for two minutes to get a taste of the theatre he once knew in New York in the 90's. The road has been long but the journey is still sweet and challenging.



MARIAH SHIRLEY (Actor) Mariah Shirley is a long time member of Pacific Resident Theatre where she was seen last summer as Stella in *The Spy who went into Rehab* by Gregg Ostrin. After 2 plus decades, she is thrilled to be working again with Kaz Matamura.



MICHELE TANNEN (Actor) is an LA theatre veteran. She has appeared in multiple leading and supporting roles throughout the city's performing arts scene since the year 2000. She is proud to have performed in the Los Angeles debut of the Decameron Project's One-Minute Play Festival in 2023, in the second One-Minute Play Festival in Tokyo, Japan in 2024, and in the most recent One-Minute Play Festival in Ventura in June 2025. Michele also appears in numerous TV, film, and commercial projects. Always aware of the need to deepen her craft, Michele has studied with some of the city's most prestigious acting coaches, including Tess Kirsch, Mark Tillman, Harry Mastrogeorge and Darryl

Hickman.

<https://www.instagram.com/mikkiskittys/> <https://www.facebook.com/michele.tannen>



MIMI CHEN's (Playwright / Actor) claim to fame is having sung the National Anthem for the A's, Giants, Warriors and the Angels. She once was cast in a recurring co-star role for a CBS network sitcom (*We Are Men*) and has been spotted in various commercials for Google, Subaru, Capital One and others. She also has had side gigs as a voice actor, voice dubbing K-Dramas and Asian Animation projects. But she's happy to once again be part of Kaz Matamura's international theater productions and working at KCSN-FM in Los Angeles on the air weekends, occasionally chowing on a glazed donut.

<https://www.tiktok.com/@djimimimi> <https://www.instagram.com/djimimimi/>

<https://www.facebook.com/mimi.chen/>



NICHOLAS BRADY (Actor) has been an actor from the time he saw Nicolas Cage at 14 years old. The stage is his safe place and loves entertaining people. He's acted in plays from *12th Night* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*, to *Into The Woods* and many more. Recently he played a supporting role in the play, *Last Call*. Along with being a member of The Decameron Project Nic is also a member of another theater group Force Of Nature. He been in commercials and he's also acted in films like *Mythica*. He wants you all to stay awesome! IG: @thatguynjb

NICK FORAN (Technical Director) Originally from Australia, Nick is an award winning light and sound designer; working in LA since 2014. He is both resident designer and technical director at a range of theaters in Los Angeles including 24th St Theatre, Theatre 40 in Beverly Hills and he has also been the lighting and sound designer at the Stella Adler Academy of Acting since 2018. He has been working with this team for nearly a decade and is proud to put on this fantastic festival for you all



SHELLY GOLDSTEIN (Playwright) is a writer-performer-director who has worked in every genre of TV, film and stage. She is one of the writers on the new US-UK series *Sherlock & Daughter*, nominated for Best Int'l Series at the 2025 Monte Carlo Television Festival. Shelly wrote the comedy special *Wait! Wait! Don't Kill Me* & performed in it with Lily Tomlin. She wrote the Emmy-winning PBS musical special *Chicago Voices*. Shelly has written for dozens of artists including Stephen Colbert, Steve Martin, Sharon Stone, Jay Leno, Hugh Jackman, Larry Wilmore, Hannah Einbinder, rocker Joe Walsh and Yoko Ono. She performs her one-woman cabarets to SRO crowds throughout the US and UK. In London's West End, she recently co-starred in the 50th Anniversary Concert of *Godspell*. One of her proudest moments remains winning the world-famous *New Yorker* caption contest. <https://www.facebook.com/shelly.goldstein/> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nU3FMI7voYo> INSTAGRAM - GroovyShelly



TOM MISURACA (Playwright) Over 170 of his short plays have been produced and stage read globally, often winning audience favorite awards. Fourteen of his full-lengths have been produced in California, Nevada, Utah, Texas, Michigan and New York. His musical, *GEEKS!*, was produced Off Broadway in 2019. In 2014, Tom won two writing awards: The Pickering for his superhero nursing home play, *Golden Age*, and the Las Vegas Little Theatre New Works Award for *Little Black Book*. He won the LVLTA award again in 2019 (*Figments*) and 2022 (*Kiss My Astral Projection*). *In Dogs We Trust* won second place in the 2023 Pickering Award and went on to win the 2024 Meanwhile Park Prize. His full-length play, *IFs (Imaginary Friends)*, will be produced at Trinity Theatre Company in December 2025. <https://www.instagram.com/tmisuraca/> <https://www.facebook.com/tom.misuraca/>

Playwrights:

AJ Layague (she/her/hers) (Playwright - *Next in Line*) is an award-winning Filipino American composer/playwright with degrees from Stanford University (BA), CalArts (MFA), and UC San Diego (PhD). She studied playwriting at the David Henry Hwang Writers Institute at East West Players in Los Angeles. She was a 2023 Puffin Foundation Artist, a four-time semi-finalist for the Eugene O'Neill Music Theater Conference, and premiered new work (in rhyming verse) at the 2025 Red Bull Theater Short New Play Festival and the 2023 PanAsian NuWorks Festival in NYC. Her play *Cowgirl Katarungan's Recipe for Adobo* received a 2022 Finalist Prize in the Frank Moffett Mosier Fellowship for Works in Heightened Language Competition at Synecdoche Works as well as a 2023 Larking House Theatre workshop and reading, and was a finalist for the 2024 Judith Royce Award for Excellence in Playwriting, and a semi-finalist for the 2023 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. It will be presented at Curtis Theatre in Brea, CA in May 2026. She has also been part of the writers cohorts at Circle X Theatre (Los Angeles) and Ensemble Studio Theatre LA. Her single-author musical *Lucy Larcom* won the 2024 Parlando New Musical Project and had a staged reading in Boulder in 2024.

Alex Dremann (Playwright - *Ryan's Tooth*) is a Philadelphia based playwright who studied playwriting at the University of Southern California and has had more than 500 productions of his short plays. Full lengths include: "Split Pea Pod" (The Brick Playhouse), "Postcoital Variations" (Philadelphia Theatre Workshop), "The :nv:s:ble Play" (Theatre of NOTE) and "The Cure" (Dayton Playhouse). Evenings of his collected short plays include: "Slap Happy" (Madlab Theatre), "Bipolar by Thursday" (Theatre Neo) and "13 Lemonade Ave." (Secret Room Theatre). Published short plays include "On the Porch One Crisp Spring Morning" in "The Humana Festival 2009: The Complete Plays". www.alexdrmnn.com

Arthur M. Jolly (Playwright - **Ex Ghost**). Arthur M. Jolly (*he/him*) shares the standard writer background of starting in the NY film industry as a stunt performer, special effects artist and snake wrangler; then becoming a helicopter pilot instructing for the US Army in Fort Rucker, Alabama; and later flying tourists from Las Vegas into the Grand Canyon. Given such a predictable trajectory, his decision to quit flying and move to Los Angeles to write is all too familiar. Jolly was recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences with a *Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting*. Feature films include ***Where We Disappear*** on Amazon Prime. As the playwright of 75 produced plays, Jolly won the *Todd McNerney National Playwriting Award*, the *Region IV David Mark Cohen Playwriting Award*, and was a finalist for the inaugural *Woodward/Newman Drama Award*. Published works include ***A Gulag Mouse***, ***The Ithaca Ladies Read Medea***, ***The Lady Demands Satisfaction***, ***Long Joan Silver***, ***Mrs. Dilber's Christmas Carol***, ***Past Curfew***, ***Rising***, ***There Is No Play***, ***Trash*** and two collections of short plays ***Guilty Moments*** and ***Thin Lines***.

Christian Simonsen (Playwright - **Groundhog Day**) is a playwright, screenwriter and actor based in San Francisco. His stage plays have been performed in cities across the USA, as well as overseas in Sydney, Seoul, Oxford, and London (he loves that he gets to use an Oxford Comma after the word "Oxford"!.) Christian currently writes for the sketch comedy group "Killing My Lobster."

Clyde James Aragon (Playwright - **I'm Your Huckleberry**) is from Albuquerque, New Mexico. His published prose humor has appeared in national and southwestern newspapers and magazines. He has published the books: *Tales of Delight and Shame*, humorous stories; *The PC Affair – a comic mystery of murder, mayhem, and data processing*, a detective novel; and *Abandon All Hope! - cheerful humor for impossible days*, humorous stories. His short plays *The Translated Works of Stephen Watts Kearny And His Army Of The West*, *Shakespeare's Wife*, *Pirate Bitches of the Caribbean*, *The Coroner*, *Gila Monster Man To The Rescue*; full-length play, *Hotel De Fools*; and radio play, *Blackbeard's Tuna*, have been performed publicly. He has also produced greeting card material and composed crossword puzzles. His filmography (all shorts): *Doctor Time Travel To The Rescue*, *The Accidental Canine – the story of Sheila, the dog who influenced art*, *The Gods of Beer*, *Frankenstein of the Americas*, and *The Zombie National Guard – America's final defense against supernatural chaos*, and *Crime and Philosophy*.

David Malouf (Playwright - **Cindy and Dave Drive Home from a Party**) is a retired educator who has written and directed prize-winning short films and stage plays. His plays *Waiting for Go*, *Troll*, *What Say You Boson Q*, *Street Fight* and *The Death of Boson X* have been presented by Players Theatre in NYC, SOOP Theatre in Pelham NY, North Port Plays in NY, Equity Theater in NYC, and Silver Spring Stage in MD. Awards include best script and best play for *The Death of Boson X*, Best play (tied) for *Street Fight*, and audience choice awards for three other plays.

David Simpatico's (Playwright - **Practice Makes Perfect**) career highlights include: the book/stage adaptation of *Disney's High School Musical*, and his musical adaptation of *Twelve Angry Men*, music and lyrics by Michael Holland, which received its world premiere production in June, 2022 at Theater Latte Da in Minneapolis, directed by Peter Rothstein. His grand opera, *The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing*, with music by Justine F. Chen, received its world premiere at Chicago Opera Theater in March, 2023, also directed by Peter Rothstein. He is currently adapting Wally Lamb's *She's Come Undone*, with co-bookwriter Darrah Cloud, and composer/lyricist, Michael Holland. He is also working on *That Hellbound Train*, a new jazz opera with composer Lisa DeSpain, based on the short story by Robert Bloch. His play, *Ex-Gay Bar*, was named Honorable Mention in the Carlo Annoni International Playwriting Award, as well as receiving the inaugural Voices For Change Action Grant by ArtsWestchester. He wrote *Cruel Shoes*, the backstage murder mystery musical comedy, with Ross Patterson. Most recently, his oratorio adaptation of *Dickens's A Christmas Carol*, with score by Will Todd, received its first production with Opera Holland Park at Sinfonia Smith Square in London, December 2024, and will be back again in 2025.

David Vazdauskas (Playwright - **Essentials**) is a Maine-based playwright whose plays have been produced here in the U.S. and around the world, including in the U.K., France, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and India. He often writes comedies about historical and destined-to-be-historical figures

that take place from the beginning of time to the far distant future. He's also a brand and marketing strategy consultant, working with arts and entertainment organizations to help them grow and thrive. He's delighted to be part of the Decameron Project's One Minute Play Festival!

Emily Hageman (Playwright, *Day Six*) is a music and theater educator residing in Sioux City, Iowa. Her plays have seen production with Samuel French Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival (2019 and 2021), Heartland Theatre Company, the Growing Stage Theatre, and Gi60s. Emily is published with YouthPLAYS and Stage Partners.

Emmett Spaw (Playwright - *Top Contender*) was born and raised in The Little Apple, and is an undergraduate student of Theatre and English at Kansas State University. He has a keen interest in playwriting, and his short plays have been produced in Kansas, Arizona, Kentucky, Iowa, and California. He has recently been commissioned to write a full length play for the Eisenhower Presidential Library. In his free time he enjoys cycling, MarioKarting, and aggravated loitering.

Evan Baughfman (Playwright - *Brains; Hugh Done It*) is a Southern California playwright, author, and educator. He is a playwriting member of PlayGround-L.A., and is a company member with Force of Nature Productions. A number of Evan's plays are published through Heuer Publishing, YouthPLAYS, Next Stage Press, and Drama Notebook. Evan has also found success writing horror fiction, his work found recently in anthologies by Graveside Press, InkD Publishing, and No Bad Books Press. Evan's own books include: *The Emaciated Man*, *Vanishing of the 7th Grade*, *Bad for Your Teeth*, *Try Not to Die in a Dark Fairy Tale*, and the upcoming short story collection, *Mauls of the Wild*. More info is available at amazon.com/author/evanbaughfman

James McLindon (Playwright - *Leaves*) is a member of the Nylon Fusion Theatre Company in New York. His plays have been produced or developed at theaters across America and around the world including the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference (selection and six-time semifinalist), Lark, PlayPenn, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, hotINK Festival, Irish Repertory, CAP21, Samuel French Festival, Victory Gardens, Hudson Stage Company, Abingdon, New Repertory, Lyric Stage, Detroit Rep, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Seven Devils, Telluride Playwrights Festival, Ashland New Plays Festival, Boston Playwrights Theatre, Colony Theatre, Theatricum Botanicum, Circus Theatricals, and Arkansas Rep. They have been published by Dramatic Publishing, Smith & Kraus, Brooklyn Publishing, Applause Books, Next Stage Press, and Original Works Publishing.

Janis Butler Holm (Playwright - *Blue*) served as Associate Editor for Wide Angle, the film journal, and currently works as a writer and editor in sunny Los Angeles. Her prose, poems, art, and performance pieces have appeared in small-press, national, and international magazines. Her plays have been produced in the U.S., Canada, Russia, and the U.K.

Jonathan Joy (Playwright - *Those Time Traveling Teens*) has written 52 plays that have been produced in 22 US states and overseas in 9 countries. He is the writer, producer, and voice of Professor Theo on the *Professor Theo's Mystery Lab* podcast and author of the *Read Me A Bedtime Story* newspaper column that earned a 2021 Kentucky Press Association Award.

Karen Siff Exkorn (Playwright - *The Kiss*) is a best-selling author, playwright, performer and consultant. Her book *The Autism Sourcebook* (HarperCollins) became an international best seller and inspired Karen to write her play *Do This*, which has been optioned for a Broadway run and film adaptation. Other creative works include her multi-media piece *Body & Soul* (Gene Frankl Theater NYC), solo play *Who's They* (Knitting Factory NYC), play *Now You See Me* (Rattlestick Theatre NYC) and *Six Short Plays About Love* (The Barrow Group NYC) which is in consideration for a podcast and TV series. Her play *The Pigeon* received a staged reading at the LA Women's Theater Festival and a production at the Short + Sweet Sydney Theatre Festival in Australia. Her screenplay adaptation of her play *Artichoke* won Best Drama Script of Hollywood Just4Shorts and is slated for production. Other awards include: Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwright's Conference (semi-finalist) and Screencraft Stageplay Writing Competition (finalist) and Hot Off the Press: Solo New Works Series (winner). An internationally acclaimed motivational speaker, Karen works with Fortune 500 companies and has been

featured on GMA, Today Show, CNN, CBS, The View, Nightline, and in the New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

Mark Harvey Levine (Playwright - *The March of I'ds*) Mark Harvey Levine has had over 2,300 productions of his short plays everywhere from Bangalore to Bucharest and from Seoul to Sao Paulo. His plays have won over 45 awards, been produced in more than ten languages and have been published in over two dozen anthologies. Full evenings of his work, like "Didn't See That Coming" and "A Very Special Holiday Special", have been shown around the world, including at the Edinburgh Fringe and a multi-year tour of Brazil. His new full-length, "Save Hamlet" premiered at the Laboratory Theater of Florida and is playing all over the US.

Michael Helms (Playwright - *Encounter & Up in Smoke*) Michael Helms has been a successful photographer in Los Angeles for over 40 years. He has photographed some of Hollywood's most notable celebrities, including Kate Hudson, Tim Curry and Angelina Jolie. From shooting documentaries on the orphanages of Katmandu, Nepal, to photographing the cannibals of Papua, New Guinea, to hang gliding in the high Sierras, and even to the depths of the ocean doing underwater photos of sea life in Catalina, Cozumel and Bonaire. Michael's work and range of experience are extensive.

Robert Weibezahl (Playwright - *Essentials*) grew up in New York and now lives in California. His short plays have been performed live and virtually in 21 states, and internationally in the UK and Australia. Full-length plays include *And Lightning Struck: Mary Shelley and the Curse of Creation* (published by Next Stage Press), *Which Way the Wind Blows*, *Ghosts of Glencolumbkille*, *Hold On*, and *Discards*. His most-produced short, *Gown*, is included in "The Best 10-Minute Plays 2023" (Smith & Kraus). Monologues have been included in "The Covid Monologues," Playground Experiment's "5th Annual Faces of America," and "The Best Women's Stage Monologues 2024" (Smith & Kraus). He is a member of the Dramatists Guild.

Roger Henry (Playwright - *Remember That Time...*) Remember that time Roger Henry won or placed in the San Diego Scribe's Short Play Contest? No, not the time in 2024 or 2023. Yeah, the first time in 2022. His various short plays have been produced across the country from San Diego to New York since then. He's expanded to screenwriting, first as a contributing writer in the 2023 and 2024 San Diego 48-Hour Film Project and most recently as a Quarterfinalist in the 2025 Santa Barbara International Screenplay Awards for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Afterlife*. Roger's work generally aims to stir emotion and conversation while exploring the human condition, usually with an injection of his quirky sense of humor. He continues to write for both stage and screen while working at his other (paying) career in San Diego, so this probably won't be the last you hear of him. I guess some people just never learn.

Ruben Carbajal (Playwright - *Presence and Epitaph*) Ruben's best known for *The Gifted Program* (DPS), bringing teen-angsty laughs to stages nationwide for over two decades. He was a 2024 Waterworks Festival finalist with *A Play with a Door*, soon to be excerpted in *The Best Women's Stage Monologues of 2025*. His award-winning audio dramas include *Something in the Air* (Sundog's Originals Project) and *You Can Thank Me Later* (Marion Thaurer Brown Award). His shorts, *Some Assembly Required*, *A Place to Rest Your Head*, and *The Law of the Instrument*, are available via Stage Partners. You'll also find him in *105 Five Minute Plays*, *The Covid Monologues*, and *One Minute Plays*, among many other best-of anthologies.

Steve Gold (Playwright - *Mussolini Speaks*) is a playwright and the tragic product of the New York City public school system. He is the author of *Women and Guns*, *Wyatt Earp's Jewish Adventure* and *Ebony People*; and is currently buried alive in the great state of New Jersey.

Tom Moran (Playwright - *Now Boarding*). Tom Moran's plays have been produced in 24 states and seven foreign countries, and his short plays "Duo," "Breakout" and "I, Phone" have been published by Smith & Kraus. He holds a Bachelor's from the University of Notre Dame and an MFA from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where he was the first student to focus on playwriting. He lives in Fairbanks, Alaska, where he spends inordinate amounts of time on bicycles. Find out more at www.moran-plays.com.