



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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LaGuardia Performing Arts Center presents:  
**Rough Draft Festival: A celebration of works under development by New York artists and organizations.**

With plays written by Migguel Anggelo & David Drake, Cherrye Davis, Amy Gijsbers van Wijk, Sevan K. Greene, Michael Kimmel & Libby Winters, Jeton Neziraj, Sam Schanwald, Zarina Shea, Justin Anderson Taylor, and Nathan Yungerberg.

Directed by Anne Cecelia DeMelo, David Drake, Miranda Haymon, Jessi Hill, Sarah Hughes, Zhailon Levingston, Aktina Stathaki, and Gabriel Stelian-Shanks.

**Performances March 15 – April 13 at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center**

**Long Island City, NY (March 7, 2019)** – Later this month, LPAC proudly presents the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Rough Draft Festival. The festival, which was created by Associate Director and Festival Curator Handan Ozbilgin, is a celebration of meaningful work under development by a wide array of talented artists and organizations. Each year Ozbilgin seeks out exciting and impactful projects and provides these fresh voices with stipends and space to further develop their work-in-progress, which are tantamount to finished products; all while providing the audience window into the creative process.



By providing these plays, that have previously had readings and workshops, this opportunity, Rough Draft is giving artists the chance to rework and further develop their pieces, and also allows them to have their work be seen again. The Rough Draft team is pleased to have been part of the growth of productions like **Kyoung Park's** PILLOW TALK, **Radical Revolution's** SONGS ABOUT TRAINS and **Leila Buck** and **Tamilla Woodard's** AMERICAN DREAMS.

This year's plays offer a wide range of themes told by diverse voices. HOW TO MOURN AN AMERICAN (AN INSTRUCTIONAL) by **Cherrye Davis** is a dive through America's history and complicated relationship with loss allowing the audience to deeply consider what it takes to truly heal, as individuals, as community, as a nation. **Nathan Yungerberg's** MOTHER OF PEARL tell the story of the surviving members of a horrific tragedy thirty years ago that turned jubilation into sorrow and friends into foes when they convene where many of their most cherished memories and worst nightmares were born. CLIMATE CHANGE: (AN OPERA?) by **Zarina Shea** follows the many ways a small drip builds to a colossal crash -- along the way breaking open the form of opera to question how we got here and where the hell we're going. feminine octagon [or, aristotle can eat me] by **Amy Gijsbers van Wijk** is one hour, one night, one hundred nights in the search for an unforgettable, life-changing party. WELCOME TO LA MISA, BABY by **Migguel Anggelo** and **David Drake** delves into the Latino immigrant experience of what it means to be gay in America today with both humor and poignancy in equal measure. UNBLINKING EYE by **Justin Anderson Taylor** tells the story of a spiritual resurrection around the reality of war, inspired by Ferdinand Bruckner's Pains of Youth. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO YOU by **Michael Kimmel** examines a group of people infected by apathy, and the very wrong methods taken to finding a cure. babel by **Sevan K. Greene** looks at friendship in the middle of an occupation war and examines the price of friendship forged in wartime. PROSPERITY! by **Sam Schanwald** is a Brechtian drag epic that throws us head first into the psychological realities of our American dreams and in THE INTERNATIONALS, **Jeton Neziraj** parades figures, prominent and nameless to expose the hypocrisy of the international community in the face of war.

### **THE ROUGH DRAFT FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:**

March 15<sup>th</sup> – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

LaGuardia Performing Arts Center

at LaGuardia Community College

31-10 Thomson Avenue Long Island City, NY 11101

[Get directions here](#)

**Tickets:** \$15 (Discounted student tickets available for select performances.)

For more information or to purchase in advance visit:

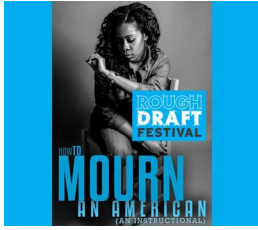
<http://siteline.vendini.com/site/lpac.nyc/rd-2019--front-page>

or at the box office on day of performance.

Watch the Rough Draft Festival promotional video here: <https://vimeo.com/317049607>



## ROUGH DRAFT 2019 SCHEDULE



### **HOW TO MOURN AN AMERICAN (AN INSTRUCTIONAL)**

Created by Cherrye Davis

Directed by Gabriel Stelian-Shanks

Produced by A Certain Something

HOW TO MOURN AN AMERICAN (AN INSTRUCTIONAL) is a dive through America's history and complicated relationship with loss. When The Statue of Liberty mournfully steps away from her pedestal, she begins to re-examine her purpose as symbol of America. Through her grief (and hilarious misadventures), she conjures up a variety of characters from American history, all reckoning with moments of death, all providing lessons on how to live, love, and regenerate after devastation. Brought to life by writer/performer Cherrye J. Davis and directed Gabriel Stelian-Shanks, HOW TO MOURN AN AMERICAN (AN INSTRUCTIONAL) uses verse, movement, music of America's past to more deeply consider: What does it take to truly heal, as individuals, as community, as a nation?

- Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm
- Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> - 2:30pm & 7:00pm

### **Tickets**



### **MOTHER OF PEARL**

Written by Nathan Yunkerberg

Directed by Zhailon Levingston

In the late 1980s, a tribe of kindred spirits was sanctified by sweat and soul on the dancefloor of a weekly House Music party until a horrific tragedy turned jubilation into sorrow and friends into foes. Thirty years later the surviving members convene in the abandoned NYC loft where many of their most cherished memories and worst nightmares were born.

- Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:00pm
- Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 7:00pm
- Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7:00pm

### **Tickets**



## **CLIMATE CHANGE: (AN OPERA?)**

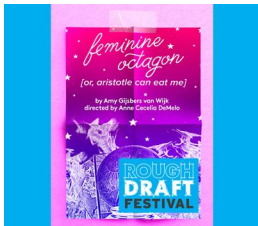
Written by Zarina Shea

Directed by Sarah Hughes

When climate events that destroy millions of lives become quotidian, is it the apocalypse yet? When our most marginalized populations are hardest-hit by the results of centuries-long unchecked industrial expansion, is it the apocalypse yet? When we start glimpsing the bigger picture that all our daily routines are adding up to, is it the apocalypse yet? Does this all seem too epic, too dramatic, too over-the-top for a normal conversation? Would an opera be enough? **CLIMATE CHANGE: (AN OPERA?)** follows the many ways a small drip builds to a colossal crash -- along the way breaking open the form of opera to question how we got here and where the hell we're going.

- Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7:00pm
- Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – 2:30pm
- Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> - 7:00pm

### **Tickets**



## **feminine octagon [or, aristotle can eat me]**

Written by Amy Gijsbers van Wijk

Directed by Anne Cecelia DeMelo

Allure and Candy become goddesses. A man falls from the sky. Flowers + Mary Shelley fall in love. & cam girl Eurydice\_19969 wants to make that ca\$\$\$h. **feminine octagon [or, aristotle can eat me]** is one hour, one night, one hundred nights in the search for an unforgettable, life-changing party.

- Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm
- Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> - 2:30pm & 7:00pm

### **Tickets**



## **WELCOME TO LA MISA, BABY**

Written by Migguel Anggelo and David Drake

Directed by David Drake

Costumes by JR Dios Martinez and Migguel Anggelo

Dramaturgy by Jeremy Stoller

Sound Design and Live Mixing by Enrico de Trizo

Lighting Design by Scott Davis

Like the shards of light reflected off a mirror ball, in **WELCOME TO LA MISA, BABY**, Migguel Anggelo swirls through a gallery of characters found in the most sacred of places in queer culture: The Gay Disco. Whether looking for love, sex, friends, drugs, freedom of expression, or a way to escape their mother, **WELCOME TO LA MISA, BABY** delves into the Latino immigrant experience of what it means to be gay in America today with both humor and poignancy in equal measure. Anggelo's one-man community of revelers sing, dance, go-go, and lip-sync for their lives in a quest for what beats in the queer heart of the Latino-American tribe.

- Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm
- Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm
- Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> - 2:30pm

### **Tickets**



## **UNBLINKING EYE**

Written by Justin Anderson Taylor

Live sound score by Katie Down

Directed by Jessi Hill

18-year-old Iris loves hunting with her horse, Walt, in the Nevada desert, defying her mom and dropping Hellfire missiles on pixelated people in Pakistan from her Air Force base outside Las Vegas. But the reality of war shocks her into a crisis of conscience that rocks her, her base and the US military. Inspired by epic poetry, Iris tells her story of spiritual resurrection to the audience while a chorus of two actors plays all other characters. A live sound artist creates her journey's landscapes, inner and outer.

- Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7:00pm
- Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> - 2:30pm & 8:30pm

### **Tickets**



## **I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO YOU**

Music and lyrics by Libby Winters

Book by Michael Kimmel

Inspired by Ferdinand Bruckner's PAINS OF YOUTH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO YOU tells the story of seven people sharing a living space in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. When no one knows how to navigate their emotions or their future in a world lived increasingly online or medicated, what happens when someone moves in who is desperate to connect? Driven by a grunge/pop score I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO YOU examines a group of people infected by apathy, and the very wrong methods taken to finding a cure.

- Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> - 7:00pm
- Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> - 7:00pm
- Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> - 7:00pm

### **Tickets**



## **babel**

Written by Sevan K. Greene

Luke and Issa have found a friendship in the middle of an occupation war. Along with Issa's twin sister, Hayat, the three find comfort, security and a sense of family again. But when the announcement is made that the troops are being withdrawn, a home-grown insurgency starts to take hold, testing their relationships to breaking points. What is the price of friendship forged in wartime? And how far will they go to find their freedom?

- Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> - 7:00pm
- Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> - 5:00pm
- Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> - 7:00pm

### **Tickets**



## **PROSPERITY!**

Written by Sam Schanwald

Created by Sam Schanwald and Jake Sellers

Music by Sam Schanwald and Avery Leigh Draut

Directed by Miranda Haymon

June Miller has dreamt of stardom ever since her humble beginnings in an RV off Highway 41. When her Papa's windfall from church bingo unexpectedly paves the way for June to audition for a dream role in New York City, her wildest dreams finally feel within reach. *PROSPERITY!* chases a daddy-daughter duo on a cross-country road trip as they navigate a decoupage landscape of unraveling opportunity. This Brechtian drag epic throws us head first into the psychological realities of our American dreams.

- Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm
- Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – 5:00pm
- Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - 7:00pm

### **Tickets**



## **THE INTERNATIONALS**

Written by Jeton Neziraj

Directed by Aktina Stathaki

Produced by Between the Seas

In this play, envisioned by the team of Between the Seas as a multimedia political cabaret, Marina Abramovic, Mother Teresa, Bill Clinton, and other figures, prominent and nameless, parade through seemingly unconnected short vignettes, to expose the hypocrisy of the international community in the face of war. The play was written in 2016 and has been performed in Ode Theatre, Prishtina, in 2017. This is the first time it is being presented in the US.

- Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm

### **Tickets**

## **ABOUT THE ROUGH DRAFT FESTIVAL**

Rough Draft Festival is a one of a kind series curated by LPAC's Associate Director Handan Ozbilgin. As a window into the creative process, The Rough Draft Festival is a celebration of artists/organizations and their work under development. RD features a wide array of artists whose work is at various levels of development all striving towards a finished product. Each year we push the boundaries of theater presenting pieces that give a voice to meaningful works. #IAMARoughDraft

## **ABOUT LAGUARDIA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

LPAC is a cultural “bridge” and integral part of LaGuardia Community College, located in the most culturally diverse urban area in the world, Queens, NY. LPAC has a long and respected history of engaging, presenting, and producing new artistic work by diverse, international artists. The organization has evolved into a destination for high quality theatre, dance, and performing arts from emerging artists who are transforming the international arts community. For example, in 2012, LPAC presented the New York theatre premiere of “For Rent”, by acclaimed Turkish playwright Ozen Yula, a work that was banned in Turkey and which was translated into English for its LPAC run. LPAC recently completed its pilot Rough Draft Festival, a showcase of compelling new artistic work-in-process by LPAC and other companies. The Rough Draft Festival’s ongoing activities are being informed by a cultural exchange with Turkish Theatre Company VDST’s New Text New Theatre Project.

Founded in 1980, LaGuardia Performing Arts Center's (LPAC) mission is to present artistically engaging, culturally diverse programming for its surrounding community. The organization has a mandate to advocate for and to promote a wide variety of diverse stories told by under-recognized artists in productions of the highest quality. LPAC is the largest theater complex in Western Queens, and with an audience hailing from 180 different countries that collectively speaks 119 different languages, LPAC plays a key role as a cultural "bridge" presenting and producing artistically engaging, culturally relevant programming for an audience of over 40,000 people throughout LaGuardia Community College, Queens, and New York City.

The following are just a few of the many international artists produced and/or presented by LPAC within the last five years: PCC, Yaa Samar! Dance Theatre, Ozen Yula, Anoushka Shankar, Pasha Dance (World Premiere), Albita, Carmen Consoli, Latif Bolat, D-Camerino, Alper Yimaz, Eldar, Luis Garay, Alejandro Caceres, Discanto, Tejas Luminous, Ayca Damgaci, Ayhan Aktas, Zishan Ugurlu, Alper Yilmaz, Ye Taik, Juri Nishio, Saviana Stanescu, Maja Milanovich, Ana Margineanu, Aktina Stathaki, Guillermo Ortega Tanus, and many others. To further its artistic mission, LPAC has partnered with some of the most prestigious international cultural venues that are located in NYC to present and produce new works including: Carnegie Hall, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), The Public Theater, The Chocolate Factory Theatre, Ballet Hispanico, Flux Factory, NYC Opera, Queens Theatre in the Park, and Queens Council on the Arts among many others.