VANGUARD THEATER presents

ILLUMINATING NEW VOICES

New Jersey Theatre Alliance
VANGUARD THEATER COMPANY
180 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
MONTCLAIR, NJ 07042
www.VanguardTheaterCompany.org

STAFF

Founding Artistic Director
Janeece Freeman Clark
Managing Director
Jessica Sporn
Education Director
Amanda Lupacchino
Company Manager
Melissa McHugh
Production Manager
Terri Gorgone
Music Supervisor
Joseph Fils-Aime
Technical Director
Pernell Johnson
Facilities Manager
Eric Tsuchiyama
Website Design
Gregory Morton
Front of House
Hannah Starr
Audience Relations
Adrienne Young
Administrative Assistants
Justin Comini
Katie Shults

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents: Marybeth Boger,
Jennene Tierney
Co-Treasurers: Maureen Ludwig,
Melani Wilson Smith
Secretary: Terri Gorgone
Anuraj Bismal
Meryl Budnick
Hilary Hoover
Patty Gonzalez
Chris Joyce
Stacy Kilkenny
Kate Larsen
Veena Raj
Ilene Silverman

FOUNDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janeece Freeman Clark, Co-Founder
Daryl Stewart, Co-Founder
President, Kelly A. Waters
Vice President, Lynn Irby
Treasurer, Adrian Banks
Secretary, Allie Banks
Terri Gorgone
Jeff Griglak
Susan Zitofsky

VANGUARD THEATER
dedicated to DREAM
DIVERSITY, RECIPROCITY, EDUCATION, ACTIVISM & MENTORSHIP
VanguardTheaterCompany.org
Illuminating New Voices is a new Vanguard Theater initiative made possible by funding from Jordan Brand’s Community Grant Program Black Community Commitment Grant, to increase awareness of the role race plays in our history and drive a deeper understanding of the consequences of racism in our everyday lives. With funding from the New Jersey Theater Alliance, Vanguard Theater expanded the New Works Festival to include works by other historically underrepresented creators!

“Creating more equitable futures for Black people starts with an intentional journey. So, as our Jordan Brand family celebrates Michael’s 60th birthday, we are thrilled to welcome these organizations committed to accelerating progress in their communities,” says Craig Williams, Jordan Brand President.

Jordan Community Grants are awarded once a year to grassroots, non-profit organizations that are driving action and leading sustainable solutions to improve Black lives in their neighborhoods. Grant funds were awarded to 48 organizations, including Vanguard Theater, with a local connection to the initiative’s four key focus areas of economic justice, education, narrative change, and social justice. Vanguard was the only NJ-based organization to receive a grant and one of only two theater companies nationwide!
A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Janeece Freeman Clark

Founding Artistic Director,
Vanguard Theater Company
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 20 8:00 PM

By The Way ...**
by Lisa Strum, Directed by Antu Yacob
W/ Dennis Allen II, Kimberlee Walker*

Ghost In The Machine
Book, Music and Lyrics by Janine Robledo, Orchestration by Emiliano Messiez,
Directed by Nico Torres, Music Direction by Kyle Cao
W/ David Baida*, Lukas Adrian Galfano, Samy Cordero

Love Stories – Choreo Poem
by Nile Polk, Choreography by Jasón Wells, Directed by Mike Amazan
W/ Niles Polk, Veronica Gonmiah, Jasón Wells, Alanna Espinal

Doriane = Indisposed
by Doriane Swain, Directed by Sandrine Dupiton
W/ Doriane Swain

Wanga – A Magical Musical
Book, Lyrics and Music by Lawrence Dandridge,
Direction, Music Direction and Choreography by Lawrence Dandridge
W/ SV Richards, Shania Mundy, Brianna Javis, Brittany Lindsay, Brianna Thomas,
Veronica Gonmiah, Kazoani Gonmiah, Alneesha Moret Harris, Martin Carpenter, Treston Henderson*, Lawrence Dandridge*, Madison Gaines, Saadiq Muhammad, Tisa Harriot

CHURCH STREET
CATERING & EVENT PLANNING
Weddings, Parties, Corporate & Special Events

info@churchstreetcatering.com 973-220-0031 www.churchstreetcatering.com
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 21 7:00 PM

*Picture Incomplete*
Conceived by Trent Armand Kendall, Book by Juson Williams, Music and Lyrics by Michael Polese, Trent Armand Kendall, Juson Williams, Directed by Patricia Floyd, Music Direction by John Bronston, Vocal Arrangements by Julian Summers, Juson Williams, Choreography by Revolutionary Entertainment W/ William Angel Bailey*, Angela Gray, Donald Graham, Shandi Maghran, Lori Sinclair Minor*, Kwame Remy*, Burgandy Williams, Juson Williams*

*Dayz*
by Dahlak Brathwaite, Directed by Tracey Lee
W/ Savon Bartley, Lou Steele*, Doreen Oliver

*On The Verge: a song cycle for the [middle] ages*
Lyrics by Amanda Yesnowitz, Music by Deborah Abramson, Directed and Music Direction by Kenneth Green W/ Malcom Green, Whitney Gentile, Sabrina Cabrera

*Everything Is Fine Until It’s Not*
by Doreen Oliver, Directed by Janeece Freeman-Clark W/ Camille Upshaw, Karen Stefano, Kathy Monroe

*Lighthouse*
Book and Lyrics by Abs Wilson, Music by Veronica Mansour, Directed by Nico Torres, Music Direction by Terri Gorgone W/ Janice-Lynn Shuhan, Colleen Renee Lis, Sabrina Cabrera, Shania Mundy, Samy Cordero, Julie Galorenzo*

*Actors Equity Association*

**By The Way... has received development support from The Fire This Time Festival**
CREATIVE ARTISTS

Abs Wilson
Amanda Yesnowitz
Dahkak Brathwaite
Deborah Abramson

Doreen Oliver
Dorine Swain
Janine Robledo
Jasón Wells

Juson Williams
Lawrence Dandridge
Lisa Strum

Nile Polk
Veronica Mansour
CREATIVE ARTIST BIOS

Abs Wilson  Hailing from Minnesota and now based in NYC, Abs Wilson is a graduate of NYU Tisch’s MFA Musical Theatre Writing program, dabbling in playwriting, game-design, screenwriting, and poetry. She got her english/theater BA at St. Olaf College and her passion for theater at the National Theater Institute’s 2020 Summer Intensive theatremaking program. Some of her prominent performance opportunities include singing for Jake Heggie’s Paper Wings masterclass, directing her autobiographical play Pyre/Proximity (2020), and writing and performing in her original song-cycle As Long as the Light (2020). Some of her significant works include I CRAVE THE HEAT, a play/descent-into-the-earth published in Some Script Literary Magazine (2022), HE DID IT. performed at the Quade One Act Festival (2022), Dutch Kassidy & the Skydance Guy performed at the Country Players (2022), and All We Know of Love & Fire performed at The Brick !?:New Works festival (2023). Abs is a member of the Playwrights Center, Dramatists Guild, and ASCAP.

Amanda Yesnowitz  Winner of the Kleban Prize, Jonathan Larson Award, Dottie Burman Award, Jamie deRoy Award, Dramatists Guild Fellowship, Berklee Alumni Achievement Award, and 8 MAC nominations, all for excellence in lyric writing. Selected musicals: Christmas in Connecticut (Broadway Licensing commission; 2022 Goodspeed Opera House mainstage), Somewhere in Time (Portland Center Stage), May/December (Oldcastle Theatre), By The Numbers (Johnny Mercer Grove, ASCAP workshop), The Caucasian Chalk Circle (Hangar Theatre), The History of War (NYMF invited selection). Featured lyricist: Notes From Now (59e59), ASCAP Centennial at the Kennedy Center, Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall, NAMT Songwriter Showcase, “Gotta Start Small” (Stephanie J. Block; PS Classics, PBS/Live from Lincoln Center). Amanda is also a full-time writing professor at NYU, a professional parodist, and a NY Times crossword puzzle constructor.

Dahlak Brathwaite  is an award-winning dramatic auteur: playwright, composer, performer, director, and filmmaker. His work has been presented at The Smithsonian, Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, REDCAT, MCA Chicago, Ars Nova, The Public Theater, The Apollo, SXSW, by Creative Time, and on HBO’s last two seasons of Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry. Dahlak’s trilogy of works - Spiritrials (solo play), Try/Step/Trip (musical), Adapting History (documentary film) - take a personal look into the criminal justice system and the relationship between Black American music and Black American subjugation. Development of the work has been supported by CalArts, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Victory Gardens, and Montalvo Arts Center. Dahlak has received awards and support from NEFA, the Doris Duke Foundation, The U.S. State Department, NYU Tisch, and MAP Fund. He was a Creative Capital finalist and a United States Artist nominee. Most recently, Dahlak was invited by The Public Theatre’s Under the Radar Festival to join their 2023 Devised Writing Group. He is a graduate of NYU’s Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, where he was awarded the Dean’s Full-Tuition Fellowship, and served as the Assistant Director for the national tour of the Tony-winning revival of Oklahoma!

Deborah Abramson  has served as Music Director or Associate Music Director for several Broadway and Off-Broadway premiers, including Spring Awakening, James Joyce’s The Dead, Bernarda Alba, Dessa Rose, The Glorious Ones, and Broadbend, Arkansas. First Children’s Music Director on Broadway, for Matilda the Musi-
cal. Music Director for world premiere of *The Gardens Of Anuncia* (Old Globe) and English-language premiere of *Maybe Happy Ending* (Alliance Theatre). As composer, she has written *Older Older Oldest* (with William Finn), *Young Marco Polo* (with Peter Mills), *The History of War* (with Amanda Yesnowitz and Chip Zien), and *While I Wait* (with Amanda Yesnowitz).

www.deborahabramson.com

Doreen Oliver is a writer, performer, and speaker whose work illuminates the beauty, heartbreak, and unpredictability of life. Her essays on race, autism, and parenting have appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Audible, The Kenyon Review, and elsewhere. Doreen’s critically-acclaimed one-woman show *EVERYTHING IS FINE UNTIL IT’S NOT* won the Audience Award at the United Solo Festival and its run broke a record for the fastest sell-out in the NY International Fringe Festival’s 20-year history. A 2022 PEN America Emerging Voices Fellow for fiction, she has also received support from Yaddo, Hedgebrook, VCCA, Tin House Summer Workshop, VONA, Sewanee, and the Sustainable Arts Foundation at Gallery Aferro. She is a graduate of Yale University and Stanford Graduate School of Business, where she was a Charles Bonini fellow. More at doreenoliver.com or tweet @doreenoliver.

Doriane Swain Performer. Playwright. Producer. Educator. In between teaching gigs, Doriane can be found tending to her parent as caregiver, doting on her once feral foster fails, or occasionally nurturing her own artistic projects. She's tired, but focused. Overwhelmed, but inspired. Performing credits include: *Ghost in the House: A Meditation on the Life and Times of Jack Johnson* (The Wraith); *Murphy’s Law: Group Therapy Gone Wild* (Dr. Pew); *The Life, Loves, and Tales of Terror of Edgar Allen Poe* (Pax Amicus Castle Theater); *The Cost of Care*, a performance art production about the unintended consequences of caregiving. Playwriting credits include: *DayMares and NightDreams* (The Lab @Luna); *The 280 Project* (Luna Stage); *Secret Cities*, a 48-hr play event (Luna Stage). Innumerable thanks to Ken Wolf (Artistic Director, Manhattan Repertoirte Theater) and Sandrine Dupiton (Dramaturg, NJ PlayLab) for their tutelage and support throughout the writing process of Doriane = Indisposed. Doubleplus ditto to Vanguard Theater Company for the opportunity to breath life into this monster! What’s next? Doriane will be introducing her digital baking series, *Vegan SoulFlour*, as sponsor at Vegandale NYC on September 16, 2023. Season 1 coming this fall! VeganSoulFlour.com HelloDoriane.com

Janine Robledo is a New York City based creative. Originally from Miami, Florida, she is a Cuban-American playwright, composer/lyricist, and classically trained musician. She holds an M.F.A. from the Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program at NYU Tisch School of the Arts and a B.A. from Florida Atlantic University where she studied classical piano. A recipient of the Paulette Goddard Award, Janine is a member of the Dramatists Guild, ASCAP, and Maestra Music. Her musical *Ghost in the Machine* (Orchestrations by Emiliano Messiez) was previously nominated for the Catwalk Residency and as a 2023 O’Neill NMTC semi-finalist. Her musical comedy *The Curious Contents of Christie’s Wastebasket* (composer Aden Kent Ramsey) has had a reading at NYU, and with Two River Theater in Red Bank. It also received a workshop with the Berklee Theater Arts Collaborative in Boston and was presented as part of the 2019 Emerging Artist’s Theater New Works Series at Tada Theater. Janine was previously a writer in residence for 2 years with Three Act Theater Company which culminated in two workshop performances of her musical *Chaundria and the Giant* (composer...
Micha Joel at the Manhattan Movement and Arts Center. Her work has been performed at venues including: The Duplex, 54 Below, Goodspeed Opera House, and the Royal Family Arts Theater in NYC. Janine is the owner of J9musicals and currently serves as Vice chair on the Creative Greensboro Cultural Affairs Commission. New musical projects include Mommy Moon and Ger-kasia.

Jasón Wells is a singer, dancer, actor, choreographer from New Jersey and is a Montclair State University Alumnus with a BFA in Musical Theatre (Spring 2022). Jasón has performed in company works, commercial dance, dance visuals, and back up behind artists. He is the director and Co-founder of Transcendence Dance Collective—a New Jersey based contemporary dance company that trains individuals to be the best that can collectively. Jasón has performed in company works, commercial dance, dance visuals, and for upcoming artists in the city. He’s been in tons of musicals, and is part of teaching faculty for Studio J Dance Academy, Center for Dance Education, and a few other dance schools across New Jersey. Some of Jasón’s most recent on stage credits would include World of Dance ’23 the TYA Tour of Duke Ellington’s: Sophisticated Ladies, A Chorus Line—Vanguard Theatre Co.; Bring it On—Vanguard Theatre Co.; and Rent—Vanguard Theatre Co.

Juson Williams is an American Actor, Singer, Writer, Director, Choreographer Producer and Executive/Artistic Director of the famed Choir, JW’s Inspirational Singers, which appeared on Season 16 of America’s Got Talent. He was last seen in the World Premiere Musical A Wonderful World starring as Louis Armstrong, at the Colony Theatre in Miami Beach Florida, In which he played to great acclaim and rave reviews. A Graduate of Boston Conservatory, Juson Williams is a 4 time Audelco Award Winner for his work in BLACK MAN RISING and FLAMBEAUX. Some New York Credits include The Color Purple, Scottsboro Boys, The Music Man, The Wiz starring Ashanti, Lachanze, Smokey Joe’s Cafe, Memphis, Jesus Christ Superstar, Stormy Weather starring Leslie Uggams, Fortress Of Solitude. It Ain’t Nothin But The Blues, Five Guys Named Moe, and Moms Mabley, starring Clarice Taylor! Juson has worked with some of the biggest and iconic stars in the world including: Gladys Knight, The Pentatonix, Jordan Smith, Kathy Sledge, Sam Smith, Nile Rodgers, Tischina Arnold, Shania Twain, SIA, Sarah McLaughlin, and Mariah Carey. Juson has appeared on SNL, Full Frontal with Samantha Bee, The John Oliver Show, The Tonight Show, The Late Show, NBC’s Christmas Tree Lighting in Rockefeller Center, The Grammys at Madison Square Garden, The Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, The Today Show and performed with the original David Bowie Band, at Terminal 5, for The David Bowie tribute around the world! Juson continues his journey leading with love and grace, inspiring and being inspired, in every facet of life.

Lawrence Dandridge is a Newark-based multi-faceted artist. A performer first, Lawrence has a long list of professional credits headlined currently by his up coming Off Broadway Debut in the new musical Rock and Roll Man that opens in June at New World Stages in NYC. He has produced and directed concerts, workshops, readings, and full productions of his original musicals and arrangements throughout New Jersey, New York and California. As a teaching artist, Lawrence is a professional vocal coach for students and young professional artists, as well as one of the resident choreographers for Vanguard Theater Company, having cho-
reographed VTC’s: Heathers, Little Shop of Horrors, The Wiz of Oz, Shrek, Zombie Prom, Little Women, Next To Normal, Passing Strange and past and upcoming: Spring Awakening. Lawrence is most excited to continue his pursuit of playwriting and composing his own original work while also performing full-time. As the Co-Founder/Artistic Creative Director of Aurway Repertory Theatre, Lawrence continues to create spaces to highlight the experiences of people of color with a growing repertoire. His award winning musical Something Like A Fairytale is among many that have been featured at the New York Summer Theater Festival as well as the National Black Theater Festival, with a full theatrical soundtrack streaming on all listening platforms. Other productions include RED! - A new Musical, What Comes Next?, Coming Home, and Life Through My Eyes which is currently touring through select Newark Public Schools as a part of Aurway’s Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Initiative, The Dear Life Project. Lawrence is grateful to be included in the inaugural Illuminating NewVoices Festival. #ChooseLight @that_musicman

Lisa Rosetta Strum is an actor, playwright, singer and educator. Lisa just recently premiered a workshop of her new solo play, DREAM GIRL at The Apollo Theatre. She also currently made her Broadway debut as an acting company member in Arthur Miller’s, Death of a Salesman. Most recently she played the roles of Goneril and Mother Abbess at the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Her virtual film production of BALTIMORE that she directed for Ramapo College won FIVE Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Award Winning Productions. Lisa made her full production Regional Theatre debut at Luna Stage with Nikkole Salter’s TORN ASUNDER. She also directed FALL by France-Luce Benson for the 2019 One Act Play Festival with Ensemble Studio Theatre. She starred as Rose in FENCES with the REP and starred in the Michigan Premiere of PIPELINE at Detroit Public Theatre as well as SWEAT at People’s Light. Her solo play, She Gon’ Learn had sold out performances at the United Solo Festival on Theatre Row, and received one of the festival’s Best Solo Show Awards. The show was also featured with The New Black Fest at the Lark. As an actor, Lisa worked at Lincoln Center Theatre with Tony Award winning director Thomas Kail, appeared at Summer Stage, Signature Theatre, New Federal Theatre and The Obie Award Winning 48 Hours in... Harlem. Lisa also had a recurring role on Law & Order: SVU, co-starred on New Amsterdam, The Blacklist, and the television pilot Citizen Baines with James Cromwell. As an arts in education theatre instructor, Lisa is a staff facilitator at Columbia University for The Literacy Unbound Summer Institute and was the Theatre Specialist for the Abrons Arts Center at Henry Street Settlement for nine seasons. Lisa was a Finalist for the Doric Wilson Independent Playwright Award and the recipient of the Playwrights Fellowship at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program. She was nominated for a New York Innovative Theatre Award for Best Outstanding Actress, and received a Broadway World Award for Best Actress for the Regional production of FENCES. Most recently her short play, By the Way... which premiered with the Obie Award Winning Fire This Time 10 minute Play Festival last year, received the Howze Theatre Award for Best “Mind Blowing Shortie” of the Year.

Nile Polk is a junior Mathematics major. He
Antu Yacob is an Oromo, Ethiopian born, U.S. raised artist. Her film *Love in Submission* is part of Full Spectrum Features’ collection: *Our Right to Gaze: Black Film Identities*. It screened in numerous festivals including New York African Film Festival, Women of the Lens and Black Muslim Girl Fly Festival (Honorable Mention). She is a cohort of The Fire This Time Festival’s New Works Lab Cycle 4. Her plays have premiered in Kampala International Theatre Festival (Uganda), United Solo Theatre Festival, Project Y Theatre, Theatre167 and Mile Square Theatre. As an actress, her onscreen credits include *Inventing Anna, The Other Two, Night Comes On, The Other Two, Daredevil, Gypsy, Law & Order: SVU, Adieu Lacan, Brooklyn Park, Signs of Aging*. On-stage credits: work with The Fire This Time Festival, American Slavery Project, Primary Stages, Project Y Theatre, Crossroads Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Luna Stage, Cincinatti Playhouse, Philadelphia Theatre Co, Mixed Blood Theatre, Pangea World Theatre, Pillsbury House Theatre. Her voice can be heard on Malcolm Gladwell’s *Revisionist History* (Druid Hills) and in the audiobook *Addis Ababa Noir* by Maaza Mengiste. MFA: Acting, MGSA at Rutgers University.

Veronica Mansour is a composer/lyricist/performer. She has performed with and for artists such as Kristin Chenoweth, Todd Rundgren, Chloe Agnew, the cast of *Hamilton*, Martin Chalifour and Philip Glass. She has been featured on the radio (*Sundays Live on KUSC*) and ABC’s *The Goldbergs*. Veronica was the composer/lyricist for an adaption of *Cyrano de Bergerac* (University of Notre Dame); *CYRANO* was most recently named part of NAMT’s "Other Shows You Should Know About Jukebox". Her first musical, *An Old Family Recipe* (Regional BroadwayWorld “Best Streaming Musical”) premiered as a film at the University of Notre Dame in the Spring of 2021. Veronica composed a piece for Zoe Howard's play, *Midnight Mirage*, which premiered at Theatre Row as part of the Downtown Urban Arts Festival and placed third in the "Best Short Play" category. Most recently, she was named one of 5 nominees for a 2022 Marvin Hamlisch International Music Award (Musical Theatre Composition), one of 4 writers selected for DreamWorks Theatricals, MTI & NBCUniversal Emerging Writers Program (developing new musical adaptations of DreamWorks Animation films for MTI’s catalogue), and is a selected mentee for 2022-2023 Mentorship Programs with both Maestra and the Society of Composers and Lyricists. Veronica is a proud member of Maestra, The Dramatists Guild, The Society of Composers & Lyricists, and BMI. She currently lives in New York City, pursuing an MFA in Graduate Musical Theatre Writing at NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

**DIRECTOR, MD, CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS**

Antu Yacob is an Oromo, Ethiopian born, U.S. raised artist. Her film *Love in Submission* is part of Full Spectrum Features’ collection: *Our Right to Gaze: Black Film Identities*. It screened in numerous festivals including New York African Film Festival, Women of the Lens and Black Muslim Girl Fly Festival (Honorable Mention). She is a cohort of The Fire This Time Festival’s New Works Lab Cycle 4. Her plays have premiered in Kampala International Theatre Festival (Uganda), United Solo Theatre Festival, Project Y Theatre, Theatre167 and Mile Square Theatre. As an actress, her onscreen credits include *Inventing Anna, The Other Two, Night Comes On, The Other Two, Daredevil, Gypsy, Law & Order: SVU, Adieu Lacan, Brooklyn Park, Signs of Aging*. On-stage credits: work with The Fire This Time Festival, American Slavery Project, Primary Stages, Project Y Theatre, Crossroads Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Luna Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Philadelphia Theatre Co, Mixed Blood Theatre, Pangea World Theatre, Pillsbury House Theatre. Her voice can be heard on Malcolm Gladwell’s *Revisionist History* (Druid Hills) and in the audiobook *Addis Ababa Noir* by Maaza Mengiste. MFA: Acting, MGSA at Rutgers University.

Janeece Freeman Clark is a Producer, Director, Actor & Artist Educator, who hails from Lansing, Michigan. A 2022 Tony nominee for excellence in Arts Education, she serves on the Musical Theater Faculty at Manhattan School of Music and is also a Professor.
Janeee is the founding Artistic Director of Vanguard Theater Company, based in Montclair, NJ. Under Janeee’s direction Vanguard has presented NYC productions of: Runaways, Spring Awakening, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Children’s Letters to God, A Little Princess and NJ productions of Memphis, Hairspray, Heathers, Carrie, The Music Man, Songs For A New World (film), Next to Normal, Walk In My Gravity, and Into the Woods. In addition to VTC’s theatrical season offerings, their robust educational programming equips the younger generation with the tools to be professional performers as well as gatekeepers within the industry. Signature programs such as: Broadway Buddy pairs Broadway artists with mentees who are aspiring to a professional career in the industry; VTC Next trains and mentors a diverse group of up-and-coming “theater- gatekeepers” (writers, producers, directors, choreographers, stage managers, etc.); and DreamVTC teaches the importance of artist activism alongside performance skills. Janeee has cultivated and produced video media revolving around the “Origins of Blackface Minstrelsy”; she has presented TEDx talks centered on Social Justice, Diversity and Inclusion; and has created theatrical curriculum for institutions such as New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Young Audiences Arts for Learning.

Janeee received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan and her master’s from Rider University. She serves on the board of directors for the NJ Theater Alliance and is the special advisor for Seton Hall University’s Arts Council.

John Bronston was recently music director of The Harder They Come (Public Theatre). Previously he was the associate music director of A Man of No Importance (Classic Stage Company), was a sub keyboard player at Tina on Broadway, and was the musical director for the National Tour of Hair.

Julian Summers is excited to be Vocally Arranging Picture Incomplete. Julian is a singer/songwriter/visionary who started the group Zeal. He has also musically directed and toured with the World-famous Harlem Gospel Choir. Along his journey, he has worked with: SIA, The 1975, Yolanda Adams, Otis Sallid, The African Children’s Choir, The United Nations, and 3-time Audelco Award Winning Juson Williams. He thanks God from which all of his blessing’s flow and dedicates this piece to his younger self who didn’t get the chance to stand in the face of adversity and to all who struggles within the stigma of mental illness.

Kenney M. Green - Film: FIRE ISLAND (2022), Off-Broadway: FINKS! (Ensemble Studio Theatre), GROWING UP 70’s starring Barry Williams (Luther), National/European Tours: SMOKEY JOE’S CAFÉ starring Gladys Knight (Victor/Dance Capt.), AIN’T MISBEHAVIN!, THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLYOD WEBBER (Ensemble). Regional: GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDIES (Atkins), Avenue Q (Gary Coleman), DIVA DIARIES: THE MUSICAL [WORLD PREMIERE] (Young Randee Jean), AIN’T MISBEHAVIN’ (Milwaukee Rep./Arkansas Rep), THE MU-
**DIRECTOR, MD, CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS**


Kyle Cao (Music Director) is thrilled to work with Vanguard Theatre Company and all these incredible people. He is a recent graduate of Rutgers University—as in last Sunday!—where he was a four-year member of the Rutgers Glee Club and Kirkpatrick Choir, performed in over ten productions with the Cabaret Theatre and Livingston Theatre Company, as well as proudly serving as Artistic Director of the College Avenue Players. He has previously worked on productions of *A New Brain* (Piano/Conductor), *Into the Woods* (Piano), *Spring Awakening* (Piano/Conductor), *21 Chump Street* (Piano/Conductor), *tick, tick… BOOM!* (Piano/Conductor), *Clue: On Stage* (Underscore Pianist), and *Falsettos* (Synthesizer). He will be music directing productions of *The Spongebob Musical: Youth Edition* and *American Idiot* with the Summit Playhouse later this summer, as well as The Chatham Community Players’ production of *Annie Jr.*! In August, Kyle will be music directing his absolute favorite show, *The Last Five Years* with Ferrell Studios in New Brunswick. His deepest gratitude goes out to Janeece Freeman Clark, Terri Gorgone, and everyone at Vanguard, his friend and colleague Nicole D’Angelo for their guidance, his parents for their unceasing support, and Jenny, if she made it.

Nico Torrez (they/them) is a queer director and dramaturg currently located in Brooklyn, NY. Their work lies in exploring the systemic oppressions around us, how they’ve shaped our conscious histories, and questioning what it means to be human. Recent credits include *And A Child Shall Lead* (Director, Waterwell Education), *Clara and Camilla* (Director, NYTF), *The Spitfire Grill* (AD, Vanguard Theatre Company), *House of Bernarda Alba* (Dramaturg, Gallery Players). Their first full length play, *Pages From a Love Manifesto*, was developed at SUNY New Paltz and later virtually as part of the Rogue Theatre festival; the production is currently nominated for 12 regional theatre awards through BroadwayWorld.com. More info on Torrez can be found at torreztheatre.squarespace.com.

Patricia R. Floyd is a proud native of Detroit, MI where her acting and directing career began. She served as Guest Director in Residence at Stamford Theatre Works in Stamford, CT where she directed *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *The Blood Knot*, *A Walk in the Woods*, *Medal of Honor Rag*, *Intimate Apparel*, and *Bee-Luther-Hatchee*. She won a Vivian Robinson Award for her direction of *Black Man Rising* which was twice invited to the National Black Theater Festival. She worked
as a Guest Director at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts as well as the New York Film Academy. She is a Lifetime Member of The Actors Studio and recently participated in Tales from the Color Line, a celebration of African American member playwrights, directing an excerpt from Blues for Mr. Charlie.

Revolutionary Entertainment is a 3-time Audelco Award Winner, who has produced, directed and choreographed here and abroad. Their work is all about discovering who the dancer or artist is on the inside, therefore, able to live and breathe in the physical space we call a stage. Some beautiful credits of new works include, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Waking Kya, If Then Us, Ella’s Jukebox Cafe, Women of Planet Wongo, Pictures Photographed Inward. No matter what style of movement, R.E. takes you on a journey to Cleanse, Heal and Transform Your Soul.

Sandrine Dupiton is a first generation Haitian American, New York raised, Montclair based artist, director and dramaturg. Her work is grounded in uplifting perspectives that are often ignored, raising consciousness and challenging conventional thinking and norms to expand opportunities for healing and transformation. Sandrine worked as a dramaturg with Doriane Swain for Doriane = Indisposed through New Jersey Play Lab’s PlayGym program and is thrilled to support Doriane’s genius and share it’s development with Vanguard Theater.

Terri Gorgone is a freelance musician and musical director in theatres and venues throughout New York and New Jersey. She has been a music educator for over 30 years, presently teaching musical theatre at Cicely L. Tyson School of Performing Arts, where she is the director and music director of several shows produced throughout the school year. One of the founding board members of Vanguard Theater Company, Terri has been instrumental in creating and developing shows and educational content for the company. She has been the musical director for the Encore Youth Theatre at the New Jersey School of Dramatic Arts and worked as music director and accompanist at NJPAC. She is a graduate of the Crane School of Music with Piano Performance concentration and has a Masters degree from NYU in theater. Some of her most recent musical directing credits include: Dreamgirls, The Addams Family, A Little Princess, Runaways, We Will Rock You, Working, Children’s Letters To God, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Heathers, Memphis, Carrie, Sister Act, James And The Giant Peach, The Wiz, Nania, Rent, The Frogs, Hairspray, Shrek, Little Women, Tommy, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Seussical, Honk, 13, Once Upon A Mattress, Into The Woods, The Color Purple, Pippin, Songs For A New World, Most Likely To... Senior Superlative, Once On This Island, Joseph, Guys and Dolls, Sleeping Beauty, Gypsy.

Tracey Conyer Lee won the 2023 Young-Howze Award (indie theater) for co-directing season 13 of the Obie Award winning Fire This Time Festival with Zhalion Livingston. A multi hyphenate artist, recent directing credits include Sistas, the Musical! Off-Broadway and two new musicals in development for which she is both director and script consultant. Next up: Downtown Urban Theatre Festival. Ms. Lee’s award-winning plays have been optioned, performed or developed in DC/MD (Kennedy Center, 2018 Women’s Voices Festival, Ally Theatre Company); Chicago (Redtwist and Congo Square Theatres); VT (JAG Productions), Atlanta (Aurora Theatre), Nashville (SistaSoul Productions) and in NYC at the Fire This Time Festival, Urban Stages, Boomerang Theatre Company, Harlem9’s 48 Hours In...Harlem, American Theatre.
Group, Lincoln Center Library, FringeNYC and National Black Theatre. She makes her NJ production debut next season at Mile Square Theatre. With a 30 year acting career, Ms. Lee currently recurs on seasons 3-5 of FBI on CBS. She’s originated roles off Broadway and regionally, performing in over 80 professional productions around the globe, yielding Carbonell, NAACP and Barrymore Awards. She is the audiobook narrator for both fiction and non and prides herself on her commitment to Black authors. Learn more at www.traceyconyerlee.com.

Veronica Gonmiah is the co-founder and director of art and media at Aurway, as well as a visual and performing artist with a passion for storytelling. Through her work, she uses multiple forms of artmaking to create meaningful pieces that reflect the experiences of people of color. From set and production design for staged productions to fashion shows, Veronica’s goal is to elevate the art of underrepresented communities and bring their stories to the forefront. Her unique vision and creative eye have earned her recognition as a trailblazer in the industry, and she continues to push boundaries with every project she takes on.
Memory Boards

Memory Boards

Celebrations of Life

WE USE YOUR FAVORITE PHOTOS TO MAKE YOUR OWN PERSONALIZED

Memory Board

ALL ORIGINAL PICTURES ARE SCANNED, PRINTED, AND RETURNED TO OWNER IN ORIGINAL CONDITION

For more information or to place an order, please contact Maureen Ludwig 973-666-1288

formemoryboards@gmail.com

• Birthdays
• Weddings/Anniversaries
• Bar and Bat Mitzvah
• Funerals
• Corporate Events
• Graduations
• Bridal & Baby Showers
• Sporting Events & Senior Night

• Starting at $150

Natalie L. Pitts CPA, Accounting and Tax
Accounting & Tax Services for Individuals/Small Businesses/Nonprofit Organizations

Congratulates Lynne Toye on an honor well deserved!

https://www.nataliecpa.com
Coffee with Integrity.

Java Love Coffee Roasting Co., is a women and LGBTQIA+ owned artisan coffee roasting company created out of a personal mission and passion for community connection and quality coffee done right.

244 Bellevue Ave
Montclair, NJ 07043

49 Church Street
Montclair, NJ 07042

50 Lafayette Ave
Suffern, NY 10901

Sullivan Catskills
1577 NY State Route 17B
White Lake, NY 12786

WWW.JAVALOVERASTERS.COM
@DOYOUJAVALOVE
@JAVALOVERASTERS

Proud to sponsor The Vanguard Theater with its focus on Diversity and the Arts
WE CAN DO THIS ALL DAY!

EAST SIDE MAGS
MONTCLAIR, N.J.
EASTSIDE MAGS.COM
break a leg VTC!

shop local

L & B HEALTHY PET MARKETS

15 S. Fullerton Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07042
email: lbhealthypetmarkets@gmail.com
phone: (973)893-5519

@LBHealthyPetMarkets

L&B REVIEW

My fiancé and I recently moved to Montclair from Pittsburgh with an anxiety ridden 4 year old black lab mix. We visited L&B to purchase some food to help with dry skin. The staff was amazingly friendly and knowledgeable and went above and beyond with helping us find the right product! They even most recently helped us with some anxiety issues and pointed us in the right direction when trying to calm our dog down when we leave the house. You can tell they genuinely care about not only providing a great customer experience but caring for your pet as well. Only pet store people should be shopping at!
ARE YOU IN PAIN?

RESET AND RESTORE BALANCE IN YOUR BODY WITH ATLASPROFILAX®

AtlasPROfilax® is a specialized, non-invasive treatment that supports your body's natural healing

Our clients visit us for:

- Headaches
- Migraines
- Fibromyalgia
- Chronic Tightness
- Dizziness
- Herniated Disc
- Pinched Nerve
- Whiplash
- Posture
- Sciatica

Dr. Ashley Twynam, PT, DPT is the owner of Earthly Living and is the only certified AtlasPROfilax® practitioner in the NJ/NY/PA area!

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION!

201-366-2300
42 PARK STREET, MONTCCLAIR, NJ 07110
WWW.EARTHLYLIVING.ORG
THE CLAIRIDGE
A MONTCLAIR FILM NON-PROFIT CINEMA

Bringing the Best in Film to Montclair

For showtimes and tickets, visit TheClairidge.org

Become a Montclair Film Member to experience benefits all year long.
Congratulations

our community partner the Vanguard Theater Company on their 8 year anniversary & congratulations to the 2023 honorees

Nassan’s Place is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization helping to enrich and make a difference in the lives of children and families affected by Autism in and around under-served inner-city communities.

Nassan’s Place can’t stop the diagnosis, but we can help the families affected by it!

973-424-7781  nassansplace@comcast.net  www.nassansplace.org

VANGUARD IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE

MONTCLAIR CENTER BID
WE PROUDLY SALUTE

VANGUARD THEATER COMPANY

westofhudsonrealty.com  973-337-6035  west_of_hudson
33 Plymouth St, Suite LL2, Montclair, NJ 07042  info@wohud.com
DETOX. PURIFY. REJUVENATE.

perfection is in the practice

aerial / hot & not hot vinyasa salt
therapy sessions / sip & shop / iyengar
meditation / Yoga Nidra / yin
advanced & basic teacher training
programs

Bring a friend complimentary with this ad.

Try us for one month
New Students
Only $57
for unlimited classes!

www.jaipureyoga.com
575 Bloomfield Ave.
Montclair Center, NJ 07042
973 744 PURE (7873)
About Vanguard Theater

Founded in 2015, Vanguard Theater Company is committed to changing social and cultural narratives through theater dedicated to DREAM: Diversity, Reciprocity, Education, Activism & Mentorship.

We believe that artists have an important responsibility to use our voices to tell important stories that challenge our perceptions about the world, and help us shape a better future.

Having nearly completed our second full year in its new home in Montclair, Vanguard Theater has quickly become a destination for great professional theater, inspired community collaborations, excellent youth programming, and more. Vanguard looks forward to continuing its reputation for excellent theater and impactful community dialogue as it begins its third full season in Montclair, NJ.

We can only do this with the help of generous supporters and donors like you. Tuition and tickets sales only cover a third of our expenses!

We thank you for showing your support for our DREAM.

Janeene, Jessica, and the Board and Staff at Vanguard Theater!
WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS
JOIN VTC FOR MONTCLAIR PRIDE 2023!

PRIDE DRAG SHOW
VANGUARD THEATER
MONDAY
JUNE 5TH
6:30PM

WITH HARMONICA SUNBEAM

MONTCLAIR PRIDE 2023

MULTIPLE STAGES • 6 HOURS OF ENTERTAINMENT
100+ LOCAL VENDORS

MONTCLAIR PRIDE 2023
JUNE 10
BE YOU. BE HEARD.
Help Replenish Our Scholarship Fund

The Erica Branch Ridley Scholarship Fund

She remembered who she was, and the game changed.

~ Lolah Deliah

Helping young artists realize their DREAMS

donate today: bit.ly/scholarshipVTC
JOIN US THIS SUMMER!

A PERFORMING ARTS INTENSIVE

Summer at V. VANGUARD THEATER

SUMMERSTOCK SLEEPAWAY
AGES 12-19, 7/30 - 8/20
WEST MILFORD, NJ

DAY CAMP
AGES 8-13
7/5 - 7/28
MONTCLAIR, NJ

FLEXIBLE PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE!
MORE INFO AT EDU@DREAMVTC.ORG
& bit.ly/summerVTC
VanguardTheaterCompany.org

PETE (HER) PAN
a new neverland

HEATHERS
THE MUSICAL

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL