

GRoW @ The Wallis Presents
The Wallis Studio Ensemble Production of
RECKONING – A Short Play Festival

WRITERS

Amy Tofte is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter who won the 2015 Nicholl Fellowship in screenwriting from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Her play *Righteous Among Us* won the 2020 Todd McNerney Playwriting Award while her play *Cardboard Castles Hung on Walls* was named a semifinalist for the 2021 Bay Area Playwrights Festival. She has been in residence at the Autry Museum of the American West, Brush Creek, The Kennedy Center and Yaddo with work produced and developed throughout the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, and twice at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She is a proud member of The Dramatists Guild. MFA, CalArts.

Alex Kingsley (they/them) is a writer, comedian, and game designer currently based in Madrid. They are the co-founder of Strong Branch Productions, where they write and direct sci-fi comedy podcast *The Stench of Adventure*. Their work has previously appeared in *Sci-Fi Lamppoon*, *ASPEC Journal*, and soon *The Storage Papers* by Rusty Quill and *Strangely Funny IX* by Mystery and Horror LLC. They have previously collaborated with the Wallis in *The Ensemble Arts Exchange Podcast*, which featured their story "Little Acid Girl." Their games, including comedic fantasy TTRPG *De-escalation* and humorous interpretation book *How To Read Tarot Wrong: Putting the CAN'T in ArCANA*, can be found at alexquest.itch.io. Alex can be found on Twitter and Tiktok at @alexquest. For more information about Alex's work, visit alexkingsley.org. For more information about Strong Branch Productions, visit strongbranchproductions.com.

Briana Cox was born and raised in Tullahoma, Tennessee — a town inexplicably found on state maps. She is the oldest of seven children and a first-generation academic, now a Swarthmore College and Purdue University alumna. Briana started out as a prose writer. You can find her works in the *Swarthmore Review*, *Leaf~Land Journal*, *HCE Review*, *Bookends Review Best of 2020 Anthology*, and the *Studio Ensemble Arts Exchange* short story podcast. She first began collaborative writing projects as a proud playwrighting fellow with the TN Playwrights Studio in Nashville, and she has since branched out into writing for film and television for independent studios and producers.

Eric Lane is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter and book editor. Premieres include "A Thousand Faces: The Lon Chaney Musical" (book writer, Encore Musical Theatre), "Ibis" and "Riverbed" (59E59), "Ride" (WHAT), "Filming O'Keeffe" (Adirondack Theatre Festival commission), and "Dancing on Checkers' Grave," which starred Jennifer Aniston. Short films: "First Breath" (starring Oscar winner Melissa Leo, Victor Williams, Kelly Karbacz); "Cater-Waiter" (starring David Drake, John Kelly, Lisa Kron), which he also directed. Both films screened in over 40 cities worldwide including at the British Film Institute and the Director's

Guild of America. For ABC-TV's Ryan's Hope, Lane won a Writer's Guild Award. With Nina Shengold, he edited 14 play anthologies for Penguin and Vintage Books. Honors include the La MaMa Playwright Award, Lambda Literary Award nomination and Yaddo fellowships. Lane's experiences as a gay Jewish man have impacted his writing. He is married to artist/scenic artist Bob Barnett and is an honors graduate of Brown University. www.ericlanewrites.com

Jaisey Bates is a poet playwright of nontraditional works which they write, direct and perform with their nomadic multicultural theater company, The Peoplehood (the-peoplehood.com). Recognitions include the Marin Theatre Company's Emerging American Playwright Prize, and finalist status for the Princess Grace Award, O'Neill National Playwrights' Conference and American Blues Theater Blue Ink Award. Festival selections include Bay Area Playwrights, Native Voices at the Autry, Cutting Ball Theatre, Clamour Theatre, The Vagrancy and OKC Theatre Company. Education includes Georgetown University SFS (BSFS), American University in Cairo (Johns Hopkins SAIS/Fulbright Fellowship) and Loyola Marymount University (MA in English).

Jo Rodriguez is a playwright and actor from Austin, TX who found a home in Los Angeles, CA. Joining The Wallis Studio Ensemble for three seasons, it became the perfect playground to hone her style, and investigate her passion for the nonlinear discussion of social issues and personal reflection. Together they created devised compositions, some of which included her own personal writings. Most notably are *Disposable* (The San Diego Fringe Festival), and *SOS* (The Hollywood Fringe Festival). Other recent writing credits include *Why We're Here* (The Strawberry One-Act Festival, Semi-finals) and a staged reading of *Street Light* (Samuel French's Summer Short Series). Currently she's working on a 2-part playwork, *Talking to Myself*, an exploration of emotional loneliness and isolation.

Krysta Gonzales (she/they) is a queer Los-Angeles based actor, voiceover artist, and playwright of Black American and Mexican American descent. They earned their BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Experimental Theatre Wing. With the generous support of HowlRound, the VORTEX, Teatro Vivo, the Generic Ensemble Company, and the Distilled Theatre Company, her previously produced plays ("Más Cara," "Emptied," "When You Know, You Know," and "Robin Hood: An Elegy") are all available to view (or listen to) for free online. Krysta's also developing a play titled, "First Blood," a dark coming-of-age vampire comedy set in her birthplace of El Paso, Texas. Mil gracias to the team supporting "Reckoning" and to Camille Jenkins. krystagonzales.com

Starina Johnson is a multidisciplinary artist who grew up in a small southern Illinois town called Logan. After receiving several acting and public speaking scholarships, Starina decided to pursue acting as a profession, eventually transitioning into producing, writing, and directing. Starina can be seen in award-winning films such as "West Hollywood Motel", "More Scenes from a Gay Marriage", "A Measure of the Sin", "Stuck!", "Casserole Club", "Watch Out", and "Roundball". Theatre projects include Hollywood Fringe darlings *Piñata*, directed by Stan Zimmerman, *complex[ion] woman*, directed by Ebony Gilbert, as well as numerous Towne Street Theatre and NEO Ensemble Theatre productions. She also AD/Co-Produced the revival of Justin Tanner's *Heartbreak Help*. Starina's play *Border Towns* won SLAM Boston's Diverse Voices

in Theatre competition. And her short plays have been produced in theatres across the country.
StarinaJohnson.com

Sam Ambler's writing has been published in *Apricity Magazine*, *Christopher Street*, *City Lights Review Number 2*, *Euphony Journal*, *Evening Street Review*, *Glint Literary Journal*, *Headway Quarterly*, *Hearth & Coffin*, *The James White Review*, *Nixes Mate Review*, *The Phoenix*, *Plainsongs Poetry Magazine*, *Red Wheelbarrow*, and *Visitant*, among others. Most recently, he was featured in the anthology *VOICES OF THE GRIEVING HEART*. He won the San Francisco Bay Guardian's 6th Annual Poetry Contest. He earned a BA in English, specializing in creative writing of poetry, from Stanford University. He delivered singing telegrams and sang with the Temescal Gay Men's Chorus in Berkeley and the Pacific Chamber Singers in San Francisco. He has worked in nonprofit theater at Berkeley Rep, Geffen Playhouse, Actors' Equity, and The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. Now retired, he lives in California with his husband, visual artist Edward L. Rubin.