
DAYS OF RE-CREATION

A VIRTUAL PLAY

THE BASICS

Live & In Color is a not-for-profit theatre company that develops new plays and musicals that promote and celebrate diversity. *Days of Re-Creation* is a virtual play written entirely by writers of color. This play was commissioned by Live & In Color and is being offered for production with no licensing or royalty fees. **We are inviting you to use this play with your students to expose them to writers of color and to give them an opportunity to work on pieces written specifically for the virtual medium. The plays can be used in a full virtual production scenario or for course work.**

www.theatreincolor.org



The Project

We are living in a time of incredible upheaval. Our daily lives are unrecognizable from a year ago. As a country we are undergoing a deep reexamination of the institutions that surround us. Each day it feels like we are recreating ourselves as individuals and rebuilding in new and better ways what has been corroded or purposefully torn down.

2020 will be seen as a pivotal year in the history of mankind. While it is a year full of fear, exhaustion, conflict, and death, it also has the potential to be a year of revolution, rebirth, and re-creation.

Each playwright wrote a 10-minute play on this theme of re-creation while also relating in some way to one of the 7 days of creation from the Book of Genesis.

Light and dark... by BD Wong

Sky and water... by Masi Asare

Land and plants... by SEVAN

Planets and stars... by Nandita Shenoy

Fish and birds ... by Lauren Yee

Land animals and humans... by AriDy Nox

Rest... by Erlina Ortiz

These plays are written to be performed specifically on a virtual platform.

In accordance with the mission of Live & In Color, these plays are intended to be written for and performed by a diverse cast. We encouraged our writers to write specifically for a multiethnic cast or to write roles that are not race specific. We also challenge theaters that produce this piece to not make the assumption that a character without a specified ethnicity is white. In order to produce this play, a theater must agree to cast roles written for specific ethnicities as such and roles without specified ethnicities as diversely as possible in their community.

The Plays

We have commissioned this play by seven prolific playwrights of color, including B.D. Wong (Tony award winning actor), Lauren Yee (Signature Theatre resident and writer of *Cambodian Rock Band*), and Masi Asare (winner of the Billie Burke Ziegfeld Award). See bios of all the playwrights at the end of this document.

There are 19 characters. This can be done with 7-19 actors. We expect the runtime to be around 85 minutes.

You can access the script to read at www.theatreincolor.org/recreation

Tickets

If you are using this play for a ticketed production, the tickets must be free of charge. However, you are welcome to use the production as a benefit to raise money for a local social justice organization.

What Now?

If you would like to view the plays to determine if they would be well-suited for your students, visit www.theatreincolor.org/recreation for access to the script. After you have perused the script, you can use the same link to apply for approval to use it.

Questions?

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to our Director or New Works Dennis Corsi at dennis@theatreincolor.org.

The Playwrights

BD Wong (*he/him*) - BD won a Tony Award for his performance as Song Liling in *M. Butterfly*, becoming the only actor in Broadway history to receive the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, Clarence Derwent Award, and Theatre World Award for the same role. He was nominated for a Critic's Choice Television Award for his role as Whiterose in *Mr. Robot*, also earning an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series.



Masi Asare (*she/her*) - Masi is a composer, lyricist, and playwright. Shows include: *THE FAMILY RESEMBLANCE* (book / music / lyrics; developed at Live and In Color / Bingham Camp and Eugene O'Neill Center); the new musical adaptation of Mira Nair's film *MONSOON WEDDING* (lyrics), to open at Leeds Playhouse and London's The Roundhouse in summer 2021; spy musical *SYMPATHY JONES* (music / lyrics / concept; NYMF; Playscripts); and a one-act play about teen super hero Ms. Marvel, *MIRROR OF MOST VALUE* (Marvel / Samuel French). Commissions:

Theatre Royal Stratford East, Babara Whitman / Grove Entertainment, Victory Gardens / Toulmin Foundation. A past Dramatists Guild Fellow, Masi won the Billie Burke Ziegfeld Award for a woman composer of musicals, awards for composition and lyrics from the O'Neill, a Theater Hall of Fame Emerging Artist Grant, and the Stacey Mindich "Go Write A Musical" Lilly Award. An advisory board member for MAESTRA, she holds degrees from Harvard and NYU Tisch and is on the Theatre department faculty at Northwestern University.

SEVAN (*he/him*) - SEVAN's work has been seen in London and New York at The Public Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, The Flea Theatre, The Sheen Center, The Bush Theatre, Theatre Royal Stratford East, Theatre503, Rich Mix, The Old Red Lion, The Space, and Access Theatre. Member of the Bush Theatre inaugural 2015



Emerging Writers Group; The Public Theater 2011 Emerging Writers Group; NYTW Usual Suspect; Rising Circle Theatre Collective 2010 InkTANK Writer's Lab. NYTW 2011 /2012 Teaching Artist. 2017 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference Finalist. 2016 Kondzian Playwriting Award for Armenian Stories. 2016 Arch and Bruce Foundation Playwriting Prize. 2014/2015/2016 Princess Grace Award Semi-Finalist. 2014 Papatango Playwriting Prize Shortlist. 2014 Saroyan Social Justice/Human Rights Playwriting Award Finalist. 2010/2012 William Saroyan Playwriting Prize Finalist. Currently under commission by Noor Theatre for the inaugural Theatre Row Kitchen Sink Residency.



Nandita Shenoy (*she/her*) - Nandita is a New York-based writer-actor. Her *Rage Play*, was recently named to the Kilroys List 2020. *Washer/Dryer* was produced multiple times nationally after its world premier at LA's East West Players and an Off-Broadway production in which she also starred. Her first full-length, *Lyme Park: An Austonian Romance of an Indian Nature*, was produced by theHegira in Washington, DC. Her one-acts have been produced in New York City and regionally. Nandita won the 2014 Father Hamblin Award in Playwriting and a 2018 Mellon Creative Research Fellowship at the University of Washington School of Drama in partnership with Ma-Yi Theater Company. She is a proud member of the Ma-Yi Writers

Lab, the Dorset Theatre Festival's Women Artists Working Group, and the Dramatists Guild. Nandita holds a BA in English literature from Yale University. www.nanditashenoy.com



Lauren Yee (*she/her*) - Lauren's plays include *Cambodian Rock Band* (South Coast Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, City Theatre, Merrimack Rep) and *The Great Leap* (Denver Center, Seattle Repertory, Atlantic Theatre, Guthrie Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Arts Club, InterAct Theatre, Steppenwolf). Honors: Doris Duke Artists Award, Steinberg Playwright Award, Whiting Award, Steinberg/ATCA Award, American Academy of Arts and Letters literature award, Horton Foote Prize, Kesselring Prize, Primus Prize, Hodder Fellowship, #1 and #2 plays on 2017 Kilroys List. New Dramatists, Ma-Yi Writers' Lab, Playwrights Realm alum. TV: *Pachinko* (Apple), *Soundtrack* (Netflix). BA: Yale.

Erlina Ortiz (*she, her*) - Erlina Ortiz is a Dominican-American playwright, performer, and theatre maker from Reading, PA based in Philadelphia. Her heartfelt and timely plays on gentrification, domestic violence, and cultural preservation have been produced with Power Street Theatre where she is proud to be Co-Artistic Director and Resident Playwright. In 2018 Her play *Las Mujeres* received The Bonaly Award for Creation of Community Joy and in Spring 2019 her play *Morir Sonyando* was nominated for six Barrymore Awards including Outstanding New Play. Erlina has received the Amtrak Writer's residency, the Signal Fire Outpost Residency, in 2019 she gave the Keynote Address at the Delaware Writer's Conference, and she is a 2020 recipient of the Leeway Art and Change Grant. Erlina has taught playwriting with the University of the Arts, Power Street Theatre, and Blue Stoop phl. Erlina believes being an artist is a superpower, she believes in using her powers for good.



AriDy Nox (*she/they*) - is a multi-disciplinary black femme storyteller and social activist with a variety of forward-thinking creative works under her/their belt including the sci-fi operetta *Project Tiresias* (2018), the ancestral reckoning play *A Walless Church* (2019), the Afrofuturist ecpocalypse musical *Metropolis* (2019), and many others. AriDy creates out of the vehement belief that creating a future in which marginalized peoples are free requires a radical imagination. Their tales are offerings intended to function as small parts of an ancient, expansive, awe-inspiring tradition of world-shaping, created by and for black femmes. As a graduate of the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at Tisch School of the Performing Arts at NYU and a beneficiary of the Emerging Writer's Group at the Public Theatre, she has been inordinately privileged to share the workings of her imagination among a vast array of inspiring and supportive artists of various radical backgrounds throughout the city.

Live & In Color's Artistic Director

Devanand Janki is an award winning Director-Choreographer based in New York City. His credits include, Off-B'way: *Zanna, Don't!* (Winner Lortel, Callaway and GLAAD Awards), *Junie B. Jones* (Lortel nom.), *Henry and Mudge* (Lortel nom.), *The Yellow Brick Road* (Callaway nom.), *Skippyjon Jones* (Lortel Nom.), *This One Girl's Story*, *Cupid and Psyche*, *Love and Real Estate* and *Romantic Poetry* (MTC). The All Star Broadway concerts for the Actors Fund: *Hair*, *Funny Girl*, *Dreamgirls* (Assoc.) and *Seth Rudestky's Broadway 101*. Lincoln Center: *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Babes in Toyland* and *Anything Goes* in concert (Choreo. Assist.); 9 years as Artistic Assoc. for BC/EFA's *Broadway Bares*. Regional Theatre: *Little Girl Blue - The Nina Simone Musical* (George Street Playouse), *The Wings of Ikarus Jackson*, *Barrio Grrrl!* (Kennedy Center), *Rent*, *Xanadu*, *Rocky Horror Show* (Hangar Theatre) *Disney's Aladdin* (Chicago Shakespeare), *Asphalt Beach*, *The Full Monty*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Man of La Mancha*. TYA tours: *Martha Speaks*, *Nate the Great*, *If You Give a Pig Pancake*, *The Berenstain Bears*. He is Director of the Musical Theatre Division at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. As a performer Dev has appeared on Broadway in *Cats*, *Miss Saigon*, *The King and I* and *Side Show* and tours of *West Side Story* and *A Chorus Line*. He is the Artistic Director of *Live & In Color*, which develops new plays and musicals that celebrate diversity.

