

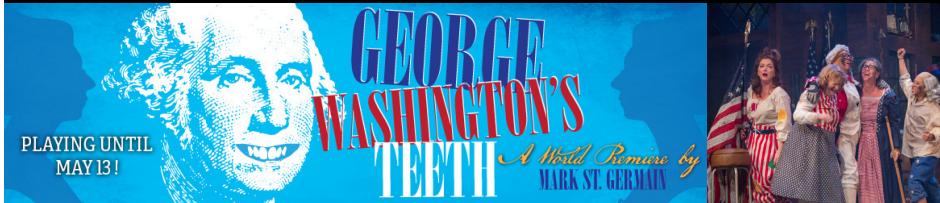
## OTHER EVENTS:

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS with PlayLab Alumna playwright,  
Daryl Lisa Fazio featuring a PLAYWRIGHTS PANEL  
MAY 5 at 5pm**

Daryl Lisa Fazio is a playwright/lyricist/librettist based in Atlanta, Georgia. Her works produced Off-Broadway are *POPart: THE MUSICAL* (New York Musical Theatre Festival) and *Greyhounds* (American Theatre of Actors; Theatre Row). Regional productions include *Split In Three* (Florida Rep PlayLab and world premiere; Aurora Theatre), *Freed Spirits* (commission and world premiere for Horizon Theatre), and *Georgia Out of My Mind* (Minnesota Fringe Festival). Academic development includes *The Flower Room* (Emory University Brave New Works); *Lift* and *POPart: THE MUSICAL* (Coastal Carolina University workshop and full production respectively). Her musical, *Lift* (with composer Aaron McAllister), was awarded a slot in the 2015 NAMT Festival of New Musicals in New York City, and *POPart: THE MUSICAL* (also with McAllister) was an official selection in the 2010 New York Musical Theatre Festival. She has had plays and musicals selected for the Actor's Express Threshold New Play Series, Working Title Playwright's Ethel Woolson Lab, the York Theatre Developmental Reading Series, and New Stage Theatre's Eudora Welty New Play Series. Daryl received her Bachelor's Degree in Theatre from Northwestern University and is a professional member of the Dramatist's Guild.

Daryl is also a professional actor and a graphic designer for professional theatres around the country.

## NOW PLAYING IN THE HISTORIC ARCADE THEATRE



PLAYING UNTIL  
MAY 13!

## The National New Play Network



Florida Rep is a proud Associate Member of the National New Play Network in Washington, DC, the country's alliance of nonprofit theaters that champion the development, production, and continued life of new plays.

### Play Reading Committee

**Gerrie Benzing, Naomi Bloom, Viki Boyle,  
Jane & Bob Breisch, Bruce Bunch,  
Micah-Shane Brewer, Eli Carnahan,  
Mark Chambers, Haley Clay, Bryelle Dafeldecker,  
Stephanie Davis, Emily Eason, Dillon Feldman,  
Michael Galvez, Paul Gary, Caycelynn Hoggard,  
Deb Jonsson, Kody C. Jones, Jacquelyn Loy,  
Anna McCullers, Jordan Moore,  
Lee Moore & Dee Whited, Teri Moore,  
Virginia Newsome, Drew Ogle, Miranda Paine,  
Jason Parrish, Olive Pedigo, Arielle Pennington,  
Renee Pesci, Brendan Powers, Noreen Raney,  
Marlene Robertson**

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

Jamie Billman  
Best Western Fort Myers Waterfront  
Dave & Katie Southard  
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John Kiselica  
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Nan Barnett & Jordana Fraider of the  
The National New Play Network

### PlayLab Staff

Jason Parrish  
Brendan Powers  
Arthur D'Alessio

# FLORIDA REPERTORY THEATRE 2017-2018 SEASON

**HISTORIC ARCADE THEATRE • FORT MYERS RIVER DISTRICT**

JASON PARRISH, INTERIM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
BRENDAN POWERS, PLAYLAB ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

**PRESENTS**

## The 5th Annual PlayLab

A Festival of New Plays and Emerging  
Writers of American Theatre

**SPONSORED BY LEE MOORE & DEE WHITED**

All Events in the ArtStage Studio Theatre

**THE BURDENS**  
by Matt Schatz  
MAY 3 @ 7pm

**MAYBE, PROBABLY**  
by Eric Henry Sanders  
MAY 5 @ 1pm

**GARY**  
by Bruce Graham  
MAY 4 @ 2pm

**ALABASTER**  
by Audrey Cefaly  
MAY 6 @ 2pm

**BERTA, BERTA**  
by Angelica Chéri  
MAY 4 @ 8pm

**HOSTAGE**  
by Michelle Kholos Brooks  
MAY 6 @ 5:30pm

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS &  
PLAYWRIGHTS PANEL  
MAY 5 @ 5pm**

There will be a talk-back following each reading with the playwright,  
director, and actors. Please stay to be part of the discussion!

## 2017-18 GRAND SEASON SPONSORS



The Fred & Jean Allegretti Foundation • Naomi Bloom & Ron Wallace • Dinah Bloomhall • Jane & Bob Breisch  
Alexandra Bremner • Janet & Bruce Bunch • Chippendale Audiology • Berne Davis • Mary & Hugh Denison  
Ellie Fox • David Fritz/Cruise Everything • Nancy & Jim Garfield • Vici and Russ Hamm  
John Madden • Joel Magyar • Noreen Raney • Linda Sebastian & Guy Almeling • Arthur M. Zupko

This entire season sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Florida Repertory Theatre is a fully professional non-profit LOA/LORT Theatre company on contract with the Actors' Equity Association that proudly employs members of the national theatrical labor unions. \*Member of Actors' Equity Association. \*\*Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. †Member of Florida Repertory Theatre's Ensemble of Theatre Artists

May 3, 7PM

**THE BURDENS by Matt Schatz**

Directed by Avi Hoffman\*\*

Told almost entirely via text messages, *The Burdens* is a dark, family comedy about how technology helps keep us close, while still enabling us to keep our distance. Mordy is a struggling musician living in Los Angeles. His older sister Jane is a successful attorney and a mother of three in New Jersey. When their widowed mother's life becomes emotionally and financially taxed by her terrible, centenarian father, these two adult siblings are drawn together into an elaborate plot to relieve their mother's burden and their own. This zany comedy reminds us it's easier to text than talk – but autocorrect can be murder!

**CAST**

(in order of appearance)

Jane.....**ELEANOR HANDLEY\***  
Mordy.....**MICHAEL SATOW\***

Stage Manager and Stage Directions Read by  
**ARTHUR D'ALESSIO\*\***



**MATT SCHATZ** won the 2012 Kleban Prize in Musical Theatre for *Love Trapezoid*. Two of Matt's new musicals, *An Untitled New Play By Justin Timberlake* (2017 O'Neill Finalist), and *Where Ever It May Be*(EST/Sloan Commission) will be developed at Pittsburgh CLO's SPARK 2018, an inaugural festival of new small-cast musicals. Other plays and musicals include: *Georama* (5 2017 NYMF Awards including Outstanding Lyrics\*), *The Burdens* (2016 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Lanford Wilson Award Nominee, Austin Film Festival Playwriting Award Runner-Up), *Dunkfest '88*, *I Battled Lenny Ross* (book by Anna Ziegler), and *The Tallest Building in the World*. Matt is currently

working on a musical commission from Seattle Rep and BMG Music with director Wendy C. Goldberg. Matt's work has been produced by Actors Theatre of Louisville, Ars Nova, Astoria Performing Arts Center, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Luna Stage, New York Musical Festival, the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, and others. He has been a finalist for the P73 Playwriting Fellowship, Jonathan Larson Award, Fred Ebb Award, and the O'Neill National Music Theatre Conference. Also a TV writer, Matt has developed for Fox Television Studios, USA/Universal Cable Productions, TBS/Will Packer Productions, and Fullscreen. He's currently developing a musical mystery series for Entertainment One and Channing Tatum's Free Association. Matt is from New Jersey and currently lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Jenna.

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PlayLab

May 6, 5:30PM

**HOSTAGE by Michelle Kholos Brooks**

Directed by Ria Cooper

Reading Sponsored by Noreen Raney

Based on true events, *Hostage* is an electrifying portrait of the ferocity of a mother's love. Patriotism is put to the ultimate test in a battle between politics and personal. In 1979, a group of students took over the American Embassy in Tehran, holding a group of American hostages for 444 days. The youngest hostage, a nineteen-year-old Marine, was in captivity for about six months when his mother flew from Wisconsin in hopes of seeing her son. *Hostage* imagines what happened in that room when a mother and her son were reunited, and the unintended consequences the mother faced when she returned home only to be a suspect in her own country.

**CAST**

(in order of appearance)

Barbara Timm.....**DENISE CORMIER\***  
Kevin Hermening.....**DILLON FELDMAN**  
Ebrahim.....**RODD FARHADI**  
Tehran Mary.....**MARI VIAL-GOLDEN\***  
Kenny Timm.....**GREG LONGENHAGEN\*\***  
Richard Hermening.....**BRENDAN POWERS\*\***

Stage Manager and Stage Directions Read by  
**NIKKI BALDWIN\***



**MICHELLE KHOLOS BROOKS** *Hostage* was as a finalist for the 2016/17 Woodward/Newman Drama Award, and the Fratti Newman Political Play Contest. It was a Showcase finalist for the National New Play Network. *Hitler's Tasters*, winner of the 2017 Susan Glaspell Award debuts at Centenary Stage Company in April 2018, followed by an October production at the New Light Theatre Project, New York. *Kalamazoo*, co-written with Kelly Younger, was the winner of the 2014 Riva Shiner Comedy Award, Bloomington Playwright's Project. *Family Planning* made its premier at the Colony Theatre, Los Angeles and was a finalist for the Riva Shriner Comedy Award. *Chair* won second

place, Firehouse Theatre's Festival of New American Plays. Additional staged readings and developmental support from Pacific Resident Theatre, Los Angeles; The Road Theatre Company, Hollywood; The Boston Court Theatre, Pasadena; Venue 9 Theatre, San Francisco; The Barrow Group, New York; Wordsmyth Theatre, Houston and the Bay Street Theatre, New York. Publications include Dramatists Play Service (*Kalamazoo*), Room literary magazine and The Daily Beast. Michelle has a B.A. from Emerson College and an M.F.A. in Fiction from Otis College of Art and Design. She is a member of The Dramatists Guild of America, The Playwright's Center and Pacific Resident Theatre. [www.michellekholosbrooks.com](http://www.michellekholosbrooks.com)

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PlayLab

May 6, 2PM

**ALABASTER by Audrey Cefaly**

Directed by Eleanor Holdridge\*\*

Reading Sponsored by Emily Eason & Cos

In this intimate portrait of two very different women finding common ground, a noted photographer sets out to explore the topography of “scars.” Her journey lands her in the mysterious realm of an undiscovered folk artist hiding away in a small farmhouse on the outskirts of Alabaster, Alabama. This beautiful and edgy new play explores the meaning and purpose of art and the struggle of the lost and tortured souls that seek to create it.

**CAST**

(in order of appearance)

Weezy.....**HALEY CLAY**  
Bib.....**JULIA RIFINO**  
Alice.....**DARYL LISA FAZIO**  
June.....**RACHEL BURTTAM\*\***

Stage Directions Read by **JULIA RIFINO**

Stage Manager • **ARTUR D’ALESSIO\*\***



**AUDREY CEFALY** is published by Samuel French, Smith & Kraus (two volumes of Best American Short Plays), and Applause Books. She is an outspoken proponent of silence in story-telling and has authored numerous articles on the topic of playwriting for HowlRound and Samuel French’s Breaking Character Magazine. Cefaly’s play *The Gulf* won the 40th Annual Samuel French OOB Festival and was later adapted into a full-length play (Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award) which then received its world premiere at Signature Theatre, Arlington, VA (Nominated: The

Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play). It subsequently premiered in Australia in the summer of 2017 and is schedule to receive it’s London premiere in May of 2018. Cefaly’s other plays include *Love is a Blue Tick Hound* (Terrific New Theatre, Women’s Voices Theatre Festival - Baltimore Theatre Project & Capitol Fringe), *Maytag Virgin* (Aurora Theatre, Women’s Voices Theater Festival - Quotidian Theatre Co.), *Alabaster* (workshopped at Signature Theatre and Theatre Alliance), and *The Last Wide Open* (soon to have its LORT premiere). Cefaly is a recipient of grants from the Boomerang Fund for Artists as well as the Alabama and Maryland state arts councils. She is a member of the New Play Exchange, the Playwrights’ Center and the Dramatists Guild.

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PlayLab

May 4, 2PM

**GARY by Bruce Graham**

Directed by Jason Parrish†

In this zany comedy from the author of *Moon Over the Brewery*, it is the very near future, and human beings are finding themselves obsolete. POTs (People of Technology, the politically correct word for robots) drive the cars, do the cooking and tell you where you left your wallet. They’re also taking all the good jobs. Easy-going, open-minded, Miles Farragut sees nothing wrong with this...until he loses his job and a POT starts dating his daughter.

**CAST**

(in order of appearance)

Lena Farragut.....**KAREN GOLDBERG**  
Miles Farragut.....**JAMES ANDREASSI\***  
GARY.....**PAUL GARY**  
Amy Farragut.....**VIRGINIA NEWSOME**  
Hannah.....**KATE YOUNG\***  
Sue/Cop.....**PATRICIA R. FLOYD\***  
Jerry.....**J. MITCHELL HALEY**  
Doug.....**KODY C. JONES**  
Kevin.....**SEAN ROYAL**

Stage Manager and Stage Directions Read by

**VIKI BOYLE\*\***



**BRUCE GRAHAM PLAYS:** *Burkie, Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar & Grille, Moon Over the Brewery, Minor Demons, Belmont Avenue Social Club, According to Goldmman, Desperate Affection, Stella and Lou, Coyote on a Fence, The Champagne Charlie Stakes, Funnyman, The Craftsman, North of the Boulevard.* Graham has won consecutive Barrymore Awards for Best New Play (*Something Intangible, Any Given Monday*) the Joseph Jefferson Award (*The Outgoing Tide*) and a Jeff nomination for *White Guy on the Bus*. His new play, *Sanctions*, opens at

Delaware Theatre Company this September. MOVIES: *Dunston Checks In, Anastasia, Hunt for the Unicorn Killer.* TELEVISION: *Roseanne, Leg Work, Cedar Cove, The Most Wonderful Time of the Year, Trading Christmas, The Good Witch.* Along with Michele Volansky he is the author of *The Collaborative Playwright.* Graham is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and teaches playwriting and film courses at Drexel University. He divides his time between Elkton, Maryland and South Philly with Stephanie.

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PlayLab

May 4, 8PM

**BERTA, BERTA** by Angelica Chéri

Directed by Reginald Douglas\*\*

Inspired by the prison chain gang song “Berta, Berta” that originated at the Mississippi State Penitentiary, this beautiful new play offers a fictional account of the song’s origins. After committing an unforgivable crime and doomed to surrender his freedom, Leroy is granted one final wish: a chance to make amends with his long lost lover, Berta. Their reunion swells from a quarrelsome conjuring of the past to an impassioned plot to escape the fate that awaits them.

**CAST**

(in order of appearance)

Leroy.....**DANIEL MORGAN SHELLEY\***  
Berta.....**MYXOLYDIA TYLER\***

Stage Directions Read by **ANNE DODD**  
Stage Manager • **BRENDAN POWERS\*\*†**



**ANGELICA CHÉRI** is a playwright, bookwriter/ lyricist and screenwriter. Plays from her trilogy “The Prophet’s Cycle” include: *The Seeds of Abraham* (workshop-Pershing Square Signature Center, 2013; production-Billie Holiday Theatre, 2014) *The Sting of White Roses* (reading-The Fire This Time Festival 2015; production-North Carolina Black Repertory Company, 2016) and *Crowndation; I Will Not Lie to David* (2018 workshop production, commissioned by the National

Black Theatre, I Am Soul Residency). Other plays include: *Berta, Berta* (readings at the National Black Theatre, Elephant Run District [2016] and Playwrights Foundation [2017]) and *Slow Gin Fits* (workshop-Fire This Time Festival, 2014; published in Indie Theater Now). Her musical *Gun & Powder*, co-written with composer Ross Baum was chosen out of 170 submissions for the 2017 SigWorks Lab at the Signature Theatre in Arlington, VA. Angelica holds a BA in Theater from UCLA, MFA in Playwriting from Columbia University and MFA in Musical Theatre Writing from NYU.

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PlayLab

May 5, 1PM

**MAYBE, PROBABLY** by Eric Henry Sanders

Directed by Steven Flaa

Reading Sponsored by Guy Almeling and Linda Sebastian

A quirky and truthful romantic comedy. Ten months before their baby is born, Kate isn’t pregnant and Guy isn’t even sure that they should have a baby. After all, babies are expensive, and messy – and then there’s the environmental impact. And look how having Lola has changed their best friends’ lives. Scary. A month later Kate and Guy are pregnant, and *Maybe, Probably* follows their tribulations over the next nine months as they attempt the impossible task of controlling their current and future circumstances as parents.

**CAST**

(in order of appearance)

Hugh.....**MICAH-SHANE BREWER\***  
Kate.....**AMY HUTCHINS\***  
Guy.....**JOEL STIGLIANO**  
Zoey.....**KATIE PANKOW**

Stage Manager & Stage Directions Read By  
**LESLEY STAPLES\***



**ERIC HENRY SANDERS** many plays include *Maybe, Probably; Reservoir; The Prince Among Men; Where’s Annie?* and *The Heliopause*. His writing has been produced and developed in theatres across the US and abroad, including the Goodman Theatre (Chicago), Union Theatre (London), Theatre503 (London), Theatre89 (Berlin), New Group (NY), The Drilling Company (NY), Primary Stages (NY), Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre (NY), Cherry Lane Alternative (NY), Victory Gardens Theatre (Chicago), and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Eric also writes fiction and has written several short films including *Recently, Long Ago*, which premiered at the Palm Springs International ShortFest. He is a Lark Playwrights Fellow, a Member of the Dramatists Guild, and he teaches at Hampshire College (Amherst, MA).

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