

PLAYWRITING

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

CLASS OF 2029

YANGZHOU (ANNIE) BIAN



Yangzhou (Annie) Bian is a theatre practitioner from Sichuan, China. She worked as a graduate in Translation Studies at Binghamton University, with a research focus on theatre translation and adaptation, and is an incoming student to Columbia University's MFA playwriting program. Yangzhou received her M.A. and B.A. in Theatre Studies at SUNY Binghamton in theory, criticism, and dance. She is the author of *Daddy, An Un-Chinese Kid*, and a fellow playwright of the 2025 Garden State New Play Festival. As a multidisciplinary artist, she has produced, translated, designed, choreographed, performed, and stage-managed in various productions and events, such as the multilingual showcase *Polychromatic Voices: Translation in Performance*, the famed Sri Lankan musical *Bera Handa*, and South+West African stage play *Karoo Moose*. She is also the creator of the fusion Asian cookbook series: *Rainbow Dumplings*, the editor of the poetry collection *Yorick*, and the stage management book art series: *Once Upon A Moose* and *Moose On Loose*. One of her favorite things is misplacing things, such as mismatching names with faces, mistaking real people and characters...and of course not, emm, being found weeping when getting lost with GPS when traveling with the Bellavista Bear.

MOLLY JANE BRENNAN



Molly Jane Brennan (She/Her) is a playwright currently based in Washington D.C. She is a founding artistic director of TRANSMission Theatre Project. Her debut play, *The River*, was read at American University and District Fringe. Molly has worked as a designer and technician throughout DC, designing lighting for theatres including Theatre Prometheus, Dance Place, Atlas Performing Arts Center, and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co. Her designs have been used by organizations such as Native Chic DC, Electing Women, New Liberal Action Conference, and the ACLU.

CAS CORUM



Cas Corum (he/they) is a playwright, actor and multi-hyphenate theatre artist from North Carolina. In 2025, Cas received their MA in Theatre from Villanova University. Cas also has a BA in Theatre from Meredith College in Raleigh NC. His full-length play *Angels of Rain and Lightning* received a staged reading at Villanova University as part of his thesis project in Spring 2025.

MC CROSBY



MC Crosby (she/they) is a playwright, performer, and choreographer based in Brooklyn. Their dance-infused play *Sleeping Soldiers* received four stars at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and semi-finalist status for Amnesty International's Freedom of Expression Award. A global artist, MC's work has been produced in New York City, Scotland, China, Singapore, Indonesia, and Madagascar. MC was a finalist for the Playwrights' Center McKnight National Residency, and they won the Kaufman Playwriting Award for the immersive yoga play *Um...Om*. They recently received a grant from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council to stage their site specific Alcoholics Anonymous play *Uncle Al* in Fall 2026. MC uses their own unique style of "movement theatre" to create socially conscious art.

CAMILLE CYPHER



Camille Cypher (she/her) is a writer and improviser from Oakland, California. She recently graduated from the University of Chicago, where she triple majored in Creative Writing, Public Policy, and Theater and Performance Studies. Her play, *The Council*, about a problematic undergraduate student government, was performed at Definition Theater in Chicago and won the Olga and Paul Menn Prize for Playwriting. Her play, *INVESTED.*, following a group of cutthroat bankers in their weekly improv workshop, received a reading as part of her thesis project. She's also put up sketch shows at the Second City, directed ripaway-pants improvised montages, and even created a short film! Her plays are informed by interviews, her background in creative nonfiction, and the wacky things she doesn't quite understand about the world (aka politics and investment bankers).

SCARLETT EARLS



Hi! My name is **Scarlett Earls**, I'm 22 years old and I'm from Detroit, Michigan. This past spring, I graduated from NYU with a double Major in drama and dramatic writing with a focus in episodic TV and a minor in child and adolescent mental health. Plays have been my deepest and most profound love from my first encounter with them. The first plays I ever truly analyzed were drama school summer reading assignments. Reading *Skeleton Crew* by Dominique Morisseau and *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov utterly changed my life. I'm so excited to shift my focus from acting and screenwriting to playwriting and see what exciting discoveries come.

HELENA ALELUYA JOSÉ



Helena Aleluya José is an Angolan theatre-maker, playwright, performer, and multidisciplinary artist whose work spans writing, dance, and music. Her practice is rooted in memory, identity, and representation, with a focus on African and diasporic narratives shaped by colonial histories and their afterlives. She is especially interested in ancestral knowledge, oral traditions, and embodied storytelling as ways of knowing and creating theatre.

Her play *You Will Speak Again, Kapemba'tona* was developed through a research-based process supported by a departmental grant, the first awarded for a student-written play in her program, which enabled an extensive revision of the script. The play was later selected as a finalist at KCACTF Region 3, received a staged reading through the festival, and was fully staged as her capstone project, performed multiple times for her campus community. It was also presented at the Indianapolis Fringe Festival, making her the first Angolan artist to participate in that festival.

She is looking forward to joining the MFA Playwriting community at Columbia University and continuing to develop her voice across theatre and performance.

GEORGE CHRISTOPHER MORENO



George Christopher Moreno is a Chicano writer from California. Before he stumbled into creative writing at a community college by the ocean, he was an amateur professional skateboarder. He still skates almost every day. His fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared in *Blue Mesa Review*, *Conceptions Southwest*, and *Two Hawks Quarterly*. The *Los Angeles Times* said his "beautifully moody...elegiac" first work of site-specific theatre, *The Groundskeepers*, "[tapped] into our worst fears, unearthing love, hope and the Beckettian will to go on, no matter that everything around us is crumbling." In 2023, he received an MFA in fiction from Brown University, where he was awarded the inaugural Robert Coover Prize in Fiction for a short story cycle.

CARLO FELICIANI OJEDA



Carlo Feliciani Ojeda (they/he) is a theatre maker and educator from Caracas, Venezuela, who grew up in South Florida. He studied Drama at University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and then gained his MFA in Theatre Directing at East 15 Acting School at the University of Essex, in Colchester, UK. He has worked at Rutgers University, East 15, Shakespeare's Globe, Lovewell Institute for the Creative Arts, Talawa Theatre Company, Park Theatre, UNCSA, and NSU University School. Some of his favorite credits include: *Antony and Cleopatra* at Shakespeare's Globe, *Sweeney Todd* at UNCSA, and the world premiere of *Things I Can Laugh about Now* by Shakira Newton, which was nominated for a 2022 Black British Theatre Award for Best Production Play. He recently appeared in New City Players 2026 Short Plays: Lauder Made Vol. 2 as a playwright and actor for his play *How to Write A Good Suicide Note*.
@carlo_twolastnames

EVAN W. SAUNDERS



Evan W. Saunders is a playwright and attorney living in New York, NY. His plays have been produced by Baltimore's Strand Theater Company, the Pittsburgh New Works Festival, and Denver's Pipedream Productions. He was recently awarded an artist's residency at The Barrow Group for Spring 2026. Additional accolades include the Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest (sure, he was like five at the time, but it still counts).