



# ***THE ANGEL MANUAL***

A play by Sarah Congress  
2021 HB Playwrights  
Reading Series

June 27, 2020 | 7:00PM

Held online via Zoom

HB Studio presents

# THE ANGEL MANUAL

A reading of the play by Sarah Congress  
2021 HB Playwrights Reading Series

**Sunday, 7:00 PM ET**  
**June 27, 2021**

written by Sarah Congress  
directed by Miriam Mikiel Grill

with:

Lucille Duncan\*  
John D. Haggerty\*  
Stephanie Keefer  
Andrew Elvis Miller\*  
Rob Nagle\*  
Heather Thomson  
Jamila Webb\*

Edith Meeks, Executive & Artistic Director  
Sarah Chiriboga, Stage Manager  
Melisa Kucevic, Stage Manager

\*Member, Actors Equity



**Council on  
the Arts**

Support for HB Studio's online programs is provided by the Noel Coward Foundation

This program is supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and many generous supporters.

# HB Playwrights Reading Series

Each year, HB Studio produces one week of staged readings of new full-length plays. Six plays each receive one evening for a staged reading, followed by a talk-back with the audience. The goal is to nurture the development of new plays, and provide a crucial step in the life of a new play that may not yet be ready for full production or performance. It is an opportunity for playwrights to see their work on its feet, collaborate with actors and directors, and share the work among peers and colleagues for feedback, mutual growth, and dialogue. This is an open opportunity; you do not have to be affiliated with HB Studio to apply. All original full-length plays are eligible, with preference given to works that have not received previous opportunities for readings or performance. Selections will be made by HB Studio's Artistic Council.

## 2021 HB Playwrights Reading Series Performance Schedule

Selected from an open call for submissions, the following six plays will each receive an evening for a public reading with audience feedback over Zoom, June 22-27, 2021.

- GOODBYE, LITTLE GEORGE by Fernando Vieira: June 22, 2021 | 7PM ET
- PATERSON by Ash Marinaccio: June 23, 2021 | 7PM ET
- SOUTH by Florencia Iriondo: June 24, 2021 | 7PM ET
- DATE WITH THE DEVIL by Carmen Burbridge: June 25, 2021 | 7PM ET
- FAMILY GAMES by Ellis Charles Hoffmeister: June 26, 2021 | 7PM ET
- THE ANGEL MANUAL by Sarah Congress: June 27, 2021 | 7PM ET



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2020 HB Playwrights Reading Series.

We find ourselves in a moment of transition and rapid change, provoked by a public health emergency, with immeasurable implications for all aspects of our culture. Some pieces of our lives have held, others have fallen apart, and much will be forever changed. Especially in these times, we look to narrative to help guide and inspire our path forward.

HB Studio's Artistic Council is pleased to share six selected works which explore a variety of relevant themes, such as identity, trauma, connection, and compassion—all which aim to spark dialogue across genres, cultures and beliefs. We're excited by the range and depth of work represented.

We thank you for joining us tonight to experience these plays in their infancy and help to nourish their development.

If you can, please stay for a talkback at the end of the presentation. We'd love to hear your thoughts.

Enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edith Meeks', with a stylized, flowing script.

Edith Meeks  
Executive & Artistic Director



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



## **Sarah Congress (Playwright)**

Sarah Congress writes scripts for theater and television. Most recently her comedy FRESH KILLS was selected to be a part of the 2021 Downtown Urban Arts Festival (June, 2021). Her play VIRTUAL SLEEPOVER was selected to be a part of the University of Miami Online New Play Festival (May, 2021) and her play ATLANTICS PHARMACEUTICALS was tied for “Best Play” at the Theater Project’s eighth-annual Think Fast One-Act Festival (February, 2021). She teaches the course “Writing the Television Sitcom” with The Knowledge Project and works in the Deans’ Office at Columbia University, School of the Arts.



## **Miriam Mikiel Grill (Director)**

Miriam Grill is a director-producer in NYC. She teaches at universities, dramaturgs at Julliard, and produces international social justice collaborations in Asia and Africa. In 2020, she directed PASS OVER, winning four Kennedy Center American College Theatre Awards. She has produced the first AI piece at Sundance, consulted for Cirque du Soleil's Dragone Entertainment in Macau, and project managed set designs for Broadway’s ANNIE, MOTOWN, and SONYA VANYA MASHA SPIKE. She holds an MFA in Directing from Columbia University.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



## **Lucille Duncan (Rose)**

Lucille is a New York City based actress/improvisor with extensive experience in immersive theater. From projects such as Off Broadway hit THE DONKEY SHOW to various iterations of Shakespeare's TWELFTH NIGHT (LITTLE WEST 12th NIGHT and ILLYRIA) staged on the streets of New York, she enjoys collaborating and improvising with fellow artists and audience members alike to create unique theater and one-of-a-kind experiences. Selected New York: Off Broadway: BUNDLE OF STICKS (INTAR) THE DONKEY SHOW; Charles Mee's NOT KNOWING and FIRE ISLAND (3 Legged Dog); RODS AND CABLES (3 Legged Dog); LITTLE WEST 12th NIGHT and ILLYRIA (Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant); IRINA'S NAME DAY PARTY (CAGR at North American Cultural Lab); SHAKESPEARE'S SALVE (Resonance Ensemble). Regional: IRNE Award winning CABARET with Amanda Palmer (American Repertory Theatre); O.N.C.E. IN HELL and THE DONKEY SHOW (ART); THE SECRET SOCIAL; HERALD ANGELS' FLING and A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE (CAGR at Cleveland Public Theatre); H&G, A PUBLIC OUTCRY (Wild Art).

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



## **John D. Haggerty (Jackson)**

John D. Haggerty with Miriam Grill: MEDEA. Recent pre-pandemic: MAYBE HAPPY ENDING at Alliance Theatre. Other Regional: Portland Center Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, et al. New York: NAATCO, Clubbed Thumb, et al. Broadway/National Tour: LES MISERABLES. TV: GOTHAM. Web: THREE TREMBLING CITIES. [johndhaggerty.com](http://johndhaggerty.com)



## **Stephanie T. Keefer (Laila)**

Stephanie T. Keefer is a Los Angeles based actor and filmmaker. She earned her degree in Theater at U.C., Irvine where she had the good fortune to study with legendary Polish theatre director Jerzy Grotowski. Her short film, ONE DANCE, was licensed and broadcast nationally on CBS and FOX, and Stephanie has gone on to write, direct and produce other short films that have been seen in various film festivals nationally. Catch her on YouTube in the sci-fi rom com A GIRL, A GUY, A SPACE HELMET.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



## **Andrew Elvis Miller (Matt)**

Select Theatre: Participating member of Naked Angels' and LA's Public Assembly's ongoing presentations, Jen Silverman's WINK at SCR. BLUE MAN GROUP (NY); Sir Peter Hall's TROILUS & CRESSIDA with TFANA (NY); Peanut in the Off-Broadway production INBETWEENS (NY-Cherry Lane), Orpheus in Adobe Theatre Co.'s world premiere of ORPHEUS & EURYDICE (NY); LA premiere of Letts' BUG for Lost Angels, Aguecheek in an Appalachian version of TWELFTH NIGHT at the Globe, Iachimo for Bart Delorenzo's CYMBELINE, A Noise Within, etc. Select TV/Film: HALSTON, FBI: MOST WANTED, MOZART IN THE JUNGLE, PRETTY LITTLE LIARS, NCIS-LA, CSI: LAS VEGAS, ONE TREE HILL, WEEDS, UGLY BETTY, CRIMINAL MINDS, LAW & ORDER-SVU, THE SOPRANOS, CAKE, 1 NIGHT IN SAN DIEGO, LIMBO, BIG EXIT, FIXING FRANK, etc. Elvis also directs theatre, film, and video including the conception & execution of Ingrid Michaelson's GIRLS CHASE BOYS, amongst others.



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



## **Rob Nagle (Mark)**

Rob Nagle is a proud member of the Antaeus Theatre Company, as well as the Troubadour Theater Company. Recent theater credits include AN OCTOROON and HUMAN INTEREST STORY (both at Fountain Theatre), APPLE SEASON (Moving Arts), SUCKER PUNCH (Coeurage Theatre Company), JULIUS WEEZER (Troubadour Theater Company), as well as his Ovation Award-nominated and Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award-winning performances in THE JUDAS KISS (Boston Court Pasadena) and THE LITTLE FOXES (Antaeus Theatre Company). Other theaters include Pasadena Playhouse, L.A. Theatre Works, New World Stages, South Coast Repertory, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Portland Center Stage, Mark Taper Forum, Centerstage, The Old Globe, Shakespeare Theatre Company. Film credits include: WAUBAY, BLONDE, THE 11TH GREEN, TO HELL AND GONE, BAD SAMARITAN, BOOST, ROADIES, FISHING NAKED, NEW YEAR'S EVE. Television credits include: MOM, DYNASTY, NCIS: NEW ORLEANS, LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE, MODERN FAMILY, NCIS: LOS ANGELES, THE LIBRARIANS, GREY'S ANATOMY, CRIMINAL MINDS, MAD MEN. Education: Northwestern University. [robnagle.com](http://robnagle.com) @nagdoggie



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



## **Heather Thomson (Claudette)**

A classically-trained actress and gifted comedian, Heather Thomson has the kind of performance skills that make you wonder “Is that girl acting or just crying in public?” Her uniquely honest, tender and endearing presence on stage quickly earned her the nickname, “The Sweetheart of Stand Up.” She has performed at The Hollywood Improv, UCB Theater Los Angeles, The Comedy Store, Bridgetown, her own web series PRINT MODELS and her live show TEA TIME WITH THOMSON. Frequently raw, poignant, sad, sweet, honest and hilarious, her act recently prompted one fan to ask, “You’re really funny. Are you O.K.?” Heather is great, but she’s so glad you’re here to listen.



## **Jamila Webb (Charlene)**

Jamila Webb has worked in theater, television, and film. Notable credits include SUPERSTORE, JANE THE VIRGIN, THE OFFICE, EXTANT, MASTERS OF SEX, ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT, A.P. BIO, THE COMEDIANS, I’M DYING UP HERE, and others. Jamila is the creator of First Fifteen, a monthly reading series where Black and Brown writers are matched with professional actors for a lively table read before a panel of established industry talent who share feedback to move the script forward. Education: Stanford University and American Conservatory Theater.

*Continued on next page*

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Jamila resides in Los Angeles, where she loves to organize game nights with friends, cheer on LeBron, Serena, and the St. Louis Cardinals, and find new bike paths to explore. T/IG: @webbofcomedy @firstfifteenla



## HB PUBLIC EVENTS

Through free public events, including readings of new plays, performances, and public talks, we invite the community at large to share in a dialog about the range of efforts, intentions, and influences that drive theater artists in creating and producing their work.

View upcoming events:  
[hbstudio.eventbrite.com](https://hbstudio.eventbrite.com)

## HB ONLINE CLASSES

HB Studio offers a series of 5-week and 10-week online classes in:

- Acting
- Acting with the Camera
- Actuar en Español
- Scene Study
- Speech & Voice
- Movement
- Musical Theater and Singing
- Playwriting & Screenwriting
- Acting for Young People
- Teatro para Jóvenes Adolescentes

HB Studio offers a variety of short-term workshops. Our list of upcoming workshops is updated regularly:

- Voice Over
- Audition Technique
- Stop-Motion Animation
- Acting in Accent
- Shakespearean Acting
- many more!

### SUMMER TERM:

Jun. 12 - Aug. 22, 2021

Part A: Jun. 12 - Jul. 18

Part B: Jul. 19 - Aug. 22

### FALL TERM:

Sep. 13 - Nov. 23, 2021

Part A: Sep. 13 - Oct. 18

Part B: Oct. 19 - Nov. 23

*Sign up for either Part A or Part B independently (5 weeks each), or join both for the full 10-week term. You may join Part B without taking Part A.*

## AUDIT A CLASS

We offer the opportunity for new and existing students to audit online classes in order to observe the instructor's teaching style and the culture of the class before making the commitment to register. We encourage you to try virtual learning with us by auditing a class.

## THE UTA HAGEN INSTITUTE

Full-time immersion in the practical approach to the acting craft that characterized Uta Hagen's legendary master classes and classic acting texts.

### HAGEN ACTOR'S LAB ONLINE

Jun. 6 - 13, 2021

### HAGEN TEACHER'S LAB ONLINE

Aug. 1 - 8, 2021

### HAGEN CORE TRAINING

Sep. 12, 2021 - Jun. 6, 2022

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HB Studio is a vital resource for the NY and global theater community, offering employment, continuity, and creative connection for performing artists through online classes, workshops, performance opportunities, and free online public programming. With students and audiences joining us virtually from across North America, Asia, Europe, South America, and Africa, we are reflecting on this global crisis together and forging meaningful connections that inspire us to look ahead to brighter days. Help us continue our mission-driven work by making a donation today.

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