



WELCOME BACK! All of us at FUSION are thrilled to welcome you back to live, professional theatre with THE SEVEN! 2022 is our 16th annual short works festival and marks FUSION Theatre Company's return to the stage after two long years. We can think of no better place to reconnect than at the theatre, and no better way to celebrate than seven world-premiere plays!

Selected from 707 submissions by playwrights from around the world, these short plays were selected by jury as the best of the best! Seven directors, one fantastic ensemble cast, and the hardest-working, best-looking crew in town have been hard at work to bring these plays to life! Thank you for being a part of professional theatre in New Mexico. Settle in and enjoy the show!

FUSION / *n*: **1.** a merging of diverse, distinct or separate elements into a unified whole; **2.** a political partnership; **3.** the union of atomic nuclei resulting in the release of enormous quantities of energy when certain light elements unite.

THE SEVEN - 2022

Stealing Sleep | Jeffrey Neuman, Denver, CO

Director **Jen Grigg***

W **Kate Costello** S **Grey Blanco**

Box of Teeth | Tori King Rice, Lakeside, CA

Director **Dodie Montgomery**

Leigh **Laurie Thomas*^** Tim **Kyo Torres-Chen**

Timepiece | E.A. Gray, Santa Fe, NM

Director **Laurie Thomas*^**

Man **Paul Blott*** Woman **Nancy Jeris***

A Tale of an Unexpected Gathering and Romance Made Absurd in the Telling | Rob Dames, Los Angeles, CA

Director **Jacqueline Reid*^**

Not-Here **William Sterchi** Justus **Douglas Stewart***

Man **David Sinkus*** Woman **Wendy Scott**

Intermission

A Twin Out of Time | Rom Watson, West Hollywood, CA

Director **Aaron Worley**

Penelope **Jen Grigg*** Matthew **Matt Heath**

Two Centuries Without Theatre | MJ Cox, Boston, MA

Director **Robb Sisneros**

Ruth **Evening Star Barron** David Moyes **Gerome Olona**

John Carnes **Tait Alexander**

Bradford Gromelski Jury Award Winner

We Jump Broom | Mildred Inez Lewis, Inglewood, CA

* Member, Actors' Equity Association

^ Associate Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers

PLAYWRIGHTS

MILDRED INEZ LEWIS is the 2022 [Bradford Gromelski](#) Jury Award winning playwright. Bradford was a past juror of THE SEVEN, a past FUSION main stage director, and a Professor Emeritus/playwright at Iona College in New York. Now deceased, he was the father of company co-founder Dennis Gromelski.



MILDRED INEZ LEWIS was recently selected for *A Different Myth*, a joint project of the American Myth Center and Different Strokes. She will be expanding *Juked*, her adaptation of Sophocles' *Electra*. The short version of *Juked* will be produced by the Towne Street Theatre at A Noise Within's Noise Now! She is a finalist for the Wake Forest University/North Carolina Black Repertory Company's Finding Holy Ground commissions. Her short piece *Suitcases* is being produced by Ensemble Studio Theatre-LA in its Early Bird Special. Her full-length comedy *The Women's Annex* will premiere at Central Works in Berkeley this fall. Mildred's plays are published by Broadway Play Publishing, LazyBee and NextStage Press. She lives in greater Los Angeles and writes for Antaeus, Company of Angels, PlayGround-LA, and Towne Street Theatre.



MJ COX is the creator of the interactive street theatre experiences *Ghosts of the Freedom Trail* and *Bloodlust: Mysteries of Victorian Boston*. For more information go to: humanmirror.org. His play *Medea* won the Jersey Grotowsky Award for Best New Play and his films have appeared in festivals throughout the world. He lives in Boston where he writes and creates learning games.

ROB DAMES has enjoyed a long career writing for the theater, television and film. Over his career, he has written for producers: Aaron Spelling, Witt-Thomas-Harris, Ed. Weinberg, Gary Nardino, Miller/Boyett and Steven Spielberg. His play, *Virginia Throws A Wake* was a finalist for the Reva Shiner Comedy award. His drama, *Hauntings* was a finalist for The Stanley Drama Awards. His social/thriller, *Nowhere Man* was performed at the 2018 Broadway Bound Theatre Festival in NYC. Other recent productions include: *Prepping For Widowhood*, *Hauntings*, *For All We Know*.



E.A. GRAY (also known as Lisa Gray Fisher) leads an intertwined life as writer, mother, teacher, wife, and writes for the joy and wonder of exploring the prismatic realms she dwells in. Her short screenplays have won awards in various competitions and a production of her short play *Hijacked* received an audience award. Gray's novels, *Full Body Wag* and *Memory's Fire*, have been well received and reviewed. Gray's short fiction, poetry, and essays have appeared in several journals, including *War, Literature, and Arts*; *Sage Trail*; *The Christian Science Monitor*; *Mediphors*; *Treasure House*; *stet*; and *Breakfast All Day*. For more information visit summerwoodpress.com.



TORI KING RICE (she/her) is a playwright, teaching artist, actress, and co-host of the Hey Playwright podcast. She has enjoyed productions with Scripps Ranch Theatre, New Play Café, The Magnetic Theatre, SMOCA (Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Lit Lounge), and Spark! Powerhouse Theatre, as well as site-specific and immersive theatre in cafes and courtrooms. Select plays include *Like Ivy* (Magnetic Theatre Company 2021; Scripteasers 1st place 2018); *Devil-in-a-Box* (Scripteasers 1st place 2019); *The Hunt(s)* (Emporia State University 2022; SRT 2019); *Tiny* (SRT 2015); *Sisters in the System* (commission - Playwrights Project), and *The More Men Weigh* (Edmonton Fringe, Critic's Pick). She moderated the TYA track at the 2022 Inge Festival with her Hey Playwright co-host, Mabelle Reynoso. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing, Playwriting, from ASU. www.toriking.com



JEFFREY NEUMAN is an award-winning playwright whose work has been performed at theaters, festivals, and universities across the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom. His plays have been produced and/or developed by Emerging Artists, Denver Center Theatre Company, LaMaMa Experimental Theatre Club, Kennedy Center, Edge Theatre Company, National Public Radio, Stage Left, FUSION Theatre Company, Edinburgh Fringe, and the Samuel French Off Off Broadway Festival, among many others. He is an O'Neill Finalist (2021), Heideman Award Finalist (2012), cofounder of Colorado's Rough Draught Playwrights, Literary Advisor for Benchmark Theatre, and Colorado's Regional Ambassador for the Dramatists Guild of America. His unique perspective as a queer, Jewish, deaf/hard of hearing artist has earned him commissions with Colorado Chamber Players, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and The Catamounts. And, his short play *On The Rocks* is featured in the newly released Next Stage Press publication *Disability Forward!* (June 2022), which is the first anthology of licensable short plays written by disabled dramatists. Jeffrey is also the host and creative director of *The Denver Post's* esteemed Pen & Podium literary series and a three-time True West Award winner. www.theaterbyjeff.com.



ROM WATSON is the author of the full-length plays *Lying Beneath the Surface*, *Image and Likeness*, *The Norma Conquests*, *The Beaumont Reunion*, and *Pinocchio in the Bronx*. 14 of his 31 short plays have been produced, including *Three Syllables of Shame*, *Mead and Stu go to Seaworld*, *Mr. Cuddles*, *Curb Your Urges*, and *Celebrity Death Watch*. Rom’s full-length plays have had readings at The Road Theatre, Moving Arts, The MET Theatre, Celebration Theatre, Fierce Backbone and Neo Ensemble Theatre. He is a member of The Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights and The Dramatists Guild of America. www.romwatson.com @RomWatson

PRODUCTION

PRODUCER/ASM.....Dennis Gromelski*
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER.....Tori Ujcz*
SCENIC/LIGHTING DESIGNER.....Richard K. Hogle
SOUND DESIGNER.....Chad Scheer
MASTER CARPENTER.....David Pearson
PROPERTIES MASTER/DECK CHIEF.....Robyn Phillips
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/BOARD OPERATORKane Distler
RUNNING CREW.....Lex Kelly, Gabriela Pérez, Delano Shank

* Member, Actors’ Equity Association

^ Associate Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers



Actors’ Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence.

DIRECTORS / CAST



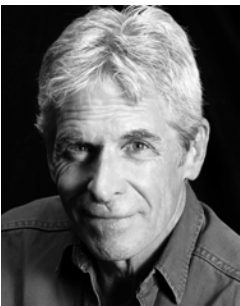
TAIT ALEXANDER This is Tait's first time being a part of THE SEVEN at FUSION! He studied performance at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he discovered a passion for stage combat. He performed in the Colorado Shakespeare Festival in 2015. He moved to Albuquerque in 2017 and has worked on a myriad of theatrical productions, as an actor and fight choreographer. His NM credits include *Comedy of Errors* with the New Mexico Shakespeare Festival; *She Kills Monsters*, *Lysistrata*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and *Susan and God* with the Vortex; as well as *How the Stars Used to Shine There* and *Wolves* with Theatre 3. Be sure to catch him in *As You Like It* this summer in the role of Oliver!



EVENING STAR BARRON Evening Star is a local actor and company member with Duke City Repertory Theatre, and the Advancement and Communications Manager at Keshet Dance & Center for the Arts. She is currently studying intimacy coordination for theatre and is thrilled to be working with FUSION on this exhibition of newly written work.



GREY BLANCO Grey is very pleased to be joining THE SEVEN for his third time. Currently he is workshopping his play *Electric Trilogy Part 1: America the Ingenue* on FUSION's new outdoor stage as a part of the UETF Resiliency Residency and The George J. Jakab Grant from Juilliard. He would like to thank his co-star Kate Costello for her performance as Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Vortex which inspired him into a lifelong love of Shakespeare. Grey lives in New York full time and is happy to be home in New Mexico for the summer!



PAUL BLOTT* Paul is a graduate of Whitworth University in Spokane, WA and is a FUSION veteran. Paul has performed in a variety of FUSION productions; Ensemble in *Lady Chatterly's Lover*, Mark Rothko in *Red*, Clown 1 in *The 39 Steps*, Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*. In Los Angeles he performed for several seasons with Will Geers' Theatricum Botanicum. He has also performed in a variety of roles with Shakespeare In Santa Fe. His film and TV credits include *Manhattan*, *Beer for My Horses*, *Longmire*, *In Plain Sight*, *Nightshift*, *Big Kill*, *Silk Road*, *Messiah*, *End of the Road*, and the winner of Cannes Short Film, "Unresolved Phenomena." Paul is happy to be a part of THE SEVEN once again. Paul has been a proud member of Actors' Equity Association since 1980.



KATE COSTELLO Kate is very grateful to return to the theatre after a long time away. Much thanks to her FUSION family, her husband, and her kid Mae.



MATT HEATH Matt has been acting, directing, and producing theatre in Albuquerque since 2007 and is thrilled to return to the FUSION stage for his third appearance in THE SEVEN, an event he adores being part of as it is always a treasure trove of delightful people and endless talent. Matt wishes you could have seen *The Antipodes* which was forced to close days before it would open here in March 2020. It was really good. Other notable roles about town include Felix Unger in *The Odd Couple*; Dave Moss in *Glengarry Glen Ross*; Lenny Ganz in *Rumors*; Marc in 'Art'; and Max Prince in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. Matt appeared on *Better Call Saul* as a man unhappy with a martini. Matt's directorial efforts include acclaimed productions of *Time Stands Still*; *Stage Kiss*; and *The Other Place*. Thank you so much for supporting live theatre! Especially now.



JEN GRIGG* (she/they) Jen is thankful to be back in The Land of Enchantment making theater once again with their FUSION Family. This marks her 15th SEVEN as festival curator, having read every script ever submitted to the festival. Other FUSION highlights include: *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Boston Marriage*, and *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur*. Upcoming in October, Jen will be performing George Brant's play, *Grounded*. When not engaged on stage, they are a Private Wellness Companion and Internationally Certified Watsu Therapist. www.jgriggwellness.com. She would like to dedicate these performances to her late Papa Dale Grigg.



NANCY JERIS* Nancy is thrilled to be performing with the FUSION family again. Her last productions there were *Outside Mullingar* and *Electric Ballroom*. Also here in Albuquerque she has performed at the National Hispanic Cultural Center as Georgia O'Keeffe in *Still Life*. Prior to moving to New Mexico, she worked at The Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles as Ninon in *The Devils* with Frank Langella and as Salka Viertel in *Tales from Hollywood* with Paul Sovino. Other Los Angeles productions have included *Name Day* and *Richard III* at The Odyssey with Alfred Molina, *The Trojan Women* at The Getty Museum and *Uncle Vanya* at The Met and Pacific Resident Theatre. She was an original member of John Houseman's UCLA Theatre Group and played Goneril in *King Lear* opposite Morris Carnovsky, *Heartbreak House* as Ariadne with Carroll O'Connor, and *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* and *Peribáñez* in Rep. She toured for six months with Henry Fonda in a production of *The Time of Your Life*. TV Series regular credits include two seasons on the ABC Children's series *Fudge* and two seasons on *Knots Landing*. Nancy has extensive TV credits over a 40 year span and most recently completed roles in

Transcendence, The Guest, Dirty Weekend, Longmire, Better Call Saul, and Preacher, which were filmed here in New Mexico. She is an Associate Broker at Coldwell Banker Legacy.



DODIE MONTGOMERY Dodie is absolutely thrilled to direct for THE SEVEN for the second time. Her first show was *El Mauerkronkite* in 2020. She has also been seen on FUSION main stage in *Escaped Alone*. She has worked extensively with many theatre companies, of special note are Book- It Repertory Theatre Company, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Open Circle Theatre Company, Snowy Range Summer Theatre Company, FUSION Theatre Company, and Tricklock Company. She has been teaching acting and theatre for over twenty years. She is an actor, writer, producer, director for film and theatre, and a visual artist. She has appeared on stage in Kraków, Poland, Belgrade, Serbia, and Beijing, China. She can be seen on *Longmire, The Night Shift, Manhattan, The Brave, I Am That*, and *A Can Full of Ashes*. Dodie Montgomery earned her BA in Theatre and Dance at the University of Wyoming and her MFA in Acting at the University of Texas at Austin.



GEROME OLONA Gerome is an Albuquerque local who has been acting, writing, and improvising around town for the better part of a decade. He was most recently seen at FUSION as part of Port 66's production of *Every Minute* by Rhiannon Frazier. He was recently awarded a City of Albuquerque UETF Artist Resiliency Residency and will be presenting a performance series in 2023 with the National Institute of Flamenco. Big thanks to Evening Star for her everlasting support, and to Kane for keeping us all safe.



JACQUELINE REID*^ is a founding member of FUSION. Directing credits include the regional premieres of *Fulfillment Center, Lady Chatterley's Lover, Disgraced, Outside Mullingar, Doubt* and *Escaped Alone, The Night Alive, Tribes, Freud's Last Session, Red, The Mandrake, Happy Days, Death of a Salesman, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Buried Child, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, A Lie of the Mind, The Unexpected Man, The Long Christmas Ride Home* and the world premieres of *Mad Hattr* and *You Can't Get a Decent Margarita at the North Pole*. **Acting at FUSION:** *Gary: A Sequel to Titus Andronicus, A Doll's House, Part 2, The Moors, Heisenberg, Old Times, Hand to God, The Country House, Stupid Fucking Bird, Annapurna, The Other Place, Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike, Humble Boy, Clybourne Park, Other Desert Cities, Time Stands Still, Once in a Lifetime, God of Carnage, The 39 Steps, August: Osage County, Overruled, A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur, How the Other Half Loves, The Homecoming, Parlour Song, Suddenly Last Summer, Private Lives, Hedda Gabler, The Glass Menagerie, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Taming of the Shrew, Closer, and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. **Regional:** *Romeo and Juliet, Agnes of God, Crimes of the Heart, Tribute*. **Film & Television:** *Heat Lightning (Best Actress: Bend, Oregon Film Festival), Doc West, Triggerman, In Plain Sight, Unsolved Mysteries, and True Confessions with Adam Arkin*. She is a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts. Jacqueline is an Associate Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and has been a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association since 1983.



WENDY SCOTT Wendy is delighted to be joining FUSION for her tenth year with THE SEVEN! Other productions with FUSION include *The Moors*, *August: Osage County*, *How the Other Half Loves*, and *Death of a Salesman*. Wendy is a BFA graduate of the UNM Theatre Arts Program and has completed her studies as a pastry chef at the Seattle Culinary Academy. Most recently Wendy played Teacher in *Defying Gravity* with Mother Road Theatre Company. She has performed with Duke City Repertory Theatre (*These Shining Lives*, *Ash Tree*), The Vortex (*Lysistrata*, *Three Sisters*), also with Mother Road (*The Penelopiad*, *The Memory of Water*), as well as Sol Arts, KA-Hootz, ALT and the UNM Linnell Festival of New Plays. Wendy works in the Rio Rancho Public Schools as a

teaching artist and project manager with The Santa Fe Opera's ALTO program.



DAVID SINKUS* David is excited to make his SEVEN acting debut. Most recently David was seen as Richard in *Time Stands Still* at The Adobe Rose Theatre. Previous roles include Sharky in *The Seafarer* and the Cabdriver in *Hellcab* for Mother Road Theatre Company. While in NYC, David originated the roles of Bart/Tom/Carl in the Off-Broadway musical *Johnny Guitar* at the Century Theatre. In addition, he toured Italy, Lebanon and Japan in the La Scala Opera's production of *West Side Story*. David's US National and Canadian tours include Norman Petty in *The Buddy Holly Story* and Officer Krupke in *West Side Story*. David has performed in regional theatres all over the country, including La Mirada Center for the Performing Arts in LA, The Ordway Center for

the Performing Arts in MN, Pennsylvania Stage Company, and in Chicago at The Court Theater, Remains Theatre, and Victory Gardens Theatre. David is on the Performing Arts Faculty at Albuquerque Academy and is the host of *Weeknights with David* on Classical 95.5 KHFM. David is a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association.



ROBB SISNEROS Robb returns to FUSION to direct for his eighth THE SEVEN. Directing credits here also include *Meteor Shower*, *The Moors*, *The Reindeer Monologues*, *I Love You-You're Perfect-Now Change!*, *The Last 5 Years*, *Mister Paradise*, *Boston Marriage*, and *The 39 Steps*. He is the president of the NM High School Musical Theatre Enchantment Awards. Currently Robb is also directing *Naked Man* with the New Mexico Gay Men's Chorus performing at the end of June; and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* which opens July 29 at Musical Theatre Southwest.



WILLIAM STERCHI This is William's first appearance in THE SEVEN, but he is grateful to be among the first members of the FUSION family, having performed in their inaugural main stage production of *Closer* in 2002. Other notable company credits include *August: Osage County*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Hedda Gabler*, *You Can't Take It With You* and *The Miracle of Ballydonal*. Over 65 NMfilm and television credits include *Outer Range*, *Hell or High Water*, *Gold*, *Midnight Texas* and *Breaking Bad*. A proud member of SAG-AFTRA, he served as former President and Local Board member of the NM Screen Actors Guild and SAG-AFTRA NM.



DOUGLAS STEWART* Douglas (AEA|SAG-AFTRA) is thrilled to return to Albuquerque and be a part of the professional theater, television, and film community in New Mexico after a 24-year absence. He has performed as an actor for over 40 years in stage productions at numerous theatres in Austin, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Minneapolis. Douglas has appeared in dozens of national & regional commercials, corporate films/videos, and live corporate theater productions. His feature film credits include *Rust*, *Lightning Jack*, *Cultivating Charlie*, *Tender Mercies*, *Cold Feet*, and *If You Could Say It In Words*. On TV, Douglas has appeared in *The Lazarus Man*, *Dallas*, and *Unsolved Mysteries*. In 1994, Douglas founded Duke City Actors Workshop, the original

Matchbox Theater, and Shakespeare-on-the-Halfshell. He was a founding member of Paul Bolle's comedy improv troupe, Surely You Jest. Douglas is currently the Producing Artistic Director for the newly reorganized Matchbox Theater Company.



KYO TORRES-CHEN Kyo is 15 years old and is attending Albuquerque Academy. He found his passion for live theatre at the age of 4 when he attended acting classes at the Denver Center for Performing Arts. Kyo has participated in numerous community and school plays since then. He loves creative expression and being on stage; it has helped define who he is.



Laurie Thomas*^ is co-founder and co-artistic chair of FUSION. She is a director, actor, writer, and just completed her 21st and final year as a member of Albuquerque Academy's Performing Arts Faculty. Her professional credits for acting and directing include work at Berkeley Shakespeare Festival, Theater Rhinoceros, Alice B. Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre, Samuel French Off Off Broadway Festival, Northwest Asian American Theatre, On the Boards, A Contemporary Theatre, Southwest Repertory Theatre, The Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival, Berkeley Stage Company, The Empty Space, and Bay Area Playwrights Festival. Her most recent work has been directing *Gary: A Sequel to Titus Andronicus* and acting in *Escaped Alone* and playing the role of Anne Marie in *A Doll's House, Part 2*. Additional notable directorial work includes Eugene O' Neill's *Anna Christie*, Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice*, *First Love* by Charles Mee, Donald Margulies' *Time Stands Still*, *Humble Boy* by Charlotte Jones, Sharr White's *Annapurna* and Katori Hall's *The Mountaintop*. Ms. Thomas is an Associate Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and has been a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association since 1990.



AARON WORLEY Aaron has been involved with THE SEVEN since acting in its inaugural production in 2006. He has either acted or directed in the bulk of THE SEVENS, including a handful of THE 2nd SEVENS. On the main stage of The Cell, he directed *Year of the Rooster* for FUSION and *Fatboy* for Rocket Surgery Productions. He spends his days driving a cab and raising his daughter Donna.

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