

OPEN ROAD STAGE

PRODUCERS CLUB THEATER

SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL

My Desk



Armed Guard



In the Weeds



The Highway



Tickets \$50

producersclub.com

PRODUCERS CLUB THEATER

358 W 44th St

OPEN ROAD STAGE

PRESENTS

SHORT PLAY

FESTIVAL



AN OPEN ROAD STAGE PRODUCTION

WITH

**NICK DENNING GABRIELLA DUBRUL ERICK FREITAS
ISABELLA MINTER SORAIHA WILLIAMS**

ASST. DIRECTOR

ISABELLA MINTER

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

RITA GUARINO

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

RYAN GUARINO

PRODUCERS

KEVIN BARRY & RITA GUARINO

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

← KEVIN BARRY →

Welcome from the Artistic Director

Welcome to **Open Road Stage's** inaugural Short Play Festival - a new platform for fresh, character-driven and thought-provoking storytelling, created for today's audiences.

This festival is more than a showcase of original plays—it's the result of one artist's singular vision. All of the pieces you'll see today were written and directed by **Kevin Barry**, a former stage and screen actor whose performances once earned glowing praise from *The New York Times*. Kevin has turned his creative lens toward writing and directing, bringing the same depth, nuance, and emotional honesty that defined his work as a performer.

His plays explore the humor, tension, and quiet beauty in everyday moments—reminding us that the shortest stories often leave the most lasting impressions. Kevin's characters are complex, familiar, and unforgettable—and they sit at the heart of this festival's voice.

I'm honored that **Open Road Stage** can help introduce this new chapter of Kevin's artistic journey to the public, and grateful to share it with you today.

Thank you for being part of our very first season. Your presence today fuels the future of independent theatre and the artists who make it happen. And if you feel moved, laugh hard, or see something of yourself on stage—I hope you'll keep coming back. We invite you to check the back of this playbill for ways to stay connected—including how to leave feedback and support our future productions.

With heartfelt thanks,

Rita Guarino

Artistic Director

Open Road Stage

Please take a moment to silence your cell phone before the performance begins.

After the show, scan the survey QR code to share your feedback— and enter to win a custom Open Road Stage theatre pin and limited-edition theatre poster!

Feel Inspired? Scan the donation QR code to help support more bold storytelling.

OPEN ROAD STAGE
PRESENTS
SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL 2025
AN AFTERNOON OF ORIGINAL COMEDY AND DRAMA
WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCES
SATURDAY, JULY 26 | 1:30 PM & 3:30 PM
RUNTIME APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR
PRODUCERS CLUB, 358 W44TH ST, NY NY



FESTIVAL LINEUP

1. My Desk

In a cluttered brokerage bullpen, a messy party-girl and her meticulous colleague spar over ethics, insurance, and a see-sawing tech stock as a trading day—and their friendship—hangs in the balance.

2. Armed Guard

A dramatic thriller about a veteran ex-cop and a bright-eyed rookie share a tense shift guarding mob turncoat “Knuckles” Fanetti in a high-security hotel suite, where every small talk detail could mean the difference between calm routine and chaos.

3. In the Weeds

Two amateur birdwatchers hunker behind roadside bushes on Long Island, determined to snap the perfect shot of a rare Lazuli Bunting while unraveling a quiet tale of deception, strange ties, and buried grievances—chip away at their teamwork.

4. The Highway

A pop-up confessional booth stands quietly on a bustling city corner. It draws a clergyman who operates from a place of personal conviction more than institutional doctrine, a haunted therapist, and an anxious actor into a quick-fire exchange on faith, therapy, and modern distractions, each finding unexpected clarity before the red light flips off.

EACH ORIGINAL SHORT PLAY RUNS APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES, OFFERING A FAST-PACED BLEND OF HUMOR, DEPTH, AND CHARACTER-DRIVEN STORYTELLING. NO INTERMISSION.



**Soraiah
Williams**



**Isabella
Minter**



**Gabriella
DuBrul**



**Erick
Freitas**



**Nick
Denning**

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones, beepers, and watches. The use of cell phones in the theatre is prohibited by New York City law.

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CAST

Stockbroker #1.....	Isabella Minter
Stockbroker #2.....	Soraiah Williams
Pete Higgins	Erick Freitas
Maria Sullivan.....	Gabriella DuBrul
Birdwatcher #1	Soraiah Williams
Birdwatcher #2	Isabella Minter
Therapist.....	Soraiah Williams
Actor.....	Gabriella DuBrul
Clergyman.....	Nick Denning

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

SORAIAH WILLIAMS (*Stockbroker #2 in My Desk, Birdwatcher #1 in In the Weeds, Therapist in The Highway*) Soraiah is a newly NYC-based actor hailing from North Carolina. UNC Greensboro BFA in Musical Theatre c/o 2024. Regional:*Puffs*(Cape Fear Regional Theatre); *Jane Eyre* with Julie Benko and Megan McGinnis, *1940s Radio Hour* with Julia Murney (Theatre Raleigh); *Bright Star* (Rhinoleap Productions); *Something Rotten!*, *Pride & Prejudice, Comedy of Errors*(Texas Shakespeare Festival); *Dreamgirls* (North Carolina Theatre). Educational: *Into The Woods*(Witch), *The Wild Party*(*Queenie*), and Taub's *As You Like It* (Jacques). Hudson Artist Agency! @soraiah.williams

ISABELLA MINTER (*Festival Emcee, Stockbroker #1 in My Desk, : Birdwatcher #2 in In the Weeds*) Isabella is the Assistant Director at Open Road Stage. New to NYC, she is training to be a Meisner Instructor at the Terry Knickerbocker Studio. Recent credits include *The Minutes*(Springer Opera House), *The Cake* (Springer Opera House), *Oh, To Be Pure Again* (Actors Express), *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Stage Door Theatre), and *The Credeaux Canvas* (Yard Dogs). Enjoy the show! Aligned Stars Agency

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

GABRIELLE DUBRUL (*Maria Sullivan in Armed Guard, Actor in the Highway*) Gabrielle is an Austrian American actress based in New York City. A recent Barnard College/Columbia University graduate, she trained at RADA, NYU Tisch, and Stella Adler. With extensive dance training, plus martial arts expertise, she brings versatility to her roles. She has starred in award-winning short films like *Mute*, *Famine*, and *Perennial*, and wrote and performed her solo show, *SHUT OUT*. She is currently developing a short film and is excited to be part of this thrilling piece. Enjoy!

ERICK FREITAS (*Pete Higgins in Armed Guard*) Erick's journey into acting is a testament to his multifaceted talents. He has graced screens in commercials for major social media platforms, collaborating with Oscar-nominated directors, where his ability to embody characters ranging from fun-loving stoners to neurotic messes or menacing figures shines through. Erick boasts extensive career spanning 18 years as a writer, actor, location scout, and director. Sketch, screen, or stage — Erick makes every role count.

NICK DENNING (*Clergyman in The Highway*) Nick has been fortunate to be working consistently in episodic TV with small but integral parts on various shows including *The Blacklist*, *FBI*, and *Law & Order*. He is always anxious to get back on stage, and is thrilled to be working with Kevin Barry again, many years after performing Shakespeare for kids together in *Tempest Tossed Fools*, Off Broadway. Favorite stage credit: Crow in "The Tooth of Crime" at La MaMa. -Not actually Irish but drinks enough Guinness to maybe qualify... 🍀

OPEN ROAD STAGE CREATIVE TEAM



Playwright and Director : Kevin Barry
Producers: Kevin Barry, Rita Guarino
Artistic Director: Rita Guarino
Technical Director : Ryan Guarino
Asssistant Director : Isabella Minter



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**OPEN ROAD STAGE
SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL**

Thank You!

Thank you for supporting *Open Road Stage* and our very first festival of original short plays.

This production was built from the ground up by a small but passionate team of artists, and your presence means the world to us. We are grateful to our cast, crew, and creative collaborators for bringing these stories to life—and to our audience, for showing up and cheering us on.

Here's to bold ideas, new voices, and the open road ahead.

Keep following the road.

We'll see you at the next show!

—Open Road Stage



**Scan to Keep the Curtains Rising
or visit openroadstage.com/donate**

*-a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit donations are tax-deductible.
Thank you for keeping original theater alive!*

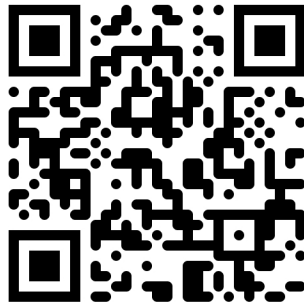
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