



CS P

NEW WORKS FEST 2025

Celebrating
Caribbean heritage
playwrights
DECEMBER 4-6TH

WWW.CONCHSHELLPRODUCTIONS.COM



**HB PLAYWRIGHTS THEATRE
124 BANK ST, NEW YORK**

Thursday, December 4 at 7 pm
Friday, December 5 at 7 pm
Saturday, December 6 at 1 pm & 5:30 pm

WELCOME

Welcome to the **CSP New Works Fest 2025**—a vibrant celebration of new plays by Caribbean-heritage playwrights whose stories challenge, uplift, and inspire.

The festival began in **2019**, when Conch Shell Productions launched its inaugural New Works Fest featuring three dynamic works:

MISFIT AMERICAN: An American Western with Color

by *Nelson Diaz-Marcano*, directed by *Blayze Teicher*

Lucky

by *Phanesia Pharel*, directed by *Yvette Ganier*

Destination Ooh, Aah Yummy

written & directed by *Magaly Colimon-Christopher*

Since then, the festival has become a cornerstone of our annual programming. For the past three years, we have presented full-length and one-act plays at various stages of development by members of the **CSP Artist Collective (CSPAC)**, including **Cris Eli Blak, Gretchen Suárez-Peña, Rivka Rivera, Petron Dee Brown, Othello Pratt Jr., Ajnu Hyppolite, Tanya Pérez, and Frank Robinson.**

We are deeply grateful for our presenting partner **HB Studio**, our collaborator for the past three years, whose long-standing dedication to cultivating actors and playwrights enriches the festival's spirit of craft, exploration, and community.

This year marks a major milestone: **for the first time since our inaugural event, we opened submissions to all Caribbean-heritage playwrights as well as CSPAC members.** The result is an extraordinary cohort of five bold storytellers whose voices embody the richness and complexity of the Caribbean diaspora.

We are thrilled to be presenting the works of Jessica Betty, Petron Dee Brown (CSP Artist Collective member), Arthur W. French III, Tyla Harris, and Joshua W. Josey this year.

We are honored to share their work with you, and we thank you for supporting these artists at this exciting moment in their creative journeys. Your presence helps sustain a thriving space for Caribbean storytelling in New York City and beyond.

Welcome to the discovery.

Welcome to the celebration of Caribbean heritage storytellers.

Welcome to the **CSP New Works Fest 2025.**

PROGRAM A

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7PM & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1PM

STAND RIGHT THERE AND PERISH OR (MAY I NEVER LOSE YOU)

Written/produced by Petron Dee Brown

Directed by Aixa Kendrick

Stage manager: Elijah Etheridge

Dramaturgs: Jasmeene Francois & Aixa Kendrick

Intimacy Choreographer: Abby Anderson

CAST

Petron Dee Brown as “Ali”

Equiano Mosieri as “Naveed”

Torreke Evans as “Charlie”

BIOS

Petron Dee Brown (playwright/actor) is a Bahamian-born playwright, performer, and multifaceted artist, and a proud member of the CSP Artist Collective. He is the Inaugural Dramatists Guild Foundation National Playwriting Fellow, a 2024 Mabel P. Robinson Award recipient, and a 2025 Eugene O'Neill semifinalist. NYC acting credits include *Constellations* (The Chain Theatre), *Julius Caesar* (Fount Studios), and *The Winter's Tale* (Columbia University) "A special thank you to Elizabeth Van Dyke and Woodie King Jr.'s New Federal Theatre for supporting me and my artistry!"

Aixa Kendrick (director) is a director and dramaturg trained at City College of New York and the Lincoln Center Directors Lab. Her directing and dramaturgy credits include *Obatala*, *Sin Paradise*, *Alice in Negroland*, *207*, *Osage Avenue*, *Black Wall Street*, and *SITCHAASSDOWN*. She recently directed Alicia Foxworth's *Ghost Writer* for Broadway Bound's New Works Festival. Aixa is thrilled to return to Conch Shell Productions' New Works Series and collaborate with Petron Dee Brown.

PROGRAM B

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 7PM & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 5:30PM

DINNER WITH ROXIE

Written/produced by Arthur W. French III

Directed by Danyé Evonne (IG @danye_evonne)

Stage Manager/Reader: Soyini Crenshaw (IG @crenshawsoyini)

CAST

Nzingtha Smith as "Roxie" (IG @actb4uthink)

Natasha Demosthene as "Nanette" (IG @tasha_demos25)

Play Synopsis: Dinner with Roxie is the Story of a Prisoner facing execution, and her requesting a Guard instead of Family members to share in her last moments. It is the story of Regret, redemption and an unlikely alliance. *"The inspiration was taken from the headlines in dealing with domestic violence, and how because of technicalities, despite in many cases justifiable reason, Women are still incarcerated."*
- Arthur

BIOS

Arthur W. French III (writer/producer) of Barbadian and St. Vincent descent has been writing plays since he was a teenager. His play "Circuit Breakers" was a winner in the Samuel French One Act play Festival. Mr. French thanks Family and Friends. Facebook @Arthur W. French III; Instagram @arthurfrenchiii

Danyé Evonne (director) is an actor, director, and educator from Detroit, MI. She serves as Assistant Professor of Theatre Performance at Ithaca College, where her teaching and research investigate how empathetic acting practices cultivate artistic and cultural understanding. A member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) and the National Alliance of Acting Teachers, Danyé has directed for True Colors Theatre Company in Atlanta GA and across multiple universities nationwide. Her current research, supported by an institutional grant from Ithaca College, informs her developing verbatim-theatre project American Promise. she will present her findings at the 13th Annual International Conference on Humanities & Arts in a Global World in Athens, Greece.

WEAVERS

Written/Co-directed/produced by Joshua W. Josey

Co-Directed by Triza Cox

Dramaturg: Marissa Joyce Stamps

CAST

Malissa Y. Myers as “Mom” (IG @msmyers707)

Buddha Deloney as “Son” (IG @buddhadeloney)

Play Synopsis: After years apart, a mother and son reunite, each discovering that the love and memory they have frayed with time. What begins as familiar, humorous banter soon unravels into a tattered fabric of guilt, belief and identity coming undone. As the visit nears its end, prayer and laughter turns into psychological revelation, exposing illness, loneliness and faith that both binds and divides them. *“Weavers explores the depth of a mother and son’s love when the son’s identity collides with his mother’s faith.”* - Joshua

BIOS

Joshua W. Josey (playwright) is a proud Miami native of Bahamian and Dominican descent, a law school graduate, and an avid storyteller. Blending art, advocacy and humor he brings insight to stories that challenge the messy, beautiful aspects of being alive. IG: @joshuawjosey

Triza Cox (director) is a theatre artist and Artistic Director of The Drama Lady Theatre Group. Triza holds an MFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Louisville. Recent productions Triza has directed include *Seaweed and Suppressed Desires*, *The Stone Host*, *The Guinep Tree*, *10 Seconds*, and *Julius Caesar*. Other productions include *Gospel at Colonus*; *Black Nativity*, *Bullies*, *But I’m Only Seventeen*, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf*, *Miss Julie*, and *Macbeth*.

THE GAME

Written & directed by Jessica Betty (IG @jessicaabetty)
Stage Managed by Kyanna Flavius (IG @succkiss)
Set & Prop Designed by: Isis Edwards (IG @iceisuptostuff)

CAST

Zoraya Inguanzo as “Elizabeth” (IG @zoraya.ing)
Isabel Guastella as “Q” (IG @ste.lla_50)

Play Synopsis: The Game is a witty Sci-Fi Drama that follows an alcoholic, Elizabeth and her Robot guide, Q, at an Elite Academy. When Elizabeth learns she is being expelled, she relies on her drinking and the robot to show her the light. But what happens when the light isn’t as bright as it seems. This is a story about ambition, the sacrifices we make to achieve our dreams and highlights our over-reliance on technology.

BIO

Jessica Betty (writer/director) is a Jamaican playwright, director, actress, filmmaker, and sound designer. A BFA candidate at The New School, she appeared in the award-winning short film Black Girl in the Ring (Clermont-Ferrand-EuroConnection) and portrayed Gloria and Nan in Gloria by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins. She was the co-artistic director and sound designer on Dreamers Airlines: A Short Play Festival. She has worked on numerous film sets in sound, lighting, and production. She is currently in pre-production of her debut short film, Petagonia. Ars Longa, Vita Brevis. One Love. IG @jessicaabetty

10-MINUTE INTERMISSION

BAMMY AN' BUXOM

(IG @bammyanbuxom)

Written & Co-directed by Tyla Harris (IG @tylaanneharris)

Co-directed by Toney Goins (IG @toney.goins)

Stage Manager: Ashley Long (IG @ashleynoellong)

Associate Producer: Shefik (IG @shefik.info)

Casting Director: Tasia Brown (IG @_tasiabrown)

Costume Designers: Thalia Davis & Cindy Zacarias (IG @sharedwyou)

Produced by Pala.Natan (IG @pala.natan)

CAST

Myah Bridgewater as "Jai" (IG @myah_bda)

Tyla Harris as "Coo"

Lulu Fairclough-Stewart as "Tish" (IG @luluboots_)

Jamé Jackson as "Sammie" (IG @theblondemisfit)

Lanae Richelle as "Reese" (IG @lanae_richelle)

Tsahai Gilchrist as "Opal" (IG @tsahai8)

Play Synopsis: In celebration of her new-found independence, Jai, a young second-generation Caribbean-American artist invites her matriarchs to have thanksgiving dinner at her new apartment. Over the course of a confusing night,

Jai's life changes as she finds herself entangled with grief and guilt in attempting to resolve her great-grandmother's newfound battle with a "duppy" coming to claim her soul. *"Bammy An' Buxom" is a wild ride of intergenerational love, care, and compassion, showing one of the realities of caregiving. Inspired by the countless stories I've heard, including the ones I've lived, it stands as a toast to our beautiful Jamaican culture within its' evolutions and a loving bow to our elders who keep us going."* - Tyla

BIOS

Tyla Harris (playwright/co-director/actor) is an Jamaican-Panamanian heritage artist who was born, raised, and creatively crafted in Atlanta, GA. Tyla is a multi-hyphenate, most-notably recognized for her decade of work as an actress onscreen in commercial, television, and film. With a Bachelors in Political Science concentrated in International Affairs and over a decade in the entertainment industry, Tyla focuses her artistry on producing, writing, and directing aimed at uplifting community. "Bammy an' Buxom" is her first playwright work in the discipline of theater. @tylaanneharris @pala.natan Find more about Tyla and her artistry at TylaHarris.com & Imdb.me/TylaHarris

Toney Goins (co-director), a Philadelphia native, made a name for himself by winning local theater awards for Best Choreographer in 2012, '13, and '14. In 2018, he graduated from The Juilliard School for Drama and received the Career Advancement Grant upon graduation. He made his New York acting debut in the Off-Broadway production of Toni Stone. He then transitioned to film and television where he can be seen on the ABC series For Life, The Russo Brothers' film Cherry, and the SHOWTIME series Billions, in which he is a series regular. Other theater credits include Dave Harris' play Exception to the Rule with Roundabout Underground. Toney is excited to be making his directorial debut with Bammy an' Buxom! IG: @toney.goins

CSP NEW WORKS FEST PRODUCTION TEAM

Producing Artistic Director/Founder: Magaly Colimon-Christopher
(IG @magaly_colimon1)

Associate Producer: Kevin Cheng (IG @kevbots_cheng)

Technical Director: Camillah Khan (IG @kamillahchan)

Dramaturgs: Jasmeene Francois (IG @msscholarlady)

Videographer: Horacio Rojas (IG @hypedh)

Photographer: Brandon Mantuano (IG @brandon.mantuano)

Guest Co-Moderator: Rivka Rivera (IG @therivkarivera)

Guest Co-Moderator: Francesca Ferrara (IG @actressfrancescaferarra)

HB Production Manager: Moshe Henderson (IG @moshelikeyoshi)

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The **CSP New Works Fest** is Conch Shell Productions' annual fundraising event dedicated to uplifting Caribbean-heritage playwrights. Each writer serves as producer of their own work, collaborating with directors, actors, and dramaturgs to bring their stories to life through a solidarity-based creative model. Since 2022 HB Studio and CSP have co-presented this event at HB Playwrights Theatre.

CSP New Works Fest 2025 is presented in partnership with HB Studio and supported in part by our generous donors, the Flushing Town Hall GO Queens Grant, and the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

ABOUT CONCH SHELL PRODUCTIONS

Conch Shell Productions (CSP) is a New York-based nonprofit arts organization founded by Haitian-American actress, writer, and producer Magaly Colimon-Christopher. CSP is dedicated to developing, presenting, and producing new plays and films by Caribbean-heritage artists whose stories inspire social change.

Through programs like the CSP New Works Fest, CSP creates spaces where underrepresented voices are nurtured, celebrated, and shared with diverse audiences.

CSP operates at the intersection of art, culture, and community — amplifying Caribbean perspectives and fostering creative collaboration that strengthens the cultural fabric of New York City and beyond.

Learn more and donate to support our 2026 season by visiting www.conchshellproductions.com



SURVEY

Here

LET US KNOW YOUR
THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S
EVENT



WE CELEBRATE CARIBBEAN HERITAGE VOICES
IN THEATRE AND FILM.

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

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SCAN *Here*

TO DONATE TO SUPPORT
OUR 2026 SEASON



**WE CELEBRATE CARIBBEAN HERITAGE
VOICES IN THEATRE AND FILM.
YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS!**

THANK YOU

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2025 Major Supporters: Flushing Town Hall (Go Queens Grant made possible by Howard Gilman), Flushing Town Hall Queens Community Arts Grant; NYFA Queens; Givebutter Philanthropy

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2025 Event Volunteers: Jasmeene Francois AnJu Hyppolite, Othello Pratt Jr.

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HB Studio, founded in 1945 by Herbert Berghof and Uta Hagen, is an artistic home for actors, playwrights and directors at every level of achievement. We provide a haven for working professionals, free from commercial pressures. Created by theater artists, we believe in a process of training that is essential to all the performing arts. We uphold a standard of performance that can play a significant role in the nurturing, growth and development of artists who can contribute to a theater that expresses the social, moral and political realities of the world in which we live. We offer a rigorous, well-rounded, diverse and inclusive curriculum of study for committed students of all levels where the actor's unique potential is cultivated and encouraged. We are committed to promoting diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion in all aspects of our organization and to eradicate all sources of inequality and discrimination in order to help create a theater community that shares this commitment and makes meaningful contributions to a more equitable and inclusive society.

For more information or questions, please email registration@hbstudio.org

AUDIT
OUR CLASSES



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