

The Rolodex

Theater Folx of Color

SUMMER 2026 EDITION



A NOTE ABOUT THE ROLODEX

Not You Still Looking for BIPOC Collaborators

Dear Reader,

Equity work doesn't happen through algorithms and auto-generated lists. It happens through actual human connection. Pick up the phone. Send the email. Write the letter. Real relationships require effort, and if you're serious about changing who gets hired, you need to do the work of reaching out.

The Rolodex gives you every resource you need to find BIPOC talent across all theater disciplines. Directors, designers, dramaturgs, intimacy coordinators, literary agents—they're all here. The contact information is literally in your hands. What you do next is on you.

This edition includes an updated content guide with new categories, expanded resources, and a hiring worksheet.

Shoutout to everyone maintaining these lists and pushing for change.

Now make the call.

In solidarity,

Jocelyn Prince

GET IN TOUCH

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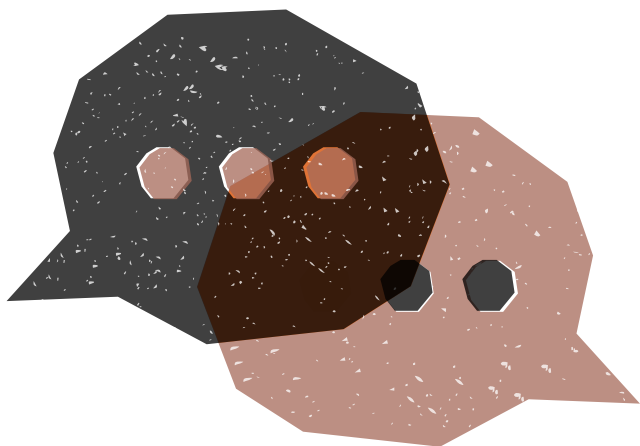
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Best Practices for Engaging With Folx

When reaching out to BIPOC theater folx and using these directories:

- **Pay equitably.** – Don't expect BIPOC artists to work for "exposure" or less than their white counterparts.
- **Respect their expertise.** – Don't hire BIPOC artists only to tokenize them or ignore their input.
- **Create brave spaces.** – Invest in equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) practices, intimacy coordination, and cultural consultants.
- **Give credit.** – Acknowledge the labor and contributions of BIPOC artists publicly.
- **Do your homework.** – Don't expect BIPOC artists to educate you about racism or do free emotional labor.
- **Follow through.** – Empty commitments and performative allyship help no one.
- **Compensate cultural consultants.** – If you're asking BIPOC artists to be cultural consultants or sensitivity readers, that's separate labor that deserves separate pay.
- **Build relationships, not transactions.** – Connect with BIPOC artists before you need something from them.
- **Amplify their work.** – Share, promote, and recommend BIPOC artists in your networks.
- **Check your biases.** – Examine why you might be hesitant to hire BIPOC artists and challenge those assumptions.





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PRODUCERS & MANAGERS

BIPOC STAGE MANAGERS

Directory of BIPOC stage managers available for professional work. Part of the broader effort to diversify production teams.

MULTI-DISCIPLINE RESOURCES

SOUTH ASIAN THEATER ARTISTS

Directory specifically highlighting South Asian representation in theater, often underrepresented even within broader Asian American categories.

ASIAN AMERICAN THEATRE ARTISTS COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Directory maintained by the Asian American Theatre Artists Collective, featuring directors, designers, playwrights, and performers.

RISE THEATRE DIRECTORY

RISE (Representation, Inclusion, Support, Empowerment) provides resources and connections for underrepresented theater artists, including job boards and networking opportunities.

THE T LIST

Directory focused on trans and gender-expansive theater artists across all disciplines.

BIPOC THEATRE ARTISTS IN GREATER LOS ANGELES

Comprehensive directory of BIPOC theater artists working in the Greater Los Angeles area.

NATIVE THEATRE ARTISTS

A list of all Native theatre creatives in and around NYC or those who aspire to work in Off Broadway/Broadway. This includes, but is not limited to, actors, writers, set designers, costume designers, musicians, directors, dancers, choreographers, music directors and more.

LA GENTE: THE LATINX/E THEATRE PRODUCTION NETWORK

A collective of theatre designers, artists, technicians, and managers.

FILIPINX AMERICAN ARTIST NETWORK

Open-source online network and resource for self-identified Filipinx Visual/Fine Arts Professionals across North America.



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BIPOC ARTS DATABASE – ADMINISTRATORS AND ARTISTS

A one-stop shop for BIPOC artists and administrators in opera and performing arts. Features categories for directors, designers, dramaturgs, stage managers, composers, and more—all searchable and ready to hire.

BIPOC CREATIVES LIST

Crowdsourced directories of BIPOC creatives across disciplines. A grassroots effort to increase visibility and access for artists of color in theater and beyond.

ACCESS REELWORLD

Launched in July 2020, Access Reelworld is a fully transparent and searchable recruiting platform for Canadian creatives in the screen industry who are Black, Indigenous, Asian, and People of Colour.

ASIAN AMERICAN ARTS CHICAGO ARTIST DATABASE

A database of Chicago area Asian American artists, makers, and creators

LATINA/O/X STAGE ARTISTIC PERSONNEL DATABASE

A database of Latina/o/x theater workers of various disciplines.

DRAMATURGS & SCHOLARS

DIVERSE DRAMATURGS: RACIALLY, ETHNICALLY, CULTURALLY

Database maintained by the American Theatre Critics Association featuring dramaturgs from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.

THE NO EXCUSES LIST OF WOMEN/NON-BINARY/TWO SPIRIT DRAMATURGS OF COLOR

A comprehensive list proving there's zero excuse not to hire BIPOC dramaturgs. Created to combat the tired "we couldn't find anyone" excuse.

LATINA/O/X THEATRE SCHOLAR DATABASE

Directory of Latinx theater scholars, researchers, and academics for educational programming and consultation.

DIRECTORS

THE BIPOC DIRECTOR DATABASE

Created by director/playwright Kareem Fahmy in 2021, this database features 415+ BIPOC directors with detailed information to help theaters and playwrights find directors from underrepresented backgrounds.



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AN EVOLVING LIST OF ASIAN AMERICAN STAGE DIRECTORS

Living document of Asian American directors working in theater. Regularly updated to reflect the growing community.

BLACK FEMME THEATRE DIRECTORS

Celebrates and connects Black femme-identifying theater directors. Created to combat the overwhelming whiteness and maleness of directing opportunities.

WRITERS & COMPOSERS

LATINÉ MUSICAL THEATRE WRITERS

Showcases Latiné composers, lyricists, and book writers who are creating the next generation of musical theater.

BIPOC MUSICAL THEATRE WRITERS

Directory of BIPOC composers, lyricists, and book writers creating new musical theater work. No more excuses for all-white creative teams in musicals.

THE WEB – UNDERPRODUCED PLAYWRIGHTS & ADVOCATES

Lists focused on women and underrepresented playwrights, advocating for their work to get produced and shared.

UNDERREPRESENTED THEATER CRITICS

Created by Nicole Serratore and Jose Solis Mayen to diversify whose voices get to review and critique theater. Directory of critics from underrepresented backgrounds.

COMPOSERS DIVERSITY COLLECTIVE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

A Directory created by an organization of music creators who are achieving a workplace environment in the entertainment industry as diverse as our society.

DESIGNERS & TECHNICIANS

DESIGNERS OF COLOR

Created by David "dstew" Stewart as another essential tool for diversifying design teams. Comprehensive database of BIPOC designers across all design disciplines in theater.

BIPOC THEATER DESIGNERS AND TECHNICIANS

Created by director Megan Sandberg-Zakian in 2015, this famous and widely-used database was made to give theaters zero excuse not to hire designers of color. Includes scenic, lighting, costume, sound, and projection designers.



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INTIMACY COORDINATORS

INTIMACY DIRECTORS & COORDINATORS DATABASE

Searchable database of intimacy professionals. Prioritize BIPOC intimacy coordinators to ensure cultural competency and safety for BIPOC performers.

BLACK, INDIGENOUS, LATINX, ASIAN, MENA AND OTHER POC INTIMACY COORDINATORS

Specialized directory ensuring BIPOC performers have access to intimacy coordinators who understand their cultural contexts and experiences.

PERFORMANCE ARTISTS

HERE AND READY TALENT DATABASE – BLACK ACTRESSES

Created by actress and producer Brie Eley, this talent database features Black actresses from across the diaspora with experience ranging from Broadway to community theater. Free for casting directors and includes reels, resumes, and direct contact.

POC IN AUDIO DIRECTORY

Created by five audio producers of color to diversify the podcast and audio industry. Essential resource for finding BIPOC sound designers, audio engineers, and podcast producers.

CASTING DIRECTORS & AGENTS

EQUITY DIRECTORY

A Database of BIPOC Literary Agents, because representation matters both on stage and on the business side.

The Receipts



This curated list is a sampling of the many books, essays, podcasts, and reports diving into BIPOC representation in theater. From history to hot takes, these picks spotlight the artists, ideas, and movements reshaping the stage and pushing the industry forward.

Hidden in Plain Sight: Activating the Arts and Creative Workforce Development at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

This executive summary and two-volume report presents findings from a comprehensive study on the arts and creative workforce infrastructure at the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Drawing from surveys, listening sessions, labor market analyses, and case studies, the report identifies more than 1,100 arts assets across HBCUs and explores how these institutions support student preparation for arts careers.

Well-being and Well-becoming Through the Arts: A Picture of Mattering for Youth of Color

This report identifies seven key elements of "culture-centered, community-based" youth arts programs that can provide a sense of belonging, identity affirmation, and skill development.

AAPI Stereotypes: History and Implications

Many Americans first became aware of anti-Asian hate during the COVID-19 pandemic, when racial harassment and violent crimes against Asian Americans made headlines. Discussions about the origins and spread of COVID had disturbing racial overtones, and unfounded stereotypes about cleanliness, mask-wearing, and even culinary practices ran rampant. But this fear and scapegoating of people of Asian descent was not a new phenomenon at all. This new white paper examines the origins and impacts of many of these stereotypes, which go back further than you might think.

All We Are and All We Could Be

An essay reflecting on and responding to a consultation with Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) theatre and performance artists in Toronto and Montreal.

Native Visual Sovereignty: A Reader on Art and Performance

This anthology centers performance and theater as an origin point for the development of contemporary art by Native American, First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and Alaska Native artists, beginning with the role that Native artists have played in the self-determination era, sparked by the occupation of Alcatraz by the Indians of All Tribes in 1969. The reader is an essential resource for curators, Native and non-Native artists, scholars, students, and teachers.

Voces del Teatro Oral History Archive

This collection consists of 40 hour-long video/audio oral history interviews from the mid 1960s to the present, comprising artistic directors and veteran performers from the Latinx theatre community in Los Angeles. The majority of the interviews are in English with some in Spanish. We hope to continue documenting the trajectory of Latinx theatre in L.A. into the 21st century, as Latinx theatre in Los Angeles grows and evolves. We also hope to include related ephemera. (* Voces del Teatro is sponsored by the Latinx Theatre Alliance / Los Angeles)

Hiring Worksheet

Use this simple tracker to evaluate and organize a list of folx to contact about collaboration. Sharing this document with an intern or junior staffer is a great way to help them organize their research and contact sheet to support a project.

PROJECT AND ROLE DESCRIPTION

What is the title of this role? Write a brief, one sentence description.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

List a few things that concern you and excite you about the project. What might be gained from working with a BIPOC theater worker?

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE EXERCISE

Use this space to list skills and knowledge that you feel are essential to your project.

CREATE A LIST OF FOLX

Potential Candidates:

What makes you most excited about working with them?

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Theater Folx of Color

This document is a living resource. If you know of additional databases or directories that should be included, please email jocelyn@tfoc.net. Stay connected at tfoc.net.

Summer 2026 Edition

Use this. Share this. Hire BIPOC theater workers.