

Press & Media Kit

Laura Thoma

Playwright

laurathomaplaywright.com





BIO

Laura Thoma is an award-winning artist currently living on the Shoreline of Connecticut. When an injury brought her first career as a dancer and choreographer to an abrupt end, she stepped away from theatre entirely. In the years that followed, she successfully explored a range of solo artistic endeavors, including mixed media and photography, but eventually recognized how deeply she missed the energy and magic of theatrical collaboration. That realization led her to the page, and through writing, she found her way back to her sacred space: theatre.

Influenced by her background in dance and musical theatre, Laura loves to experiment with pattern and rhythm while creating women-centric stories that curiously examine hope, mental health, queerness, and intergenerational connectedness through various lenses. She aspires to write stories that serve as sacred mirrors for others who do not feel fully seen in this world.

She is a GreenStage Artists Award Grant Recipient and Live Arts Festival Commission. THE OUTRAGE: A Queer Writers' Residency Inaugural Resident, Pawling Theatre Exchange Resident, The Desert Playwrights Retreat Resident. Phoenix Shorts, Winner, New York International Women Festival Semi-Finalist, Austin International Festival Semi-Finalist. Dramatist Guild Foundation Fellows Semi-Finalist.

Laura is an alum of The Kennedy Center Playwrights Intensive and the National Playwrights' Symposium. She has developed her work with various organizations, including The Bechdel Group (Writer's Block), Legacy Theatre (Cafe Guru), Cape May Stage (High Wire Woes), Eden Prairie Players (Heartache Tonight), Drama Works Theatre (Magpie), Chicago Dramatists (Model Girl), Chestnut Street Playhouse (Phone Home), Theatre Odyssey, Valley Players, and North American Cultural Laboratory (Miss Margaret's Barton Cottage Christmas Surprise).

She is a graduate of the Dramatist Guild Institute of Dramatic Writing, where she studied with incredible playwrights, including Sheri Wilner, James Anthony Tyler, Pandora Scooter, Matthew Paul Olmos, Deborah Laufer, and C. Julian Jiménez. A member of HonorRoll!, AEA, Dramatist Guild, Connecticut Theater Women Network.

When she's not writing, Laura can be found exploring the backroads with her bookish wife, Chris and their dogs, Buddy and Robie.



ARTIST STATEMENT

Raised on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in a small town full of diverse people and naval ships, was where I learned the soul magic of a warm hush puppy, fell in love with the art of storytelling through classical ballet, and experienced the beauty of a slow and steady life by the sea. Sadly, it's also where the hateful homophobia spewed by emerging television evangelist Pat Robertson became woven into the repetitive trauma that shaped me.

My first bully, my mother's boyfriend, always mocked "happy endings" and stories with "hope." Many people do. And in today's language, that does nothing short of revealing their privilege. If one thinks that hope is trite, they should count their blessings. For it's clear they don't understand that in actuality, hope is the most delicate of tethers that holds one from plunging into an abyss they cannot escape.

Not that you know it's hope in the moment; I certainly didn't. But I can tell you that part of that tether for me was other people's words, and those words helped keep me here. I suppose that's why I write, as an act of gratitude and a way to let others who are struggling know they are not alone.

Several years ago, having moved from Chicago to a small town in Connecticut, I found myself at a particularly challenging time in my writing life. I was feeling alone, misunderstood, and my perspective undervalued as the only queer person in most creative rooms. That's when I found her: Laura Thoma, a Swiss writer from the 1930s, a lesbian, and an activist. I immediately felt a kind of kindred connection, and it wasn't just about sharing a name. It was as if she were extending her hand through time to say, "You are not alone." I reached back, grateful to be seen.

Laura showed me I was part of a legacy I didn't know I needed. She inspired me to continue claiming my voice, despite how others might understand or interpret my work. Our connection became the seed of a play I wrote as the recipient of the GreenStage Artist Award Grant in Drama, a project that introduced me to a fuller, braver, more magical part of my voice.

And though my plays acknowledge the conditioning and cruelty we as women face, the systems that shape our wounds, including the moments when we abandon ourselves, they do not dwell there. I'm more curious about the journey back to our authentic selves, about the small, unexpected moments that shift us. Moments of connection. Acts of witnessing. Gestures of kindness, even toward those who may seem not to deserve it. What a character, or a person, chooses to do with these moments is what I find most compelling.

In "Yours in Words," when Lily chooses to confide in her estranged idol that she's a Sapphist, she is met with the encouragement to write her own narrative before someone else does. In "Writer's Block," when Sera is paralyzed by her internalized homophobia after a moment of queer joy, it is her inner critic who rushes in to comfort her. And in "Letter to My Soul," when Oakie refuses Vic's offer to be her legacy keeper, she challenges a generational assumption that confuses legacy with obligation.

I believe that to put a word on a blank page is an act of resistance. One that comes with the risk of actually being seen, and that takes my breath away. Inspired by those who have come before me, by those whose voices have been silenced, and by my need to see queer people where we've always been but have rarely been documented, I continue to write with the wish that my words may someday be a tether for someone else.

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PLAYS

MAGPIE

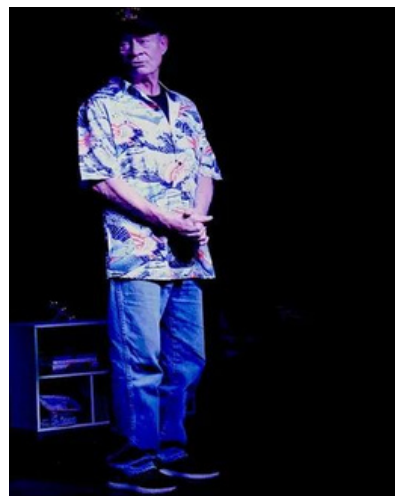


Published by Next Stage Press

Determined to visit the father she doesn't know, Maggie risks her troubled relationship with her mother and faces Mama erasing her—again. Working hard to heal and figure out who she is, Maggie wanders in and out of her past and present, searching for her future. When a stranger's words validate the importance of her struggles, she decides it's time to stand up to her mother and find the one thing she needs the most: herself. (2W, 2M - 90 minutes)



Production Drama Works Theatre



"*Magpie* is an extremely thought-provoking story of family relationships and the struggle to uncover an identity that some may prefer to keep hidden. I was so moved by the production as I sat in my seat wondering: should we just take things at face value, or is it better to take risks and dig deep regardless of what we may find? I shed a few tears as I watched layers of the past being revealed and smiled at the satisfaction of the ultimate resolve."

— Darlene Zoller, Artistic Director, Playhouse on Park

PLAYS

LETTER TO MY SOUL



A lonely queer artist, untethered from history and searching for purpose, connects with the lingering spirit of a forgotten sapphic writer, still corded to the world, seeking one last chance to protect the stories she once dared to tell. Bound by a longing for connection, moon magick, and a shared companion, the two women navigate the space between past and present, both seeking their next transformation.



“Laura Thoma establishes herself as an essential, relevant, and authentic voice, elevating contemporary, trauma-aware storytelling into engaging and evocative art. Showcased in her most recent work, *Letter to My Soul*, Thoma’s gifted dialogue and relatable characters infuses her work with humor, intelligence and magical realism as we witness a delightful trio of seekers on their philosophical quest to explore artistic legacy, feminism, gender identity, queerness, ancestry, community, spirituality, and ultimately, the irrevocable truth of the soul.”

— Carolyn Nivling, *Development Reading Audience Member*

YOURS IN WORDS,

Yours In Words,



WRITTEN BY LAURA THOMA

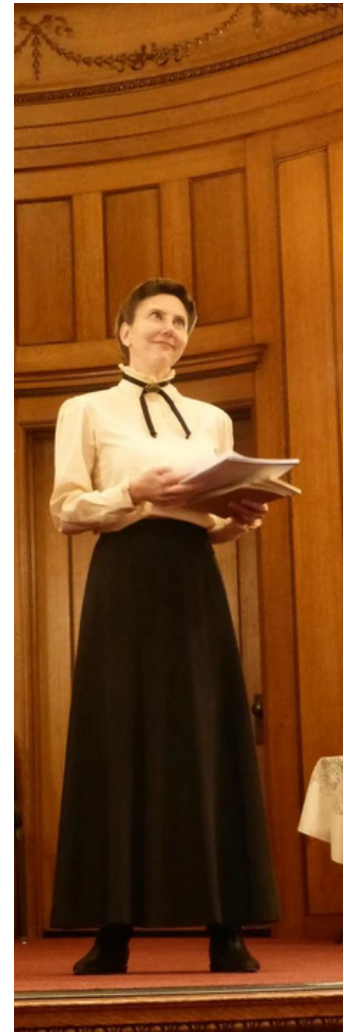
Writer Lilian Lamont is having a terrible time. Her boss just stole her work and is threatening to expose her biggest secret to her idol, who already thinks she's an impertinent child who doesn't take accountability for her actions. Meanwhile, her roommate, probably the love of her life, just stormed out after announcing she'd received a marriage proposal from Lily's nemesis. And on top of all this, it's 1895, and she has to wear a corset. (4W, 3M - 120 minutes)



Staged Reading Blackstone Library



Production - Short

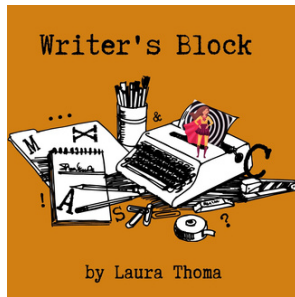


Staged Reading GreenStage Live Arts Festival

“Laura Thoma’s play *Yours in Words*, at the Guilford, CT, arts festival, was wonderful! Even though it was a reading, the actors were all in period dress, and the room was filled with knick-knacks of the time. I was immediately engrossed in the story and impressed with how the actors made me feel like I was watching a full production. “

— David Fogel, Audience Member

WRITER'S BLOCK



Blocked and writing on a deadline, Sera Keel has four hours to finish her manuscript. The trouble is her Inner Critic won't stop impersonating Rod Serling, and her Muse just arrived with an attitude; Sera doesn't think things can get any worse – that's when the dicks arrive. (3W, 1M - 75 minutes)



Original one person play



2 person Short-Drama Works



Development Workshop



Shoreline Playwrights



Staged Reading The Bechdel Group



“Last night, I saw a reading of a new play called *Writer's Block* and was fascinated by the premise. The characters were complex, funny, and authentic, and immediately pulled me into the story. I'm eager to see a full production! Be on the lookout for this intriguing piece!”

— David H. Hamilton, Audience Member

MISS MARGARET'S BARTON COTTAGE CHRISTMAS SURPRISE



Cozy, Queer, and full of Holiday cheer. Eight years after Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility", the adventurous Margaret Dashwood returns home to surprise her family for the holidays. The surprise is hers when she finds her former love interest, Lavinia, masquerading as the maid. Soon, jealousy, betrayal, and wild revelations threaten to upturn her plans for a lovely family visit, forcing her to decide if she's willing to embrace her true feelings to save Christmas. (5W, 1M - 75 minutes)



Production Drama Works Theatre



"Miss Margaret's Barton Cottage Christmas Surprise is an elegant and witty riff on Austen's mistaken identity 'meme' brought up to date.

— Katia Porter, Audience Member

PLAYS

Selected Shorts

JUDGE SOFTLY



A PLAY BY LAURA THOMA

Community service couldn't get easier than trying on shoes. At least, that's what Jocelyn thought when she chose it over picking up garbage. But when Jocelyn meets Mary and takes her first step in someone else's shoes, she wonders if she'll ever be the same again.



While staying at the Savoy, Flossy Henshaw finds a museum whose guide seems to hold the keys to her past, present, and future. Something about one of the paintings and that small statue connects her to another time, place, and a very special person. If only she could remember who.



Heartache Tonight



A Short Play by Laura Thoma

When Patrick refuses to help Melinda find her item on hold at the library, it's the last straw. She's tired of always being ignored. What starts out as a confrontation has the potential to end as a powerful albeit improbable connection if they're both willing to look past their own pain and preconceived notions.



CAFE GURU
By Laura Thoma

Samantha is struggling with losing her mother. She knows her life is about to change forever, and she's not sure how she'll handle it until she meets Seth and finds support in an unexpected place.



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RESUME

AWARDS AND HONORS

GreenStage Live Arts Festival Commission - 2025
GreenStage Artists' Award Grant in Drama - 2024
Semi-Finalist Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellows Program - 2023/2024
Honorable Mention, Reader's Digest Annual Writing Competition-Script Category, (Cafe Guru)
Festival Winner, Chestnut Street Playhouse, 1st Annual Playwrights Festival, (Magpie)
Semi-Finalist National One-Act Competition - Theatre Odyssey (Magpie)

SELECTED PLAYS - FULL LENGTH

Letter to My Soul

Production - GreenStage Guilford Live Arts Festival - 2025

Miss Margaret's Barton Cottage Christmas Surprise

Production- Drama Works Theatre Company -2024
Staged Reading - North American Cultural Laboratory - 2024

Yours in Words,

Public Staged Reading September - GreenStage Guilford -2023
Staged Reading - Blackstone Memorial Library Community Event 2018

Magpie

Production - Drama Works Theatre Company - 2022
Staged Reading - Marist College - 2019
Staged Reading - Pawling Theatre Exchange - 2018

Writer's Block

Development Workshop - Shoreline Playwrights - 2024
Development Reading - The Bechdel Group, The Tank - 2023
Production (Short two person play) - Drama Works Theatre Company - 2021

SELECTED PLAYS - SHORTS AND ONE ACTS

Phone Home

Staged Reading, Chestnut Street Playwrights' Festival - 2025

Meet Me in the Lobby

Semi-finalist -15th Annual Summer Playwrights Festival, The Road Theatre - 2024
Production Drama Works Theatre Company - 2024

Heartache Tonight

Staged Reading Valley Players - 2024
Production - Eden Prairie Players - 2022

DEVELOPMENT AND RESIDENCIES

Kennedy Center Playwrights Intensive - 2022
Desert Playwrights' Retreat - 2023
National Playwrights Symposium - 2022
The Outrage—A Queer Writers' Residency - 2024
GreenStage Guilford Live Arts - Development Workshop (Yours in Words,) - 2023
Playwright in Residence, Pawling Theatre Exchange - 2018

TRAINING AND AFFILIATIONS

Certificate in Dramatic Writing - Dramatist Guild Institute

Member: AEA • Dramatist Guild • ICWP • Honor Roll! • PWC

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PRESS/INTERVIEWS

Download PDF for active links. Information also available on this website under PRESS tab.

[Laura Thoma - Next Stage Press Podcast](#)

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[Artist Grants Announcement GreenStage Guilford](#)

Laura Thoma receives GreenStage Artists' Award Grant

Updated: Oct 9, 2024



Playwright [Laura Thoma](#), who presented a staged reading of her play "Yours in Words" at the 2023 GreenStage Live Arts Festival, has been awarded a \$5,000 Artists' Award grant to write a new work and premiere it at the 2025 festival. She'll present "Letter to My Soul," a story about two queer women who live in different places and at different times, discover one other across time and space, and ignite each other's creativity while challenging their perspectives. It'll be a fully staged play featuring a cast of three.

A Guilford resident, Laura is an alum of the Kennedy Center Playwrights Intensive, the National Playwrights' Symposium, Pawling Theatre Exchange Playwrights Residency, The Desert Playwrights Retreat, and THE OUTRAGE: A Queer Writers' Residency. She's a Dramatist Guild Institute of Dramatic Writing graduate and co-founder of Shoreline Playwrights, a partnership that develops new work.

Laura has developed her work with various theaters and organizations, including The Bechdel Group, Legacy Theatre, Cape May Stage, Odyssey Theatre, Chestnut Street Playhouse, Marist College, Drama Works Theatre Company and the North American Cultural Laboratory.

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Live Arts

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LETTER TO MY SOUL



Sunday, August 10, 2025 - 7 PM

11 Water Street Guilford, CT 06437



premiere of commissioned work by 2024 Artists' Award
Grant Recipient in Drama - Laura Thoma