

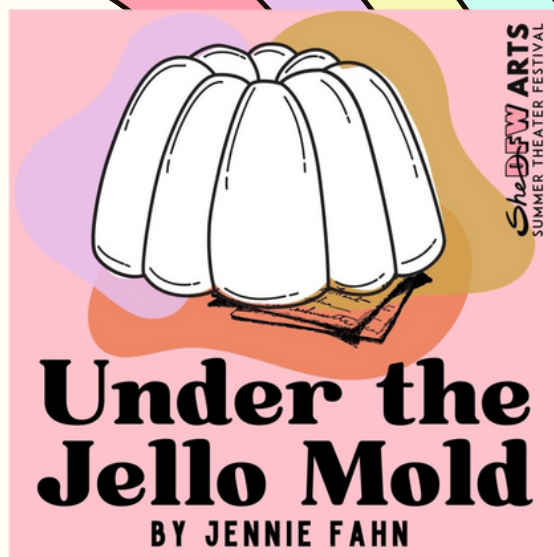
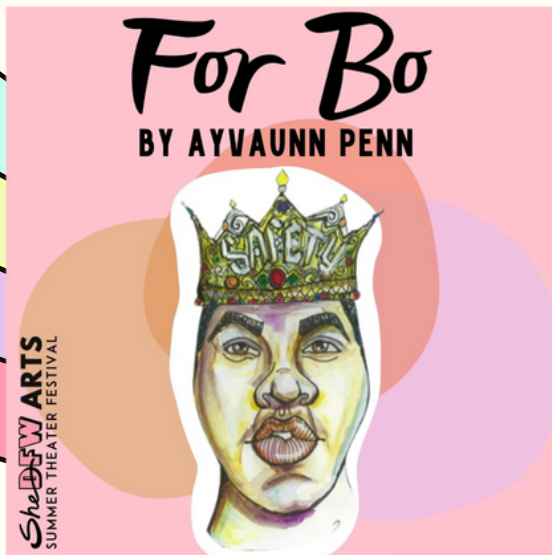
THE 2024

She **DFW** ARTS

SUMMER THEATER FESTIVAL

LYRIC STAGE STUDIO THEATER

September 10-15, 2024



www.SheNYCArts.org



@She.DFW.Arts



About Us

The SheDFW Theater Festival is a program of SheNYC Arts, a 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit organization. SheNYC is a group of theater professionals showcasing the talents of writers, composers, producers, directors, and other theater artists who are part of a marginalized gender group, including cis women, trans, and non-binary people. Our mission is to prove that there is no reason for male artists to have the overwhelming majority of produced work in the industry.

We provide artists with the resources they need on their path to leadership roles in the industry. Each summer, we produce our Summer Theater Festivals in New York City, Atlanta, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Los Angeles. Year-round, we provide writers, composers, producers, and directors with resources to jump-start their careers in the theater industry, including CreateHER, our program for high school students interested in pursuing careers as playwrights and producers, and The Broadway Women's Alliance, a networking group for the women on the business side of Broadway.



the BROADWAY
WOMEN'S
ALLIANCE

Support Us for North Texas Giving Day! ALL DONATIONS MATCHED SEPTEMBER 1-19!

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes of our Summer Theater Festivals. We rely on donations from our SheNYC Family to get it all done! As a 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit organization, donations to She NYC Arts, Inc. are entirely tax-deductible. Your donations will go straight toward our programs, including:

- Theater rentals & production staff here in Dallas
- Stipends to pay our participating artists
- Equipment like lights, curtains, and sound equipment
- Marketing campaigns to get the word out about our shows

Help us give marginalized artists an equal playing field by donating today! To donate online via credit or debit card, visit SheNYCArts.org/donate.

[Tap here to donate](#)





Live Performance Schedule

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

SEPT. 10

7:30

For Bo

11

7:30

the martyr

12

7:30

OLIVIA O

13

7:30

For Bo

14

1:00 OLIVIA O

5:00 *the martyr*

8:00 Under the Jello Mold

15

1:00 Under the Jello Mold

6:00 *For Bo*

Come back for more great theater! Use code FEST2024 to get \$5 off a ticket to see another show in the Festival.

[GET TICKETS](#)

Digital Performance Schedule

SheDFW performances will be filmed and made available for \$5 online performances, which will be viewable online from Tuesday Sept 17 through Tuesday Sept 24.

The video will be emailed to all digital ticketbuyers on Sept. 17 and you can watch any time within that window at your convenience.

DIGITAL PERFORMANCES AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 17-24

[GET TICKETS](#)

For Bo

BY AYVAUNN PENN



"Bo" art by Brian Dickson Jr.

SheDFW ARTS
SUMMER THEATER FESTIVAL

Ayvaunn Penn (Playwright, Director, Composer) (Columbia University Playwriting Dean's Fellow) is a director and published playwright as well as a playwriting professor at TCU. As a playwright, Penn is best known for her plays *For Bo* (Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference finalist) and *For the Love of Uvalde* (2024 Yale Drama Prize Short List). Her play "Why Ain't a Grape a Berry?" is published in *Stonecoast Review*, a Pushcart Prize-winning literary journal. Learn more about Penn at ThePennSpeaks.com.

AJ Bowman-Shelton (Violator/Reporter/Inmate/Chorus): Honored to be part of such an important work of social justice in *For Bo*, AJ makes her first appearance at Lyric Stage Theatre! Though not new to the stage, she returns after teaching and raising children. AJ studied Drama at Macalester, interned and toured with CLIMB, performed in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *For Colored Girls...* Locally, she comes to life as storyteller LACA Bridges. She'd like to thank God, family and friends for support.

Ashley Castillo (Stage Manager) is honored to join such an impactful show. Ashley earned her BFA in Theatre from Texas State University, with two years of teaching post graduation. Regional credits include *Newsies*, *Mary Poppins*, *Beautiful (Casa Mañana)* *Elf*, *Drowsy Chaperone (Sierra Rep)*, *His Story (World Premiere)*. Opera credits include *La Boheme (Fort Worth Opera)*. Much love to my husband and Ayvaunn for leading such a beautiful rehearsal room.

Christopher Hill (Bo Jones) has nurtured a love for the arts since childhood, beginning with a Party City commercial at age 5. He has graced the stage in productions like **DreamGirls** as CC White and **The Wiz** as the Scarecrow. In 2012, he portrayed Ernest in **The Devon Taylor Show**, sharing the screen with Reggie Hayes and Kelly Perine. He also played the French horn

For Bo

Written, Directed, &
Composed by Ayvaunn Penn

Presented in collaboration with the Urban Arts Center and the Botham Jean Foundation. This work was supported in part by a grant from the TCU Invests in Scholarship Fund.

Inspired by the real-life murder of Botham Jean that took place in Dallas, TX, *FOR BO* unpacks the unfortunate tragedy that befalls the Jones family when brother and son Bo Jones is murdered in his own home by police officer Amy Guy. Through contemporary free verse poetry, rhythm, percussion, and dance this fictional narrative explores the social issues that lead to Bo Jones' death and how society, particularly the black community, grapples with the resulting trauma. Most of all, *FOR BO* reminds us that each thought and action has the power to change tomorrow for worse or for better.

SPECIAL THANKS: Jennifer Engler, Harry Parker, Regina Taylor, Taushey Sias, Show Mom, The Botham Jean Foundation, SheNYC/SheDFW Arts, Urban Arts Center, & Texas Christian University

for 12 years. After 12 years of teaching social studies across the U.S., UAE, & Kazakhstan, he joyfully returns to theatre, grateful for God's guidance and the unwavering support of family and friends. Galatians 6:9.

Crislyn Fayson (Assistant Director) As a theatre artist and award-winning filmmaker from Dallas, TX, Crislyn is elated that "For Bo" is her assistant directing debut. She's a graduate of SMU who majored in Theatre and Film. She has directed films like, *#BlackAtSMU*, a documentary that depicts Black students' encounters with racism at SMU. As well as directed plays like "The Moors". She's an artist that prides herself in being a servant to every story, and this one is special.

Dr. Marta M. Torres (Judge Fannie Temp/Gladys/Chorus) is an educator with a multidisciplinary background in education, community advocacy, theater, nonprofit, and arts management. She advocates for inclusive, equitable, and transformative community connections through storytelling and education. Her work emphasizes authentic Latinx and multiracial stories. Recently, she directed "Curse of the Puerto Ricans" and "World Classic" at Bishop Arts Theater Center. Additionally, she performed in "I'm Still A Theater Kid" and directed "I am Home" and "Entre Páginas" at Teatro Dallas.

For Bo (Continued)

J.R. Bradford (Boris/JB/Chorus) is pleased to make his debut on the SheDFW stage. He has performed on several stages such as Theatre Three, Soul Rep Theatre, WaterTower Theatre, Jubilee Theatre, and was last seen in Circle Theatre's Production of "Water By The Spoonful". Mr. Bradford is a member of the Urban Arts Acting Company.

Ja'Quoi Griffin (Chorus Leader/Understudy) is a singer, songwriter, and author who has a smooth voice and an easygoing personality. The Michigan native relocated to Texas in 2015 on a command from God, which began a journey of redefining what living by faith means. His most recent music project and book, both titled 'REST IN GOD', were released during a very challenging time in his life. His story provides hope, encouragement, and healing. For more information, visit www.JAQUOIGRIFFIN.com.

Jiles King (Co-Producer) is a multi-talented motivational speaker, artist, theater and film director, and producer. He is also the founder of DFW Black Arts and Urban Arts Collective, organizations dedicated to promoting and supporting minority arts and artists. Additionally, he is the publisher of Urban Arts Magazine, a quarterly publication showcasing urban arts and culture. Jiles created and serves as Executive Producer for the annual Irma P. Hall Black Theatre Awards and the Urban Arts Festival, a transformative three-day community arts empowerment movement. He was recently honored with the prestigious President Joseph Biden Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.

Josh Burley (John Zimmen/Chorus) is a native of Denton Texas. While in high school, He starred as "The Beast" in Beauty and the Beast, "Shrek" in Shrek the Musical, "Bank Chairman" in Mary Poppins the Musical. During his time at Grambling State, Josh starred as "Dr. Lyman" in Bus Stop, "Malcolm" in Stadium View, "Steve" in August Osage County, and "Arnold" in The Boys Next Door. Josh serves as an educator while performing in the DFW area.

Kelsi Peterson (Mama Jones/Chorus) is honored to be a part of this powerful and timely show. Her most recent theater credits include Ronnette in Little Shop of Horrors (Lewisville Playhouse), Sylvia in All Shook Up (NTPA Rep), and Eleanor Dunbar in Footloose (FMT). She also releases music independently as "Kel Ci." She's honored to work with this incredible cast and crew and is eternally grateful to God, her family, and her friends for all their love and support. Instagram: [kelsiciara](https://www.instagram.com/kelsiciara)

Ron Johnson (B/Chorus) is a performer in DFW. Ron has been acting and singing since the age of 4. He pursued a B. S in Integrated Studies with emphasis in Theatre, Sociology, and Business Management. Ron has

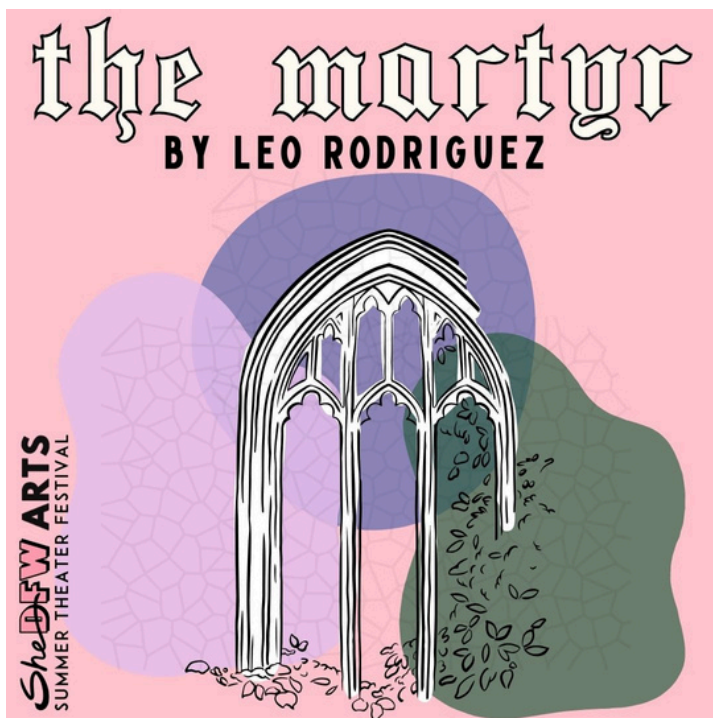
acted in many short films, wrote and acted in many plays in DFW and church. Ron is also a teacher in FWISD. Ron really enjoys working with kids. However, the arts will always be at the heart. Ron dreams of being on the television and movie screen and is constantly chasing God and his dream.

Sean J. Smith (Tap Dancer/Choreographer) studied dance with Goh Ballet Academy, Ballet British Columbia's Mentor Program and The Ailey School (New York City). He has performed with Ballet Creole (Toronto), Bruce Wood Dance, Rhythmic Souls Tap Company, Dallas Theater Center, African American Repertory Theater and for 14 years with Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Sean has choreographed for Dallas Black Dance Theatre, DBDT: Encore!, Ft. Worth Symphony Opera, Boston Conservatory Summer Intensive and I.M. Terrell Academy.

Taushey Denay Sias (She Who Stroketh The Hair/Chorus/Vocal Arranger) is an Award-Winning Recording Artist, songwriter, actress. Taushey's parents, Reverend Waylon D. Sias and Ami L. Moore recognized their daughter's gift of singing when Taushey was only two years old. Her voice was so extraordinary that her family added her to the family singing group, Ami Sias and the Sias Family, at the tender age of six. Taushey finally began to start writing and released her single "Always There" and became #1 on Reverberation. She became the recipient of the "Lillian Lily Award" and "Best New Artist of the Year" within 6 months of her stepping out on faith. Taushey is now working on a 1st Album and documentary which will be coming out very soon. Taushey's desire is to use her gifts and abilities to show the restoration power of God's love. Taushey believes that no matter the path you have taken, you are never beyond the reach of His grace.

Tyrinika "Nikki" Washington (Costume and Prop Manager) has been working in the DFW fine arts scene since 2021. This is her first time working with SheDFW. She is looking forward to learning and growing from this opportunity.

Whitney Blake Dean (Amy Guy) is so excited to be a part of SheDFW! She has had a love of being a part of new works since college! She was just seen as Mrs. Wormwood in Matilda at KWC. In the past few years has preformed at Circle Theatre: Kodachrome and A 3D Adventure as well as in the HSPW staged reading; and at Theatre Arlington: Dead Man's Cellphone, Winnie the Pooh and Miracle on 34th Street. She wants to thank her kiddos and her superman husband for being her constant support! "All the muches, my loves!"



The Martyr

By Leo Rodriguez

Directed by Libby Hawkins

1959: Priscilla has grown up a ward of the nuns of Saint Catherine's Academy, and she's desperately seeking a divine purpose in life — and reeling from her feelings for another girl. Scrappy, genderqueer Sky has been sent to Saint Catherine's by parents trying to literally straighten them out. When Priscilla thwarts Sky's attempt to escape the Academy, the two accidentally awaken the ghost of a student who died on campus decades prior. Attempting to set her to rest and solve the mystery of her death, they uncover secrets about the school that shake Priscilla's faith — and form an unexpected connection.

SPECIAL THANKS to UTA, Rowan Gilvie, Eastfield College, and Alex Wade.

Leo Rose Rodriguez (Playwright) (they/them) is a queer, autistic Jewish writer and artist. Originally from California, they are now based in Minneapolis, on traditional Dakota land. Leo has been creating stories since before they learned to write. They received a BFA in Theatre with a minor in English from Viterbo University, and currently work in the theatre industry as a wardrobe technician. Leo's work has been represented at the Minneapolis Center For Book Arts and at Viterbo University.

When not writing or making art, they can be found reading, listening to punk rock, and mentoring queer and trans youth. Leo has a tendency to fall in love with every cat they meet.

Libby Hawkins (Director) is an actor, director, and teaching artist across DFW and the southeastern US. MFA in Theatre - Acting from the University of South Carolina, Professional Actor Training Certificate from the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts. Libby is a passionate developer of new works and is thrilled to have the opportunity to explore Leo Rose's beautiful script with this group of actors and creatives. Love to Alex and my family. www.libbyhawkingonstage.com

Barbara Catrett (Sr. Benedict) is excited to be working with SheDFW. Local credits: Fraulein Schneider, Cabaret (Lyric Stage); Madame Armfeldt, A Little Night Music (Theatre Frisco); Mrs. Medlock, Secret Garden; Mrs. Paroo, Music Man; and Jack's Mother, (Stolen Shakespeare Guild). Out of town: Mrs. Schubert, Shear Madness (Kennedy Center); Arlene, Baby; Joanne, Company; Yvonne/Naomi, Sunday in the Park; and Carlotta, Follies. She appeared in a national AARP commercial and died on America's Most Wanted. Love to Greg.

Nicole Delarosa (Sr. Domitia) is elated to be a part of SheDFW's festival! She is a TX Ex from University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Theatre & Dance. Some credits include: Lavita (Miss Nelson is Missing),

Cordelia (El Rey Del Pollo), Elizabeth Benning U/S (Young Frankenstein), Natasha Prozorov (Three Sisters), Devised Ensemble (Love & Information), Helena (Midsummer Nights Dream). May queer art always reign, we are not going anywhere. Para siempre. ig: @oftherosenic

Rowan Gilvie (Sr. Scholastica/Prop Design/Asst. Director) is delighted to join the inaugural lineup of SheDFW! Rowan has performed, choreographed, designed, dramaturged, and assistant directed for theatres all over DFW including Casa Mañana and Dallas Theater Center; offstage, they're also a voice actor.

Favorite recent performances: Winifred Banks (Mary Poppins); Rita (Educating Rita); Guideau (The Witch And The Beast - Crunchyroll). Gratitude to Maya, Dan, and Kiana for their assistance booking this amazing show! Thanks to Alex and Tim, just 'cuz.

Maya Hernández-Pearson (Sky) is a Dallas-born and raised artist who's grateful to be debuting with SheDFW! A recent graduate of Sam Houston State University with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre, Maya has worked across Texas with Lyric Stage, WaterTower Theatre, Main Street Theatre, N47, and Theatre Three. Most recently, Maya tackled the role of Sally Bowles in Cabaret at Breckenridge Backstage Theatre. Thank you to my beautiful, wonderful friends and family! Te quiero mucho!

Paloma Magaña (Agatha) (they/them) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre student at UT Arlington. They were last seen in Lord of the Flies: Literature in Motion at Theatre Three's Festival of Independent Theaters. Favorite roles include Carole King in Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Laurent in Bonnets: How Ladies of Good Breeding Are Induced to Murder, and María in West Side Story. Paloma is thankful to Libby, Leo, and SheDFW for this wonderful opportunity.

The Martyr (Continued)

Gwen Mowdy (Priscilla-Jane) is a senior in her final semester at UTA pursuing a BFA in Acting. She was most recently seen as Webster in UTA's production of Bonnets. She is so grateful for the opportunity to make art with such wonderful people at SheDFW. Gwen thanks her directors, mentors, and family for their support!

Carly Rogers (Heloise) is a 2023 graduate from the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater for Acting with a specialization in Musical Theater. Recent productions include The Moors, Circle Mirror Transformation, Judgement at Nuremberg (SMU), Our Town (The Core Theatre), and All Delighted People (Festival of Independent Theatres). She is thrilled to be working with SheDFW again after they hosted a reading of her play PITBULL. through their Dallas Debut series.



Olivia O

Book & Lyrics by Jessica Carmona & Diane Currie Sam
Music by Gil Yaron
Directed by Jennica Carmona

Additional Music by Angela Ortiz

The production would like to thank Nick Primiano, Susan Moore, Bailey Nassetta, Tony Leone, Marla Leone, Chelsea Cylinder, Mikey Miller, and Megan Mariko Boggs

SPECIAL THANKS to Diane Powell and Jenny Tucker, Adriana Green, Theatre Arlington, The Acting Studio, and Central HS Theater.

This production is co-produced by

**musical
writers**.com

Diane Currie Sam (Co-Writer & Co-Lyricist) is an award-winning essayist/writer, educator, and co-librettist/co-lyricist of *Olivia O, The Musical*. Her decades-long work as a counselor and retreat leader focused on the power of storytelling for healing and change. As a freelance writer she has covered critically important social issues like mental health, sustainability, and the prevention of domestic violence. She is a graduate of the University of British Columbia (BSc) and Trinity Western University (MA, Counselling Psychology).

Jessica Carmona (Co-Writer & Co-Lyricist) was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and raised in Rochester, NY. She graduated from NYU Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Acting. Previous writing credits include *Elvira - The Immigration Play*, which was inspired by the life of Elvira Arellano and has toured in theatres & college campuses in the US. She is also currently developing *The Boogie Down Gospel*, a reimagining of the Gospel of Matthew through the lens of the Latino and Black community of the South Bronx in the 1990's. She has worked as a Lyricist with Brooklyn Children's Theatre and has written 3 short plays & 2 full length plays. As an Actress, she starred in the feature film "*Millie and the Lords*" which was featured on HBO (Best Actress Award, The People's Film Festival in NYC). She recently appeared as a costar on NBC's *New Amsterdam*. On stage, she has appeared in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* with R.evolution Latina, *Twelfth Night* with Red Monkey Theatre and *Water by the Spoonful* with Red Monkey Theatre. She is represented by Bonafide & Emerging Artists.

Jennica Carmona (Director) is a New York City based Puerto Rican filmmaker, actor, and activist. Born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and raised in Rochester, NY, she is a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. She is a proud co-founder of Si Se Puede Productions, a theatre and film production company that creates material with social justice themes. (www.sisepuedeproductions.org)

Gil Yaron (Music) is an award-winning performer/director/producer and the composer for "*Olivia O*". Career highlights include the second national tour of *Les Miserables* (Mirvish Productions), Canadian Premiere of Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins* and Jesse Richardson Awards (Best Director/ Best Production) for the premiere of Barbara Nickel's *SchumannBrahmSchumann*. Gil recently collaborated on the score for a new musical "*Power*". He lives in Vancouver, Canada with his two children.

Bella Zambrano (Ensemble) is a Dallas-based performer and teacher, and she is delighted to be working with SheDFW and such a talented set of actors! Recent theater credits include: *Sweeney Todd* (Johanna) and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Ens.) with Lyric Stage, as well as *Evita* (*The Mistress*) with NTPA. She recently graduated from Southern Methodist University with a BM in Vocal Performance. As always, love and thanks to her irreplaceable friends and family.

Ben Phillips (Bill Collins) has acted and directed for theatres across the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. Previous roles include *The Baker* in *Into the Woods*, *Harry in Company*, *Lloyd* in *Noises Off!*, *King Arthur* in *Spamalot*, *Gandalf* in *Fellowship! The Musical*, and *Tateh* in *Ragtime*. Additionally, Ben's voice can be heard in such animated series as *My Hero Academia*, *SPY X FAMILY*, *Mushoku Tensei: Jobless Reincarnation*, *Golden Kamuy*, and *Frieren: Beyond Journey's End*.

Olivia O (Continued)

Clint Gilbert (Guy) - Native of Carrollton, TX, with a Bachelors in Music Education from Southern Nazarene University and Masters in Vocal Performance from the University of Oklahoma. Favorite metroplex roles include Seymour in LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (The Firehouse Theatre), White Dude in TOXIC AVENGER: THE MUSICAL (Uptown Players), and Frodo in FELLOWSHIP! (Circle Theatre/Theatre Too). Composer of STEDE BONNET: A F*CKING PIRATE MUSICAL (Theatre Three), in collaboration with award-winning playwright and wife Nicole Neely.

Daniel Hernandez (Luis Martinez) is the creator and host of Daniel Does DFW Theater! He is a singer and vocal coach who enjoys performing and music directing in the area. He was last seen as Mr. Wormwood in Kids Who Care's production of Matilda and recently music directed Aladdin at The Firehouse Theatre. Daniel also music directs the youth musicals at Theatre Arlington and hosted the "Theatre Arlington Sings!" series last season on their cabaret stage. He is so excited to be working with SheDFW for this wonderful production! @danieldoedfw

Eric Garcia (Ensemble) is delighted to be a part of Olivia O in the SheDFW Festival. Recent credits include Twelfth Night at Shakespeare Dallas and Water By The Spoonful at Circle Theatre. Other credits include World Classic at Bishop Arts Theatre Center. Eric studied acting at the Playground Acting Program and Stage West. He would like to thank his family, friends, and teaching artist for all their continued support, and love for the craft.

Erica Erives (Ensemble) As an El Paso native, Erica is proud of her Hispanic roots! Previously in multiple operas and musicals around El Paso, Texas and Denver, Colorado, she recently displayed her bilingual skills in the Firehouse Theatre's production of Aladdin: Dual Language Edition. Erica thanks her parents, husband, family and amazing son for their support. Special thanks to the writers & composers for bringing this story to life in such a beautiful way. ¡Manos a la obra!

Isabella Green (Maria) feels blessed to be part of Olivia O, in the inaugural SheDFW Arts Summer Theatre Festival. Her credits include Mary Poppins Jr (Jane Banks), and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (Gladys Herdman) at Casa Mañana. She also played Little Red (Into the Woods) at Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy and the titular role of Annie in Annie Jr at Mary Orr Intermediate School. Isabella is a musical theatre student at FWAFA.

Leslie Navarro-Bovaird (Choreographer, She/Her) graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a dance minor. As an active performer and versatile artist in the DFW area, Leslie has directed, choreographed and projection designed for various productions.

She has also performed in iconic shows such as: RENT "Mimi Marquez," HEATHERS "Heather Chandler," IN THE HEIGHTS "Vanessa," and LEGALLY BLONDE "Vivienne Kensington." Leslie thanks SheDFW, the cast, crew, and her support network for their contributions.

Lexi Nieto (Ensemble) is so excited to be a part of the SheDFW Festival! DFW credits include Terk in Tarzan at Lyric Stage, Candela in Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown at MILC, and Sibella in A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder at Theatre Frisco. For more info, visit her website at lexinieto.com.

Melania MacDonald (Olivia) is a DFW-born and raised artist and performer. She was most recently seen onstage in Disney's The Little Mermaid at Dallas Theater Center. Olivia O is her first fully-staged new musical, but she has previously enjoyed performing in staged readings and workshops with both SheDFW (The Scarlet Letter Musical) and MusicalWriters.com (Annabel, Following Jimmy Valentine; Lavender, Teaching a Robot to Love). She is grateful to her familia for all their love and support. IG:@melaniamacd

Rebecca Lowrey (Music Director & Producer), owner and CEO of MusicalWriters.com, is passionate about creating new works and has spent the past 17 years as a premier music director, vocal coach, and accompanist in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, New York City, and everywhere in between. A director and producer as well, Rebecca is adept at getting new shows up on their feet in record time, all while efficiently coordinating the long list of to-dos required to prepare a show for an audience. She is a champion of diverse casting and production teams. #womendirect

Roel Garza (Ensemble) is very thankful to be a part of this production of Olivia O and its message of love and hope. He is a music educator in Northwest ISD with over 25 years of teaching experience in choral and elementary music. He also currently serves as the music director at Trinity Presbyterian Church - Southlake. Roel would like to thank his family for their love and support!

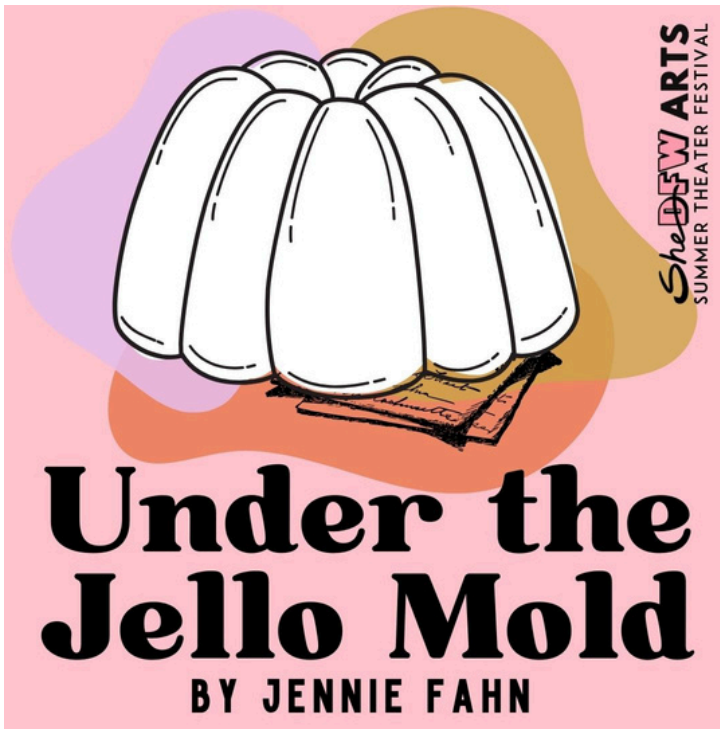
Samantha Padilla (Jen Martinez) is thrilled to be part of the Olivia O cast for the SheDFW Arts Festival! She was most recently seen as the Queen of Hearts in Alice in Wonderland at Theatre Arlington, Woman 2 in the Theatre Too production of I Love You You're Perfect Now Change, and Badass Betty in the Lyric Stage production of The Great American Trailer Park Musical. Some other favorite roles include Daniela/In The Heights, Miss Mazeppa/Miss Cratchitt/Gypsy, Paulette/Legally Blonde, Melpomene/Xanadu, Sister Mary/Disaster!, Magenta/The Rocky Horror Show, and Linda/The Wedding Singer. She would like to thank Jennica, Rebecca, and Leslie for the opportunity to tell this important story.

Olivia O (Continued)

Sienna Riehle (Gloria, Assistant Producer) is a genderfluid performer native to the DFW area. In addition to their mainstream theatrical work, audiences may recognize them from various staged readings with MusicalWriters.com, or as one of the hosts of popular Dallas cabaret, Broadway On A Tuesday. Sienna is also an award-winning stage director, and the host and creator of the podcast, Would You Still Love Me If I Was A Worm? Socials: @siennareally

Ursula Villarreal (Isabel) is excited to return to the stage for Olivia O. Prior to the pandemic she played Maria in 9 to 5 at North Texas Performing Arts, was in the ensemble of Sister Act at WaterTower Theatre, and performed in 100 Years of Broadway, alongside her mom, at Mesquite Arts Theatre. Ursula studied Musical Theatre at New York Film Academy. She is incredibly grateful for the support of her family.

Robert Lee Escamilla (he/him) (Ensemble) is excited to make his debut with SheDFW in OLIVIA O. With many educational and professional performances under his belt, some of his favorite performance credits consist of "Dewey Finn" in SCHOOL OF ROCK (Grand Prairie Arts Council), "Sultan" in Aladdin, Dual-language Edition (The Firehouse Theatre), "Nick" in LEND ME A CHAINSAW (Musical Writers Productions), "Curtis Jackson" in SISTER ACT (Highland Summer Theatre), and "Seasons Of Love Soloist" in RENT (Lakeside Community Theatre). Robert would like to thank his Family, Friends, and Roommates, for all of their love and support; as well as the DFW Theatre Community for welcoming him in and allowing him to create amazing art over the last 2 years.



Under the Jello Mold

Written by Jennie Fahn

Directed by Tom Cavanaugh

Jennie's mom was not your typical Jewish mother. A trained dancer, she lived life with vigor – expressing herself freely, wherever she went, making herself the life of the party at every turn. But the brightest flame often burns those it touches. Jennie is left to handle her mom in her final months. When the truth behind her mom's toughness is revealed, will love win out? Under the Jello Mold is roller-coaster comedy that packs an emotional punch.

SPECIAL THANKS to Rebecca Lowery, SheNYC Arts, Danielle DeMatteo, and Musical Writers.com

Jennie Fahn (Writer/Performer) is a storyteller at heart, juggling the roles of writer, performer, mom, and activist. Creator of the award-winning "Under The Jello Mold," Jennie blends humor and heart in her work, capturing truth with a unique voice. She's passionate about creating meaningful connections through her plays, activism, and community involvement, especially with her sisterhood at Temple Isaiah. Whether onstage or off, her passion is to entertain, inspire, and keep things from getting too sticky.

John T Mickevich (Composer, "Hospice Hottie") is a composer, songwriter, and writer living in Los Angeles. As a composer for film and media, John created the music for the feature film "Virus Of The Dead," the independent feature "About Strangers" and dozens of short films, including the award-winning short "The Dancer." As composer for musical theater, John wrote for the critically-acclaimed productions "Under The Jello Mold" and "Narsociety." Along with Sapna Gandhi, John is one-half of the musical-duo, VATAVARAN.

Tom Cavanaugh (Director) is a bi-coastal writer/director who received his M.F.A. from the Actors Studio Drama School in 2000. His play, INLAND EMPRESS, was recently published by Next Stage Press. Tom won the 2024 GRAND PRIZE for Best Screenplay Drama at the Fade in Awards in Los Angeles for his screenplay BEDBUGGERS. Tom is a member of The Actors Gym, New Ambassadors Theatre Company, Naked Angels Theatre Company and the We Make Movies film collective.



SheDFW Summer Theater Festival Staff

Executive Producer	Sarah Powell
Production Manager	Jasper Percy (JP) Pollinger
Lighting Designer	Rune Bunn
Set Designer	Leah Mazur
Social Media & Marketing Manager	Hannah Pederson
Associate Producers	Sarah Floyd, Stormi Demerson
Production Assistants	Evelyn Dumeer, Emily Truelove



SheNYC Arts Executive Team

Artistic Director	Danielle DeMatteo
Art Director	Elinor T Vanderburg
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Justice Officer	Lexi McKay
Director of Development	Eh-den Perlove
SheNYC Producers	Ari Conte, Destyne McMichael, Alexa Spiegel
SheLA Producers	Emily Rellis, Chisom Okoye
SheDFW Producer	Sarah Powell
General Manager	Alyssa Jane Villena
CreateHER Co-Directors	Hannah Rosenthal, Shira Wolf, Bess Frankel
Board President	Brenna Kilpatrick
Board Treasurer	Dee Dee Katchen
Board Historian	Elisabeth Oliveri
Board of Directors	Jenna Tatman, Amanda Strader, Nakisa Aschtiani, Lexi McKay, Lauren Harris

Special Thanks

Alexa Powell, Katie Kavett, Madelyn Shaffer, John Crain, Jason Oliveri, Victoria Fragnito, Larissa Kruesi, Maggie Kissinger, Angela Voelker, Benina Stern, Chelsea Davis, Emily Dzioba, Jenna Ng Lowry, Kristen Milburn, Mimi Warnick, Jack Saleeby, Jennifer Friedland, Jasmine Howard, Alex Petti, Courtney Bailey Parker, Sam Cush, Cara Cox, Shelby Pickelny, Dani Joseph, Marian Stern, Robyn Tatman, Garrett Martin, Amaka Korie, Stephanie Kane, Kelsey Robbins, Gabi Nail, Emily Mitzen, Vienna Valerino, Dan Crain, Natalie Schmidt, Kelly Kimball, Grace O'Brien, Corinne Brager, Chelsea Russell, Lize Lewy, Jessica De Maria, Lilly Qually, Erin Shea Brady, Jassie Love-Burns, Jacey Lozada, Monika Orzelowski, Rachel Aberman, Nadine Hart, Oriana Wisdom, Nicole Morris, Vivian Hunt, Julianna Kantor, Alina Larson, Juliana Spínola, Regina Perrone, Emma Isabel, Ali Sousa, Jen Forcino, Ava O'Dea, Rachel Peoples, Steven Pendleton, Lisa Naso, Willow Najarro, Kimber King, Adriana Guiman, Elizabeth Addison, Ray Johnson, Amy Andrews, Nijah Dent, Valeria Aceves, Roberto Kerezzi, Margaret Wright, Shruthi Rajesh, Alysia Homminga, Jess Marie Timlin, Kim Richard, Emma Woodfield-Stern, Veronica Diaz, Rachel Evans, Alara Magritte, Bimini Wright, Christa Rapaglia, Zevity Lopez, Anna Green, Cristina Pla-Guzman, Emma Miller, Sophia Farrell, Jodi Lustig, Grace Copeland, Neil Klein, Rosie Corr, Em Hausmann, Meaghan Sabino, Rafael Cola, MusicalWriters.com



SheDFW Summer Theater Festival Staff Bios

Danielle DeMatteo (Artistic Director, she/her) is a writer, composer and Founder/Artistic Director of SheNYC Arts. After working in the creative department at Jujamcyn Theaters (on such Broadway shows as *Kinky Boots*, *Jersey Boys*, *The Book of Mormon*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Something Rotten!*, two seasons of *Encores!* at New York City Center, and more), she focused her work on fixing the gender gap in the Broadway industry. She founded SheNYC Arts in 2015, and is eternally grateful to all of the other talented artists who have helped it grow into a nationwide nonprofit organization that operates in New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Dallas-Fort Worth. Outside of SheNYC, most recently she was on the worldwide Production team at Disney Theatrical Group, working on *Frozen*, *The Lion King*, and *Aladdin* around the globe. As a writer, her musicals have run off-Broadway, in Boston, and Chicago. She was one of the original organizers of the Women's March on Washington, and has worked on a number of New York political campaigns. She was recently featured in Forbes Magazine, was named one of Five Women to Watch as Broadway Returns by Shonda Rhimes' publication, *Shondaland*, and is on the 2024 Broadway Women's Fund's Women to Watch list.

Sarah Powell (Executive Producer, she/her) is an experienced producer and new works advocate, with over 15 years of experience in the theater industry. As both Co-Founder and Executive Director of The Table Co\Lab, Sarah has brought new voices to DFW stages. She secured rights to and produced the company's world premiere of THE DANGER YEAR by Georgia Stitt (small cast version), and created the vision for their annual New Works festival, which had its first showing in April 2023. As Creative Producer for the cabaret series. La Ti Do, her SONGS OF SONDHEIM show was voted "Best Cabaret" in 2022 by Broadway World Dallas. Thanks to Mom and Dad, Sophie, Mason, and Andrew!

Jasper Percy (JP) Pollinger (Production Manager, they/them) is a servant leader and survivor based in Los Angeles. JP focuses their work as a production supervisor, stage manager, social justice warrior, and is a fierce advocate for AuDHD/neurodiversity in the workplace. They use their resilient and multifaceted expertise to uplift stories that are often overlooked or oppressed. JP is passionate about demonstrating that we are not alone, and they are dedicated to making a positive impact on the world through their work.

Leah Mazur (Festival Set Designer), she/her, MFA University of Kansas, is a scenographer (scenic/lighting/costume design) and visual artist based in the DFW metroplex. She is currently head of the Design and

Technology BFA program in the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance at the University of Texas at Arlington. Select regional design credits include productions at Spinning Tree Theatre, Unicorn Theatre, Kansas Repertory Theatre (Kansas City), Lake Dillon Theatre Company (Colorado), Cape May Stage (New Jersey), Anacostia Playhouse, Scena Theatre (Washington D.C.), Amphibian Stage, Theatre Three, and Circle Theatre. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Leah's focus shifted to the integration of XR (extended reality) into the performing arts as a means of accessibility and expanded storytelling.

Rune Bunn (Festival Lighting Designer) is a recent graduate of The University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Theater Design and Technology. They focus primarily in scenic and lighting design and currently work as a scenic studio assistant. Her work includes Assistant Scenic Designer on UTA's co-production of *The Visit* with Amphibian Stage, Assistant Scenic Designer on UTA's production of *Head Over Heels* and most recently Lighting Designer for The Dallas Conservatory's production of *Seussical Jr.*

Emily Truelove (PA, She/Her) is a performer, stage manager, and theatre teacher throughout the DFW theatre scene. She has a BFA in Musical Theatre and Minor in Dance from UT Arlington. SM credits: *Miss B's Very Silly Playland* Zirkus (AMOC) and *The Nutcracker* (Chamberlain Ballet.) Performance credits: *Cabaret* (UTA); *Noises Off* (Theatre Arlington); *Fun Home* and *BOW* (Uptown Players.) Emily would like to thank her two cats for their consistent love and devotion! IG: @_emilytruelove

Sarah Floyd (Associate Producer, she/her) is excited to be a part of this amazing team of women who are bringing SheDFW to life. Last year, Sarah was introduced to the tantalizing world of new theatrical works as she worked front of house for Table CoLab and sang with MusicalWriters. Some of her Regional and Local credits include: Featured Female in *The Producers* and Ensemble in *Tarzan* (Lyric Stage), *Truvy* in *Steel Magnolias* (The Core Theatre), *Crazy Marie/Fairy Godmother* in *Cinderella* (Theatre Coppell), *Donna Sheridan* in *Mamma Mia* and *Grandma Addams* in *The Addams Family* (Rockwall Community Playhouse). Sarah is grateful to her family, especially Jacob, for always supporting her love of theatre whether it's acting on stage or scenic painting or wigs and costumes and now producing!



SheDFW Summer Theater Festival Staff Bios

Stormi Demerson (Associate Producer, she/her) is an actress, poet, spoken word artist, singer and visual artist whose interests span a broad range of spiritual, motivational, social, economic and justice issues. She is a multidisciplinary who thrives at the intersection of operational management and the performing and visual arts. Her passion is to use her extensive knowledge, skills and abilities in the areas of customer relations, problem solving, volunteerism, education, event planning, public speaking, and business and project management to enhance business performance on a broad scale and to extend artistic reach throughout Dallas and beyond by cultivating programs that address (and speak to) the needs and interests of the communities we serve.

Jenny Tucker (Costume Consultant) has been working in/around/on DFW stages for the past 20+ years. She is proud of all the participating players involved in this inaugural SheDFW Festival and hopes for it to have a long enduring impact on our community. Honored to have had a small part in assisting with the costumes. She is an actor/singer/voice and piano teacher in the area and a proud member of Actors Equity. www.jennytucker.net

Emily Truelove (Production Assistant, She/Her) is a performer, stage manager, and theatre teacher throughout the DFW theatre scene. She has a BFA in Musical Theatre and Minor in Dance from UT Arlington. SM credits: Miss B's Very Silly Playland Zirkus (AMOC) and The Nutcracker (Chamberlain Ballet.) Performance credits: Cabaret (UTA); Noises Off (Theatre Arlington); Fun Home and BOW (Uptown Players.) Emily would like to thank her two cats for their consistent love and devotion! IG: @_emilytruelove

Evelyn Dumeer (Production Assistant, she/her) is thrilled to be working with SheDFW! Evelyn hails from Virginia by way of Boston, and holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. She has been designing, performing, and teaching in the DFW area for nearly two years, most recently with Garland Summer Musicals and Dallas Children's Theatre. Evelyn loves improv podcasts, her three cats, and her therapist. Endless love to her unofficial sound assistant, Andrew.

Festival Merch

Check out our Merch! All proceeds support the SheDFW Theater Festival. You can check it out in the lobby before and after the performances, or click the link below for additional sizes and products.



[Click here to view merch](#)

Our Supporters

SheNYC's programs are made possible by our generous donors and granting organizations, including:

A.R.T./New York's NYC Small Theatres Fund made possible with support from the Howard Gilman Foundation, The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Arts, The Theatre Development Fund, and Business for Good, Lyric Stage (Scott & Tricia Guenther and Catherine Cox), Woodland Heights Baptist, Booker T Washington Theatre Guild (Phil Vilar), Kristin Colaneri

Katie Kavett, John Crain, Jason Oliveri, Chelsea Davis, Kristen Milburn, Gabi Nail, Emily Mitzen, Vienna Valerino, Dan Crain, Lori Powell, Kim Haller, Jennifer Friedland, Jenny Steingart, Bob Gregory, Elizabeth Katchen, Lee Osorio, Amanda Strader, Jordan Roth, Diana DiMenna, Stacey Mindich, Jerome Kane, Terri McCullough, Helen Stoddard, Matthew Upshaw, Ken and Lisa Rosenthal, Kenneth Bernard, Erik Piepenburg, Charlotte Wilcox, Mike Bosner, Tracey Narang, Daryl Roth, Bill McMillin, Rachel Bovitz, Madeleine Golde, Nicole Lafontaine, Cynthia Lauper, Erica Schwartz, Heather Shields, Lisa Sokolov, Lauren Harris, Jeremy Lange, Piper Loomis, Stefan Newman, Susan Barnett, Myriah Bash, Molly E Barnett, Amy Jacobs, Mai Hoang, Catherine O'Hara, Emily Erstling, Mary Davis, Eva Price, Wendy Orshan, Spotco Partnerships Team, Barbara Whitman, Rosalind Staib, Michele Groner, Judy Kuhn, Lucie Ledbetter, Anna Louizos, Lisa Barbaris, Eric Berman, Anaruth Bernard, Mitch Camarda, Lilian Caragliano, Art Chang, Angel Dijjani, Jessica Genick, Anne Gordon, Robyn Hamaguchi, Kevin Hirst, Kelly Kilpatrick, Henry Kimmel, Lisa Kirschner, Wallace Langston, Aaron Lustbader, Richard Miramontez, Terry Nance, Susan Pavlin, Robyn Roberts, Christine Schneider, Peggy Singer, Sam Snow, Winston van Keulen, Marc Viscardi, Cynthia Warshaw, Vanessa Ybarra Davis



Our Sponsors



providing support, visibility, and community for the women and nonbinary people who make the music in the musical theater industry

MAESTRA DIRECTORY

We built and maintain a global database of over 2,300 women and nonbinary people who are skilled and ready to work in theatrical music departments. This free tool and its listings have helped industry music supervisors, contractors, general managers, and producers find and hire more Maestras.



Create a profile.

www.maestramusic.org

@maestramusicorg

**musical
writers**.com



Central Market
REALLY INTO FOOD H·E·B

THE 2024

She **DFW** **ARTS**
SUMMER THEATER FESTIVAL

LYRIC STAGE STUDIO THEATER
September 10-15, 2024

