

THE AUTRY MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN WEST PRESENTS

13th Annual

SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL

DON'T MESS WITH AUNTIE!



NATIVE VOICES

AUTRY MUSEUM

Saturday, March 25, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 26, 1:30 p.m.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE

Sunday, April 2, 1:30 p.m.

SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL

Join Native Voices as we celebrate the matriarchs in our lives. No one shapes us more in our communities than our women—our identities, our values, our tastes in food have all been cultivated by their strong hands and minds. And, in our Native communities, the list of those who rear us extends far beyond that westernized “nuclear family.” Native Voices invites you to short plays inspired by the warrior women we affectionately call “Auntie”!

“Shoulders back, because you take life straight-on. Head held high ‘cause you’re a queen. Eyes with that Auntie-squint because you can see everything and you’re pretty sure you don’t like it. ”

- Shaydeen from *Aunty is a Verb*

FEATURING

A Likely Story

by **Alan Kilpatrick** (Cherokee)

An Auntie schools a bear and raccoon on the valuable lesson of being honest.

Leave the Gun...Take the Pie

by **Jennifer Bobbiwash** (Mississauga First Nation)

What do you do for family? What do you do for yourself? And when it comes to keeping the community and the culture alive...do you leave the gun...or take the *miina-baashkiminasigani-biitoosijigani-bakwezhigan?*

The White Van

by **Claude Jackson, Jr.** (Gila River Indian Community)

A group-home worker must face herself and the prejudices about her past when she encounters her nephew struggling with addiction.

Decoration Day

by **Maddox Pennington** (Cherokee)

Aunt Marge and Jay haven't spent much time together since Jay began their gender transition. But it takes more than that to keep an Auntie from showing her affection in her own...unique...way.

Hauntie

by **Lara Annette** (Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Red Lake Nation of Chippewa)

Even death can't stop this Auntie from her antics!

Aunty is a Verb

by **Lee Cataluna** (Native Hawaiian)

A veteran Auntie shares the power of Auntihood with an up-and-comer.



Lara Annette (Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Red Lake Nation of Chippewa) (she/her) received her BA from Harvard University and MFA from Boston University. She is an educator, writer, playwright, and published poet. Most recently, her plays have been staged by New Native Theatre in Minneapolis. She is thrilled to share this play with Native Voices. It is dedicated to her mom as all things, always.



Jennifer Bobiwash (Mississauga First Nation) (she/her) is an Anishinaabekwe from Misswezhaging. She is a First Nations actor, playwright, and director raised in Robinson Huron Treaty territory. She was a Season 21 Volt lab writer with Boston's Company One Theatre, a past Artist in Residence at Thurgood Marshall College at UC San Diego, and is currently writing two new plays, one for the Vagrancy's Blossoming staged reading series and the other for Moving Arts MadLab series.



Lee Cataluna (Native Hawaiian) (she/her) Recent work includes *Heart Strings* produced at Atlantic Theater, NY in 2022. Current commissions include *Sons of Maui* for San Francisco Playhouse, the national BIPOC Superhero Project, and *Emma Riot* for Arena Stage in D.C. Cataluna was commissioned by La Jolla Playhouse to write *Home of the Brave* for the 2017 POP Tour. Her play *Flowers of Hawaii* was workshopped with Native Voices and at Chautauqua Institute. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from UC Riverside.

**"You're standing here but you moved on?
I'm confused. Like naming a dog, 'Stay.'"**

- Mrs. Benavidez, from *The White Van*



Claude Jackson, Jr. (Gila River Indian Community) (he/him) has written six short plays for Native Voices. *Cashed Out* in 2019 won the Von Marie Atchley Excellence in Playwriting Award and was subsequently commissioned and premiered by San Francisco Playhouse as a full length play. *The Last Holdouts*, another full-length play, was a semi-finalist at the Bay Area Playwrights Festival (2020) and featured on Native Theatre Thursdays, a virtual reading series sponsored by American Indian Community House of New York City, First Nations Theatre Guild, and Eagle Project Performing Arts Company. Jackson, Jr. and his brother, Roberto wrote, produced, and directed a feature film, *In Circles* (2015).



Alan Kilpatrick (Cherokee) (he/him) is a playwright who lives in Belgium with his wife and their three dogs. He has authored some thirty plays which have been performed in Los Angeles, San Diego, New York, Toronto, and London.



Maddox Pennington (Cherokee) (they/he) is a nonbinary writer originally from the Cherokee Nation. They received an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Columbia University and currently teach college writing. Their work has been read and performed at the Moving Arts Theater Company, Theatre Viscera Podcast, and Pittsburgh and Hollywood Fringes. They will be directing *Annex*, a dark comedy they wrote about mental illness and queer family, in its 2023 Hollywood Fringe Festival premiere.

**"If I knew you could see me, you think I'd be wearing
this crazy get up? Just kidding. I totally would."**

- Hauntie, from *Hauntie*

“Which of you was in my kitchen last night? And don’t say you weren’t, cause I got me a witness.”

- Lucy, from *A Likely Story*



Darrell Dennis (Secwepemc) (he/him) is an award-winning First Nations actor, writer, director, and comedian. He has had leading roles in the TV series: *Northwood*, *The Rez*, *Blackstone*, and *Open Heart*. His one-man show *Tales of an Urban Indian* was nominated for two Dora Awards and toured the world. Dennis was the first-ever Native comedian to be hired as a cast member at the world-famous *Second City*. He was recently the writer/director and series regular on the comedy variety TV series *The Guilt Free Zone* and had a recurring role on the hit Netflix series *The Lincoln Lawyer*. Recently, Dennis wrote, directed, and starred in his feature film, *The Great Salish Heist*, which is slated for release in 2023.



Rainbow Dickerson (Thai/Rappahannock) (she/her) just completed the world premiere of *Cashed Out* at San Francisco Playhouse, which started at Native Voices as a Short Play Festival winner! She also works on screen, receiving numerous awards for her work in the feature, *Beans*, and recently joining the cast of Netflix’s *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. She is an alumna of the ABC Disney Discovers Program and other selected credits include *Gone*, *Chicago Fire*, Broadway, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, American Repertory Theatre, and many others. Dickerson is represented by Liberman Zerman Management and Griffin Talent.



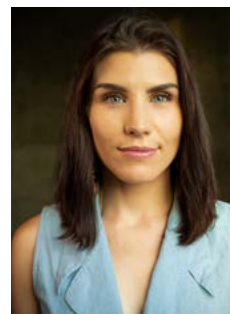
Rainy Fields (enrolled citizen of the Muscogee Nation/Cherokee descent) (she/her) graduated from the University of New Mexico with a BA in Theatre. She co-created and co-hosted the *Hollywood Ndnz Podcast* with over 40 episodes produced. Most recently she voiced the character of Piper in Rick Riordan’s audiobook *The Lost Hero*.



Jason Grasl (Blackfeet) (he/him) is an actor, playwright, and director. Film/TV credits: *Rutherford Falls*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, *9-1-1*, *White Collar*, *Hot In Cleveland*, *Cassidy Red*. Theatre credits: *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* at Garry Marshall, *Fairly Traceable* at Native Voices, *Cherokee* at Woolly Mammoth, *The Blame of Love*, *Sliver of a Full Moon* (touring), *Urban Rez* (Asst Dir), *Tony n’ Tina’s Wedding*. Playwright credits: *Lying With Badgers*, *Emergency Management*, *The Blame of Love*, *The Normal Force*.



Duane Minard (Paiute/Yurok) (he/him) is a California Native American originating from the Paiute Reservation in Bishop, California. He is an enrolled member of the Yurok Nation. Some of his theater credits include *Lying with Badgers*, *They Don’t Talk Back*, *Off the Rails*, *Ramona* (19 seasons), and *The Bad Seed*. Minard is also a playwright, Native dance choreographer, and Native drummer and dancer. He is currently in post-production of a new full-length Native film, *A Christmas in Ochopee*.



Jen Olivares (Juaneño Band of Mission Indians/ Acjachemen Nation) (she/they) is an actor, director, choreographer, and commissioned playwright with Celebration Theater in Los Angeles. Recent acting credits include: Off-Broadway: *The Pirate La Dee Da* (Atlantic Theatre Company); Regional: *Where We Belong*, *Between Two Knees*, *Manahatta* (Yale Repertory Theatre), *Oklahoma!*, *The Way The Mountain Moved*, *Off The Rails* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); National Tour: *Ajijaak on Turtle Island* (Dir.), *Rock of Ages*; TV: *Bull* (CBS), *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (Amazon Prime Video). www.jenolivares.com

“People here don’t need souvenirs, they just want to be visited. Flowers are for the people who leave them. And that’s us.”

- Auntie Margie, from *Decoration Day*



Pastiche Queen (Apache, Spanish) (they/them) is a Latindigenous poet, playwright, and performer from Denver, currently based in Hollywood. Their work as a poet and performer has been featured on Apple TV's *Dear: Viola Davis*, Facebook's Queer Community Leaders of Color initiative, and as an Artist in Residence at CalArts REDCAT. They are one of the resident poets at Da Poetry Lounge.



Arigon Starr (enrolled member of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma) (she/her) is an award-winning musician, actor, and playwright. She is also a renowned comic book writer and artist. Her playwriting and acting career began with Native Voices, who commissioned and produced her comedy musical *The Red Road* and the radio comedy *Super Indian*. She is a member of SAG-AFTRA, Actors' Equity, and is based in Los Angeles.



Jehnean Washington (Yuchi, Seminole, Shoshone) (she/her) is a multitiered and multicultural artist. A graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City, she has worked for more than 30 years, not only as a singer/songwriter and musician, but also in the entertainment industry in film, television, radio, and voiceovers. Washington is a recognized and archived singer, songwriter, musician, actor, and storyteller with the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. She is the owner of the Los Angeles-based film company Lighthorsewoman Productions, and co-wrote the award-winning screenplay for the movie *Rave*.



All actors are appearing through a special agreement between Native Voices and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

JUDGES

Tonantzin Carmelo (Tongva, Kumeyaay)
Jason Gavin (Blackfeet)
Diane Levine
Heidi Levine
Jon Lawrence Rivera

ABOUT THE DRAMATURGS



Madeline Sayet (Citizen of the Mohegan Tribe) (she/her) has been honored as a Forbes 30 Under 30, TED Fellow, and recipient of The White House Champion of Change Award from President Obama for her work as a writer, director, and performer. She is an Assistant Professor at Arizona State University and the Executive Director of the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program (YIPAP). Amidst her numerous credits as a playwright and director, her play *Where We Belong* is published by Methuen Drama.



Laura Shamas (Chickasaw) (she/her) wrote *Four Women in Red* and won the Von Marie Atchley Excellence in Playwriting Award for her short play *Seeds*. This is her third time as a dramaturg in recent years for the wonderful Native Voices Short Play Festival. Her Ph.D. is in Mythological Studies.



Waylon Lenk (Karuk) (he/him) is an Oregon-based dramaturg and grant writer. Recent artistic projects have been as a consultant on a film in pre-production by Bad Robot, the dramaturg on Yvette Nolan's English-to-English translations of Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, and as a dramaturg on Randy Reinholz's *Off the Rails* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Lenk has also presented work at the Many Nations Longhouse at the University of Oregon, the Native American Longhouse Eena Haws at Oregon State University, Portland Public Schools, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, and the Piggyback Fringe Festival. He holds a Ph.D. in Theatre Arts from the University of Oregon.

***"It was enough for us to move back to the rez.
 Grandma thought the city was changing us and
 we were straying too far."***

- Mom, from *Leave the Gun...Take the Pie*



ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DeLanna Studi (Cherokee) has more than 25 years of experience as a performer, storyteller, educator, facilitator, advocate, and activist. Her theatre credits include the first national Broadway tour of the Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning play *August: Osage County*; off-Broadway's *Gloria: A Life* (Daryl Roth Theatre); *Informed Consent* (the Duke on 42nd Street); and regional theatres (Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Portland Center Stage, Cornerstone, and Indiana Repertory Theatre). Studi originated roles in more than 18 world premieres, including 14 Native productions. A pivotal moment in her career was writing and performing *And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears*, based on retracing her family's footsteps along the Trail of Tears with her father. *And So We Walked* has been produced throughout the country and was the first American play chosen for the Journées Théâtrales de Carthage in Tunisia, Africa. Last year, it made its Off-Broadway debut at Minetta Lane where it was recorded for Audible. In film and television, Studi stars in the Peabody Award-winning *Edge of America*; *Hallmark's Dreamkeeper*; *Goliath*; *Shameless*; and *General Hospital*. She is a 2022 USA Fellow, a recipient of the Butcher Scholar Award, a MAP Fund Grant, Cherokee Preservation Grant, and the Doris Duke Performing Artist Fund. Since 2007 she has served as chair of the SAG-AFTRA National Native Americans Committee.



ABOUT THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Elisa Blandford has been producing for Native Voices at the Autry since 2014, from world premieres and touring productions to Short Play Festivals, Playwrights Retreats, and Festivals of New Plays. She co-founded Vanguard Repertory Company and the Windmill Arts Center, a black box theatre and dance studio dedicated to fostering performance and visual arts. She has a BA in Theatre from Florida State University and MBA from the University of Redlands.



ABOUT THE LITERARY ASSOCIATE

Katie Rich (Chickasaw, Cherokee) is an actor, writer, and director, as well as the Native Voices Literary Manager. Selected acting credits include: Carrie in *Desert Stories for Lost Girls* (Native Voices), Nora in *Assistance* (American Repertory Theater), Marianne Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility* (A.R.T./Bedlam). She's an alumna of the Walt Disney Talent Showcase and holds her MFA in Acting from Harvard University and the Moscow Art Theatre. www.katieanvilrich.com

NATIVE VOICES

ABOUT NATIVE VOICES AT THE AUTRY

Native Voices at the Autry places Native narratives at the center of the American story in order to facilitate a more inclusive dialogue on what it means to be American. Founded in 1994 by Randy Reinholz (Choctaw) and Jean Bruce Scott, Native Voices is dedicated to the development and production of new works for the stage written by American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and First Nations playwrights. The organization remains committed to emerging and established Native playwrights and theatre artists, to telling Native stories by and about Native people, and to providing the public access to these plays and playwrights—all with the goals of fostering greater understanding and respect of showcasing artistic voices that might otherwise not be heard.



ABOUT THE AUTRY MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN WEST

The Autry is a museum dedicated to exploring and sharing the stories, experiences, and perceptions of the diverse peoples of the American West, connecting the past to the present to inspire our shared future. The museum presents a wide range of exhibitions and public programs—including lectures, film, theatre, festivals, family events, and music—and performs scholarship, research, and educational outreach. The Autry's collection of more than 500,000 pieces of art and artifacts includes the Southwest Museum of the American Indian Collection, one of the largest and most significant collections of Native American materials in the United States.



ABOUT LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE

La Jolla Playhouse is where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in American Theatre. From Tony Award-winning plays and musicals, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls, the Playhouse brings people together to inspire discussion and open pathways to new ways of thinking. A visit to the Playhouse is an invitation to harness the transformative power of theatre to explore the here and now—and together, expand our world's compassion, understanding and hope.

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 10-11, 2023 | 29th Festival of New Plays

As the only Actors' Equity theatre company in the country devoted to developing new works by Indigenous playwrights, Native Voices has become the cornerstone of American Theatre in cultivating opportunities for Native playwrights, which we have proudly done for 29 years. Our Festival of New Plays is a ten-day residency where playwrights are partnered with an artistic team, a dramaturg, and professional actors to explore their scripts in front of an audience. We are thrilled to invite you to our 29th Festival of New Plays as we celebrate these inspiring and talented Indigenous Playwrights as they regale us with their stories of being Native today.

IN GRATITUDE

Your support is vital to the success of **Native Voices at the Autry**, allowing us to create, develop, and produce Native theatre for a national audience. We would like to acknowledge our generous supporters:

NATIVE VOICES SUPPORT COMMITTEE: TONANTZÍN CARMELO • ELENA FINNEY
ENDLICH • CAROLE GOLDBERG AND DUANE CHAMPAGNE • KIMBERLY
GUERRERO • SHELBY JIGGETTS-TIVONY • DIANE LEVINE • HEIDI LEVINE • DARYL
ROTH • GLORIA STEINEM

AND OUR ADDITIONAL SPONSORS:



ACTORS EQUITY FOUNDATION • LAURA AND DEAN BERESFORD • DAVID
CARTWRIGHT • SUSAN AND FRANK COUNTNER • THE MAX AND VICTORIA
DREYFUS FOUNDATION, INC. • JOYCE AND DAVID EVANS • HELENE JACOBS
• JUDY JACOBS • SEELEY W. MUDD FOUNDATION • PETER GLENVILLE
FOUNDATION • RAFAEL BRUNO AND CRISTIAN HAMILTON • BRENDA AND
GARY RUTTENBERG • LYNN AND STEPHEN VALBUENA

BECOME AN INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE DONOR

development@theautry.org / 323.495.4351

LEARN MORE ABOUT NATIVE VOICES SUPPORT COMMITTEE

jdavidson-goldbronn@theautry.org (Jenny Davidson-Goldbronn)

**NATIVE
VOICES**

**AUTRY
MUSEUM**
OF THE AMERICAN WEST

LA
JOLLA
PLAY
HOUSE

TheAutry.org/NativeVoices | [@NativeVoices](https://www.instagram.com/NativeVoices) | [@TheAutry](https://www.instagram.com/TheAutry)