

BETSY AIDEM (she/her) Broadway: *Prayer for the French Republic* (Tony nomination), *Leopoldstadt* (Tony Award, Best Play), *All the Way* (Tony Award, Best Play), *Beautiful*. Off-Broadway: *The Ask*, *Prayer for the French Republic*, *Nikolai and the Others*, *The Metal Children*, *Mary Rose*, *Celebration*, *Final Follies*, *Crooked*. Film/TV: *Triumph of the Will*, *Margaret*, *Irrational Man*, "The Savant," "Bull," "Inside Amy Schumer," "Law & Order: SVU," "The Americans." Awards: Obie Award for Sustained Excellence of Performance, Lucille Lortell Awards nomination, Drama League nomination, Outer Critics Circle nomination, Richard Seff Award.



LINDA ARMSTRONG (she/her) has been a theater critic with the New York Amsterdam News for 40 years, celebrated in October 2025 with a panel of appreciative directors, artists, critics, and artistic directors at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. She covers theater on-, off-, and off-off Broadway with a special focus on celebrating the work of Black theater companies and black artists. She has been a member of the Outer Critics Circle, ATCA, and the Drama Desk, where she is a member of the nominating committee and the Board. She also serves as a nominator for the Theatre World Awards and AUDELCO celebrating excellence in Black theater.



Her writing has appeared in many outlets in addition to Amsterdam News, and she also convenes panels on topics and shows she celebrates for BroadwayCon including women theater critics, the playwright and cast of *Thoughts of a Colored Man*, and organizations that fight for equity for Blacks on Broadway.

She received a 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from the AUDELCO Awards, and in 2022 was one of nine women in the theater documentary *Women of Theatre: New York*.

ANNA GRACE BARLOW (she/her) who plays Evelyn Nesbit in *Ragtime*, starred opposite Joel Courtney in the Lionsgate hit *Jesus Revolution* after her standout role as a series regular on FOX's "The Big Leap." Her recent film credits include the upcoming A24 release *Famous*, and a leading role in the indie drama *3*, which won the Las Cruces Film Festival Grand Jury Prize. She also stars in Wayfarer Studios' *Love You Anyway*, *Snow Falls*, and *Witch Hunt*, which premiered at SXSW. She had recurring roles on "Scream Queens" and "The Goldbergs," while also appearing on "Supernatural," "The Young and the Restless," "The Fosters," "Grey's Anatomy," "Blue Bloods," "Big Sky," "NCIS Hawaii," "Acapulco," "Lucifer," and "Team Kaylie." On stage she played Cher in the *Unauthorized Musical Parody of Clueless* and originated the role of Alyssa Greene in the pre-Broadway development of *The Prom*. @therealagbarlow.



ADRIAN BRYAN-BROWN (he/him) is a proud member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers for more than 40 years. With his business partner Chris Boneau, Adrian has represented over 400 plays and musicals which have won 254 Tony Awards and 12 Pulitzer Prizes (a list of the Broadway shows can be found at www.ibdb.com) and consulted on productions around the world. He has taught theatrical public relations as an adjunct professor at Brooklyn College and is married to the theatrical photographer Joan Marcus.

Adrian has repped individuals, organizations and other projects ranging from Broadway legend Carol Channing and the theater endeavors of British rockers Pete Townshend and Ray Davies, to SONY Classics recordings, the Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization, and leading British theater companies including The National Theatre, The Royal Shakespeare Company, The Old Vic and the Donmar Warehouse.

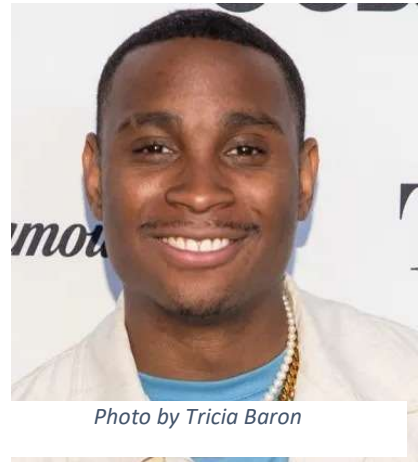
Adrian's current productions include *Chicago*, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Outsiders*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and *SIX!* He represents and consults with the Classic Stage Company (CSC), Deaf West Theatre, and the McCarter Theater.



JOHN CLAY III (he/him) plays Booker T. Washington in *Ragtime*. His credits include: Broadway: *New York, New York*; *Choir Boy* (MTC, Outer Critics Circle nominee). Off Broadway: *Ragtime*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Grand Hotel* (New York City Center Encores!); *A Raisin in the Sun* (The Public). Television: "Raising Kanan," PBS' "Great Performances" (Mass). Education: Carnegie Mellon University. @johnclayiii



JORDAN E. COOPER (he/him) performed his own plays at his childhood Baptist church in Texas and in 2022 became the youngest Black playwright on Broadway with *Ain't No Mo*, which earned him a Tony nomination, after an enthusiastically received earlier run at The Public Theater. He is the creator, executive producer and showrunner for "The Ms. Pat Show" on BET+ and made the "Forbes 30 Under 30" list for Hollywood & Entertainment in 2024. He was featured in the final season of "Pose" (FX) as the character MC Tyrone. His latest project *Oh Happy Day!* opened at The Public Theater October 15, 2025.



RODD CYRUS (he/him) is making his Broadway debut as Harry Houdini in *Ragtime*. His television credits include "Elsbeth," "The Equalizer," and "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" (ABC). Films include independents such as *72 Hours* (Netflix), *Doctor, Doctor* (Apple TV+), and multiple award winning short films. Off-Broadway: Houdini in *Ragtime* and Giuseppe in *The Light in the Piazza* (New York City Center Encores!). Regional: Don Juan in *Valor* (The Guthrie Theater) and Eddie in *Mamma Mia!* (The Hollywood Bowl). Education: B.A. UCLA, M.F.A. The Juilliard School. @roddcyrus



SUSANNAH FLOOD (she/her) Broadway: *Birthday Candles*, *The Cherry Orchard*. Select Off-Broadway: *The Counter*, *The Comeuppance* (Obie Award, Lortel nomination), *Staff Meal*, *Make Believe*, *Plano*, *The Effect*, *Tribes*, *Scenes from a Marriage*, *Love and Information*, *Mr. Burns*, *The Sonic Life of a Giant Tortoise*, *Fulfillment*, *As You Like It*, *Baby Screams Miracle*. Select Film & TV: Kristen Stewart's forthcoming *The Chronology of Water*; Ann on "Life & Beth" (Hulu), and Kate Littlejohn on "For the People" (Shondaland/ABC). BA: UC Berkeley. MFA: Brown/Trinity.



JOEL KIRK (he/him) is a New York City based award-winning theater director and producer who specializes in the development of new plays and musicals. He has worked with theaters including The Public, New World Stages, Playwrights Horizons, Westport County Playhouse, The Lark, and New Dramatists. He has collaborated with Emmy, Oscar, Grammy, and Tony-winning artists as well as Pulitzer Prize winning playwrights, and guest directed at NYU'S Grad Playwriting Program, Juilliard, Belmont University, and Fordham University's Playwriting Program. He is developing two new plays, several musicals, and a new musical adaptation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Joel is the Chairman/CEO of Joel Kirk Productions LLC: a production company that produces commercial theater and comedy specials, and director/producer of the touring show *Theater Adult featuring Comedian Gianmarco Soresi* whose past guests include comedian Joel Kim Booster.



Before launching Discovering Broadway, Joel joined NewYorkRep as their first Associate Artistic Director, and launched the company's education fellowship.

ETHAN LIPTON (he/him) writes plays and songs. He is the 2023 Kleban Prize winner for librettists and is a 2023 Creative Capital Grantee for *We Are Your Robots*. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow, an Alpert Prize Fellow at MacDowell, an Obie winner, a member of the Public Theater's Emerging Writers Group and the Working Farm Group at Space at Ryder Farm, a Clubbed Thumb artist, and the Playwrights Realm's inaugural Page One Fellow. He has received grants and commissions from the Public Theater, NYFA, Lincoln Center, Clubbed Thumb, Playwrights Horizons, MTC, True Love Productions, Barrington Stage, the Civilians, the New York Public Library, Media Arts Exploration and the Onassis Foundation.



Ethan Lipton & his Orchestra has been a band since 2005 and features Eben Levy (guitar), Ian Riggs (standup bass) and Vito Dieterle (sax), and Ethan on vocals. Ethan writes the songs and the quartet arranges them "via telepathy and Doritos" as Ethan notes on his website. Ethan's produced plays include *Tumacho*, *Red-Handed Otter*, *Luther*, *Goodbye April Hello May*, *100 Aspects of the Moon*, *Meat*, and *The Seat of Our Pants*, opening November 13, 2025. <http://ethanlipton.com/>

KRISTOLYN LLOYD (she/her) is a Grammy and Emmy Award-winning actress. Broadway: *1776*, *Dear Evan Hansen*. Off-Broadway: *Blue Ridge* (Atlantic), *Paradise Blue*, *Confederates* (Signature Theatre), *Sally and Tom*, *Hamlet* (The Public Theater), *Invisible Thread* (Second Stage Theatre), *Heathers: The Musical* (New World Stages), *Cabin in the Sky* (Encores! City Center), *Little Women* (Primary Stages). Select Regional: *Paradise Blue* (Williamstown). Film Credits: *Mr. Crocket* (Hulu). TV includes "Random Acts of Flyness" (HBO), "Elementary," "Madam Secretary," "Kevin Can Wait" (CBS), "ER," "Chicago Med" (NBC), "Lie to Me" (FOX). <https://www.kristolynlloyd.com/>



JOAN MARCUS (she/her) grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, attended George Washington University in Washington, D.C., spent 15 years as a photographer at the Kennedy Center and other Washington, D.C. theater companies, as well as The National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center and on tour.

Joan moved to New York City in 1992, where she shot more than 1000 shows, including musicals *Wicked*, *The Lion King*, *RENT*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Jersey Boys*, *Caroline, Or Change*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, and *Hamilton*, and plays including *Angels in America*, *The Piano Lesson*, *The Ferryman*, *Leopoldstadt*, and *Eclipsed*.

In 2014, Joan received a special Tony Honor for Excellence in the Theatre, and in 2018 The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center acquired her collection. She lives in New York City with her husband the theater publicist Adrian Bryan-Brown and continues to photograph productions on Broadway and beyond.



Photo by Sofia Colvin

JONATHAN MCCRORY (he/him) is a Tony and Obie winning and Emmy nominated Harlem-based artist who has served as Artistic Director at National Black Theatre since 2012. He helps select, develop, and manage programs and productions such as *The Peculiar Patriot* and *Kill Move Paradise*. He helped to develop the National Black Theatre of Sweden, and directed numerous productions including *Dead and Breathing*, *HandsUp*, and *Blacken The Bubble* and works including *Hope Speaks*, *Evoking Him: Baldwin* and *Emergence: A Communion* (based on adrienne marie brown's book *Emergent Strategy*).



He was named as one of Craine's New York Business 2020 Notable LGBTQ Leaders and Executives, in 2016 was awarded 40 under 40 Rising Star award from the New York Nonprofit Media, the Emerging Producer Award by the National Black Theatre Festival of Winston Salem, North Carolina, the Torch Bearer Award by Woodie King Jr. He is a founding member of the producing organizations Harlem9, the Movement Theatre Company, and national services organizations such as Black Theater Commons and Next Generation National Network. McCrory sits on the National Advisory Committee for Howlround.com and was a member of the original cohort for artEquity. He is also on the steering committee of JUBILEE, working to help artists from marginalized communities. He has served on the nominating committees for the Tony Awards and the Lucille Lortel Awards.
<https://www.jonathanmccrory.com/>

CITLALI PIZARRO (she/her) is a New York-based writer and theater producer with bylines in 3Views, American Theatre, Current Affairs and Howlround. In 2023, she was named a TCG Rising Leader of Color in Arts Journalism and a fellow at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Critics Institute. In 2021-2022, she was a PEN America Writing for Justice Fellow, a Shadowproof Marvel Cooke Fellow for abolition journalism, and the inaugural Lin-Manuel Miranda Family Fellow in Connectivity at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. She currently works in The Public Theater's producing department. She will receive the 2025 Edward Medina Prize for Excellence in Cultural Criticism on the second day of the ATCANY2025 conference.



BRITTANI SAMUEL (she/her) is an arts journalist, theater critic, and the co-editor of the Obie Award-winning 3Views on Theater. Her work has appeared in American Theatre Magazine, Broadway News, The New York Times, among other publications. She is an alum of the BIPOC Critics Lab at the Kennedy Center and the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Critics institute. She was the inaugural recipient of the Edward Medina Prize for Excellence in Cultural Criticism in 2022, received the 2023-24 George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism earlier this year, and is the 2025 ATCA Perspectives in Criticism speaker at the ATANY2025 conference.
<https://www.brittanisamuel.com/>



ZOE SARNAK (she/her) Zoe Sarnak is a Drama Desk nominated and Larson Award winning composer, lyricist, and writer, as well as a finalist for the Ebb and Kleban Awards. Her work has been developed and produced at Second Stage, New York Stage & Film, The Public, Roundabout Theatre Company, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Geffen Playhouse, New York Theatre Workshop, 5th Avenue Theatre, Barrington Stage Company, Hermitage Artist Retreat, Guggenheim, MCC, and many others, and featured by the NY Times Live, The Shannara Chronicles (Spike), Silent Witness (BBC) and in benefit concerts and albums for Everytown. Sarnak was named to the 2024 Broadway Women's Fund "Women to Watch" list.
<https://www.zoesarnak.com/>



ROBERT W. SCHNEIDER (he/him) is the host of “Behind The Curtain: Broadway’s Living Legends” (7 years, +600 episodes), “Broadway Bound: The Musicals That Never Came To Broadway”, “Fifty Key Stage Musicals”, “This Was a Thing”, and “Gay Card Revoked”. He is the author *Queer Musicals: From Boy Meets Boy to Jagged Little Pill* (Oxford Press 2025) and *Fifty Key State Musicals* (Routledge), a producer at 54 Below, professor of theater at Penn State University and the New York Film Academy, and artistic director of the award-winning off-Broadway theater company The J2 Spotlight Musical Theater Company. Robert has directed at Lincoln Center, Second Stage, Center Theater Group, North Shore Music Theater, York Theater, Walnut Street Theater, PBS, USC, UCLA, NYU, and Fordham.
Insta: @robwschneider



WHITNEY WHITE (she/her) is an Obie and Lilly Award-winning director, writer, and musician based in New York. Recent directing: *Jaja's African Hair Braiding* (Broadway), *The Secret Life of Bees* (The Almeida), *Soft* (Lucille Lortel nomination for Outstanding Direction), *On Sugarland* (Lucille Lortel and Drama Desk nominations for Outstanding Direction), *Saturday Church* (New York Theatre Workshop), *What to Send Up When it Goes Down* (The Public, Playwrights Horizons, BAM, Woolly Mammoth, America Repertory Theatre), *The Amen Corner* (Shakespeare DC), *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (Second Stage/WP Theater), *For All The Women Who Thought They Were Mad* (Soho Rep). Original works include *Semblance* (NYTW), *Definition* (Bushwick Starr), and *Macbeth in Stride*, for which she won an Elliot Norton Award for Best Musical Performance (American Repertory Theatre, Under the Radar Festival at The Public Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Philadelphia Theatre Company).



Fellowships include Sundance Theatre Lab, NYTW 2050 Fellowship, Drama League Next Wave, Jerome Fellowship, Colt Coeur, Roundabout Directing Fellowship. Whitney is a Rolex Arts Initiative Protegee, an Associate Artist at the Roundabout, and an Associate Director at Shakespeare DC. Recently, she was also a writer on Boots Riley's upcoming show "I'm A Virgo" (Amazon/Media Res). MFA Brown Trinity Rep, BA Northwestern.

BESS WOHL (she/her) is an awarded playwright and filmmaker whose many plays have been produced on and off Broadway, regionally, and internationally. They include *Grand Horizons* (Broadway, Tony Nomination for Best Play), *Camp Siegfried*, *Make Believe*, *Continuity*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *American Hero*, *Barcelona*, *Touched*, *In*, *Cats Talk Back*, and the musical *Pretty Filthy*. She recently made her feature film debut, *Baby Ruby*, starring Noémie Merlant and Kit Harington. The film premiered at the 2022 Toronto Film Festival and was released by Magnolia Pictures in early 2023. She also wrote for the Apple TV+ series, "Extrapolations."

