

## Artist Bios

### GET ON YOUR KNEES

**JACQUELINE NOVAK** (*Writer/Performer*) Jacqueline Novak is a comedian whose Off-Broadway, one-woman stand-up show, “Get on Your Knees” is a New York Times “Critic’s Pick.” Recognized on two Times lists, “Best Theater of 2019” and “Best Comedy of 2019”, the show has been extended *four* times in New York City, along with two sold-out shows at Largo in LA. Jacqueline is a regular on “Late Night with Seth Meyers” and “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon.” She has appeared on “The Late Late Show with James Corden,” HBO’s “2 Dope Queens,” “Watch What Happens Live” with Andy Cohen, and in her own half-hour stand-up special on Comedy Central’s “The Half Hour.” Jacqueline’s memoir *How to Weep in Public: Feeble Offerings on Depression from One Who Knows* was published by Crown in 2016 and will be available as an audiobook this year. Her TV credits include appearances on “Inside Amy Schumer,” “Animals” (HBO), and “The Characters” (Netflix). She’s written for “Broad City” and “Good Talk With Anthony Jeselnik” (Comedy Central) as well as “Soft Focus With Jena Friedman” (Adult Swim). Jacqueline grew up in Chappaqua, New York and went to Georgetown University. Instagram: @jacnov Twitter: @jacquelinenovak

**JOHN EARLY** (*Director*) is a comedian who currently stars as Elliott on the HBO Max series “Search Party.” He wrote, created, and starred in the miniseries “555” for Vimeo with frequent collaborator Kate Berlant, directed by Andrew DeYoung. He also wrote, executive produced, and starred in his own episode of Netflix’s “The Characters.” In 2018 he produced a revival of Wallace Shawn’s *Marie & Bruce* at Jack in Brooklyn. John has appeared on TV in “Wet Hot American Summer”, “Los Espookys”, “30 Rock,” “Broad City”, “At Home With Amy Sedaris”, “Portlandia”, “High Maintenance”, and “Bob’s Burgers,” and in the films *Other People*, *Neighbors 2*, *Fort Tilden*, *The Disaster Artist*, *Beatriz at Dinner*, and *Late Night*. His stand-up has been featured on “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon,” “2 Dope Queens” on HBO, and “The Meltdown with Jonah and Kumail” on Comedy Central. He was an Artist in Residence and Comedy Curator at Ars Nova, where he hosted the variety show *Showgasm*. He performed his solo shows *Literally Me* and *Now More Than Ever* at Joe’s Pub and The Bell House, and co-hosted a weekly stand up show at Cake Shop alongside Jacqueline Novak.

### HI, ARE YOU SINGLE?

**RYAN J. HADDAD** (*Writer/Performer*) is an actor, playwright, and autobiographical performer based in New York. His acclaimed solo play *Hi, Are You Single?* was presented in The Public Theater’s Under the Radar Festival and continues to tour the country. Other New York credits include *My Straighties* (Ars Nova/ANT Fest), *Noor and Hadi Go to Hogwarts* (Theater Breaking Through Barriers), and the cabaret *Falling for Make Believe* (Joe’s Pub). Regional credits include *The Maids*, Lucy Thurber’s *Orpheus in the Berkshires* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), and *Hi, Are You Single?* (Guthrie Theater, Cleveland Play House, Williamstown Theatre Festival). He has a recurring role on the Ryan Murphy Netflix series “The Politician.” Additional television credits include “Bull,” “Madam Secretary,” and “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt.” Haddad has performed original work at La MaMa E.T.C., the New Museum, and The LGBT Center of New York City. His plays in development include *Good Time Charlie* and *Dark Disabled Stories*. He is an alum of The Public Theater’s Emerging Writers Group and a former

Queer|Art Performance and Playwriting Fellow, under the mentorship of Moe Angelos. Learn more at [www.ryanjhaddad.com](http://www.ryanjhaddad.com) and follow him on social at @ryanjhaddad.

**LAURA SAVIA** (*Director*) is the Associate Artistic Director of the Tony Award-winning Williamstown Theatre Festival, where she is in her tenth season. Directing credits include the world premieres of Shakina Nayfack's *Chonburi International Hotel & Butterfly Club* (upcoming, Williamstown), James Anthony Tyler's *Artney Jackson* (Williamstown), Lucy Thurber's *Once Upon a Time in the Berkshires* and *Orpheus in the Berkshires* (Williamstown), Lucy Thurber's *Unstuck* (59E59/Throughline), and *Bareknuckle* (Vertigo Theatre) as well as Ryan Haddad's *Hi, Are You Single?* (Public Theater, The Guthrie). Her production of Jonathan Caren's *The Recommendation* for IAMA won two Ovation Awards, including Best Production. Other directing credits include James Lescesne's *The Absolute Brightness of Leonardy Pelkey* (City Theatre), Adam Rapp's *Red Light Winter* (Itself Festival in Poland) and Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* featuring Hoon Lee (Warren Miller Performing Arts Center). She has directed short plays by Rob Askins and Halley Feiffer for Naked Angels and Living Newspaper plays by Sarah Burgess and Don Nguyen (at A.R.T./Club Oberon, Joe's Pub, and Le Poisson Rouge). She has developed work with Roundabout Theatre Company, New York Theatre Workshop, Atlantic Theater Company, Second Stage, Labyrinth Theater Company, Ars Nova, Playwrights Realm, Primary Stages, Rattlestick, and Ma-Yi Theater Company. Assistant directing includes Broadway's *The Merchant of Venice*, starring Al Pacino. Laura spent five seasons on the artistic staff at Atlantic Theater Company. She is an alum of the Drama League Directors Project and Northwestern University.

**DANNY SHARRON** (*Director*) is a Brooklyn-based theater director with a focus on developing new plays. He is committed to creating work about the LGBTQ+ experience and providing a platform from which the voices of that community can be heard. Danny recently directed the world premiere of Jason Kim's *The Model American* at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, and an environmental production of Taylor Mac's *Okay* at Bushwick's Central Arts. He is also the Senior Associate Director for the Tony Award-winning *Dear Evan Hansen* (Broadway/West End/Tour). He has developed and directed work with The Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, Roundabout Theatre Company, Manhattan Theatre Club, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Ars Nova, LAByrinth Theater Company, Primary Stages, Ma-Yi, and The Lark. Danny is a recipient of New York Theatre Workshop's 2050 Fellowship, Williamstown's Bill Foeller Fellowship, The Drama League's New York Fellowship, and is an alumnus of the Ars Nova Director's Troupe. Proud member of SDC. [www.dannysharron.com](http://www.dannysharron.com)

## **#TEAMHUSBAND**

Meet #TeamHusband, DC's premiere genderqueer real fake drag troupe. #TeamHusband produces QTBIPOC-centered drag+ shows showcasing the most sultry and surreal drag kings, queens, monsters, nonbinary performers, and other trans & queer performance artists the District has to offer. Radically silly and queer as heck, #TeamHusband shows are love letters to queer friendship, community, and camp. Come through, get your dollars out, and get ready for evening of pure delight. Absolutely no racism, anti-Blackness, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, fatphobia, or white gays clacking fans allowed.

## **THE JUNGLE**

**JOE MURPHY and JOE ROBERTSON** (*Playwrights*) Friends from Northern England who met at Oxford University and began writing plays together, the two Joes set up the Good Chance Theatre in the Calais refugee camp in September 2015, a space of expression where theatre, art, dance and music could be made. Distressed by news accounts of the migrant crisis in Europe they visited the Jungle and founded Good Chance in a secondhand geodesic dome tent, programming around the talents of the Jungle's transient population. It became an empowering, entertaining, and rare melting pot for the camp's myriad nationalities until March 2016, when a section of the camp was forcibly cleared by French authorities. Returning to England, they wrote a show about their experiences; the result is *The Jungle*, a passionate, ambitious, questioning play that follows a year in the life of the camp. Today Mr. Murphy and Mr. Robertson are playwrights and joint Artistic Directors of Good Chance Theatre. Joe Murphy grew up in Leeds and Joe Robertson grew up in Hull. They began writing plays together at university in 2011. Their short plays include *Fairway Manor* (Burton Taylor Studio, Oxford Playhouse), *Ten Bits on Boondoggling* and *Paper Play* (Edinburgh Fringe), and *Maria Popova* (Greater Manchester tram network). *The Jungle* is Murphy and Robertson's first full-length play.

**STEPHEN DALDRY** (*Director*) started his career at the Sheffield Crucible Theatre and directed extensively in Britain's regional theatres. In London he was Artistic Director of the Gate Theatre and the Royal Court Theatre where he headed the £26 million redevelopment. He has also directed at the National Theatre, the Public Theatre in New York and transferred many productions both to Broadway and the West End. His award-winning 1992 National Theatre production of *An Inspector Calls* recently completed a 16-week run in the West End following a successful U.K. tour. *Billy Elliot the Musical* opened at the Victoria Palace Theatre in 2005, where it ran for 11 years. It has also played on Broadway, in Holland, Seoul, Sydney, Melbourne, Chicago, Toronto and across the U.S. with two further productions opening in Japan and Korea in 2017. In 2009, the production won ten Tony Awards including Best Musical, more than any other British show in Broadway history. Its first U.K. and Ireland Tour will finish its highly successful 18-month run in Hamburg. Stephen's first four films *Billy Elliot*, *The Hours*, *The Reader*, and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* together received 19 Academy Award nominations and two wins. His film, *Trash*, set in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, was nominated for Best Film Not in the English Language at the 2015 BAFTAs. He also directed *The Audience* and *Skylight* to critical acclaim both in London and on Broadway with *Skylight* winning a Tony Award for Best Revival. Stephen has previously directed for BBC Radio and Television. He is Executive Producer and Director on the highly acclaimed Netflix series *The Crown* by Peter Morgan, which won Best Drama Series at the Golden Globes. Stephen was Creative Executive Producer of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**JUSTIN MARTIN** (*Director*) previously directed *Last Chance* with Good Chance Theatre at the Young Vic in 2016. Theatre includes: *Low Level Panic* (Old Fitz Theatre, Sydney; Galway Theatre Festival and Irish National Tour), *Street* (Mick Lally Theatre), *The Black Balloon* (in development), *Harvey and Frieda* (Arcola Theatre), *Far Away* and *Skintight* (fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne), *The Kitchen* (HMS Theatre, Vic), *Echarcissus* (Natya Mandala Theatre), and *Billie* (The Studio, Sydney Opera House and La Mama). As Associate Director: *Inheritance* (Young Vic/Scott Rudin – workshop), *Skylight* (West End, Broadway), *The Audience* (West End, Broadway), *Let The Right One In* (National Theatre Of Scotland, The Royal Court, Apollo Theatre, St Anne's Warehouse), *Billy Elliot* (New York, Toronto, Brazil, Chicago, North America Tour, Korea and Australia), and

*The Give and Take* (Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company). Television credits include *The Crown* (Series 1 and 2).

## **A STRANGE LOOP**

**MICHAEL R. JACKSON** (*Playwright*) Michael R. Jackson's *A Strange Loop* (which had its 2019 world premiere at Playwrights Horizons in association with Page 73 Productions) was called "a full-on laparoscopy of the heart, soul, and loins" and a "gutsy, jubilantly anguished musical with infectious melodies" by Ben Brantley for *The New York Times*, and "exhilarating and wickedly funny" by Sara Holdren for *New York*. In *The New Yorker*, Vinsom Cunningham wrote, "To watch this show is to enter, by some urgent, bawdy magic, an ecstatic and infinitely more colorful version of the famous surreal lithograph by M. C. Escher: the hand that lifts from the page, becoming almost real, then draws another hand, which returns the favor." As a songwriter, Jackson has seen his work performed everywhere from Joe's Pub to NAMT. He wrote lyrics and co-wrote book for the musical adaptation of the 2007 horror film *Teeth* with composer and co-bookwriter Anna K. Jacobs. He wrote book, music, and lyrics for the musicals *White Girl In Danger* as well as for *A Strange Loop*. Awards and associations include: a New Professional Theatre Festival Award, a Jonathan Larson Grant, a Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award, an ASCAP Foundation Harold Adamson Award, a Whiting Award, the Helen Merrill Award for Playwriting, a Dramatist Guild Fellowship and he is an alum of Page 73's Interstate Writers Group. He has commissions from Grove Entertainment & Barbara Whitman Productions and LCT3. Jackson holds a BFA and MFA in playwriting and Musical Theatre Writing from the NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

**STEPHEN BRACKETT** (*Director*) Broadway: *The Lightning Thief* (Longacre Theater), *Be More Chill* (Lyceum Theater). Off-Broadway: *A Strange Loop* (Playwrights Horizons), *Be More Chill* (Signature and Two River Theaters), *The Lightning Thief* (Theaterworks USA/National Tour), Jonathan Tolins' *Buyer & Cellar* (Rattlestick and Barrow Street Theaters/National Tour), Kerrigan-Lowdermilk's *The Mad Ones* (Prospect Theater), Caroline McGraw's *Ultimate Beauty Bible* (Page 73), Jacob Yandura and Rebekah Greer Melocik's *Wringer* (NYCCT), Lucas Kavner's *Carnival Kids* (Lesser America), Ken Urban's *The Correspondent* (Rattlestick), Chad Beckim's *After* (Partial Comfort), Dan Fishback's *The Material World* (Dixon Place), Bekah Brunstetter's *Be A Good Little Widow* (Ars Nova), and *The Tenant* (Woodshed Collective). Regional: *Fall Spings* (Barrington Stage), Joshua Harmon's *Significant Other* (Geffen Playhouse), Tasha Gordon-Solmon's *I Now Pronounce* (Humana Festival), Philip Dawkins' *Le Switch* (About Face), David West Read's *The Great Pretender* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley). London: *Be More Chill* (The Other Palace) and *Buyer & Cellar* (Menier Chocolate Factory)

**RAJA FEATHER KELLY** (*Choreographer*) Choreographer/Director Raja Feather Kelly is the artistic director of New Brooklyn Theatre. In 2009, he founded the dance-theatre-media company the feath3r theory. The two companies merged in 2018. Raja is a Creative Associate at The Juilliard School, and has been awarded a Creative Capital Award (2019), a National Dance Project Production Grant (2019), a Breakout Award from the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (2018), Dance Magazine's inaugural Harkness Promise Award (2018), the Solange MacArthur Award for New Choreography (2016), and is a three-time

Princess Grace Award winner (2017, 2018, 2019). He was born in Fort Hood, Texas and holds a B.A. in Dance and English from Connecticut College.

Raja has been named as the 2019–2020 Randjelović/Stryker Resident Commissioned Artist at New York Live Arts and is an inaugural Jerome Hill Artist Fellow. Raja has also been awarded a New York Dance Performance "Bessie" Award, a Bessie Schonberg Fellowship at The Yard, a DanceWEB Scholarship, a New York Foundation for the Arts Choreography Fellowship, a HERE Arts Fellowship, 2018 Creator-in-Residence at Kickstarter, and a Choreography Fellowship at the Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU. Raja was featured on the February 2020 Dance Magazine cover.

Over the past decade he has created fifteen evening-length works with his company the feather theory to critical acclaim. Most recently, *UGLY (Black Queer Zoo)* at The Bushwick Starr, and *We May Never Dance Again* at The Invisible Dog in Brooklyn. Professionally, Raja has performed with Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group, David Dorfman Dance, Kyle Abraham|Abraham.In.Motion, and zoe | juniper. He has also managed a number of dance companies: Race Dance, Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion, zoe | juniper, and Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group.

In 2020, Kelly made his directorial debut at New York City's Second Stage Theatre with *We're Gonna Die*. Since 2016, Raja has choreographed extensively for Off-Broadway theatre in New York City, most notably for Signature Theatre, Soho Rep, and New York Theatre Workshop and Playwrights Horizons. Kelly is the 2019 SDCF Joe Callaway Award Finalist for outstanding choreography of *A Strange Loop* (Playwrights Horizons) and *Fairview* (Soho Rep, Berkeley Rep, TFANA and winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Drama). Frequent collaborators include: Lileana Blain-Cruz, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Sarah Benson, and Lila Neugebauer. Other theatre credits include choreography for *Skittles Commercial: The Musical* (Town Hall), *The Chronicles of Cardigan and Khente* (SohoRep), *Everyday Afroplay* (JACK), *GURLS* (Princeton University, Yale Repertory Theatre), *Electric Lucifer* (The Kitchen), *Lempicka* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *The House That Will Not Stand* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Fireflies* (Atlantic Theatre Company), *If Pretty Hurts Ugly Must Be a Muhfucka* (Playwrights Horizons, nominated for the 2019 Lucille Lortel Award and the 2019 Chita Rivera Award for Outstanding Choreography), *The Good Swimmer* (BAM), and *Faust* (Opera Omaha).

**RONA SIDDIQUI** (*Music Director*) is composer/lyricist based in NYC. She is a 2020 recipient of the Jonathan Larson Grant and the 2019 recipient of the Billie Burke Ziegfeld award. Her show *Salaam Medina: Tales of a Halfghan*, an autobiographical comedy about growing up bi-ethnic in America, had a reading at Playwrights Horizons Nov 2019 (dir. by Raja Feather Kelly). Other musicals include *One Good Day*, *The Tin*, and *Treasure in NYC*. She is the recipient of the ASCAP Foundation Mary Rodgers/Lorenz Hart Award, and the ASCAP Foundation/Max Dreyfus Scholarship. She has written pieces for Wicked's 16th anniversary commemoration *Flying Free*, 24 Hour Musicals, Prospect Theater Company, The Civilians, the NYC Gay Men's Chorus, and 52nd St Project, and has performed concerts of her work at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and 54 Below. Original scores she has written include *The Vagina Monologues*, *Middletown* and *The Good Person of Szechuan*. Music directing credits: *A Strange Loop*, *Bella: An American Tall Tale*, *Who's Your Baghdaddy or How I Started the Iraq War*. [www.ronasiddiqui.com](http://www.ronasiddiqui.com)