

PRIDE PLAYS

JUNE 3–6, 2025

WOOLLY
HIGH

Rattlestick
THEATER

CONTENTS

PAGE 3	ABOUT US
PAGE 4	WOOLLY MAMMOTH 25–26 SEASON
PAGE 5	GOLDEN TICKET OFFER SCHEDULE + TICKETS
PAGE 6–9	PRIDE PLAYS BILLINGS
PAGE 10–12	PRIDE PLAYS TEAM PLAYWRIGHTS BIOS
PAGE 13	DONORS SPECIAL THANKS
PAGE 14–15	SPECIAL PROGRAMMING LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
PAGE 16	IN THE LOBBY



Filming, recording, or taking photographs of these performances by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited. Please silence your cell phones and any other noisemaking devices.

ABOUT PRIDE PLAYS



PRIDE PLAYS' mission is to celebrate and platform queer works, introduce new voices to the theatrical ecosystem, and support the next generation of artists. We hope to foster a deeper understanding of and appreciation for queer stories. Pride Plays was launched in 2019 by founders Michael Urie, Doug Nevin, and Nick Mayo in partnership with Rattlestick Theater. It is currently lead by producers Sam Gravitte, Sammy Lopez, and Ibi Owolabi.

ABOUT WOOLLY MAMMOTH



The Tony Award®-winning **WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY** creates badass theatre that highlights the stunning, challenging, and tremendous complexity of our world. For over 40 years, Woolly has maintained a high standard of artistic rigor while simultaneously daring to take risks, innovate, and push beyond perceived boundaries. One of the few remaining theatres in the country to maintain a company of artists, Woolly serves an essential research and development role within the American theatre. Plays premiered here have gone on to productions at hundreds of theatres all over the world and have had lasting impacts on the field. Currently co-led by Artistic Director Maria Manuela Goyanes and Managing Director Kimberly E. Douglas, Woolly is located in Washington, DC, equidistant from the Capitol and the White House. This unique location influences Woolly's investment in actively working towards an equitable, participatory, and creative democracy.

ABOUT RATTLESTICK THEATER



Founded in 1994, **RATTLESTICK THEATER** has been steadfast in producing diverse, provocative, and expansive new work to foster the future voices of the American theater. From its historic West Village theater, Rattlestick has produced the first plays and early works of some of today's leading voices, including Martyna Majok (*Ironbound*), Diana Oh (*mylingerieplay*), and Heidi Schreck (*There Are No More Big Secrets*). Rattlestick is where some of our nation's most celebrated playwrights are encouraged to test their boldest ideas, including Dael Orlandersmith (*Until the Flood*), José Rivera (*Massacre, Sing to Your Children*), and Samuel D. Hunter (*Lewiston/Clarkston*, nominated for the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play and the Outer Critics Circle Awards for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play). Now led by Artistic Director Will Davis, the first transgender person to run an off-Broadway theater, Rattlestick is redoubling its efforts to support energetic theater that responds to the complexities of our culture through the radical distribution of resources toward the creation of new theatrical work.

WOOLLY
HAMMOTH

[25-26
SEASON]

LEARN
MORE

ALI WONG AND BILL HADER
present

DEAD Inside

created & performed by RIKI LINDHOME
directed by BRIAN MCELHANEY

WOOLLY
HAMMOTH JULY 9-27

WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE CO. •
BOSTON'S COMPANY ONE THEATRE
present

THE GREAT PRIVATION

(How to flip ten cents into a dollar)

by NIA AKILAH ROBINSON
directed by MINA MORITA

WOOLLY
HAMMOTH COMPANY ONE SEP 11-OCT 12

ho ho ho
ha ha ha ha

created & performed by JULIA MASLI
directed by KIM NOBLE

WOOLLY
HAMMOTH NOV 12-DEC 21

THE WORLD TO COME

by ALI VITERBI
directed by HOWARD SHALWITZ

WOOLLY
HAMMOTH THEATER J FEB 3-MAR 1

SASHA VELOUR'S TRAVESTY

WOOLLY
HAMMOTH MAR 24-APR 12

A Fine MADNESS

created & performed by JUSTIN WEAKS
directed by RAYMOND O. CALDWELL

WOOLLY
HAMMOTH JUNE 2-21



GOLDEN TICKET

The Golden Ticket is Woolly's
Wonka-inspired all-access pass!

Beginning next season, Golden Ticket holders
unlock every production for a full year!

*Every show at Woolly
ignites your imagination
in unexpected ways—
experience it all and be
transformed.*

TWO PRICE OPTIONS

\$250 OR \$375

EARLY LOOK
PRICE

GOLDEN
PRICE

LEARN
MORE

PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PLAYS PLAYS PLAYS PLAYS PLAYS

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

WASHINGTON D.C. | JUNE 3 THRU JUNE 6

TUE
03
PONY | Mainstage
NOVIOS | Rehearsal Hall
FEAR & WONDER | Workshop Studio

WED
04
THE NORMAL HEART | Mainstage
THE HOTEL/MAKEDA | Rehearsal Hall
MOTHER MARY | Workshop Studio

THUR
05
PONY | Mainstage
NOVIOS | Rehearsal Hall
FEAR & WONDER | Workshop Studio

FRI
06
THE NORMAL HEART | Mainstage
THE HOTEL/MAKEDA | Rehearsal Hall
MOTHER MARY | Workshop Studio

BOOK
TICKETS

SUPPORT
PRIDE PLAYS

ALL READINGS START AT 7:30 PM

PONY

BY Sylvan Oswald // DIRECTED BY Will Davis

Tue, June 3 + Thu, June 5

7:30pm on the Mainstage

STAGE MANAGER: **AYSHA ZACKRIA**

CAST:

PONY: **O'MALLEY STEUERMAN**

CAV: **HOLLY TWYFORD**

HEATH: **CAM SHEGOUE**

MARIE: **JORDANNA HERNANDEZ**

STELL: **ANNA THEONI DIGIOVANNI**

When Pony, a formerly incarcerated trans guy, moves to a small rural town to start a new life, he quickly becomes entangled with its isolated community. He starts to fall for a waitress who is obsessed with a local murder; his social worker doesn't understand him; and he is pursued by a young trans man who thinks Pony could be the father he always wanted. Amid this whirlwind of fear and desire, Pony must find the strength to confront the stories he's been told about masculinity, violence, and self-worth.

THE NORMAL HEART

BY Larry Kramer // DIRECTED BY Zhailon Levingston

Wed, June 4 + Fri, June 6

7:30pm on the Mainstage

STAGE MANAGER: **RICKY RAMÓN**

CAST:

NED WEEKS: **ROBIN DE JESÚS**

DR. EMMA BROOKNER: **KATY SULLIVAN**

FELIX TURNER: **JAKE LOEWENTHAL**

BRUCE NILES: **NOAH ISRAEL**

TOMMY BOATWRIGHT: **RYAN J. HADDAD**

MICKEY MARCUS: **TOM STORY**

BEN WEEKS: **JAMES WHALEN**

HIRAM KEEBLER: **BAAKARI WILDER**

CRAIG DONNER: **MICHAEL MAINWARING**

A searing drama about public and private indifference to the AIDS plague and one man's lonely fight to awaken the world to the crisis, *The Normal Heart* was based on Kramer's real-life experience. Produced to acclaim in New York, London and Los Angeles, the play centers on Ned Weeks, a gay activist enraged at the indifference of public officials and the gay community. While trying to save the world from itself, Ned confronts the personal toll of AIDS when his lover dies of the disease.

It is the author of The Normal Heart's express wish to share the following excerpt from W. H. Auden's poem:

*The windiest militant trash
Important Persons shout
Is not so crude as our wish:
What mad Nijinsky wrote
About Diaghilev
Is true of the normal heart;
For the error bred in the bone
Of each woman and each man
Craves what it cannot have,
Not universal love
But to be loved alone.
All I have is a voice
To undo the folded lie,
The romantic lie in the brain
Of the sensual man-in-the street
And the lie of Authority
Whose buildings grope the sky:
There is no such thing as the State
And no one exists alone;
Hunger allows no choice
To the citizen or the police;
We must love one another or die.*

From "September 1, 1939"

W. H. AUDEN

NOVIOS

BY Arturo Luíz Soria // DIRECTED BY Danilo Gambini

Tue, June 3 + Thu, June 5
7:30pm in the Rehearsal Hall

STAGE MANAGER:
NATASHA SÁNCHEZ

CAST:
 GALLO: **YESENIA IGLESIAS**
 LUIZ: **JOHNNY ANTHONY**

ANTOINE: **MATTHEW ELIJAH WEBB**
 VLAD: **DANNY GAVIGAN**
 DOMINICANO: **NAYIB FELIX**
 MICKI: **CARLOS CASTILLO**

A motley crew of cooks hurl insults, grab ass, and compete to be the most macho en el calor of a gringo's kitchen but, when a new dishwasher arrives rupturing the haze of machismo and sparking a love affair with Luiz, the youngest amongst them, Gallo, the head chef and guardian to Luiz, must do what she can to wrangle the men before the train goes off the rails, jeopardizing her whole operation.

THE HOTEL/MAKEDA - A BALTIMORE CYCLE PLAY

BY Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi // DIRECTED BY Ibi Owolabi

Wed, June 4 + Fri, June 6
7:30pm in the Rehearsal Hall

STAGE MANAGER: **GRACE O. GYAMFI**

CAST:
 GALLO: **YESENIA IGLESIAS**
 GENEVIEVE MAKEDA ADAMS:
LADY DANE FIGUEROA EDIDI
 CLAUDIA ADAMS: **KHALIA MUHAMMAD**
 THOMAS ADAMS III:
MICHAEL KEVIN DARNALL
 LOUISE BROWN: **ZACHARY MYERS**
 EMMETT WILLIAMS: **JOSEPH WEBB**
 JACK: **STEVE POLITES**

Nearly a decade after World War II, Genieve Adams has made The Hotel Makeda one of Baltimore's most celebrated destinations. But, even with all of its success, family secrets, the legacy of slavery, and familiar regret threaten to tear it apart. Can Gen protect her family and her business or will she be consumed by the shifting alliances of those she holds most dear. *The Hotel/Makeda: A Baltimore Cycle Play* examines a business woman's life as she navigates love, history, family, and systemic pressures and it invites us to reflect on what exactly do we mean by the American Dream.

FEAR & WONDER

BY Jason Tseng // DIRECTED BY Emily Hartford

Tue, June 3 + Thu, June 5
7:30pm in The Workshop

STAGE MANAGER:
MAKAYLA BECKLES

CAST:

JABEZ HUANG: **JACOB YEH**
 RYAN HARRIS: **WILSON PEZZUTO**

TRANSITION MINISTER /
 MRS. HARRIS: **ROZ WHITE**

In a forbidden love story, Jabez and Ryan, two boys of color, navigate a Christian summer camp together in the early 2000s. Their friendship quickly grows into a budding romance that they try to keep alive after returning home. Challenged by their parents, the hazards of landline phones, and their faith, they are forced to secrecy. Finding solace in each other and their shared love of music, theology, and Harry Potter; the reality of living in between two worlds threaten to keep them apart as they navigate their blossoming queer identities and teenage angst in their conservative faith communities.

MOTHER MARY

BY KJ Moran Velz // DIRECTED BY Charlotte La Nasa

Wed, June 4 + Fri, June 6
7:30pm in The Workshop

STAGE MANAGER: **FE MIRANDA**

CAST:

MARY: **JULIA LINK**
 JO: **SAVINA BARINI**

Taxi driver Jo Cruz knows the streets of Boston like the back of her hand, but no road map can prepare her for meeting Mary O'Sullivan, a Catholic school teacher with a boyfriend and a strict Irish mother. Despite rising tensions between their Irish and Puerto Rican communities, Mary and Jo start connecting over daily rides to work - sharing hot dogs, library books, and a lineage of islands under Catholic and colonial rule. But their new friendship takes a turn when Mary asks Jo to take her on a risky road trip where there's no going back. A new romcom about choice, the women who choose, and the sinners and saints that make Boston home.

PRIDE PLAYS TEAM

PRODUCERS: **SAM GRAVITTE, SAMMY LOPEZ & IBI OWOLABI**
 FOUNDING FESTIVAL PRODUCERS: **DOUG NEVIN & MICHAEL URIE**
 FOUNDING FESTIVAL DIRECTOR: **NICK MAYO**
 VENUE MANAGER: **MEKALA SRIDHAR**
 LIGHTING SUPERVISOR: **SAGE GREEN**
 SOUND TECHNICIAN: **IAN VESPERMANN**
 D.C. CASTING: **JORGE ACEVEDO**
 PRESS: **PRINT SHOP PR**
 SMYAL X PRIDE PLAYS DIRECTING OBSERVERSHIP: **JAYA BASU, JULIA HUH**
 SMYAL X PRIDE PLAYS PRODUCING INTERNSHIP: **DESTINY JENNINGS**

PLAYWRIGHTS BIOS



LARRY KRAMER (1935-2020) founded Gay Men's Health Crisis in 1981 with five friends; the organization remains one of the world's largest providers of services to those with AIDS. In 1987, he founded ACT UP, the AIDS advocacy and protest organization, which has been responsible for the development and release of almost every life-saving treatment for HIV/AIDS. Kramer was the author of *The Normal Heart*, which was

selected as one of the 100 Greatest Plays of the Twentieth Century by the Royal National Theatre of Great Britain and is the longest running play in the history of the New York Shakespeare Festival's Public Theater. He was also the author of *The Destiny of Me*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and won an Obie and the Lucille Lortel Award for Best Play. Both *The Normal Heart* and *The Destiny of Me* are published by the Samuel French imprint of Concord Theatricals. Mr. Kramer's screenplay adaptation of D.H. Lawrence's *Women in Love*, a film he also produced, was nominated for an Academy Award. His writing about AIDS is published in *Reports from the Holocaust: The Story of an AIDS Activist* and *The Tragedy of Today's Gays*. His novel *Faggots* is one of the bestselling of all gay novels. He was a recipient of the Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and he was the first openly gay person and the first creative artist to be honored by an award from Common Cause. *The American People*, Kramer's reimagining of American history, was begun 1975 and published in 2015. Kramer was the winner of a 2013 PEN Literary Award, receiving the Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater Award for a Master American Dramatist. A graduate of Yale, Kramer lived in New York and Connecticut with his lover, architect/designer David Webster.



SYLVAN OSWALD writes plays and texts that explore queer and trans identity through metatheatricality and formal irreverence. Recent projects include the theatrical essay *Trainers* (Gate Theatre, London) and the performance text *High Winds* (Fusebox Festival, Austin and TBA, Portland). Plays include *A Kind of Weather* (Diversions Theatre, San Diego) *Pony* (About Face Theater, Chicago), *Profanity* (Undermain Theater, Dallas), and *Vendetta Chrome* (Clubbed Thumb, New York). Sylvan has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, and residencies at MacDowell, Sundance/Ucross, and Yaddo. He is an affiliated artist at Clubbed Thumb and an alum of New Dramatists. *Pony* has just been published by Northwestern University Press.



ARTURO LUÍZ SORIA is an Obie and Offie Award-winning actor and writer. His solo show *Ni Mi Madre* premiered at Rattlestick Theater and went on to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, earning multiple award nominations. He is developing *The White Whale Journal* and *La Kasa Mita'echo* through commissions from Rattlestick and Lucille Lortell's Alcove program. Soria is adapting the novel *Bodega Dreams* for screen with Black Bar Mitzvah Productions and Votiv Films. Theatre: Broadway's *The Inheritance*; *Wet Brain*, *Hit the Wall*. TV/Film: *Insatiable*, *The Blacklist*, *East New York*, *Found*; and the upcoming feature, *Mermaid*. A MacDowell Fellow and Hillman Grad Mentorship alum, he holds an MFA from Yale and a BFA from DePaul.



LADY DANE FIGUEROA EDIDI Dubbed the Ancient Jazz Priestess of Mother Africa, Lady Dane is a Black Nigerian, Cuban, Indigenous, American Performance Artist, Author, Poet, Educator, Advocate, Producer, a Helen Hayes Award winning Playwright (*Klytmnestra: An Epic Slam Poem*), a 2021 Helen Merrill Award Winner, Film Maker, Dramaturg, a 3x Helen Hayes Award nominated choreographer (2016, 2018, 2023), and a Princess Grace Honoria Award winner. She is the co-founder and Co-director of the Black Trans Prayer Book. She is the curator and associate producer of Long Wharf Theatre's Black Trans Women At The Center: An Evening of Short Plays and is an artistic ensemble member of the company as well.



KJ MORAN VELZ is a Boston-born playwright, librettist, and educator now based in Alexandria, Virginia. Her work has been performed at Signature Theatre, the Kennedy Center, Imagination Stage, NextStop Theatre, Flying V, Adventure Theatre MTC, and Theater Alliance. *Mother Mary* will receive its world premiere this fall at Boston Playwrights' Theater.

(con't) She graduated from Georgetown University with degrees in Spanish and Theater and Performance Studies, and she is currently pursuing a master's degree in Drama Therapy at Lesley University. Much of her work - both clinical and artistic - focuses on the intersections of language, religion, race, and ethnicity.



JASON TSENG is a queer, non-binary Chinese-American playwright, with roots in New York City and Washington D.C. Their plays have been presented, developed by various theater companies and festivals across the nation, including Flux Theatre Ensemble, Judson Arts, Mission to dit(Mars), Second Generation, Downtown Urban Arts Festival, LA Queer New Works Festival, the BIPOC Playwrights Festival, New American

Voices Playwrights Festival (Semi-Finalist), Southern Queer Playwrights Festival (Hon. Mention), Eugene O'Neil Playwrights Conference (Semi-Finalist), Pan Asian Repertory Theater and the Bay Area Playwrights Festival (Selected Playwright). Tseng serves as a Creative Partner of Flux Theatre Ensemble. Their notable works include *Rizing*, *Like Father, Same Same*, *Ghost Money*, *Fear & Wonder*, and *The Other Side*.

PRIDE PLAYS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:

JUDY STATUS (\$10,000+)

CAPITAL PRIDE ALLIANCE + WORLD PRIDE
BROADWAY CARES / EQUITY FIGHTS AIDS

FRIEND OF DOROTHY (\$5,000)

HEATHER MCDONALD
JAYNE BARON SHERMAN
P3 PRODUCTIONS
THE TERRENCE MCNALLY FOUNDATION

ADVOCATE (\$1,000–\$4,999)

LESLIE SLOANE
DAN SHAHEEN
DANNY & LANDIE LOPEZ
DARYL & STEVEN ROTH FOUNDATION

SUPPORTER (\$1–\$999)

MICHAEL HUGHES
CAROL NEVIN
DANIELLE KARLINER NAISH
CHRISTOPHER HANKE
JILL LESSER
SALLY ROSENBERG
KIM POWERS
DONNY REPSHER
JAMIE BOSWELL

SPECIAL THANKS

METRO WEEKLY	CARL DAVIS
WILL SCHWALBE	ANITA ANTENUCCI
CYNTHIA L. DORSEY	THE ENTIRE WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY TEAM
MATT RODIN	

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON DC

A performance of the **World Pride International Choral Festival**, featuring Rock Creek Singers, a small ensemble of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC.

- Tue, June 3rd, 6:30pm



ARTIST TALKBACK: *THE NORMAL HEART*

Join us in the theatre after Wednesday's performance of *The Normal Heart* for **a special conversation with the creative team**. Learn more about the Pride Plays process and the legacy of Larry Kramer's vital play.

- Wed, June 4th

TASTINGS WITH ALCHY COCKTAILS

Join us every night at Pride Plays for tastings with DC's Alchy Cocktails!

Greg Etienne is the founder and chief cocktail curator of **Alchy Cocktails**, a brand redefining the cocktail experience with handcrafted, globally inspired drinks. Born and raised in Boston, MA, Greg's journey is deeply influenced by his Caribbean heritage and Haitian immigrant roots. His passion for mixology began with a curiosity for bold flavors and innovative combinations, eventually leading him to launch his own brand that marries creativity with precision. Greg's creations are inspired by his travels and cultural experiences, each cocktail telling a story through its carefully curated ingredients. Dedicated to community and authenticity, Greg is committed to sharing the spirit of celebration through Alchy Cocktails—one handcrafted drink at a time.





THE DESCENT: POST-SHOW SOUND SESSIONS POWERED BY BLACK IN SPACE

Keep the party going after Pride Plays with The Descent: Post-Show Sound Sessions, a late-night vibe powered by our Connectivity Core Partner, **Black in Space**. Each night transforms the lobby into a **soundscape of reflection, joy, and liberation**—curated DJ sets inspired by the festival's bold, beautiful programming.

- Tue, June 3rd – Thu, June 5th, 9:30pm – 11pm

FESTIVAL FINALE: DANCE PARTY EXTRAVAGANZA HOSTED BY RAYCEEN PENDARVIS

The High Priestess of Love, Queen of the Shameless Plug, Empress of Pride and Goddess of DC is back! Join the one and only **Rayceen Pendarvis** for a **fierce, unapologetic dance party extravaganza** featuring a **high-energy set by DJ Suspence** and a **sizzling burlesque performance by the incomparable Maki Roll**. It's a night of queer joy, glam, and celebration you won't want to miss—come dance your truth at this unforgettable World Pride blowout!



- Fri, June 6th, 9:30pm – 1am

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Woolly Mammoth acknowledges that our theatre stands upon occupied, unceded territory: the ancestral homeland of the Nacotchtank whose descendants belong to the Piscataway peoples. Furthermore, the foundation of this city, and most of the original buildings in Washington, DC, were funded by the sale of enslaved people of African descent and built by their hands.

*Language developed in consultation
with Dr. Gabrielle Tayac*

IN THE LOBBY

YOUTH PRIDE WISHING TREE



An extension of the “Chocolate City Wishing Tree” first sown during ChocolateCON 2024, the Youth Pride Wishing Tree is an interactive art exhibit designed by **DWAYNE LAWSON-BROWN**. Incorporating a synthetic tree base, crocheted panels and blossoms, and the colors on the DC flag and Pride Flag; the “wishing tree” has been crafted to receive your wishes and blossom a city of our dreams.

Attendees were invited to write their wishes for our city and community and join Dwayne on Saturday May 31st as they crochet blossoms and attach them to the wishing tree.

INVOCATION EXHIBITION



RASHAD ALI MUHAMMAD (b. 1990 Alexandria, VA) is a multidisciplinary artist of the African diaspora based in Maryland. His practice delves into the intersections of culture, ethnicity, spirituality, identity, and nature, celebrating the vastness of the human spirit. His work reinforces notions of authenticity, self-love, and connection, inviting viewers to engage in deeper understanding while addressing stereotypes and misconceptions faced by people of color and the queer community.

Working primarily in mixed media collage, Muhammad merges intention, investigation, and invention, dissecting established references and reassembling them into compelling new visions. His ongoing journey to expand emotional intelligence fuels his exploration of the intricacies of human experience and the expansive intersections that shape our lives. The clarity and refinement of Muhammad’s work reflect his formal education in graphic design and photography. In addition to his art practice, he works as a creative director and graphic designer, where his contemporary artistic sensibilities and classic design training foster a whimsical and innovative approach.

Muhammad is a resident artist at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, VA. His art has been exhibited extensively throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region, with other national and international exhibitions. He is a 2023 Art and Peacebuilding Fellow with the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at GMU. His artwork has appeared broadly in print and digital media, including the Washington Post, Kolaj Magazine, Create! Magazine, and British GQ.

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