

COMPANY
ONE
THEATRE
» what's next.

RESHAPING THE AMERICAN THEATRE

A NEW WORK SHOWCASE FEATURING
COMPANY ONE'S SEASON 25 VOLT LAB

PRODUCED BY
AFRIKAH SELAH

STAGE MANAGED BY
MICHAEL GEHMAN

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024
PAO ARTS CENTER

MEET ME HERE

written by **Thomas Wark**

directed by **Jenny S. Lee**

dramaturgy by **Hannah Levinson**

Emily Eldridge-Ingram Esther

Jordan Palmer Sandy

Michael J. Blunt..... Dee

Charlotte Snow Kathy

Synopsis: Where can you go when you don't know where home is anymore? Three strangers find themselves at the precipice of dreaming of what a new third place might look like.



Thomas Wark (he/him) — Playwright

Thomas Wark is a playwright, dramaturg, and director. In 2017 he was a playwriting and dramaturgy fellow at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. A graduate of Boston University's School of Theatre, his undergraduate thesis, *Daddy Issues*, was chosen for entry into the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. He lives in Cambridge, Mass.



Jenny S. Lee (she/her) — Director

Jenny S. Lee is a Boston-based AAPI director, actress, and arts administrator. She is also a Boston College graduate, Northern Virginia native, and currently serves as the community engagement associate at CHUANG stage, Boston's Asian American theatre company cultivating joyful and challenging AAPI stories that pioneer translingual activism in the arts. Recent regional directing credits include *The Heart Sellers AD* (Huntington), *John Deserves to Die AD* (Fresh Ink), and *Mad Dash* (Fresh Ink). Recent regional acting credits include *Concrete Dreams* (TC Squared), *Troublemaker*, and *Takeover* (Asian American Playwright's Collective).



Hannah Levinson (she/her) — Dramaturg

Hannah Levinson is a multi-hyphenate theatre artist, with a background in directing, playwriting, dramaturgy, and arts admin. She received her BA from Northeastern University in English, Theatre, and Writing. She's previously held arts administration and creative roles with Actors' Shakespeare Project, the National Women's Theatre Festival, and Boston-based creative writing nonprofit GrubStreet. She currently works both at Boston's oldest LGBTQ+ theater, The Theater Offensive, and as the Co-Literary Director for Playwright Development and Dramaturgy at Fresh Ink Theatre. Recent projects include: Dramaturg, *Sisterhood of the Survivors* (Northeastern University); Dramaturg, *John Deserves to Die* (Fresh Ink Theatre); Assistant Director, *Indecent* (Concord Players); Stage Manager & Dramaturg, *Strawberry Princess* (Chelsea Theatre Works); Director, *Acute Exposure* (National Women's Theatre Festival). Hannah strives to bring an ethic of consent, care, and justice into whatever project she's working on. When she's not at the theatre, you can find her foraging, watching drag, snuggling her cat Hazelnut Babka, or cooking up something tasty for her friends and chosen family at her cozy home in Jamaica Plain.

DUMA-DARA-TING, OR THE ARRIVAL

written by **Elijah Pinzal**

directed by **Marc Hem Lee**

dramaturgy by **Sofia Lindgren Galloway**

Janelle Grace Lydia/Tracey
Jordan Palmer Harrison/Voice
Joshua Lee Robinson Derrell
Michael J. Blunt Moses
Emily Eldridge-Ingram Willow/Voicemail #1
Charlotte Snow June/Voicemail #2

Synopsis: On the last day of Winter, the rescue team of Domestic Workers Thrive Network has 24 hours to successfully see through Case 225: a mission to retrieve an elderly Filipina domestic worker from her abusive employer’s residence. A fictional story inspired by true accounts of the conditions of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) across the globe, *duma-dara-ting, or The Arrival* asks us: How do we care for those who have become invisibilized in our society?



Elijah Pinzal (they/he) – Playwright

Elijah Pinzal is a multidisciplinary artist (triple “P”: playwright, performer, and producer) from the California Bay Area now based in Somerville, MA. Elijah’s creative and community-oriented endeavors are influenced by their identity as a Queer, Generation 1.5 Pilipinx immigrant, and they recently presented a 15 min snippet of their new play-in-development through The Voices of America Writers Workshop titled *Children of the Basement* which is inspired by their childhood growing up in an elderly care facility. Elijah has worked alongside Berkeley Repertory Theatre as the 2022 Education

& Community Engagement Fellow, the Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies (now the Amado Khaya Initiative) as an Education and Retention Intern, and the UC Irvine Filipino American Alumni Chapter as the former Co-Chair of the Mentorship Committee. He is currently a first year PhD student at Tufts University in Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies where his research interests revolve around Filipino American performance, diasporic imagination, and cultural (re)memory. Elijah is incredibly proud of his recent conference presentation analyzing the affective relationship between the audience and the spectacle of *Here Lies Love* on Broadway.



Marc Hem Lee (he/him) – Director

Marc A. Hem Lee, MFA, MAT, MS, MD is continually seeking the seamlessness between biography and identity. He contains multiverses, not multitudes, and explores each life through the multiverse of play. Dr. Hem Lee’s interests are: Work. Play. Science. Art. He expresses all these through storytelling.

Michael Chekhov stated that “[a]ll true artists bear within themselves a deeply rooted and often unconscious desire for transformation”. To Dr. Hem Lee, play is the medium of transformation. He is currently testing this perspective on play through the practice of Psychiatry, and is training at Harvard’s Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. More meaningful than the graduate degrees he holds, he also holds the stories of his patients on life’s journey.

He continually explores the intersection and parallels of art and science. His interest lies in the human capacity for learning. His passion lies in creating brave spaces, creating the environment for others to own their stories. His prerogative lies in teaching people how to navigate both art and science in their own lives. His identity is a gradual awakening and rediscovery of what he loves – the workshop, the laboratory, the microcosm of worlds that are in theatre, and the concurrent sense of scientific inquiry that can be gained from this exploration.



Sofia Lindgren Galloway (she/her) – Dramaturg

Sofia Lindgren Galloway is a theatre-maker, educator, and scholar living in the Greater Boston Area, though she is a Mid-Westerner at heart. Sofia will complete her MFA in Theatre Education and Applied Theatre at Emerson College in May 2024. She approaches her work from a feminist and social justice lens, has a penchant for physical storytelling, and is obsessed with the intersections of STEM and the arts. Her research examines how media, cultural institutions, and education systems can work to develop a curious, collaborative, and critically engaged society. She uses arts-integration to explore how performance techniques can solve problems and reveal new truths about society, technology, and ourselves. Her work has been published in ArtsPraxis and on HowlRound. Sofia has worked as an educator/facilitator in urban and rural schools, theatres, museums, and ASD therapeutic programs teaching drama and science. She has also worked as a dramaturg, director, and producer of new works with Emerson Stage, Collective Unconscious Performance, Ten Thousand Things, and Theatre Pro Rata. Sofia is thrilled to join the Company One Volt Lab and learn from this cohort of incredible artists. Learn more about Sofia's work at www.sofialindrengalloway.com

KLONDIKE.

written by **Erin Davis**

directed by **Cas Berta**

Jordan Palmer Ali 1
Janelle Grace Ali 2
Michael J. Blunt. Hawk
Charlotte Snow Mouse
Emily Eldridge-Ingram Podcast/Stage Directions

Synopsis: Two ex-lovers drive from Arizona to Nevada to procure a legal abortion. The desert haze thickens, the blood moon rises, and their entangled past emerges as they confront a question: what would you actually do for a klondike bar?



Erin Davis (she/they) — Playwright

Erin Davis is a playwright, dramaturg, hiker, fried green tomato enthusiast, and a riot grrrl at heart. Originally from Georgia and now a proud Allston resident, Erin has a passion for new work that centers queer joy through connectivity, honesty, and Camp. Erin appreciates collaboration, as community through

conversations and creativity drives her art. Outside of their writing, they are working on developing the perfect whiskey sweet tea recipe.

Erin's work *honeyhole* was produced as part of the 2023 Boston New Works Festival. Their co-written play with Julia Hertzberg, *the chariot reversed*, was produced at Boston University in 2022 and was semi-finalist for the 2023 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. They are a graduate of Boston University's School of Theatre and currently work at SpeakEasy Stage Company.



Cas Berta (they/them) — Director

Cas Berta is a gender nonconforming actor, writer, and hopeful director. They studied Film & TV Screenwriting and Gender Studies at Boston University and served as the first openly transgender president of BU's only low-income cooperative house, The Harriet E. Richards House. They made their directorial debut in 2023 at Central Square Theater's production of *ENOUGH! Plays to End Gun Violence*, centering on gun violence against the LGBTQ+ community. They are a second-year Youth Underground Ambassador with Central Square Theater, a cohort centering meaningful social change through theatre developed with local playwrights. Cas also plays Puck/Egeus and leads education workshops for Boston Theater Company's educational tour of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. You may have tossed tea and committed treason with Cas as Goody Hewes at the Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum or seen Cas during the 2 seconds they were in CODA (2021), for which they were gifted an Honorary Certificate from the Screen Actors Guild (signed by Jewish Icon Fran Drescher) for their work in the ensemble. They're honored to work, grow, and collaborate with this special cohort in the C1 Volt Lab.

X-ROADS

written by **Nick Baker** and **Angelique Dina**
directed by **Annalise Guidry**

Jordan Palmer Ancestor 1
Janelle Grace Ancestor 2
Joshua Lee Robinson..... Ancestor 3
afrikah selah..... Ancestor 4

Synopsis: When you are at the end of your rope and fed up with the heaviness of the world today, where can you turn to for guidance? *X-Roads* is a performance piece devised in one part choreopoem, one part theatrical jazz, and one part healing ritual, where the ancestors come forward to help us all figure out how to survive in trying times.



Nick Baker (he/him) — Playwright

Nick Baker is a playwright and theater artist based out of Worcester, MA. His art values community, accountability, and examining the uncomfortable above all else. He dreams of plays that revitalize the heavy spirits of working class people. Of plays that cross divides and show the power of building a coalition. Of plays that make us feel like everything is going to be okay, even when we must confront the darkest parts of our humanity. Nick has written two hip-hop theater plays: *And Then a Fight Broke Out* and *Working On It: A Story of Struggle, Love, and Donuts*, both of which were developed and workshopped at the New Africa House Experimental Lab at UMass Amherst, where Nick earned his Bachelor's of Arts in Theater. Nick is also an active member of the Worcester Writers' Collective, where he goes weekly to share and develop new works.



Angelique Dina (she/they) – Playwright

Angelique Motunrayo Folasade Akiya C-Dina is a first-generation Afro-Indigenous embodied theatrical storyteller based in New England. They are a current CAMD PhD student at Northeastern University focusing on Black feminist narratives and embodied theatrical practices through research-based theatre. Her performance credits include: *The Inferior Sex* (Trinity Repertory Company), *Soul Tapes* (Brown/Trinity), *An Octoroon* (Gamm Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Gamm Theatre), and more. Their other accolades include: KCACTF finalist '21, National Young Playwright semi-finalist '21, Ronald McNair scholar '22, Lime Arts Twenty by Twenty Fringe Playwright '23 and Lin Manuel Miranda fellow '23. She thanks God, her ancestors, and her Black and Brown Indigenous community for guiding her journey. "Ashe."



Annalise Guidry (they/he) – Director

Annalise Guidry is a Black and Puerto Rican nonbinary theater-anthropologist (playwright, director and recent dramaturg) from New Orleans based in Boston whose artistry focuses on the intersections between ancestral healing, lineage and theater as vehicles for social good and social change. They have seen to the direction and co-direction of seven works, five of which being original and personally devised work exploring ancestral lineage including: *3 Women, 3 Myths* (Endinburgh Fringe Festival); *Just a Thing* (2021) and *All Our Stories: From the Caribbean to Me* (2023, Hyde Square Task Force Summer Ensemble). Annalise works as a teaching artist across Boston and is the resident artist for The Theater Offensive's Emergent Artist Residency.

ABOUT C1'S VOLT LAB

The Volt Lab provides mentorship opportunities for pre-professional theater creatives to practice and enhance their craft while actively engaging with our productions and community engagement programming. This year's Volt Lab is designed to help early career playwrights, dramaturgs, and directors hone their craft. Participants will join a cohort of civically-engaged, antiracist peers led by C1's Resident Playwright Kirsten Greenidge. The cohort met monthly in-person from January to May 2024 to dream, write, devise, rewrite, and develop pieces created both collaboratively and individually, culminating in an in-person showcase in June.

C1's expansive PlayLab Circuit Writing Labs are incubators of new work for writers of varied experience levels and backgrounds, with Volt Lab as an entry point for early career artists. The myriad programs aim to provide professional development that aligns with C1's mission of nurturing civically-engaged artists, and creating a more equitable city. Company One has provided a multiplicity of lab-based dramaturgical support models for more than 80 playwrights over the past 10 seasons. All three of the plays C1 is producing in Season 25 were written by lab alumni (M Sloth Levine, Eliana Pipes, and Greenidge herself). Other notable alums include Lauren Yee, Natsu Onoda Power, Lydia R. Diamond, Obehi Janice, David Valdes, Natalia Temesgen, and Idris Goodwin.

WANT TO BE A PART OF OUR NEXT VOLT LAB COHORT?

Fill out this [interest form](#), and we will be in touch when applications open this fall! Then, follow us on social media to be the first to know about all things C1.



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Michael J. Blunt (they/them) – Actor

Michael J. Blunt graduated Salem State University with a BFA in Theatre Performance in 2013. Past credits include; *The Interrobangers* (Company One Theatre), *Break, Break* (Legion Theatre/Artists' Theater of Boston), *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Twelfth Night* (Firehouse Center for the Arts), *Othello: Moor of Venice*, *Hamlet*, *As You Like It* (Third Citizen Theatre Co.), *Mountain Language* (Theatre on Fire) *A Nut Cracker Panto*, *A Christmas Carol Panto*, *A Peter Pan Panto* *The Tempest* (Theater in the Open), *Love! Valour! Compassion!* (Zeitgeist Stage Company), *The Unexpected Guest*, *Nottingham: The Legend of Robinhood* (Stage 284) *A Comedy of Errors*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night Dream*, *King Lear*, *Radium Girls*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Macbeth* (Shakesperience Productions, Inc), *The Midnight Zoo* (Puppet Showplace Theatre). Signed to Model Club, Inc., Michael participates in a variety of film and photo projects throughout the Massachusetts.



Emily Eldridge-Ingram (she/her) – Actor

Emily Eldridge-Ingram has been acting around the Boston area since she was five years old. She earned her BFA in Acting and holds a music theatre concentration from Boston University. While there she spent her junior year abroad studying Commedia dell'arte and physical theatre at Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. Emily has worked with Shakespeare and Company, Wheelock Family Theatre, New Rep BCAP, Boston Playwrights Theatre, Central Square Theatre, The Asian American Playwright Collective, Open Theatre Project, Fresh Ink Theatre, Collective Hysteria, Boston Conservatory, Creative Arts, and Theatre Espresso. When not acting Emily works as a teaching artist and outdoor educator.



Janelle Grace (she/her) – Actor

Janelle Grace is a St. Louis-born, Boston-based actor, singer, and dancer. As recent graduate of Boston University she has been able to work and collaborate with some incredible, award-winning, and award-deserving actors and directors. Her favorite credits include Agatha in *The Moors*, Aaron in *Titus*

Andronicus, and Shaunta Iyun in *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet*, and Nurse in the *Ain Gordon Project*. Recently she had the wonderful joy of being in Regional Premiere of *Stew* at Gloucester Stage Company. Janelle is a firm believer in therapy, MUNA, and the magic of mushrooms. @j_gracej



Jordan Palmer (she/they) – Actor

Jordan's artistic practice combines performance, dramaturgy, facilitation, musicianship, and story crafting. Projects-in-development include *Better*, a gender-anxious clown show and *The Honkening*, a death-anxious clown horror film. (Did we mention that Jordan is also a clown? The profound kind, not the scary kind.) Jordan has acted with The Huntington, Brown/Trinity Rep, Fresh Ink Theater Co., Legion Theater Project, Commonwealth Shakespeare Co., and Actors Shakespeare Project. As a musician, she most recently joined composer-performer Jay Eddy in the world premiere of their solo musical *Driving In Circles* (Boston Playwrights' Theater) as keyboardist and backup vocalist. In addition to her performance work, Jordan is currently pursuing Linklater Voice designation after many years of concentrated study. Jordan holds a BFA in Contemporary Theater from Boston Conservatory at Berklee (2019) and is a proud member of AEA. Instagram: @lordylordyhercomesjordy



Charlotte Snow (she/her) – Actor

Charlotte Snow is a Boston-based playwright, director, costume designer, stand up, and ACTOR! She has worked with Fresh Ink Theatre, Watertown Children's Theatre, Actors' Shakespeare Project, Moonbox Productions, and TC Squared. Her previous Boston acting credits include *O, Possum* as Cactus at What If? Queer Creative Collaborative, *Magic Girl! ... And Her Demons* as Nox at What If? Queer Creative Collaborative, *Eat Your Young* as Jelly at Boston Playwright's Theatre, Deadword Theatre's *Trinkets* as Cat and Persephone. At the end of the summer she will be returning to Deadword Theatre to play Kostya in *The Seagull*.



Joshua Lee Robinson (he/him) – Actor

Joshua Lee Robinson is a Black actor with a Masters from Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance. He was last seen as Claudio in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, Warren in *Albatross* by Isley Lynn, Tramarion in *Black Super Hero Magic Mama*, Gyaibo in *The Wolf Prince* by June Jiang, John Peters in *Faces of Philis* by Ade Solanke, and Gratiano in Shakespeare's *Othello*.

afrikah selah (they/them) – Producer

afrikah selah is a Boston-based cultural worker specializing in dramaturgy, new play development, and arts journalism. With a passion for dialogue and a desire to explore new ideas in innovative ways, they value creative collaboration that strives to build community towards a more equitable world. Currently, they hold the position of NNPN New Work Producer in Residence at Company One Theatre, and are also a 2023-24 TCG Rising Leader of Color. You can find out more at itsafrikah.com

Michael Gehman (he/him) – Stage Manager

Michael is excited to work once again with Company One Theatre after assistant stage managing their production of *Morning, Noon, and Night!* making their Company One Theater debut! In the past, he has acted in various roles throughout the theater space, from actor to director while he was pursuing his undergraduate degree. Now, Michael is delighted to begin his path involved with the theater scene here in Boston.

>> WHAT'S NEXT AT C1



Hoop earrings are way more than just an accessory. They represent family, resilience, and self-expression. They represent the freedom to shine in a world that's constantly trying to dim the lights. From Chicago to Oaxaca to right here in Boston, these earrings shout "I'm here, and there's nothing you can do about it."

Eliana Pipes brings 5,000 years of history to life with *Hoops*, a joyous celebration of **Black, Latine, and Indigenous** culture. Based on a series of intimate interviews, this vibrant and playful collage of self-adornment and heritage shows off just how much power a pair of hoops can hold.

JULY 12 – AUGUST 10
THE STRAND THEATRE
543 COLUMBIA ROAD, DORCHESTER

TICKETS >> [COMPANYONE.ORG](https://www.compnyone.org)
FREE WITH PAY-WHAT-YOU-WANT TICKETS!

>> **WHAT'S NEXT AT C1**



You better work (out)! Celebrate the power of movement, community, and self expression for mental health at a free dance class and clothing pass — come ready to groove at an upbeat dance session for all levels that’s guaranteed to make you smile, and bring along any gently-used activewear to swap with community members seeking gender-affirming workout gear! Plus, enjoy free snacks and find opportunities to connect with local wellness resources, groups classes, and other physical activities for queer folks of all sizes and abilities. LGBTQ+ folks of all backgrounds are welcome to join the fun!

THURSDAY, JUNE 13 AT 6PM
BOSTON CITY HALL'S CIVIC PAVILION
1 CITY HALL SQUARE, BOSTON

LEARN MORE >> COMPANYONE.ORG

>> WHAT'S NEXT AT C1

ART IS A CALL FOR DECOLONIZATION!

A FREE DISCUSSION ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ARTISTS AS ACTIVISTS DURING TIMES OF CRISIS

**VIRTUAL OPEN WRITE
SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 11AM - 1PM**



Join us for a free online experience led by C1 Resident Playwright Kirsten Greenidge and co-host Annalise Guidry (a member of C1's Season 25 Volt Lab)!

As artists, how can we uphold our duties to social change on a local and national level? Join us for a panel conversation and virtual story circle with artists/activists whose work is dedicated to placemaking in conversation with decolonization and freedom movement work.

RSVP required; this is a Pay-What-You-Want experience with \$0 minimum. All proceeds support C1's mission to build community at the intersection of art and social change.

**VIRTUAL OPEN WRITE
SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 11AM-1PM**

LEARN MORE >> [COMPANYONE.ORG](https://www.companyone.org)

THE WORD ON C1

Company One Theatre builds community at the intersection of art and social change.

Founded in 1998, Company One has situated itself as a home for social justice and artistic excellence by connecting Boston's diverse communities through live performance, the development of new plays and playwrights, arts education, and public engagement programming. By establishing a dedicated space for marginalized and alternative narratives to thrive and working with partners and collaborators across the city, Company One has become a local leader in the ongoing conversations that continue to define the era of social change in contemporary America.

"COMPANY ONE THEATRE PUSHES THE BOUNDARIES OF NARRATIVE WITH A FOCUS ON MARGINALIZED STORIES, AND HAS PROBABLY DONE MORE THAN ANY OTHER INSTITUTION TO BRING NEW AUDIENCES TO BOSTON THEATER."

— WBUR'S THE ARTERY

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Errol Service Jr. in *The Boy Who Kissed The Sky*. Photography by Erin Crowley

