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PLAY READINGS, NEW MONOLOGUE SLAM ANNOUNCED FOR ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE'S SECOND ANNUAL NEW WORKS NORTHWEST FESTIVAL

*New plays and monologues from 20 Seattle-area playwrights, all
Pay-What-You-Choose – October 30 – November 3, 2024*

SEATTLE, WA (September 4, 2024) – ACT Contemporary Theatre announced the return of their celebrated **New Works Northwest Festival**, to be presented October 30 through November 3, 2024 in ACT's Bullitt Cabaret. ACT Contemporary Theatre continues as the epicenter of groundbreaking new work that promises to captivate, challenge, and inspire. **All tickets are Pay-What-You-Choose** and are available now at acttheatre.org or by calling the ACT Box Office at (206) 292-7676.

New to 2024, the New Works Northwest Festival will present **Solo ACT: A Monologue Slam**, on October 30 at 7:00pm. Curated in partnership with SCRiBLAB and Rain City Projects, **Solo ACT** will feature an electric evening of hot-off-the-presses monologues from 15 local playwrights on the theme "The Choice."

The festival continues with readings in a small, intimate setting, where audiences will get the chance to witness the workshop process of bringing stories from script to stage. For the second annual festival, ACT will again present five plays written by Seattle playwrights over the course of three evenings. The 2024 playwrights are **Holly Arsenault** (Annex Theatre: *The Great Inconvenience*); **Amontaine Aurore** (New York Fringe: *Free Desiree*); **Yussef El Guindi** (ACT: *Hotter Than Egypt*); **Gloria Majule** (*Culture Shock*, Winner: Leah Ryan Prize, Finalist: O'Neill, Alliance/Kendeda, BAPF); and **Naghmeh Samini** (Seda Theatre: *The Forgotten History of Mastaneh*).

"I'm thrilled that we are continuing to build on the success of last year's festival, and proud to be investing in Northwest artistic leaders," said **Shana Bestock**, **ACT Artistic Associate**. "These fierce, funny, complex, and cathartic plays will challenge expectations and invite new perspectives, stories, and audiences."

ABOUT THE PLAYS

Refugee Rhapsody
by Yussef El Guindi

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Directed by Anita Montgomery
Friday, November 1 at 7:00pm

Sakinah, a Middle Eastern American woman, is being evaluated by a mental health professional to determine her responsibility for a violent crime. What did she do to Emily, the rich heiress who tried to help Sakinah and her boyfriend? And more importantly – why did she do it? Featuring witty comedy and biting drama, this play explores how complex layers of race, class, and privilege collide in today’s culture. [Tickets >>](#)

Uhuru

By Gloria Majule

Directed by Faith Bennett Russell
Saturday, November 2 at 4:00pm

Mshale, a Mount Kilimanjaro tour guide, dreams of marrying a white woman and moving to the West. Sprite doesn’t like white people and sets out to decolonize what he deems “his mountain.” Henry and Frannie are white missionaries who claim to be Tanzanian. *Uhuru* is a dramedy that follows this unlikely foursome as they journey together to the roof of Africa. [Tickets >>](#)

Legacies: A Ghost Story

By Amontaine Aurore

Directed by Bretteney Beverly
Saturday, November 2 at 7:00pm

The roof is caving in, the floorboards are shifting beneath her feet, and the walls crumble at the slightest touch. Cashew’s house is falling down around her, and she must get out before it collapses. As she packs to leave, she encounters buried memories: documents, memorabilia, and long-forgotten residents. A poetic and psychologically rich story of redemption. [Tickets >>](#)

Underwater Weather

By Holly Arsenault, in collaboration with the Young Core Company

Directed by Sunam Ellis
Sunday, November 3 at 4:00pm

How do you save the world when the seas are rising, the forests are burning, and your roommate keeps eating your yogurt? Gregory Award-winning playwright Holly Arsenault, in collaboration with ACT’s Young Core Company, creates a world premiere play about activism and apathy, rage and hope, and the joy and agony of having to actually deal with the ones you’re trying to save. [Tickets >>](#)

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Home

By Naghmeh Samini

Directed by Parmida Ziaei

Translators: Hossein Nazari & Ghazal Ghaziani

Co-presented with [Seda Theatre](#)

Sunday, November 3 at 7:00pm

Trapped in a shrinking house, an Iranian family of five lives in isolation, locked in separate rooms, revealing their loneliness, regrets, and their lack of communication only to the audience. *Home* offers a glimpse of what goes on inside an Iranian household, telling familiar stories of the fragility of the human psyche and the vulnerability of a family in a world that is breaking down.

[Tickets >>](#)

ABOUT SOLO ACT: A MONOLOGUE SLAM

One night only! On Wednesday October 30, join us for an electric evening of hot-off-the-presses monologues from 15 local playwrights on the theme “The Choice”. From poignant to punchy, complex to cathartic, these pieces explode with energy, emotion, and enthusiasm. Curated in partnership with SCRIBLAB and Rain City Projects. [Tickets >>](#)

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

For photos of the playwrights, [please visit our Press Room online >>](#)

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ABOUT ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

Steadfast in its dedication to producing work that sparks an authentic curiosity about the human condition, ACT produces bold, audacious works of contemporary theatre from its home in Seattle. Over the last 59 years, ACT remains the voice of contemporary theatre in the Pacific Northwest, presenting necessary and relevant works on current themes and producing more than 300 plays and musicals, including 49 world premieres. ACT nurtures theatre-makers of the next generation, with a mission to be a contemporary theatre where artistic ambition and civic engagement unite.

ACT is here to challenge how stories are told. For more information on ACT Contemporary Theatre please visit acttheatre.org.

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Thank you to our Theatre and Season Sponsors: 4Culture, ArtsFund, Katharyn Alvord Gerlich, The Shubert Foundation, Nesholm Family Foundation, Trial and Error Productions.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Shane Regan, Michelle Sanders Communications

(253) 241-4407

shane@michellesanderspr.com