

Playwright's Bios

Maryam O. Baig was born and raised in Pakistan, where she received her B.A in Political Science and English Literature. She followed up with a B.A in Art & Performance and an MFA in Arts & Technology at the University of Texas at Dallas. While her academic endeavors span across several fields of expression: visual and performing arts, creative writing, and poetry - her endeavors have found their focus on Gesture, Memory and Performance in Storytelling. Baig is a co-founding artistic team member of The Drama Club and a co-founding member of Mutations Art Collective. She wrote and directed BAN THE TAL at the Greenzone in Dallas; a multimedia performance art piece about the birth, rise and ideology of the Taliban, and BEXCHANGED at the University of Texas at Dallas; a performance art piece documenting the nuclear power race between India and Pakistan behind the curtain of war in Kashmir. Baig is a 2014-15 D Academy fellow and an active team member for the Big D Reads initiative. In 2015, Baig was awarded Distinguished Alumna Award at UTD and in 2016 was named Silver Debater by her alma mater DA College, in Karachi, Pakistan. As a first-generation immigrant and permanent resident of the United States, Baig lives, and creates art in Dallas, TX, while consulting through her art-centric company, Baig Communications.

Kristiana Rae Colón is a poet, playwright, actor, educator, Cave Canem Fellow, creator of #BlackSexMatters and co-director of the #LetUsBreathe Collective. She was awarded 2017 Best Black Playwright by The Black Mall. In 2016, her plays *Good Friday* had its world premiere at Oracle Productions, *Octagon* its American premiere at Jackalope Theater in Chicago, and *But I Cd Only Whisper* had its American premiere at The Flea in New York. *Octagon* was the winner of Arizona Theater Company's 2014 National Latino Playwriting Award and Polarity Ensemble Theater's Dionysos Festival of New Work and had its 2015 world premiere at the Arcola Theater in London. In 2013, she toured the UK for two months with her collection of poems promised instruments, winner of the inaugural Drinking Gourd Poetry Prize and published by Northwestern University Press. Kristiana is an alumna of the Goodman Theater's Playwrights Unit where she developed *Florissant & Canfield*, an epic reimagining of the Ferguson protests, which was featured in the 2016 Hedgebrook Women Playwrights Festival. She is a resident playwright at Chicago Dramatists and one half of the brother/sister hip-hop duo April Fools. She appeared in the fifth season of HBO's Def Poetry Jam. Kristiana's writing, producing, and organizing work to radically reimagine power structures, our complicity in them, and visions for liberation.

Katherine Craft is a playwright, screenwriter, and Texas native. She is the resident playwright for the Exchange Artists, which has created award-winning, site-specific performances all over Austin, Texas. She also founded Conspire Theatre, a nonprofit that works with women during and after incarceration. She holds an MFA in Screenwriting from the University of Texas and is a 2017 HBO Access Writing Fellow. Find out more at www.katherinecraft.com.



BISHOP ARTS THEATRE CENTER

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Tsehaye Geralyn Herbért is a national Alliance/Kendeda National Graduate Playwriting Awardee (The C. A. Lyons Project). A graduate of Northwestern University (Evanston, IL), she studied with Barbara Ann Teer (National Black Theatre; Harlem, NY); and earned an MFA in Writing at School of the Art Institute Chicago (SAIC) where she interned with Lookingglass Theatre. Awards include SAICs RhinoFest (*pygMALI*); New Voices and Visions Award Louisiana State University, and New Works/New Visions Midwest Playwrights Project (*Bedtime Story*); Top 20, Cultural DCs SourceFest (*Elegy for Miss Lucy*). Hebert is an ADA25 Advancing Leadership Fellow and a proud member of the Dramatist Guild.

Linda Jones is a Frisco-based writing consultant, author, former newspaper journalist, self-proclaimed “spoken notes” artist and grief recovery specialist. Linda is also the founder of A Nappy Hair Affair, a collective that promotes natural and African American hairstyles and celebrates African American culture and identity. Through her consultancy, [The Writing Doula](#), she provides writing, editing, and media readiness services and promotes writing as a practice for wellness and self-care.

Ife Olujobi is a playwright and screenwriter. Her one-act play, *Only*, was produced as part of NYU Drama's Inaugural PlayGround Festival of New Works in 2016. Her monologue *Working Girl* has been performed at the Charity Randall Theater (Pittsburgh, PA) and the Bishop Arts Theater Center (Dallas, TX) as part of The Monologue Project, a theatrical initiative aiming to increase the number of audition-length monologues available to women of the African Diaspora. Her screenplay, *SISTER*, was selected as a finalist in the inaugural Half the World Global Literati Award Competition. She is a member of the 2019 Emerging Writers Group at The Public Theater in New York City. Originally from a suburb of Baltimore, Ife currently lives in NYC where, in addition to writing for stage and film, she writes poetry and makes a zine, *Townies*, that catalogues experiences of POC and Queer folks who live or have lived in pockets of suburban rural, and small-town America through writing and art. She received her BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in 2016.