



### LOIS RETURNS

**Written by John Minigan**  
**With Sascha Vanderslik as “Lois”**  
**Directed by Christian Haines**

**John Minigan (playwright)** is a Massachusetts Artist Fellow in Playwriting. *Queen of Sad Mischance* was a winner of the 2020 New American Voices Festival and 2019 Clauder Competition. *Noir Hamlet* was an EDGEMedia Best of Boston Theater 2018 selection and an Elliot Norton Award nominee. His work is included in the Best American Short Plays, Best Ten-Minute Short Plays, and New England New Plays anthologies. John is a Dramatists Guild Ambassador for Eastern New England. [www.johnminigan.com](http://www.johnminigan.com)

**Sascha Vanderslik (actor)** is a Los Angeles-based Australian actress. This is Sascha's first production with Urban Stages and she is excited by the many doors virtual stages have opened. Sascha is a member of The Group Rep in LA and also serves on their Board of Directors. Favorite credits include: *Matt and Ben* (The Manor Theatre Company), *Loose Knit* (The Group Rep), *Destiny and Damage* (The Group Rep), and *Unfathomable* (The Group Rep). Sascha is thrilled to be a part of “The Heroes and Villains Monologues” and can’t thank you enough for supporting the arts! [www.sascha-vanderslik.com](http://www.sascha-vanderslik.com)

**Christian Haines (director)** is the founding Artistic Director of AmiosNYC and ShotzSF in San Francisco. Directing credits: *Ripcord* (Altarena), *Bus Stop*, *Boeing Boeing*, *The Games Afoot* (RVP), *The Guys* (Pear), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Tides), *A Message* (Arabian Shakes), *Heroes and Other Strangers* (Best of Fringe NYC) and a ton of short plays. He holds an MFA in acting from the National Theatre Conservatory. <https://christianbhaines.wordpress.com>

### A WONDERFUL STROKE OF LUCK

**Written by Jenny Lyn Bader**  
**With Jason Asher as “Caleb”**  
**Directed by Kim T. Sharp**

**Jenny Lyn Bader (playwright)** is grateful to Urban Stages for pandemic invitationals. Her plays include *Equally Divine* (Theatre at the 14th St. Y), *Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library* (Luna Stage), and *None of the Above* (New Georges). Honors include "Best Documentary One-Woman Show" Award (United Solo), Edith Oliver Award (O'Neill Center), Lark Playwriting Fellowship, and Athena Fellowship. Her plays have been published by Dramatists Play Service, Vintage, Smith & Kraus, Applause, and *Plays International + Europe*. For more, see [www.jennylynbader.com](http://www.jennylynbader.com)

**Jason Asher (actor)** trained at T. Schreiber Studio, Michael Howard Studios and with Tony Greco. Favorite NYC theatre productions include *Finishing the Suit* (Theater for the New City), *Loose Ends* (Gloria Maddox Theatre), *Born Liars* (June Havoc Theatre), and *The Wonder of You* (Theatre 54 @ Shetler Studios). He is thrilled to be collaborating with Urban Stages again, and is forever grateful to those who love and support him! <https://www.backstage.com/u/jasonasher/>

**Kim T. Sharp (director)** works with Urban Stages to champion work by artists of diverse cultural backgrounds. Directing credits include the off-Broadway premiere of Will Snider's *Death of a Driver* (Urban Stages), Anand Rao's *A Muslim in the Midst* (Hudson Guild), and Ronan Noone's *The Atheist* with Wolfgang Novogratz (at Urban Stages), and virtual productions of Sholeh Wolpe's *Holy Corona* (The Alternative Theater), Bara Swain's *The Southern Comfort Plays* (Planet Connections) and Ruth Zamoyta's *The Incels* (Urban Stages).

### **MISS KIMMY'S KITCHEN**

**Written by Frank Tangredi**  
**With Sarah Okada as "Kimmy"**  
**Original music by Christian McLeer**  
**Directed by Vincent Scott**

**Frank Tangredi (playwright)** is an award-winning writer whose work has been produced on both coasts. He is the author of *Lifeline* (Abingdon Theatre Company), *God, Sex, and Getting Even* (Greenhouse Ensemble), *Pastoral* (Christopher Brian Wolk Award), and *Galatea* (LA Weekly Theatre Award nominee for Best Playwriting; New York Fringe Festival.) His play, *Extracurricular*, is published in *The Best Ten-Minute Plays 2012*. Frank's most recent credit is *Dads, Dates, and Other Disturbances*, a program of short plays and films produced in Manhattan by the Greenhouse Ensemble.

**Sarah Okada (actor)** is a NYC-based actress, born and raised in Toronto, Canada. She is a graduate of T. Schreiber Studio and Theater's Acting Conservatory. Commercial credits include Proven Skincare, Delta, Dole Frozen Fruit and Bic Bodymark. Theatre credits include *Yearning for Peace* and *Hindsight* (Articulate Theatre Company), *Homeless Garden* (Refracted Theatre Company), and *Fair Use* ("The Tourist Trap Plays," Urban Stages). [www.sarahokada.com](http://www.sarahokada.com)

**Vincent Scott (director)** is a NY-based director with credits in Los Angeles, Chicago, London, Dublin and off-Broadway. At Urban Stages, numerous projects energized his passion for developing new plays. Vincent directed the world premiere of Lori Brown Mirabal's one-woman show, *Charmed Life from Soul Singing to Opera Star*. He served as the Assistant Director for *Death of a Driver* by Will Snider and *Bars and Measures* by Idris Goodman. Staged readings include *Gumbo House* by Keion Jackson and *#NWORD* by Christian Elder, part of Urban Stages recent virtual "Play Fest & Fundraiser."

### **14 MESSAGES TO GLIESE 832 c**

**Written by Eric Percival**  
**With Stefanie Lekkas as "Ashley"**  
**Directed by Lynn Petersen**

**Eric Percival (playwright)** is a NY-based writer/actor. His plays have been featured at Urban Stages and Articulate Theatre Company. As a screenwriter, Eric is a three-time finalist for the PAGE International Screenwriting Awards. He is also an award-winning actor with appearances in film, TV, and on stages throughout the US and Europe. Eric is thrilled for the opportunity to work once again with Bara and Urban Stages, and to have his work showcased alongside such tremendous writers. [www.ericpercival.com](http://www.ericpercival.com)

**Stefanie Lekkas (actor)** hails from Melbourne, Australia. She quickly developed a love of performing at a young age. Pre-pandemic credits include *Plastic Bags Are So Bad*, the award-winning *SKIN*, *Antigone*, *poem every day*, *Dreamland*, *I Love Lucy*, and *Metamorphosis*. Recent credits include *Stories from Solitude*, *Chain Reaction*, *Rapt in Felt*, and the collaborative online video exhibition, “Something Quirky This Way Comes.” Stefanie is thrilled to make her, albeit virtual, off-Broadway debut with “Heroes and Villains.”

**Lynn Petersen (director)** is an educator who is passionate about using drama and theatre to connect people to ideas, knowledge and each other. Lynn uses drama to deepen students’ understanding about themselves and the world. As a theatre practitioner she loves performing in long-form improvised projects and directing scripted works. She likes taking the challenge to break down barriers between different art forms. You can see her latest collaborative project “Something Quirky This Way Comes” at [canfelt.org.au/exhibition](http://canfelt.org.au/exhibition)

### **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT’S PUDDING**

**Written by Ruth Zamoyta**

**With Misti Tindiglia as “Eleanor Roosevelt’s Ghost”**

**Directed by Ilanna Saltzman**

**Ruth Zamoyta (playwright)** is a NJ State Council on the Arts playwriting fellow and Bay Area Playwrights Festival semifinalist. Her plays have had productions and readings at Urban Stages, Mile Square Theatre, Luna Stage, Art House Productions, Hudson Theatre Group, and Jersey City Theatre Center. Her play, *The Incels*, was chosen for the INKubator at Art House Productions and is being developed by The New Jersey Play Lab through its comprehensive Residency Program. [www.ruthzamoyta.com](http://www.ruthzamoyta.com)

**Misti Tindiglia (actor)** is a NY-based award-winning actress working in independent films, commercials, animated films, v/o’s, industrials and theaters in the NY tri-state area. Some favorite roles include: Violet in *August Osage County*, Katharine Gerard in *Mother and Sons*, Mrs. Winemiller in *Summer and Smoke*, Clairee in *Steel Magnolias* and Sadie in the one-act, *Where The Snowflakes Bloom*. This is her first time working with Urban Stages. Thank you, Bara Swain, for the invitation. <http://resumes.actorsaccess.com//mistitindiglia>

**Ilanna Saltzman (director)** is a Brooklyn-based theater artist. She’s the Outreach Director for Urban Stages, where she’s directed, devised, and produced theatrical works for New Yorkers from toddlers through senior citizens. She’s a company member with Bond Street Theatre, with whom she has traveled to Russia, Guatemala, Azerbaijan, and India to create socially relevant physical theater pieces in collaboration with local companies. She loves directing for local festivals and keeping the NYC theater heart beating.

### **THE TIME YOU WERE AWAY**

**Written by Scott C. Sickles**

**With Danielle Bourgeois as “Justine”**

**Directed by Christine Cirker**

**Scott C. Sickles (playwright)** is an LGBTQ/biracial Asian American writer whose plays have been performed in New York City, across the U.S., and internationally. Smith & Kraus monologue anthologies include excerpts from *Intellectuals*, *Composure*, *Lightning From Heaven*, and *Thalassa*. Also for Urban Stages: *Hand on Heart* and *Bridge of No Return*. Other monologues include: *Time, Magic, and Antoinette*; *Between the Surf and the Stars*; *This is Not a Touch Exhibit*; *End of a Long, Long Day*. [www.Scottsickles.com](http://www.Scottsickles.com)

**Danielle Bourgeois (actor)** is a Boston-born, NY-based creator. As an actor, she has performed on stage (Abingdon, Urban Stages, AND, Actors Studio), TV (NBC & MTV2), and film. For her role in *One in the Chamber*, she was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress. As the Co-Founder of the not-for-profit film & theater company, The Poet Acts, Inc., Danielle performed and produced award-winning films and theatrical showcases, including the sold-out NY Times Pick *Maybe Tomorrow* (Overall Excellence in a Play, Fringe Fave: NY International Fringe Festival.) Danielle is currently developing multiple TV, film, and theater projects. [www.DanielleBourgeois.com](http://www.DanielleBourgeois.com)

**Christine Cirker (director)** is an off-Broadway director and producer, focusing primarily on new work in NYC. She is the Producing Director of F.A.B. Women@TBG, the women's development group at The Barrow Group. Directing credits include works presented by F.A.B. Women and The Barrow Group, Pulse Ensemble, Urban Stages, Core Artists, Neighborhood Playhouse, Our Workshop East, Resonance Theatre and several NYC festivals—virtual and on stage. Member of League of Professional Theatre Women. Thanks to Bara & Kim!

**“AMERICAN” DREAM**  
**Written by Sandra Daley-Sharif**  
**With Kailah S. King as “Jazmin Mozon”**  
**Directed by NJ Agwuna**

**Sandra Daley-Sharif (playwright)** is an Afro-Caribbean artist living in Harlem. She has earned her merits over twenty years as an OBIE Award-winning producer, award-winning playwright, director, actress, and dramaturg. Sandra is a recipient of the Josephine Abady Award, commending her for her contribution, as a producer, of Diversity to the American theatre landscape. She teaches Playwriting and Acting at Sarah Lawrence College. Not one, but two of her plays made it to the Kilroys List 2017. [www.SandraDaley.com](http://www.SandraDaley.com)

**Kailah S. King (actor)** is a Bronx-bred actress. She earned her BFA in Multimedia Performing Arts at CUNY Lehman College. Theater credits include: the title role in *Vivian's Music, 1969* (59E59 Theaters), *The Floor is Lava* (La Mama, ETC). Web Series/Short Films include: *Love & Corona, A (Safe) Distance*. Other performance venues include: EAT New Works Series, Labyrinth Theatre, New Ohio Theatre, EstroGenius at 4th St Theatre, Guild Hall, Essential Theatre at the Anacostia Playhouse, Invisible Theatre, Blue Light Series and Planet Connections Zoom Fest. IG/Twitter: @kaleuhstar

**NJ Agwuna (director)** is a freelance director of theatre and film who most recently directed a hybrid production of *Polaroid Stories* by Naomi Iizuka at LIU Post. She has worked on a national and international scale exploring classic text, developing new plays, devising theatrical experiences through myth and spectacle, and investigating new ways to explore trauma and mental illness through theatre. Selected credits: *The Lover* (DirectorFest 2020), *Till: A Musical* (won Best Direction), *Blanks* (JAG Fest, Fire This Time Festival), *The Tempest* (Lenfest), *Freedom Train* (TWUSA National Tour '18, '19). She is a Drama League alum, and a teaching artist with Tectonic Theatre Project. Directing MFA - Columbia University; SDC – associate. [www.njagwuna.com](http://www.njagwuna.com)

**#DATEABLE**  
**Written by Catherine Weingarten**  
**With Zach McCoy as “Ted”**  
**Edited by Ashley Goh**  
**Directed by Pedro Santos**

**Catherine Weingarten (playwright)** is a NYC-based playwright and overall friendly chick! Her plays have been developed at Urban Stages, Dixon Place, Abingdon Theater, Less Than Rent and elsewhere. BA: Bennington College. MFA: Ohio University.  
[www.catherineplaywright.ninja/](http://www.catherineplaywright.ninja/)

**Zach McCoy (actor)** is a New York actor/VO artist from a small town in Indiana. His acting credits include the off-Broadway revival of *Love and Human Remains* (Peter Jay Sharp Theatre, Playwrights Horizons), *The Birthday Boys* (Access Theatre), and numerous commercials, independent shorts and films. Regional credits include *Run for Your Wife*, *The Foreigner*, and *Boing Boing* (Millbrook Playhouse, PA). Other venues he has been affiliated with are Urban Stages, Abingdon, Arlight, Trilogy, Manhattan Playwrights, and Gallery Players. Zach is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus of ArtEffects Theatre Company, NYC.  
<http://www.zachmccoy.com>

**Pedro Santos (director)** is a Portuguese actor and director. Since moving to London in 2017, he graduated from Middlesex University (BA, Theatre Arts) and became a member of the National Youth Theatre. Subsequently, Pedro has worked with various emerging and established theatre companies in Portugal, the UK and Rome. During the lockdown, he has been directing for virtual platforms, including *That Old Philosophical Question* by Pearl D'souza (Making Waves Theatre Company, London, UK), and the New York performances of *The Ultimate Battle for the Total Control of the Entire Universe* by Rich Orloff, *Responsible* by Bara Swain, and *The Maltese Walter* by John Minigan (Greenhouse Ensemble's Quarantine Soiree). Pedro would like to give special thanks to editor Ashley Goh.

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**BARA SWAIN, Producer/Creative Consultant**  
**KIM T. SHARP, Production Manager**

**Bara Swain** and **Kim T. Sharp** are honored to present "The Heroes & Villains Monologues," supporting Urban Stages' mission to expand opportunities for diverse theatre artists. This marks more than 50 collaborations for these two theatre artists! Previously, Bara and Kim co-produced the Benefit Challenge Series at Abingdon Theatre, where Kim served as the Associate Artistic Director and Literary Manager for 16 seasons and Bara served as the Playwriting Outreach Coordinator for five seasons. They also coordinated the Abingdon Bay Ridge One-Act Festival, and wore many hats to organize the Quinnipiac Program externship for undergraduate theatre students. At Urban Stages, this is the 12<sup>th</sup> program of world premieres through our bi-annual staged reading festivals and a publication opportunity under the auspices of "Urban Stages New Pages."

As freelance theatre artists, Kim recently directed virtual presentations of Bara's monologue *Through the Looking Glass* (a collaborative project in Australia, "Something Quirky This Way Comes"), *The Southern Comfort Plays* (a trilogy of one-acts, Planet Connections Play Fest), and *All Mothers Were Summoned* (Ego Actus Play Readings Series, "Survival is Insufficient"). Bara's plays have been staged in 175+ venues in 25 states and abroad, and her work is anthologized by Smith & Kraus, Applause Books, Oxford U. Press, and Art Age Press.  
[www.BaraSwain.com](http://www.BaraSwain.com)

Bara and Kim are excited to celebrate the talents of our ever-expanding theatre community through our winter programming. Thank you all for joining us ... and a very special thanks to Urban Stages fearless leader, Artistic Producing Director Frances Hill, and Development and Literary Director Antoinette Mullins.