

# ODS

**OUR DIGITAL STORIES**

**Volume 1**

# The Ensemble



**Jeffrey Lo**

Silicon Valley Creates and Theatre Bay Area. He is the Casting Director at the Tony Award Winning TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, a graduate of the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute and a proud alumnus of the UC Irvine Drama Department.

Jeffrey Lo is a Filipino-American playwright and director based in the Bay Area. He is the recipient of the Leigh Weimers Emerging Artist Award, the Emerging Artist Laureate by Arts Council Silicon Valley and Theatre Bay Area Director's TITAN Award. Selected directing credits include The Language Archive and The Santaland Diaries at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Vietgone at Capital Stage, A Doll's House, Part 2 and Eurydice at Palo Alto Players, Peter and the Starcatcher and Noises Off at Hillbarn Theatre, The Grapes of Wrath, The Crucible and Yellow Face at Los Altos Stage Company and Uncle Vanya at the Pear Theatre. As a playwright, his plays have been produced and workshopped at The BindleStiff Studio, City Lights Theatre Company and Custom Made Theatre Company. His play Writing Fragments Home was a finalist for the Bay Area Playwright's Conference and a semi-finalist for the O'Neill Playwright's Conference. In addition to his work in theatre he works as an educator and advocate for issues of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and has served as a grant panelist for the Zellerbach Family Foundation,



**Isabella Waldron**

Jawbone, Things I Never Told the Stars, and Gentle, Angry Women. Isabella is a proud alum of the National Theatre Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center. In addition to writing and acting, Isabella is also a poet, pianist and baker.

Isabella Waldron is a recent graduate of Scripps College and an emerging playwright/actress. Her work centers around intergenerational stories and ferocious women. In quarantine times, Isabella's writing might have been seen on the first episode of Our Digital Stories or as a finalist in Mixily Presents The Classics: Reimagined. She's a member of the 24 Hour Plays 2020 Nationals Cohort (tune in August 11; tickets now available online!). Other plays include



**Tasi Alabastro**

Tasi Alabastro is an actor, livestreamrunner, and multi-disciplinary digital artist whose work focuses on creating impact through visual storytelling. He was recently featured in the SF Chronicle Datebook highlighting his efforts with local arts organizations as it pertains to virtual programming. His online content on Twitch and YouTube focuses on storytelling and interactive programming to engage his audience and deepen community relationships. In addition to having the honor of being published in CONTENT Magazine, and Tayo Magazine, he is also the recipient of the 2019 Leigh Weimer's Emerging Artist Award and the 2018 SVCCreates Emerging Artist Laureate. He is a proud member of the Red Ladder Theatre Company and is currently working with inmates in state prisons as part of the Arts-in-Corrections program; the program hopes to re-engage participants with their creativity and imagination. To find ways to support the journey, reach out by visiting [tasialabastro.com](http://tasialabastro.com) or by tweeting him at [@tasialabastro](https://twitter.com/tasialabastro). | [twitch.tv/kreenpananas](https://twitch.tv/kreenpananas)

Steve Muterspaugh is excited to be messing around in this virtual space for a good cause! His most recent directing credits include It's Only a Play at Hillbarn Theatre, and The Three Musketeers at Douglas Morrison Theatre in Hayward. Other Bay Area directing credits include: The Odd Couple at Jewel Theatre Company, where he previously served as Deputy Artistic Director; Hamlet and The Taming of the Shrew at San Francisco Shakespeare Festival (former Associate Artistic Director), where he also headed the Steve Muterspaugh Shakespeare on Tour program for 5 seasons, directing A Midsummer Night's Dream, Julius Caesar, As You Like It, and Hamlet. When not directing, Stephen is the Artistic Operations / Company Manager at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. He is a proud member of Actor's Equity and a graduate of the actor training program at PCPA.



**Steve Muterspaugh**

# The Ensemble (continued)



**April Culver**

April Culver is an actor, marketing professional, and Midwest transplant. She loves spreading the word about great theatre and works as Marketing and Publicity Manager at New Conservatory Theatre Center and as Marketing Director for Silicon Valley Shakespeare. Some of her favorite acting credits include Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Rose of Sharon in *Grapes of Wrath*, Viola in

*Shakespeare in Love*, and Mrs. Givings in *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)* (SFBATCC Nomination, Principal Actress). April is ecstatic to work with the talented bunch at ODS as they navigate the future of digital storytelling.



**Julianna Garber**

Julianna Garber is a rising junior studying directing at the University of Michigan, and is thrilled to be helping out with ODS once again! Prior to attending university, she co-founded Upstage Theater, a bay area theater group focused on providing opportunities for teens to interact with all sides of theater production. Previous directing credits include, *Water By The Spoonful* (Assistant Director to Geoffrey Packard) and *Falsettos* at University of Michigan, as well as *Punk Rock*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Heathers* at Upstage Theater. When not directing, you'll likely find her in rehearsal for a cappella group *Amazin' Blue* or performing in various shows. Favorite past roles include *Natalie* in *Next to Normal* at The Refuge, and *Ilse* in *Spring Awakening* at Exit Left Co.

as well as *Punk Rock*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Heathers* at Upstage Theater. When not directing, you'll likely find her in rehearsal for a cappella group *Amazin' Blue* or performing in various shows. Favorite past roles include *Natalie* in *Next to Normal* at The Refuge, and *Ilse* in *Spring Awakening* at Exit Left Co.

## Table of Contents

The Ensemble.....	1
Community Partner .....	3
River's Message.....	4
Guest Musicians.....	4
A Hero Of Our Time, 2020 .....	5
Reunion.....	6

# What is Our Digital Stories?

In short? A completely free evening of three short digital stories set within the digital world, this fundraising production will give viewers the option to donate to local theatre organizations. Tonight, we feel lucky to be supporting Silicon Valley De-Bug.

Silicon Valley De-Bug is a community organizing & storytelling organization started in San Jose, CA 20 years ago. With families whose loved ones were facing charges or incarcerated De-Bug developed the Participatory Defense Model for people facing charges, their families and communities to impact the outcomes of cases and transform the landscape of power in the court system. The model is practiced in 30 cities across the country.

De-Bug has active campaigns on immigration, against police violence, housing and more. They have also walked with families who lost loved ones to police violence on their journey to support each other, demand justice, change policy and now defund the police.

The idea for Our Digital Stories came from a group of artists eager to find a way to contribute to the community and to find a creative outlet while sheltering in place. What came of it was a fundraiser event surrounding a series of pieces that were set within the digital world - video chats, phone calls, texts - and performed on the digital medium of the story. We saw these as a hybrid of a ten minute play and a short film and called them "Digital Stories."

Visit our website for more info: <https://www.ourdigitalstories.org/>

# River's Message

Written by Conrad Panganiban

Directed by Julianna Garber



**Conrad A. Panganiban**

Conrad A. Panganiban is excited to be a part of Our Digital Stories. As a San Francisco Bay Area playwright, his plays include WELGA, INAY'S WEDDING DRESS, THE PERFECT AMERICAN, and ESPERANZA MEANS HOPE. Conrad's work has been produced and/or developed by Bindlestiff Studio (San Francisco, CA), CIRCA Pin-tig (Chicago, IL), MaArte Theatre Collective (San Diego, CA), San Francisco Playhouse, and the Sinag-tala Filipino Theatrical Performing Arts Association (Sacramento, CA). Awards include: James Milton Highsmith Award Winner (SFSU), National Ten-Minute Play Festival Finalist (Actors Theatre of Louisville), and Bay Area Playwrights Festival Semi-Finalist (Playwrights Foundation). Member: Dramatist Guild of America and Theatre Bay Area. MFA, San Francisco State University.



**Kendall Young**

Kendall Young- Kendall is a rising Junior B.F.A Acting Major at the University of Michigan. She has been cast in university productions including: Flint, Grapes of Wrath, and A Beautiful Country. She is very grateful and excited for the opportunity to perform in her Zoom theatre debut!



**Sophia Sherman**

Sophia Sherman is a Junior BFA performance candidate at the University of Michigan originally from Westport, Connecticut. Some of her favorite performance opportunities have been in Yerma, The Theory of Relativity, and Lost in 3 Pines. Outside of performing, she hopes to pursue producing, directing, and writing after she graduates. When not on the stage, she enjoys other artistic mediums like cooking, sewing and drawing. Sophia would like to thank Jules Garber and Kendall Young for being such brilliant, kind, and generous collaborators and for including her in this project.



**Julianna Garber**

For Julianna's bio see Page 2.

## Musical Guests



**Marcel and the Vampires**

Marcel and the Vampires is a singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and producer from San Jose, CA. In addition to making trap influenced pop music under the monicker "marçel" on SoundCloud, he also fronts four-piece pop-rock band Extra Credit! and is influenced by artists such as Kanye West and The 1975.

[soundcloud.com/ellismarcel](https://soundcloud.com/ellismarcel)  
[instagram.com/ellismarcel1](https://instagram.com/ellismarcel1)  
[instagram.com/extracreditca](https://instagram.com/extracreditca)



**DEM ONE**

Demone Carter is an award-winning artist from San Jose, CA. Performing under the name DEM ONE, he has released several albums and collaborated with notable hip hop artists like D-Styles, Motion Man, Chali Tuna, and Bambu. In 2014 Demone received the Leigh Weimers Emerging Artists Award and in 2016 he was named a 2016 Silicon Valley Artist Laureate. More recently he took part in a cultural exchange musical tour of Vietnam as part of the Blood Moon Orchestra in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi. Twitter: @lifeafterhiphop  
Instagram: @lifeafterhiphop  
Venmo: @lifeafterhiphop

# A Hero of Our Time, 2020

Written by Cleavon Smith

Directed by Giovanni Ortega



**Cleavon Smith**

Cleavon Smith is the playwright in residence at TheatreFIRST. His credits include *Vs.* and *The Last Sermon of Sister Imani* as well as the one-act, “Just One Day” featured in the Theatre Bay Area award-winning anthology production *Between Us*. He’s won a PlayGround Emerging Playwright Award and had work featured in UC Berkeley’s New Play Reading Series, Jeffrey Lo’s annual Bench Project, the Ohlone College Playwrights Festival, and Utopia Theatre Project productions. Cleavon was a finalist for the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre’s 2018 Playwrights Festival and is the artist mentor for Berkeley Repertory Theatre’s Young Writers of Color Collective. This fall features TheatreFIRST’s release of his digital story, *Affinity*, and the audio drama, *The Flats*, written in collaboration with Lauren Gunderson and Jonathan Spector for the Aurora Theatre Company’s 2020-21 season.



**Giovanni Ortega**

Giovanni Ortega (SDC) is honored to direct *A Hero Our Time for Our Digital Stories*. Additional directing credits include: *Burrito Man* (The Bench Project), *Lena Passes* (Pasadena Playhouse, USC) *Scrimmage* (East West Players), *The Last Firefly* (Artists at Play/ Center Theatre Group), *Pogi Boy*, *Allos*, *The Carlos Bulosan Story*, *The Hotel Play* (Associate Director, CTG/ Playwrights’ Arena), *La Madre de Todos los Exilios* (Bogotá), *Cabaret*, *The Musical*, *Spring Awakening*, *Urinetown*, *In the Next Room*, *The Government Inspector*, *The House of the Spirits*, *Upon the Fragile Shore* (LA Asian Pacific Film Festival). Giovanni also produced *Kanto Cuentos*, a series of short films in response to the pandemic in collaboration with Theatre Without Borders and *The Body Series* for East West Players and Haque Centre of Acting and Creativity in Singapore. For more info: [www.giovanniortega.com](http://www.giovanniortega.com)



**Davied Morales**

Davied Morales, actor and rapper born and raised in the Bay Area. Last year he released an album called “Light Hearted” on all music platforms, starred in SF Playhouse’s *White Girl’s Guide to International Terrorism* as Gabe, and branched out into film where he was an elf on Nickelodeon’s show “Top Elf” as Zippy Twinkles. Mr. Morales received most of his training through Foothill College where he earned his AA in Theatre Arts and featured in many of their productions. Since then he has worked for companies such as City Lights Theatre Company, Shotgun Players, Broadway by The Bay, and has understudied at A.C.T. & Theatreworks. Throughout the week Davied works at The Red Ladder Theatre Company, teaching improv workshops in prison. Check him out in Bay Area Children’s Theatre’s production of “A Kids Play About Racism” on Broadway on Demand.



**Roman Gonzalez**

Roman Gonzalez is a Bay Area actor who started off training at the Ohlone college award winning theatre department in Fremont California. It was there he acquired his degree in theatre arts and discovered his love for acting. He went on to join Red Ladder Theatre company. A social justice theatre company where he teaches improv to inmates through the California Arts in Corrections program. Additionally, he has trained and acted at the Manhattan Film Institute in Greenport New York taking acting classes with renowned artists such as Chaz Palminteri and Wendy Makenna. He is also a proud member of Lisa Keatings Creative Sunday Workshops Tribe at Keating studios in Berkeley.

# Reunion

Written by Isabella Waldron

Directed by Emily Jackson



**Bill King**

Bill's last pre-COVID theatrical role was as director of the South Street Players Feb 2020 production of Ken Ludwig's *Moon Over Buffalo*. Prior to that he appeared as Mr. Lawrence for his current director Emily's Fall 2019 production of *Little Women* for the Holmdel Theatre Company. Bill has performed in over forty plays ranging from Shakespeare to experimental one acts. He is extremely excited for the chance to perform once again in what seems to be a dark time for performers, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel.



**Sara Luna**

Sara Luna is excited to be participating in *Our Digital Short Stories*. Luna is a San Francisco Bay Area actress. She has performed in Douglas Morrison Theatre's *The Three Musketeers*; Silicon Valley Shakespeare's *The Hood of Sherwood*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Tartuffe*, *12th Night*, and *The Imaginary Invalid*. Luna has also performed with Dragon Productions Theatre (*Some Girls*, *Private Eye*) and RTE (*The Drunken City*, *Collapse*, *Green Whales*, *Eat the Runt*, *All This Intimacy*). She enjoys involvement with new play developments and readings from local playwrights (especially Jeffery Lo's *Dealing Dreams*). Thanks to all for your ongoing support of the arts.



**Isabella Waldron**

For Isabella's bio see Page 2.



**Emily Jackson**

Emily Jackson is an artist and organizer based in NYC whose work focuses on collaboration, fundamental theatricality, and character narrative. Most recently, she served as the Assistant Director for *They Promised Her the Moon* at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. Directing credits include for Kitchen Theatre Company: *I and You*, *The Soup Comes Last*, *Physics Fair*; for Holmdel Theatre Company: *Little Women the Musical*; for Cider Mill Playhouse: *Urinetown*, *Stage Kiss*; for Fordham University: *Into the Woods*; for Sanguine Theatre Company: *Jessica*; *Hamlet Isn't Dead*; *Julius Caesar*. Past administrative roles include Artistic Director for Sanguine Theatre Company, Artistic Associate and Director of Audience Services for Kitchen Theatre Company in Ithaca, NY, and Lark Theatre Literary Wing member. She has adapted the works of Italian playwright, Dacia Maraini. [www.emilyjackson.org](http://www.emilyjackson.org)



**Keith Khorana Stevenson**

An actor from Bombay & Bollywood, Keith has had the pleasure of working in film, TV, radio and on the stage. Over the course of decades he has enjoyed playing a wide spectrum of roles. Oscar Madison in *Odd Couple*. Peron in *Evi-ta*. Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*. Herod in *Superstar*. Judas in *Godspell*. Duncan in the Scottish play. Leo Clark in *Leading Ladies* and many others.

TV afforded him the opportunity to play a zany sheikh from Dubai in a hit comedy serial and to playing General Cornwallis in the epic serial *The Sword of Tipu Sultan*. On film he has worked with Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Roger Moore, Gregory Peck, Peter O'Toole and Will Smith. He was in *The Making of a Mahatma* an Indo-South African film, *For Here or To Go*, a Bay Area film and Kapil Raina in *The Last Smile*.

**#ourdigitalstories**