

ODS

OUR DIGITAL STORIES

VOLUME 2

7 PM PDT, FRIDAY AUGUST 28

OUR DIGITAL STORIES

The idea for digital stories came from a place of need. A group of artists were in the beginnings of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and 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.’

When we created these digital stories, we realized something interesting and quite special. The health concerns of the world required us to stay apart from each other, and we wanted to see what would happen if we leaned into this need to stay apart and see what it did for our storytelling. Although this new format of storytelling was not going to replace what we loved about live theatre or film and television, this format of play provided us an opportunity to create stories that felt surprisingly intimate in a way that feels entirely real and entirely of the moment. With **OUR DIGITAL STORIES**, we are looking to continue this work through regular episodes where we will present a number of individual digital stories while partnering with different community service and arts organizations to help support them. In addition to this, we hope that by using the Internet as our venue, **OUR DIGITAL STORIES** can be a point of access to storytelling and representation for all communities.

www.ourdigitalstories.org
#OurDigitalStories

VOLUME 2

An Austentatious Quibble by Jenn Le Blanc

Wave by Jeffrey Lo

The Rules by Jacob Marx Rice

Special Musical Guest – **Martha Brigham**

THE ENSEMBLE



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 SVCreates 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 or by tweeting him at @tasialabastro. | twitch.tv/kreenpananas



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 *The 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.



Christopher Fitzer is a freelance theatrical designer based in the San Francisco Bay Area and currently the properties master at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. His previous design credits include productions at TheatreWorks, Aspen Opera Theater Center, *World Literature Today's* Puterbaugh Festival, San Jose Stage Co., Hillbarn Theatre, Woodminster Summer Musicals, Oklahoma City Theatre Co., Flat Rock Playhouse, Los Altos Stage Co., Douglas Morrisson Theatre, Palo Alto Players, and Foothill Music Theatre. He has held production and artistic positions at Aspen Music Festival, Sanguine Theatre Company, Curtis Opera Theatre at the Curtis Institute of Music, and Dallas Summer Musicals.



Julianna Garber is a rising junior studying directing at the University of Michigan. 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.



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 not 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, 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.



Steve Muterspaugh is excited to be messing around in this virtual space for a good cause! His most recently 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.



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 recently wrote a musical in one night with the 24 Hour Plays 2020 Nationals Cohort. Other plays include *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.

AN AUSTENTATIOUS QUIBBLE

by **Jenn Le Blanc**

directed by **Marissa Keltie**

featuring **Carina Lastimosa** and **Maria Giere Marquis**



Jennifer Le Blanc (Writer) is very excited and grateful to be part of this ODS Event. Jennifer is an actor, playwright/adaptor, and teaching artist. She has adapted Jane Austen's *Persuasion* and Defoe's *Moll Flanders* for the stage. Jennifer is a frequent contributor to ShotzSF 5 minute plays. She is in the process of writing *Winter's Passage*, a companion piece to Shakespeare's *Winter's Tale*. Jennifer received her MFA from the National Theatre Conservatory and her BA in English from U.C. Berkeley. She is an Associate Artist with the Livermore Shakespeare Festival and Perspective Theatre Company.
www.jenniferleblanc.com



Marissa Keltie (Director) is very excited to be working with Our Digital Stories. She has worked as an actor at Jewel Theatre, Symmetry Theatre, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Cal Shakes, Shotgun Players, Crowded Fire, Custom Made, Central Works, California Theatre Center, San Francisco Playhouse, Berkeley Playhouse, & Impact Theatre. Also, she co-adapted a version of *Uncle Vanya* for Symmetry Theatre, which was used as a benefit performance for Doctors Without Borders and The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. She's excited to begin exploring work as a director. Love you Archie.



Carina Lastimosa (Angela) is a San Francisco Bay Area native, currently residing in Chicago; where she was in the world premiere of *Poison* (The Plagiarists) by Dusty Wilson. Selected SF/Bay Area theatre credits include: *Sisters Matsumoto* (Center REPeritory Company), *A Dreamplay* (Cutting Ball Theater), *Dogeaters* (Magic Theatre), *Peter Pan* and *Hairspray* (Berkeley Playhouse), *The Day The Crayons Quit* (Bay Area Children's Theatre), *Slaughterhouse-Five* and *Top Girls* (Custom Made Theatre Co.), *Marat/Sade* (Thrillpeddlers), *The Crazy* (Central Works), *A Kind of Sad Love Story* (Bindlestiff Studio) and as a performer/educator for Kaiser's Educational Theatre. Carina is a recipient of the Theatre Bay Area TITAN Award and a graduate of Indiana University. Carina is represented by Lily's Talent Agency.

www.carinalastimosa.com



Maria Giere Marquis (Jane) is a Bay Area based theatre and voiceover actor, as well as corporate trainer committed to making work less boring. She is the recipient of Theatre Bay Area's Best Principal Actress award for her work in the world premiere production of *The Awakening* with Breadbox Theater, and she has appeared numerous times with Dragon Productions and City Lights Theater Company where she received a nomination for Best Principal Actress in *The Merchant of Venice* and *Silent Sky*. You can learn more about Maria at mariagmarquis.com, and find her audiobooks on Audible. Thank you for supporting theatre in the time of COVID!

WAVE

by Jeffrey Lo

directed by Khalia Davis

featuring Neiry Rojo, Isabella Waldron, and Kezia Waters

Jeffrey Lo (Writer) – see his bio under Our Digital Stories Ensemble.



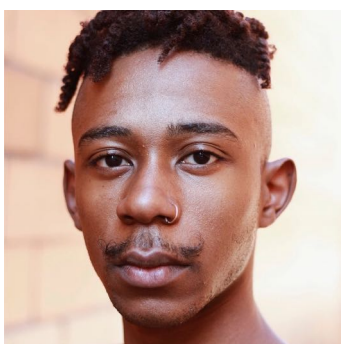
Khalia Davis (she/her) (Director) is a bicoastal multidisciplinary artist splitting her time between the San Francisco/Bay Area and New York. Directed and devised new works with prominent theaters such as Bay Area Children’s Theater, Atlantic Theater Company’s Atlantic for Kids, New York City Children’s Theater, Spellbound Theatre and more. Ms. Davis recently served as the Director of Inclusion and Education with Brooklyn Children’s Theatre restructuring their children’s musical theater programming through an anti-racism lens and currently teaches with New York City Children’s Theater, the Atlantic Acting School, and for Disney Theatrical Group leading music and movement workshops

and facilitating audience and community engagement. She is also an Artistic Associate for the nationally-known arts education organization The Story Pirates. As a performer, she has worked regionally and toured nationally on both coasts. Recently named the Artistic Director of Bay Area Children’s Theatre and awarded the 2019 Emerging Leader Fellowship with TYA/USA and the NYCCT Leader Fellowship for 2019/2020. BA in Theater Arts from the University of Southern California. To learn more about Ms. Davis, check her out at www.khaliadavis.com!



Neiry Rojo (Addie) is a theatre artist passionate about finding ways to challenge the status quo in the theatre industry and in the way people relate to each other outside of the theatre. She has most recently worked as an actress and director with PlayGround Zoom Fest, and has previously worked with Central Works, San Francisco Playhouse, Z Space, Marin Theatre Company, Livermore Shakespeare Company, Santa Cruz Shakespeare, and more. She has worked as a teaching artist with American Conservatory Theatre. Theatre belongs to all. Black Lives Matter.

Isabella Waldron (Sammy) – see her bio under Our Digital Stories Ensemble



Kezia Waters (Max) is a Performing Artist, Playwright, Actor, Director and Teaching Artist From Waterbury, Connecticut. As a Teaching Artist Kezia has led a Children’s Theatre Workshop in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic and has served as a Drama Director for Neighborhood Music School, New Haven, CT where he devised and directed six children’s shows about social justice. Before and while obtaining a BA in Theatre Art from Western Connecticut State University he interned for 2 Shakespeare Companies, Shakespeare Productions Waterbury, CT and Connecticut Free Shakespeare Stratford, CT. He also devised his own one-man show titled *American Rituals for The Subversive*

Body and received the OpenOhio 2019 grant for his performance installation “Repetition is Ritual” Outside of performing he is also a playwright produced in New York City for the 10th season of the Obie Award winning Festival *The First This Time*. Kezia is the Creator/ Founder of “S.O.F.T.” a pedagogical approach to Acting and performing that uses Black Ritual and Queer Aesthetics. Keziawaters.com

THE RULES

by **Jacob Marx Rice**

directed by **Jeffrey Lo**

featuring **Michael Houston, Leslie Ivy, and Christine Jamlig**



Jacob Marx Rice (Writer) is a playwright/screenwriter based in Queens, New York. His plays have been produced and developed at The Flea Theater, The Finborough Theatre in London, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, The New Ohio, Atlantic Theatre Stage 2, and others. He is a member of The Public Theater's Emerging Writers Group for 2020-21 and the Leadership Team of The Shelter. Recent prizes include the Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, an Ensemble Studio Theater Sloan Commission, the Faculty Award from the NYU/Tisch Department of Dramatic Writing and the Excellence in Playwriting Award at the NY Fringe Festival.

Jeffrey Lo (Director) – see his bio under Our Digital Stories Ensemble.



Michael Houston (Alonzo) is a Brooklyn, NY native who recently earning his BFA in acting from Academy of Art University. He credits his growing success to all of his teachers to whom he is grateful for. His production credits include, *Six Degrees of Separation* (Paul), *In the Heights* (Benny), *Death & The Artist* (St. Peter and others), SF Olympians and more. He is happy to be a part of this fantastic new feat of art. He is extremely grateful to Jeffery Lo and all involved in the Digital Stories for giving him this opportunity. He especially thanks his parents Michael and Michelle Houston for always loving and supporting him.



Leslie Ivy (Rebecca) most recently appeared with African American Shakespeare Theatre in their digital performance of *The Drowning Pool* (Kenya), on stage with BBBay in *Sister Act* (Deloris), Ray of Light Theatres *Caroline or Change* (Washing Machine) and Contra Costa Civic Theatre in *Once On This Island* (Asaka). Her recent non musical performances include San Jose Stage *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* (Sookie), Pear Theatre *Northanger Abbey* (Catherine), Los Altos Stage Company *The Crucible* (Tituba), and Encore Players *An American Daughter* (Judith). She is proud of her performance with Hillbarn Theatre in *The Color Purple* (Celie), for which she won a Theatre Bay Area Award. Leslie studied musical performance at Notre Dame De Namur University, and is very happy to help bring artistic theatrical content during the pandemic shut down.

(Cast biographies for *The Rules* continued on next page.)



Christine Jamlig (Orderly) is a third-year MFA Acting student at The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. UHM credits include *The Good Person of Setzuan*, *The Country Wife*, *Integral Bodies*, *'Au'a 'Ia: Holding On*, *The Last King of Bali*, and *Sueño*. SF/Bay Area credits include *Vietgone* (A.C.T.), *Madame Ho* (Eugenie Chan Theater Projects), *Rashomon* (Ubuntu Theater Project), *Yellow Face* (Los Altos Stage Company), *Othello* (Ubuntu Theater Project), *Dogeaters* (Magic Theatre), *Grapes of Wrath* (Ubuntu Theater Project), *First Element* (Campo Santo), *Polaroid Stories* (Fusion Theater), *Real Talk!* (New Conservatory Theatre), *Call It Off* (Mojo Theatre), SF Playwrights Foundation, PlayGround, and Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre. Christine received her B.A. in Theater and Performance Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST

Martha Brigham



Martha Brigham is an actor, teaching artist, and singer/songwriter. Born and raised in Massachusetts, she started playing piano at age six, and continued her music interests dabbling in guitar, violin and eventually focusing on writing lyrics and composing. For the last year she's been learning the ukulele, along with the baritone uke. During this particular moment in time, while her theatre life is on hold, she's working on becoming a top chef and plans to take on the harmonica and the banjo in the fall of 2020. (that's gonna be a good time) She has been a lyricist for Platinum Music Record Company and has had the pleasure of creating beats with producers such as, Kush Mody in Los Angeles and Legacy Studio in the

Bay Area. She recently moved back to her East Coast roots from the Bay, and is enjoying her new home in Brooklyn, NY. You can find more about her music, along with videos and links on her website.

<https://www.martha-brigham.com/music>

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