

ODS

OUR DIGITAL STORIES

VOLUME 4

7 PM PDT, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6

VOLUME 3

Safe by Vincent Terrell Durham

T.G.I.Effed by Lauren Gorski

Special Musical Guest – **Thiccricc**

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER



Red Ladder Theatre Company, based in San Jose, is a nationally acclaimed, award-winning social justice theatre company. Formed in 1992, **Red Ladder** works with a wide range of under-resourced populations within the community, using the tools and techniques of improvisational theatre to help its participants develop positive life-skills.

Red Ladder is founded on the understanding that the most essential component of a healthy individual is the creative spirit, and when a person's creative impulses are revered, encouraged and nurtured, positive change occurs. By working with the professional actors in the company, participants are encouraged to engage their imaginations and envision the broadest range of possibilities for themselves.

Often the neglected or disenfranchised members of the community, **Red Ladder's** participants span a wide range of ages, experiences and abilities, with backgrounds that often include racial segregation, economic hardship, teen pregnancy, developmental disability, housing insecurity or incarceration. The company fills the void where the resources to nurture life-skills critical to healthy development of children and enrichment programs for struggling adults are not available.

Red Ladder combines performances based on strong social issues – issues central to the lives of our participants – with workshops that explore and celebrate the artistic process. **Red Ladder** encourages participants to try on alternate modes of behavior, so that when they're presented with problems in their daily lives, they have the tools with which to utilize a different perspective and make difficult choices. Participants realize that they have options – that there is more than one possibility for them. It is why we say of Red Ladder that is its '**A REHEARSAL FOR A HEALTHY LIFE.**'

www.redladder.org

SAFE

by **Vincent Terrell Durham**

directed by **Rondrell McCormick**

featuring **Davied Morales** and **Kenny Scott**



Vincent Terrell Durham (Writer) (he/him) is a playwright who first honed his storytelling skills as a stand-up comic. He was born and raised in Binghamton, NY. He confronts what it means to be Black in America with clarity, irony and humor. His voice as a proud gay man of color is fresh, compelling and his marksmanship for piercing the souls of theatre audiences is unerring. He writes to pay honor to honor Alberta and Poogie Johnson's nine children. The best storytellers a little Black boy could ever have. Website - vtdisme.com , Twitter - @vtdurham66, Instagram - @vincentterrelldurham



Rondrell McCormick (Director)'s film/tv credits include *February One* (PBS/Netflix) and *Channel 00* (Spike). Director of *Weekend*, *Black Women Talking* and *Polar Bears*, *Black Boys & Prairie Fringed Orchids* for Orlando Shakespeare Festival, Rondrell pays homage to his first creation web series, *The Wesley's*. Up next he ventures to finish his experimental short film, *The Old Saturday* and co direct anthology feature film. He is an alumni of Sundance Theater Lab at MASS MoCA (*Bella: An American Tall Tale*) and a writer on music label WriterzBlok Music Group. Mr. McCormick's theater credits include *Mark Twain's River Of Song* (Jim- TheatreWorks), *As You Like It* (Oliver/Corin- SF Shakes), *Between Riverside & Crazy* (Junior-San Jose Stage), *Graveyard Shift* (Kane-SF Playhouse), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Adrian-Center REP), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Duke of Florence-Shakespeare and Company), and *A Christmas Carol* (Businessman-ACT). Mr. McCormick holds a B.F.A. in theater from North Carolina Agricultural And Technical State University and an M.F.A. in acting from the prestigious American Conservatory Theater.



Davied Morales (Dustin) (he/him) is an actor and rapper born and raised in San Jose. 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's worked for companies such as City Lights Theatre Company, Shotgun Players, SF Playhouse, BATC, and has understudied at A.C.T. & TheatreWorks. Throughout the week Davied works at The Red Ladder Theatre Company, teaching improv workshops in prison. Also check him out this December on Nickelodeon's Holiday show "Top Elf" as Zippy Twinkles and on social media @activepoet



Kenny Scott (Corey) (he/him) is an actor based in Oakland, California. He attended Morgan State University, and was a member of the Laney College Fusion Theatre Project where he was featured in three productions (*Más*, *The Late Wedding*, and *In The Wound*). Kennys recent credits include staged readings with Magic Theatre, Golden Thread, and Lorraine Hansberry. Full productions with Quantum Dragon Theatre (*Ageless*), The New Conservatory Theatre Center (*Mystery of Love and Sex*), The Forum (*Sarafael*) and Idiot String (*Port Stories*), Crowded Fire (*Inked Baby*), and Shotgun Players (*The Claim*). He is also an Oakland Theatre Project company member (*Hamlet*, *Mother Courage*).

T.G.I.EFFED

by **Lauren Gorski**

directed by **Tessa Corrie**

featuring **Peter Chenot, Joyce Domanico-Huh, Cassie Grilley, Matthew Hanjoong, Brigitte Losey, and Isabel Anne To**



Lauren Gorski (Writer) is an award-winning writer and Co-Editor-In-Chief of *Exposition Review*, a multi-genre digital literary journal. She has a Master's in Professional Writing with emphasis in Stage and Screen from the University of Southern California, and a Bachelor's in English with Emphasis in Creative Writing from the University of California, Irvine. She writes fiction, poetry, screenplays, and stageplays. Her plays have been performed for the Hollywood Fringe, PlayGround, PianoFight's ShortLived series, and more. She is also a past playwright-in-residence with PlayGround San Francisco.



Tessa Corrie (Director) (She/Her) is a queer and latinx theatre director based in the Bay Area. Her work is grounded in creating space for marginalized and underrepresented communities and narratives. She is a company member and ambassador at PlayGround SF. Her credits include work at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Center REpertory Company, Hillbarn Theatre, Pear Theatre, Dragon Theatre, Fuse Theatre, TheatreFirst, Shotgun Players, PianoFight, and AmiosWest.



Peter Chenot (Marco) (He/Him) is excited to be involved in *Our Digital Stories* having recently appeared in the *Bench Project* the last two years. He is a somewhat new transplant to the Bay Area and is the Director of Marketing for TheatreWorks Silicon Valley.



Joyce Domanico-Huh (Joyce) (She/Her) is an Oakland-based, Korean-American artist. She's delighted to be a part of *Our Digital Stories*! Joyce was last seen in Shotgun Players' digital performance of *Quack*. She's worked with local companies such as *Killing My Lobster*, Actors Ensemble of Berkeley, Magic Theatre, among others. She's a proud member of the ORO Arts Lab, a 2019 KML Comedy Fellow, and regularly trains with Barrow Group Approach classes. Joyce thanks Tessa for the ripe opportunity to play Joyce, and her fellow castmates for the hilarious experience!



Cassie Grilley (Ren) (She/Her) was born and raised in San Francisco. She can currently be heard in The San Francisco Mime Troupe's radio play *Tales of the Resistance* (Clya). Previous credits include: *Hairspray* (Tracy Turnblad) with Bay Area Musicals; *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Lucy/White Witch/Susan), *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (Dragon), *She Persisted* (Child Time) with BACT. BA: UC Irvine. @cassiewassie295



Matthew Hanjoong (Hugo) (He/Him) is a former Capital Stage Theatre Apprentice and a graduate from Sacramento State University. Most recently, he was seen performing virtually in Capital Stage's *The Great Leap* and onstage in *Gold Hill Samurai* at the Wakamatsu Festival; a staged reading of *The End of the World* at Capital Stage; *Compleat Female Stage Beauty* at Sacramento State; and in *The Three Musketeers* at American River College. Matthew has also studied at UCLA with Academy Award Winner Tim Robbins and The Actor's Gang.



Brigitte Losey (Alyssa) (She/Her) is a born and raised Bay Area theatre artist. She has worked up and down the Peninsula in such theatres as Hillbarn Theatre, Ray of Light Theatre, Los Altos Stage Company, San Jose Stage Co. and TheatreWorks. Working on ODS has been lovely pocket of joy and a reminder of how important the arts are. Thank you to the entire ODS team, Tessa, Lauren, and the *T.G.I.Effed* cast!



Isabel Anne To (Kimmy) (She/Her) is a Bay Area actor, avid cross-stitcher, aspiring ukulelist, and new inline skater. She has been very grateful to be able to continue performing virtually; it's one of the wonderful things keeping her going these days. This summer she officially joined SF PlayGround as a new company member, and most recently performed in "staged" readings at the PlayGround Zoom Fest and the first Monday Night PlayGround of 2020-21. Isabel also enjoys performing in the final reads for new writers taking Killing My Lobster's (virtual) sketch writing classes. Pre-COVID, you may remember her as Christmas Eve in NCTC's Avenue Q. www.isabelanneto.com

SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST



Thiccricc (He/Him) is currently pursuing a mathematics degree at San Jose State, working, performing, and steadily releasing projects. He is comfortably enjoying making music part-time and has not bought into the idea of becoming a tortured artist, being drained from his work. A distinguishing feature of Ric's is that every song feels fun because the artist is centered on enjoying the process of making good music, not so much the prospect of blowing up as a creative figure. "Never in my life have I pursued the idea of being an artist. If it happens, it happens."

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 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 or by tweeting him at @tasialabastro. | [twitch.tv/kreenpananas](https://www.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.

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

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