

Rotate Theatre Company

presents

Rotate Theatre Mini Fest

Rotate Theatre Mini Fest

Celebrating short plays featuring underrepresented perspectives on whose stories are worth telling, what's funny, and how the world works.

Saturday, June 10, 4:30 & 7:30
Sunday, June 11, 1:30

Starlight Theater
MYARTS 1055 E Mifflin, Madison

www.RotateTheatre.org



This project is made possible through partnerships and support from many individuals and organizations and is funded in part by a grant from the Madison Arts Commission, with additional funds from the Wisconsin Arts Board. We would like to thank Dane Arts, UW South Madison Partnership, Overture Center for the Arts, Madison Attic, Agrace Thrift Store, East Madison Community Center, Willy Street Co-op, FPC Live, Stroop Club, MOD Pizza, Nuts for Cheese, British Food Club, PBS Wisconsin, Division of the Art at UW-Madison, World Premiere Wisconsin, and MYArts. And, a huge thank you to our individual donors, this project would not be possible without your generosity!

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Accessibility

Please email RotateTheatre@gmail.com, call 608-515-8912, or view our current [Audience Access Chart](#) for information or requests regarding access or accommodations.

Land and Labor Acknowledgement

We are grateful for the labor performed by so many storytellers that have influenced our practices and offer perspectives from a range of disciplines including Queer Disability Justice (ex: Sins Invalid), Indigenous Environmental Studies (ex: Robin Wall Kimmerer), Black Feminisms (ex: Audre Lorde), Indigenous Performing Arts (ex: Monique Mojica) – we could go on all day! We encourage you to engage with their work!

This project was created in the Great Lakes Region, where many Native nations and Indigenous communities have long cultural and governmental histories that go back thousands of years and continue today, despite genocidal invasion and ongoing colonization by the United States. Much of the production took place on occupied Ho-Chunk land in Teejop / Madison.

We use buildings and technology disproportionately built and cared for through the ongoing extraction of materials and labor from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and other marginalized communities around the world.

This context, and how we respond collectively and as individuals, impacts our work, our communities, and our stories.

The Plays

- All plays are performed at each showing with a running time of approximately 100 minutes, including an intermission.
- This production is designed for adult audiences. Supervised children are welcome if comfortable with mature themes, humor, and language.
- * Presented as part of [World Premiere Wisconsin](#).

*Out

- By Kristin P.
 - Featuring: Marie Charles, Cyra K. Polizzi, Kelly Noel Zeva
- Three friends debate their evening plans... and Queer history, and accessibility, and - well - capes.*



*Rishi's Grocery List

- By Rini Tarafder, Direction by Richard Paro.
 - Featuring: Sarthak Kumar, with Rini Tarafder.
- In this new multimedia play, the essential everyday task of grocery shopping is invaded by political unrest back home.*



Toadstools & the Mechanical Man

- By John Weagly, Direction by Breahan Eve Pautsch.
- Featuring: Peter Jurich, Cyra K. Polizzi, Kelly Noel Zeva.

Determined to make this a special day, Lord Bashum invites Lady Willoughby to the gardens hoping to impress her with his foraging Mechanical Man, but she seems more intrigued by expanding her experiences than romantic overtures.



Ella's Children

- By Wi-Moto Nyoka, Direction by Richard Paro.
- Featuring: Erika Kachama-Nkoy, Valentina Perdomo, Megan Tennesen, with sound effects by the ensemble.

What starts as just another day on the job at a daycare center, turns into an unexpected zomedy about second-class citizenship, “women's work,” and mobility.



You Could Come Back Over Here

- By Richard Paro w/ Kristin P.
- Featuring: Ashely Bagot, Cyra K. Polizzi, with Maria Dahman, Bernie Hein, Safina Klepzig, Olivia Rose.

Shortly after hooking up at a party, Angela discovers Beth was her childhood bully. Is there a way to move forward?



***Dancing to Intermission**

- By Kristin P.
- Featuring: Maria Dahman, Megan Tennesen, with the ensemble, featuring the song You Must Have Been Dancing by miscellaneous owl.

A comedy fueled by assumptions about class, race, and cultural divides, this world premiere invites us to build community and connection outside our comfort zones.



Bleeding Heart

- By Rhea Leman, Direction by Breahan Eve Pautsch.
- Featuring: Autumn Yael Fearing-Kabler, Peter Jurich, Nick Kaprelian, Megan Tennesen.

Four scientists prepare to abandon Earth after failing to avert climate crisis in this highly-stylized dystopian play from Denmark.



Three Cheers for Ava

- By Aisha Leverett, Direction by Breahan Eve Pautsch.
- Featuring: Nick Kaprelian, Kathleen Nichols, Cyra K. Polizzi, with Peter Jurich.

Three chums plot the future of their relationship with their annoyingly perfect friend Ava in this satirical critique of capitalism and colonialism.



Fox in the Snow

- By Richard Paro.
- Featuring: Stephanie Albrecht, Marie Charles, Maria Dahman, Autumn Yael Fearing-Kabler, Bernie Hein, Safina Klepzig, Sarthak Kumar, Valentina Perdomo, Olivia Rose, Maggie Schenk, Megan Tennessen.



A bible study meetup takes an unexpected turn when the members' true motives are revealed.

Festival stage management by Rini Tarafder, music by [miscellaneous owl](#) (Huan-Hua Chye), technical operations management by Jarrod Bainter, caption operation by Anthony Cary, and pre-show recording by Crystal Hartford.

Intermission Audience Engagement Activity

Facilitated by Cyra K. Polizzi and the ensemble. Choreography by Hayley Goy to the song Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) by Elle King and Miranda Lambert.

The Collaborators



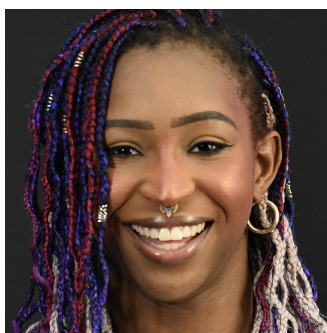
Stephanie Albrecht
Mainstage Cast
she/her

Stephanie Albrecht has a bachelor of arts from UW-Madison in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing. She lives in Madison, WI and works as a Project Manager for a contract research organization.



Ashely Bagot
Mainstage Cast
she/her, they/them

Ashely Bagot is a director, actor, and costume designer. In addition to her frequent directing work with Rotate Theatre, her previous acting work includes There Might Be... Stumble, What Happened to the Quiet Kids, and Fox in the Snow. Ashely also works assisting people with mental illness access housing and recovery services in Chicago.



Marie Charles
Mainstage & Special
Event Cast
she/her, they/them

Marie Charles grew up in Milwaukee, WI where she had the opportunity to gain early exposure to (and fall in love with) the performing arts at an early age. Marie (Vee) Charles has training in theater, musical theater, and numerous dance styles and performed for several years with First Stage Youth Theatre. They are also involved in film and enjoy singing, playing guitar, and gardening. Vee hopes to continue creating and performing and building community here in Madison/WI and beyond.



Huan-Hua Chye
Music
she/her, they/them

Huan-Hua Chye is a musician based in Madison, WI, currently active in the indie pop band Gentle Brontosaurus and the transatlantic synthpop collaboration Vowl Sounds. Huan-Hua also creates solo recordings under the name [miscellaneous owl](#) and performs in tribute and cover projects of artists such as Liz Phair, Hall and Oates, The Go-Go's, The Beach Boys, and Elvis. She grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, graduated from UC Berkeley in linguistics, and when she's not playing music, painting, writing, cooking, sewing, knitting, or otherwise creating, she works in translation and volunteers in wildlife rehabilitation.



Maria Dahman
Mainstage & Special
Event Cast
she/her

Maria Dahman has been performing in Madison since moving here in 2017. Recent performances include LACONIA (2022) and LYSISTRATA (2019), both at Broom Street Theater. She really enjoys new works and experimental theater that incorporates music and dance, and is so happy to have the opportunity to work with Rotate Theatre. maria.dahman@gmail.com



**Autumn Yael
Fearing-Kabler**
Mainstage Cast
they/them

Autumn Yael Fearing-Kabler grew up in Los Angeles where they were involved in theater arts for many years and they are SO stoked to be getting back to it with Rotate Theater. They hold a BS in Community and Environmental Sociology from the UW-Madison, have been engaged with community organizing and mutual aid efforts throughout their time in Madison, have worked as a professional cook, and now work with the Jewish Social Services of Madison where they are passionate about continuing a housing first approach with newly arrived families and individuals, and eager to bring more of the community into the process of refugee resettlement. Autumn Yael still often cooks at home, and loves being in nature with their life partner, Fawzy, and 2-year-old Pitbull, Romy.



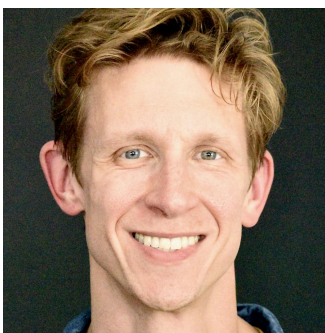
Bernie Hein
Mainstage Cast
she/her

Bernie Hein is thrilled to be making her debut with Rotate Theater! Bernie has been an active community theater member for ten years, playing roles in the Janesville, Beloit, and now Madison area, and recently was thrilled to star in a film called "Meeting Dad" that was shown at the Beloit Film Festival. Bernie lives in Madison with her two dog children, Rocky and Rambo. She sincerely hopes everyone enjoys the show!



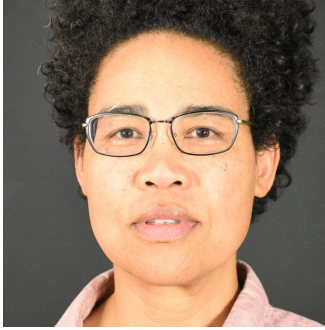
Melvin Hinton Special
Event Cast
he/him

Melvin Hinton has performed and worked behind the scenes with many organizations, including The Madrid Players, Donna Hightower's gospel music ensemble, CTM, the Bartell, Fermet's Last Theater, Tennessee State University, WORT-fm (Radio Literature), WPR (Chapter a Day), and Madison Public Library. Melvin is Nashville born and bred, a graduate of historic Fisk University, completed a paid internship -- and turned down a full-time job offer -- at The New York Times News Service before going on to graduate school. Melvin was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, then a Fulbright Fellow, spending two years in France before moving to Spain, where he lived for many years. He has taught Spanish language and literature at the UW-Madison, Texas A&M University, The University of the South, and elsewhere.



Peter Jurich
Mainstage Cast
he/him, they/them

Peter Jurich is a writer, actor, and producer. He has worked on various short films with the 48-Hour Film Project since 2019, won Best Villain in the 2022 Twisted Dreams Film Festival in Milwaukee, and performed stand-up for many years. Peter is passionate about using narrative storytelling and humor to educate; social issues; workers rights; and creating a more accessible world for people of all abilities.



Erika Kachama-Nkoy
Mainstage Cast
she/her

Erika Kachama-Nkoy was born in Kinshasa, Zaire, she grew up in Maine, went to college in Chicago and has made Madison her home since 2000. She was last seen in Broom Street Theater's 2018 production of *BEG PARDON* (Sally Hemings). Erika is a user experience designer at PBS Wisconsin, UW-Madison.



Nick Kaprelian
Mainstage Cast
he/him

Nick Kaprelian has been active in the Madison theater community since 2008. Past productions include *BAD IN BED* (Madison Theater Guild), *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST* (Strollers theater), *TALLEY'S FOLLY* (Rankin theater Guild), *SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS* (Madison Theater Guild), *PROM* (Broom Street Theater) and *RHINOCEROS* (Strollers Theater).



Safina Klepzig
Mainstage Cast
she/her

Safina Klepzig loves all types of theater from classic plays like *Death of a Salesman* to contemporary musicals like *Hamilton* and *Spring Awakening*. She is a New York Fashion Week runway model and has been published in international and domestic media. Safina grew up as a competitive horseback rider and now works as a veterinary assistant at a small animal clinic.



Sarthak Kumar
Mainstage Cast
he/him

Sarthak Kumar's fascination of good storytelling has always motivated him to explore, appreciate, and perform theatre. Sarthak's experience includes writing and directing for the theatre during his undergraduate studies in India. He has also worked in translation and editing of plays from English to Urdu, informed by his deep passion for Urdu and Hindi poetry. When bringing characters to the stage, Sarthak also draws on his extensive scientific background and deep interest in behavioral psychology.



Rhea Leman
Playwright
she/her

Rhea Leman was born and raised in New York City where she studied dance and theater before moving to Denmark in 1981. There, she formed and directed theater company Teater Tango and has worked as an independent Playwright, screenwriter, and theater, radio, and TV director. Her plays have been performed throughout Europe and the US, enjoying public and press acclaim. Leman has been nominated twice by The Reumert Committee as best Playwright of the year. The Danish Cultural Minister appointed Leman as the chairwoman of The Danish Theater Council and as a member of The Danish Arts Council. In 2009, Leman formed Dramafronten to promote and produce new Danish plays in new ways and new places.



Aisha Leverett
Playwright
she/her

Aisha Leverett has been active in writing and comedy for nearly 20 years. Her work includes comedic sketch, short plays, audio, and the occasional performance as a favor for good friends. She is excited to be a part of Rotate Theatre Mini Fest and congratulates Rotate Theatre on their next chapter!



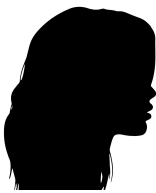
Kathleen Nichols
Mainstage Cast
she/her, they/them

Kathleen Nichols found a home on the stage and screen in the Twin Cities theater community at a young age and then went on to study Theater & Drama, as an acting specialist, at UW-Madison (and was fortunate to meet, and now return to play making, with incredible actors/directors Brea and Cyra). Kat has also worked as a teacher in NYC and NJ K-12 schools facilitating student learning and elevating student voice in improv, plays, musicals, spoken word, documentary video-making, playwriting, and arts-based social activism.



Wi-Moto Nyoka
Playwright
she/her

Wi-Moto Nyoka is a horror and sci-fi writer. She is the founder of Dusky Projects, creating and producing horror & sci-fi projects for young adult and adult audiences. Awards and honors include: Stowe Story Labs selected project, Puffin Foundation grant recipient, Awesome Foundation grant recipient, Velocity Fund grant recipient, Scribe Video Finishing Grant recipient, Nightmares Film Festival Best Short Screenplay Award Winner, 13 Horror Screenplay Award Winner, Oregon Short Film Festival Best Horror Teleplay Award Winner and more. Published works can be found in Midnight & Indigo's Speculative Fiction collection, Terror Unleashed: Volume 2, The Seelie Crow and The Last Girls Club. IG: @duskyprojects, wi-motonyoka.com



Kristin P.
Playwright
they/them, she/her

Kristin P. is a midwest-based Playwright. Their work often uses everyday circumstance and naturalistic dialogue to explore the absurdity and insidiousness of dominant expectations, compulsory behaviors, and systems of control in contemporary United States.



Richard Paro
Director/ Playwright
he/him

Richard Paro is an award winning theatre and film director based in Madison, WI. Richard uses highly collaborative techniques throughout the artistic process and much of his work emphasizes coalition-building, as seen in theatre productions like *There Might Be... Stumble*. In addition to his work with Rotate Theatre, he has worked with many companies in Chicago, including Stage 773, Arc, Theatre-Hikes, Prologue, Tympanic, Dandelion, and Stockyards Theatre Project, and his feature-length and short films have screened at film festivals in 22 states and 15 countries. Always excited to share his favorite theatre, movies, and music with new audiences, Richard has worked in festival programming and organizing for years in Chicago, Milwaukee, and surrounding areas.



Breahan Eve Pautsch
Director / Special Event
Cast
she/her

Breahan Eve Pautsch is a director, actor, and writer. In addition to her work with Rotate Theatre, Breahan has collaborated with Raven Theatre, The International Voices Project, Wildclaw Theatre, Broken Nose Theatre, Speaking Ring Theatre, Halcyon Theatre, Theatre Entropy, North Lakeside Players, Scriptworks, and Akvavit Theatre where she served in many roles including artistic director. Breahan is frequently called upon for her expertise directing contemporary Nordic plays for audiences in the US. Breahan grew up in Cadott, Wisconsin, graduated with a BA in Theatre and English from UW-Madison, and was based in Chicago for many years before recently returning to Madison.



Valentina Perdomo
Mainstage Cast
she/her

Valentina Perdomo moved from Venezuela to the United States in 2015. She has taken theatre and acting classes in the Appleton area, where she also participated in plays and musicals including *The Little Mermaid*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Jungle Book*, and *Still I Rise: A Play About Surviving Abuse*. Most recently, Valentina performed in the Vintage Theatre production of *Jake's Women* (Sheila).



Cyra K. Polizzi
Mainstage & Special
Event Cast / Director
they/them, she/her

Cyra K. Polizzi is a theatre actor with a wide range of experiences in other specialties (directing, writing, facilitation, etc) and modalities (dance, music, film, etc). Whether exploring realism or other approaches, from silent movement-based work to campy drag musicals, much of Cyra's work incorporates humor, queer possibilities, and multi-issue activism. Cyra grew up performing in the driftless area of rural WI, attended UW-Madison in Theatre Acting, Gender Studies, and Environmental Studies, and spent 15 years working full-time in storefront theatre and independent film before happily returning to Teejop / Madison. Cyra then completed a grad program at UW-Madison formalizing their transdisciplinary research asking questions about accessibility, sustainability, and wellness in theatre practices. www.cyrakpolizzi.com



Olivia Rose
Mainstage Cast
she/her

Olivia Rose is a graduating senior at Edgewood College majoring in Elementary Education with a minor in Theatre Arts Education. Previous productions include She Kills Monsters (Vera and Choreographer), 5 Women Wearing the Same Dress (Georgeanne), Sister Act (Deloris Van Cartier), Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play (Winnie), As You Are (Celia), Theory of Relativity (Amy), Well-Intentioned White People (Cass), Sweat (Cynthia), and The Drowsy Chaperone (Trix the Aviatrix). She'd like to thank her family and friends for supporting her.



Maggie Schenk
Mainstage Cast

Maggie Schenk is a musician, theater artist, educator, and community health advocate. Maggie grew up in Madison playing a lot of flute and reciting a lot of Shakespeare, and has found music and theater to be lifelong companions and teachers. Maggie currently performs musically with the East Side Acoustic Ensemble and Salamander Sunday, and theatrically with Fermat's Last Theater. When not in rehearsal or on stage, Maggie enjoys dreaming, being outside, going on walks, eating yummy food, being cozy, and petting the best cat in the world, Lisa.



Rini Tarafder
Playwright / Stage
Manager
she/her

Rini Tarafder is a PhD student in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies at UW-Madison. Her research is about political theatre in India. Rini's plays have been performed at festivals in Madison and in educational spaces in India. She also experiments with poetry, musical instruments, photography, sewing, and digital forms of performance art. Rini's ideal day would include walking through the woods, looking at birds.



Megan Tennesen
Mainstage Cast
she/her, they/them

Megan Tennesen is from St Louis, MO and is passionate about acting and creating art. She is a junior at UW-Madison studying Theatre & Drama and Communication Sciences & Disorders. University Theatre credits include Macbeth, Bonnets (How Ladies of Good Breeding Are Induced to Murder), and Peter and the Starcatcher. Magan especially enjoys playing with movement based storytelling and experimental theatre.



John Weagly
Playwright
he/him

John Weagly has had over 100 plays receive nearly 200 productions by theaters on 4 continents. A collection of his short sci-fi/fantasy scripts, *Tiny Flights of Fantasy*, has been taught at Columbia College and is available through Amazon. His latest collection of plays is available from Next Stage Press.



Kelly Noel Zeva
Mainstage Cast
they/them

Kelly Noel Zeva is a writer, Reiki Master Teacher, holistic sex coach, and entrepreneur who's had a lifelong love affair with performing arts. Kelly Noel is excited to make their Madison-area theatre debut with Rotate Theatre. Favorite past credits include Elaine in *Night Watch* (Janesville Little Theatre) and David Attenborough in *Time Flies* (North Central College One Acts). Kelly Noel's published works include *Approach* (2022) and *evolve* (2023, forthcoming). kellynoelzeva.com

The Song List

Featuring the music of [miscellaneous owl](#) (Huan-Hua Chye):

- I Used to Know You Better
- Liberty Street
- Soft Summer
- Mad World
- Take a Ride In My Boat
- Liquid Starshine
- You Must Have Been Dancing
- Cease to Exist
- The Room Where I Was Born
- Little Fires
- 1000 Volt Ghost, Pt. One (*pre-show only*)
- Conversation (*pre-show only*)
- The Look (*intermission only*)
- Emily, I Don't Want to Feel This Way Forever (*intermission only*)

Intermission activity to Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) by Elle King and Miranda Lambert.

About Rotate Theatre Mini Fest

Rotate Theatre Mini Fest celebrates short plays featuring underrepresented perspectives on whose stories are worth telling, what's funny, and how the world works! Mainstage performances on June 10-11, 2023 at the beautiful Starlight Theater at the MYArts building feature an entertaining and thought-provoking lineup of festival favorites performed alongside brand new works presented as part of World Premiere Wisconsin.

From hilarious comedies to engaging dramas to shiver-inducing horror, the eclectic plays and characters grapple with relationships, Queer possibilities, colonial entitlement, navigating access, racial capitalism, climate change, and zombie toddlers! At each showing, all nine fully-staged short plays are brought to life by a team of 30 collaborators, some with decades of experience and some beginners! The 100 minute program includes one intermission, during which audience members are invited to visit the allergen-aware vegan-friendly concessions counter or join the performers for a fun mini dance activity.

In addition to the mainstage performances, Rotate Theatre Company presents a mini performance piece at the Overture Center for the Arts' Democracy exhibit on May 5, a talkback directly following the 7:30pm show on June 10, and a mini playwriting workshop on June 15.

About Rotate Theatre Company



Rotate Theatre Company, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, creates and celebrates performing arts featuring underrepresented perspectives.

By embracing practices that enrich the lives of collaborative artists, engage audiences in laughter and discussion, and incorporate multidirectional learning, Rotate Theatre Company contributes to larger webs of strategies that build more just futures for professional artists and the general public.

Rotate Theatre Company produces plays and musicals for the stage, brings new short works to audiences through our festivals, develops independent films, and offers educational opportunities, special events, and curated programs.

Ensemble Members

Ashely Bagot, Crystal Hartford, Richard Paro,
Breahan Eve Pautsch, Cyra K. Polizzi

Contact Info

Rotate Theatre Company

RotateTheatre@gmail.com . 608-515-8912

www.rotatetheatre.org

Support Rotate Theatre Company!

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Become a Rotate Theatre donor today!

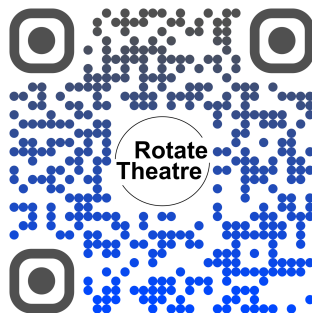
- Click [Donate!](#) to make a one-time or monthly donation.
- We also accept donations through [PayPal Giving](#).
- If you prefer [Cash App](#), our cashtag is: [\\$RotateTheatre](#)

We use alternative ticketing models to offer a significant number of very low-cost tickets to our productions, available to all. Your donation helps make this possible! Thank you!



Stay in Touch & Spread the Word!

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- Email us at RotateTheatre@gmail.com.
- Visit www.RotateTheatre.org.



Rotate Theatre Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Thank You Partners & Supporters!



And, a huge thank you to our individual donors!
Your generosity means the world to us!

World Premiere Wisconsin

This production is part of World Premiere Wisconsin, a statewide festival celebrating new plays and musicals running March 1 – June 30, 2023, presented by the Ten Chimneys Foundation. Sign-up for WPWs FREE digital passport to see everything WPW has to offer! Check-in for this production on the passport using the following code: **6464**. See more plays, earn more points, and be entered into exclusive giveaways! Get your passport, view the interactive calendar, and learn more by visiting www.worldpremierewisconsin.com.

World Premiere Wisconsin
Presented by **TEN CHIMNEYS Foundation**

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Bold new idea. Locally brewed.

World Premiere Wisconsin

A statewide celebration of new plays and musicals
March 1 - June 30, 2023

Be the **FIRST** to see full productions, readings, and workshops of new work by nearly **50 theaters** across the state!

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