

Plays For Us presents **Six Writers** writing on the theme, **Beautiful Mess**
Pictor Gallery on March 20, 2025
Doors Open at 6pm, Salon Starts at 6:30pm

Christin Eve Cato, an award-winning luminary playwright, dramaturg, poet, educator, lyricist, songwriter, and performing artist, emerges from the vibrant streets of the Bronx, bringing with her a profound artistic narrative steeped in the rich tapestry of her Puerto Rican



and Jamaican roots. Armed with an MFA in Playwriting from Indiana University and a BA in Political Science and Philosophy from Fordham University, Cato's voice is often distinguished for her ability to create universal stories grounded in culturally specific narratives. Cato's artistic voice harmonizes with the rhythms of Caribbean culture and the Afro-Latinx diaspora. Her journey in song and lyric writing was ignited during her formative years at Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School for Music and Art and the Performing Arts, where she was classically trained in vocal music. Immersed in the pulsating heart of New York City's theatrical landscape, Cato has become an indispensable thread in the cultural fabric. She holds esteemed positions such as ensemble member and former Resident Dramaturg at Pregones/PRTT, a founding UNIT 52 ensemble member at INTAR Theatre, and a playwright in the WP Theater 2022-2024 Pipeline Lab. Additionally, she is a former Core Apprentice and current educator at the Playwrights Center, a member and affiliated playwright of The Latinx Playwrights Circle, an

associated artist with The Sol Project, and a seasonal roundtable dramaturg at the Musical Theatre Factory.

As a prolific playwright, Cato's recent off-Broadway production and 2024 Obie award-winning play, *Sancocho* at the WP Theatre (March 2023; co-produced by the Latinx Playwrights Circle, WP Theatre, and The Sol Project), garnered high acclaim. Before *Sancocho* made its off-Broadway debut in NYC, it graced the Chicago theatre scene for the Chicago Latino Theater Alliance's 2022 *Destinos Theater Festival* (produced by *Visión Latino Theatre Company*). The *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Reader* lauded the play, emphasizing its resonant family dynamics and critiques on generational trauma. The *Chicago Tribune* celebrated *Sancocho* as "a multi-sensory experience", and The *Chicago Reader* declared it as "rich family fare".

Christin Eve Cato is more than an artist; she is a trailblazer shaping the narratives of today and tomorrow. She has been named and is an awardee of the *Negocios Now: 40 under 40 Leaders of Latino Excellence*. She has received recognition, including the 2020 *Greater Good Commission* recipient for Afro-Latinx writers and the 2021 *ReImagine New Plays in TYA* grant, second place prize winner in the 2023 *Miranda Family Voces Latinx Competition*, and the 2023 *HOLA* award nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Playwriting. She is represented by *WME Agency* and *3 Arts Entertainment* and is a proud member of *The Dramatists Guild* and *Actors Equity Association*.



Cheryl L. Davis received the Ed Kleban Award for her work as a musical theater librettist, and her musical *Barnstormer*, written with composer Douglas J. Cohen, received a Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award under the auspices of the Lark Play Development Center. Her play *Maid's Door* (Billie Holiday Theatre) received seven Audelco Awards, and was presented at the 2015 and 2017 National Black Theatre Festivals; it was also a finalist for the Francesca Primus Prize. Her musical *Bridges* (Berkeley Playhouse) was a finalist for the 2018 Richard Rodgers Award. *Don't Stay Safe* (Prospect Theater Company), the short film musical based on *Bridges*, was nominated for a Drama Desk Award and screened and won awards in several film festivals. She was a Resident Playwright at the 2023 New Harmony Project.

She is the co-librettist on the Canadian-based Volcano Theatre Company's adaptation of Scott Joplin's opera *Treemonisha*, which received its world premiere (and great reviews) in Toronto in June 2023; plans are in process to bring the show to the USA. She is currently writing the book for the musicals *Jed*, with music and lyrics by David B. Wohl, *Samantha Single-Handed*, with music and lyrics by Aaron Gandy and Noah Racey, and is writing book and lyrics for a yet unnamed musical about a famous African American woman pianist and activist with Broadway composer Barbara J. Anselmi.

Cheryl received Writers' Guild Awards for her work on the daytime dramatic serials *As the World Turns* and *Days of Our Lives*, and was nominated for a Daytime Emmy Award for her work on both shows. She has written for *Law & Order: SVU* on a freelance basis, and her episode "Garland's Baptism by Fire" aired on April 2, 2020. Her short play *Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep* streamed as part of #WhileWeBreathe, and received a write-up in The New York Times. Her play *Swimming Uptown* has received developmental readings at the Lark Play Development Center and the Classical Theater of Harlem, and she worked on the TV pilot based on that play as the Maven Screen Media Fellow at Stowe Story Lab in 2021.

Cheryl's play about the desegregation of the nation's school system, *The Color of Justice* (Theatreworks/USA), received excellent reviews in The New York Times and Daily News, and toured for a number of years. Her play *Winnie the Pooh KIDS* (Disney Theatrical Group) is currently being licensed. She has written commissions for the Ensemble Studio Theatre/Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science and Technology Project, the Red Mountain Theatre Company and the Birmingham Children's Theatre.

Cheryl is an alumna of the Advanced Workshop of the BMI/Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild and a Board member of the Dramatists Legal Defense Fund. She is a practicing attorney in Manhattan and is the General Counsel for the Authors Guild. www.cldplay.com

Deborah Zoe Laufer's plays have been produced at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cleveland Playhouse, Geva, The Humana Festival, Everyman, Primary Stages, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and hundreds of other theaters around the world.



Plays include *Be Here Now*, *End Days*, *Rooted*, *Informed Consent* (NYTimes critic's pick), *Leveling Up*, *Out of Sterno*, *The Last Schwartz*, *Sirens*, *Meta*, *The Three Sisters of Weehawken*, *Fortune*, dozens of short plays, and the musicals, *Window Treatment*, and *By Any Other Name*, written with composer, Daniel Green.

Deb is a recipient of the Helen Merrill Playwriting Award, the Lilly Award, The ATCA Steinberg citation, and grants and commissions from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, The Edgerton Foundation, The National New Play Network, and the Lincoln Center Foundation. Her work has been developed by The Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Theatre Lab, PlayPenn, The Cherry Lane Alternative, The Missoula Colony, LOCAL Theatre, Asolo Rep, The Baltic Playwrights Conference, and more. Her plays are published or recorded by Concord/Samuel French, Smith and Kraus, Playscripts, LA Theatreworks, and Premieres. She is a graduate of Juilliard, an alumna of the BMI Lehman Engel Advanced Musical Theatre Workshop, a member of Honor Roll, and a Dramatists Guild Council member. DEBORAHZOELAUFER.com

Mildred Inez Lewis writes and directs for theatre, film and the digital space. Recent honors include Samuel French Off Off Broadway Festival finalist (2024), AGE Legacy Award (2023), Samuel French OOB Festival finals (2022), Grand Jury Award from Fusion Theatre (2022), and Humanitas' PLAY LA (2018).



A member of the Dramatists Guild, she writes for Antaeus Theatre Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre-LA Playwrights Unit, PlayGround-LA and Towne Street Theatre. She is an associate artist with Rogue Artists Ensemble.

Mildred holds commissions from ReproArts, Science at Play (SPARC), and the Lucille Lortel. She recently completed a commission for Timonia@Nashville, an adaptation of Timon of Athens for Lifeline Theatre

(Chicago). Upcoming productions include JUKED a commissioned adaptation of Sophocles' ELECTRA for A Different Myth (Asheville, NC). 2022 productions included THE MUSEUM ANNEX for Central Works (Berkeley, CA), /kom'plisit/ (staged reading) at Moving Arts (Los Angeles), BONWIT TELLER'S REVENGE for The Workshop Theatre (NYC), and Purity, UnPledged for the Playground Experiment's Faces of America.

Her plays have been published by Applause Books, Broadway Play Publishing. LazyBee (UK), Breathe Fire literary magazine and elsewhere.



Linda Manning is an actress and writer based in New York City. She has appeared on stage in New York and regionally, and in television and independent films ([imdb](#)).

Her most recent project is a short film, *Deborah at Work*, she wrote, directed and stars in. More details to come soon.

Her plays have been produced in New York City (Cherry Lane Theatre, Rattlestick/224 Waverly Place Theater, Dixon Place, United Solo, NY Int'l Fringe Festival, The Invisible Theatre) and published by [Smith and Kraus](#).

She has written three award-winning feature screenplays, and a pilot for a dramatic series. Three of her short films have been produced. She wrote, produced, and acted in *The Desire Series*.

Acting Representation:

Agent: Katie Murphy, Pantera/Murphy Agency | 212-219-9330

Manager: Jaime Baker, Baker Management | 212-262-4234

SAG/AFTRA - AEA

Suni Reyes is a seasoned UCB talent who has performed improv, sketch comedy, and stand up at all the UCB stages, in English and Spanish. Her most recent TV/Film credits include: Gordita Chronicles, Billions, FBI Most Wanted, Nora from Queens, and Don't Wait Up For Me. Before the universal timeout, she got to star in several viral videos for Funny or Die, Above Average, and UCB Comedy. She is also a well-regarded sketch comedy director. Her biggest

accomplishment continues to be her PERFECT son, whom she raised alongside her comedy career!



Some of Suni's theatre work includes Burned (Pregones Theatre), The Fears produced by Steven Soderbergh (Signature Theatre),

Loose Lips (The Triad Theatre) directed by Gregory Mosher, "Eye D" (Symphony Space) by Christine Toy Johnson, La Barberia (New World Stages), Celia (New World Stages and Tour), Fiesta of Words and Music directed by Jose Zayas, and several productions with Spanish Repertory Theatre Company.

Suni is also a dancer and choreographer. Highlights include work with Ballet Hispanico of New York, original cast of the

Metropolitan Opera "The Magic Flute" directed by Julie Taymor, "La Traviata" at the New York City Opera, Thomas/Ortiz Dance Company, Dance Captain of the Off Broadway production of "La Barberia, HOLA Award for Outstanding Choreography in "Captain Pantoja."

Suni has also performed alongside musical theatre stars such as Lillias White, Euan Morton and Kevin Gray at the 2009 FIFA Congress in the Bahamas, and toured with international tropical music stars Manny Manuel, Jerry Rivera and Grammy Award Winner Olga Tañon.