

A is For presents
three selected **plays**
from our 2021 one-act playwriting contest
about **Reproductive Justice**:



Griswold by **Angela J. Davis**

Uncut by **Gloria Majule**

The Little Sister by **Alli Hartley-Kong**

Griswold by **Angela J. Davis**

On the eve of the sexual revolution, a bold and iconoclastic woman in her sixties will engineer her own criminal arrest, resulting in the landmark Supreme Court case, *Griswold v. Connecticut*, which strikes down laws criminalizing birth control, establishes a right of sexual privacy, and directly paves the way for other guarantees of liberty, including — on the 60th anniversary of the *Griswold* case — the right of same-sex couples to marry.

Fusing magic realism and traditional docudrama, *Griswold* mines the spirit and extraordinary events leading to the establishment of the right of sexual privacy and its essential link to personal dignity.



Angela J. Davis (playwright) is the author of *The Spanish Prayer Book* (The Road Theatre Company 2019-20 season, *L.A. Times* Best Bet “a literate meditation on the boundaries of art and social responsibility”), *AGATHE* (2020 New American Voices Award - The Landing Theatre, 2021 SETC Getchell Award for Outstanding Full-Length Play, 2021 Jane Chambers Award Finalist and Honoree), *Clara and Serra and The Talking Bear* (commissioned in 2020 by Antaeus Theatre Company), and *Griswold* (2021 Arts & Letters Prize Finalist and National Women’s Theatre Festival Official Selection), among other plays. Recent work presented/forthcoming at Playhouse on the Square, Playhouse Creatures (NYC), The Landing Theatre, Antaeus

Theatre Company, Sohaya Visions (London), Chameleon Theatre Circle, HRC Showcase, The Road Theatre Company, The Blank Theatre, Theatre In the Raw (Vancouver), The Dayton Playhouse, Viterbo, and elsewhere. The Recipient of multiple playwriting honors, she’s also authored poetry and prose pieces appearing in *The Antioch Review*, *Art/Life*, and a University of Iowa Press anthology, and was one of sixteen writers selected as Literary Hosts for the 2018 PEN America LitFest. Degrees from Stanford and UCLA. Member of Dramatists Guild, PEN America, and the Antaeus Theatre Company Playwrights Lab.



Haviland Morris (Estelle Griswold) Broadway: *Ring Round the Moon*, *Arcadia*, *Tartuffe: Born Again*. Off Broadway: *What Happened?: The Michaels Abroad* (Hunter Theater Project), *The Michaels* (Public), *Nickolai and the Others* (LCT), *Rodney’s Wife*, *The Uneasy Chair* (Playwrights), *Aristocrats* (MTC). Regional: *Age of Innocence* (McCarter, Hartford), *Bad Dates* (Long Wharf), *Rodney’s Wife* (Williamstown). Film: *Burning Blue*, *Nor’easter*, *Jack & Diane*, *Fighting Fish*, *Adam*, *The Baxter*, *Home Alone 3*, *Gremlins 2*, *A Shock to the System*, *Who’s That Girl*, *Sixteen Candles*.



karen Eilbacher (Actor One) LeT Us PLayer. Theater: *Fun Home* (Broadway National Tour), *She Like Girls* (GLAAD Awards), *Wolf in the River* (Adam Rapp Dir), *Waafrika123* (National Queer Theater). Television: *Dietland* (AMC), *Parallels* (LA WebFest). Film: *Curfew* (Academy Award), *Lady Liberty* (TribecaTV premiere), *PROGRAM* (NYFF).
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Cedric Lamar (Actor Two) is an actor, singer-songwriter, and composer who spent 6 seasons in the acting company of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival where he was in many productions including *Mother Road*, *Hamlet*, *Oklahoma*, *Love's Labour Lost*, *Pericles*, *The Wiz*, and composed the music for the 2019 production of *Alice in Wonderland*. Cedric is also the founder of the custom songwriting service, If My Heart Could Sing.
ifmyheartcouldsing.com
cedriclamar.com

Post-Performance talkback moderated by David Cromer.

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Uncut by **Gloria Majule**

In the fictional village of Kabus in Northern Tanzania, only the men enjoy sex. Tumaini and Chilyawanhu are "happily married": Tumaini daily fulfills her wifely duties, and Chilyawanhu is running for chief-hood. An unexpected change in the family threatens to destroy their fragile illusion of happily ever after.



Gloria Majule (playwright) Gloria Majule is a playwright from Dodoma, Tanzania presently residing in Seattle, WA. She has been a finalist for the Alliance/Keneda National Graduate Playwriting Competition, a two time finalist for the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, and a semifinalist for the Playwrights Realm Scratchpad Series. Her plays have been developed at Stockton University, Westport Country Playhouse, Yale Cabaret, Aye

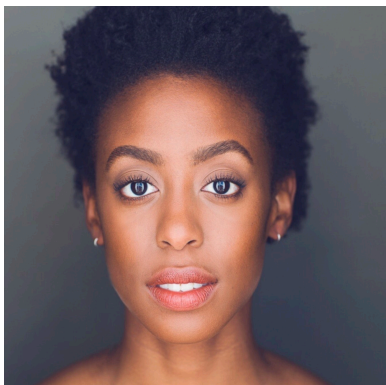
Defy, Yale School of Drama, and the Schwartz Center for Performing and Media Arts. Gloria seeks to tell stories that bring multiple black voices together from across the world, and are accessible to black audiences no matter where they are. She writes primarily for and about the black diaspora. She holds an MFA in Playwriting from Yale School of Drama, and graduated summa cum laude from Cornell University with a BA in Performing & Media Arts and Spanish.



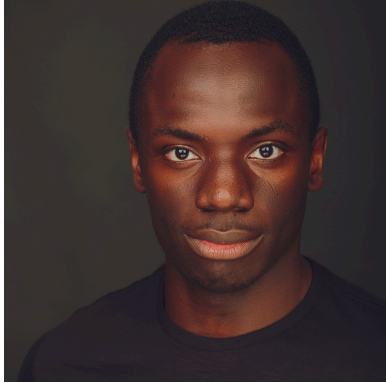
Tyler Cruz (Tumaini) is a third-year actor at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. Recent past credits include the DGSD production of *Bodas de Sangre*, Yale Cabaret's productions of *In Between Bxtches*, *Daughters of the Confederacy*, and *Littleboy/Littleman*, as well as YSD's Zoom production of *The Salt Women*.



Al-nisa Petty (Amira) is an actor and voiceover artist from Newark, New Jersey. Credits include: *On Strivers Row* (Metropolitan Playhouse), *MASQUE* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (The Acting Company), *A Raisin in the Sun* (TheatreWorks Colorado Springs), and *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play* (Berkeley Rep). Al-nisa studied at Shakespeare's Globe in London, and received a BFA in Acting from Rutgers University. She is based in New York City and is a teaching artist with Naked Angels.



Amandla Jahava (Zainabu) is a first generation Kenyan-American actor, writer, director, and artist based out of New York. She passionately creates and advocates for African stories from an African perspective for African people. She will be seen in Issa Rae's new HBO show *Rapsh!t*, as well as Ava Duvernay's HBO limited series *DMZ*. Regional theater credits include: Roundabout Theater, Denver Theatre Club. She received her MFA in Acting from the fka Yale School of Drama '19.



Nomè SiDone (Chilyawanhu) is a third-year M.F.A. candidate at Yale School of Drama. His credits include Edgar in *King Lear* (Shakespeare and Company), Joseph Asagai in *A Raisin in The Sun* (Yale Repertory Theatre), *Richard II*, *The Heart of Robin*, *The Sea Maid*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival); *The Unspoken 200* (Saint Clements Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Mended Wing Theater Company); *Airline Highway*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Where We're Born*, *A Movie Star is Born...* (UNC School of the Arts); *Take One Step*, *The Servant of Two Masters* (Peppercorn Theater Company). Film: *Supernova*, and *Rota*. B.F.A., UNC School of the Arts.



Kimberly Huie (Mama Chilyawanhu, Takara) is an award winning actor, writer and producer. She has an extensive list of television credits including *Self Made* (Netflix), *Grey's Anatomy* (ABC), and can currently be seen recurring on *Kings of Napa* (OWNtv). Kimberly was born in Jamaica, raised in Canada, and came of age in France. She is a multilingual performer who splits her time between Toronto and New York.

Post-Performance talkback moderated by [Jorge Vidal](#).

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The Little Sister by **Alli Hartley-Kong**

After an illegal abortion goes horribly wrong, the two women who lost the most — a soul sister, and a biological sister — must grapple with the aftermath. Does one become an activist by choice, by circumstance, or by the simple fact of realizing you live in a body that is politicized? This short play examines these questions in the context of sisterhood.



Alli Hartley-Kong (playwright) is a playwright, poet, and public history activist. She has written short plays and monologues produced by Irvington Theatre (Irvington, NY), Open Eye Theatre (Margaretville, NY), The Barn Theatre (Montville, NJ), Apollo Civic Theatre (Martinsburg West Virginia), and Fusion Theatre (New Mexico). She has received commissions from Single Carrot Theatre (Baltimore, MD), and

Central Square Theatre (Boston MA). In her day job, Alli works as a public historian and museum educator. She conceived and executed the nationally-recognized #DayofFacts campaign in 2017, which engaged over 300 cultural institutions worldwide to post content undermining the idea of “alternative facts”. Currently she is working with colleagues on a documentary theatre piece about the experience of professional loss in the cultural sector during the pandemic. Alli would like to recognize her undergraduate women’s history professor Dr. Robyn Muncy of the University of Maryland for providing a comprehensive and thoughtful introduction to the history of abortion in America.



Sharlene Cruz (Carol) was most recently seen in a recurring arc on the upcoming Showtime series *Flatbush Misdemeanors*. She was also the choice for the independent film *Rob Peace*, which will be directed by Chiwetel Ejiofor and produced by Antoine Fuqua. She also received rave reviews for her performance in Martyna Majok’s *Sanctuary City* at New York Theatre Workshop under the direction of Rebecca Frecknall. The New York Times named her one of their 2021 “Breakout Stars.” She was previously seen in Hunter Theater Project’s critically acclaimed all-female production of *Mac Beth*, adapted and directed by Erica Schmidt, in a role she originated at the Lucille Lortel Theatre in 2019.



Alice Marcondes (Barbara) is an NYC based Brazilian-American actress from Clemson, SC. NYC: *The Invention of Tragedy* (The Flea, dir. Meghan Finn), *Not My Monster!* (The Flea, dir. David Monteagudo), *Dike* (workshop, NYTW, dir. Tatiana Pandiani), 24 Hour Plays: *Nationals* (The New School). Regional: *Dike* (Urbanite, dir. Tatiana Pandiani).

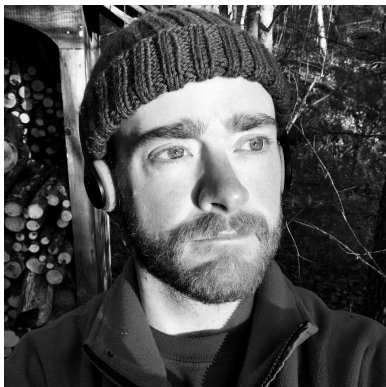
Post-Performance talkback moderated by [Cris Eli Blak](#).

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Tatiana Pandiani (festival director) is director-choreographer who works in English and Spanish. Originally from Buenos Aires, she grew up around *milongas*, antique stores, and dance studios. She studied Performance and Philosophy at Florida International University and Directing at Columbia University. Recent credits include: Associate Director for the First National Broadway tour of *What the Constitution Means to Me* by Heidi Schreck; the international tour of *La Negrophilie* by Zakiya Markland at the Frank Collymore Hall in Barbados, the Ubumuntu Arts Festival in Rwanda, and the Kampala International Theatre Festival in Uganda; director-

choreographer and co-book writer for the ongoing development of the bilingual musical *AZUL* at the National Alliance of Musical Theatre (NAMT), the National Music Theatre Conference at the O'Neill, Tofte Lake Center, New York Theatre Workshop, BRIC, The Drama League, and many others. She has also been developing new plays with Alexis Scheer, Melis Aker, Monet Hurst-Mendoza, Hannah Benitez, and other exceptional writers with the support of institutions such as Long Wharf Theater, Cleveland Playhouse, Urbanite Theater, NYTW, Miami New Drama, Westport Country Playhouse, Pipeline Theatre Co., Timucua Arts Center, Lanesboro Arts, and The Park Theater (UK). These collaborations are her favorite part of the work.



Ben Pfister (festival stage manager) Broadway credits include *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Carousel* (Imperial Theater), *Choir Boy* (Samuel J. Friedman Theater), *The Rose Tattoo* and *A Soldier's Play* (American Airlines Theater). The Public Theater: *Merry Wives*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *As You Like It* at The Delacorte Theater. Yale Repertory Theater: *Imogen Says Nothing*. MFA Graduate and Lecturer in the Stage Management Department at The David Geffen School of Drama.



Tonya Holloway (stage directions for all the plays) Tonya Holloway has worked in the film, commercial, and theatre industry as a freelancer for over 20 years. She is Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Soul Rep Theatre Company, Dallas's longest-running theatre company (soulrep.org). Holloway served as Writing Consultant and Casting Director on the 2021 Emmy nominated Amazon Prime series *#Washed*, season two. She currently can be seen as Detective Karen Anderson on the Hulu hit series *Cruel Summer*.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions:

**ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS
AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS
SAG-AFTRA**

**And to Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in
permitting the Artists to appear on this program.**



A is For is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing reproductive rights, and ending the stigma against abortion care. Founded in 2012, A is For emerged as a response to the ever-escalating legislative attacks on access to safe reproductive healthcare. We passionately stand against the culture of shaming which fosters that legislation.

Hester Prynne's Scarlet A, intended as a symbol of shame, is re-appropriated. You decide what your A is for: Advocacy, Autonomy, Abortion, etc.

A is For amplifies art and artists working to end the stigma against abortion. We envision a world in which every person has access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare free from judgment, scrutiny, and obstruction.

Working at the intersection of the arts and social justice, we believe art is a powerful tool for change, and through our creative initiatives we seek to elevate the human experience of abortion.

The A is For Playwriting Contest is designed to engage playwrights who are passionate about supporting abortion rights and reproductive justice, and offers audiences the opportunity to see those stories represented on stage.

Theatre is an especially powerful platform with which to share stories, debunk myths, and disempower fears. The stories we bring to the fore are diverse in perspective as well as imagination. They reflect the great variety of experiences that reproductive justice demands we all recognize.

In 2021, the A is For Playwriting Contest received 252 original, one-act plays about reproductive justice from all around the world.

A talented panel of judges including Cris Eli Blak, David Cromer, Jill Filipovic, Jonathan Marc Sherman, Lindy West, and Rhiana Yazzie selected the 2021 contest winners.

A is For is proud to present this play festival to the public free of charge.

**To make a donation of any amount to A is For
please go to [AisFor.org/donate](https://aisfor.org/donate)**

The 2021 Playwriting Contest & ONE ACT Festival

is made possible with generous support from:

A is for **Agent for Change**

- Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS
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A is for **Advocate**

- Michelle Hurd & Garret Dillahunt

A is for **Ally**

- Amy Brenneman & Brad Silberling
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- Karin Schall
- Claire Silberman