



The  
**PAGE**

**FACES OF AMERICA  
MONOLOGUE FESTIVAL #4  
November 19 2022 • 7pm**



# About the Festival

The Faces of America monologue festival began in 2019 as a celebration of the diversity that is The United States of America. We feel that it is incumbent upon us as theatre makers to keep shining a spotlight on stories, voices, and artists of all backgrounds.

This year we asked artists from around the country to send us their words and characters in the form of a monologue with three simple rules:

1. Use the theme “Faces of America”
2. Keep it under two minutes
3. Include the word “Kindness”

We were once again showered with an abundance of beautiful stories, glimpses of lives, and true slices of the American landscape. Over 500 monologues were sent to us. We were inspired by the heart, pathos, and passion in the work that we received. Our selection committee and I are thrilled to share the 25 monologues selected to be a part of our fourth festival, and now this anthology. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do.

—Mike Lesser

Artistic Director/Founder of The PlayGround Experiment

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Half of all ticket sale proceeds were donated to the Transgender Law Center, the largest American transgender-led civil rights organization in the United States. To find out more please visit: [transgenderlawcenter.org](http://transgenderlawcenter.org)



## Transgender Law Center

Please consider making a donation to support our festival and all the other work we do. To donate:

Visit: [thepege.com/mission](http://thepege.com/mission)

Venmo: @ThePGE

Paypal: [ThePlayGroundExperiment@gmail.com](mailto:ThePlayGroundExperiment@gmail.com)

# The Monologues

Listed in order of presentation

Testimony: Fear The Kindness by <i>Sesbat Yon'shea Walker</i> ...	Ronald Hinton
Hebe by <i>Starina Johnson</i> .....	Catherine Overfelt
Bumper Sticker Kindness by <i>Mark Mulkerin</i> .....	Maks Turner
The Silver Menace by <i>Lucy Wang</i> .....	Julie T. Pham
You're Hired by <i>Natasha Cobb</i> .....	Christine Redhead
My Mexican Frustration by <i>Orlando F. Rodriguez</i> .....	Ollie Corchado
Ain't Jazz Great by <i>Nataylia Roni</i> .....	Coco Smith
Fontwala by <i>Shubhra Prakash</i> .....	Mahima Saigal
How Inspiring by <i>Cassidy Byron</i> .....	Denny
Surviving the Craziness by <i>Steve Harper</i> .....	Klarissa Marie Robles
Purity, Pledged by <i>Mildred Inez Lewis</i> .....	Paeton Chavis
Fear and Kindness by <i>Hamilton Kreeger</i> .....	Claire Shiell
Framed by <i>Jeffrey James Keyes</i> .....	Diana Cherkas
A Lighthouse by <i>Emmy Potter</i> .....	Alexandra Castro
Don't Wake the Baby by <i>Erin Moughon</i> .....	Chris Rothbauer
Miss Mary Dugan by <i>Manuel Igrejas</i> .....	Jayson Kerr
Hello, my name is autism by <i>Mickey "Bug" Johnson</i> .....	Achilles Mulkey
Pearls of Wisdom by <i>Catherine Morrison</i> .....	Melissa Roth
Ruff by <i>D.T. Burns</i> .....	Dillon Yruegas
CCCP by <i>Brad Rothbart</i> .....	Christopher Imbrosciano
Colonizer by <i>Mabelle Reynoso</i> .....	Rebecca Rivera
At the Barre, Leena's Story by <i>Yasmine Beverly Rana</i> .....	Hadas Pacholde
Ceasefire by <i>Linett Luna Tovar</i> .....	Maria Isabella Rojas
Combat Ready by <i>Laura Hirschberg</i> .....	Larissa Adamczyk
BUT by <i>Charles Jackson Jr.</i> .....	Johnny Brown

## Festival Team:

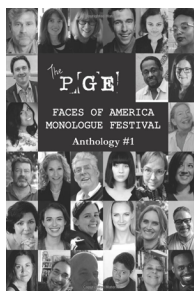
Festival coordinator: Ollie Fielding                      Stage Manager: Christine Lemme

Technical Director: Andi Lee Carter                      Lighting: Benjamin Weill

Directors: Tyrone L. Robinson, Darpan Joshi, Al Monaco, Abbey Joan Burgess and Tanya Perez

Videos: Darpan Joshi and Andi Lee Carter

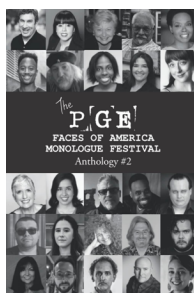
# Get the books



Anthology #1 - Experiment

November 2019

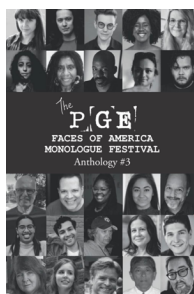
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Anthology #2 - Home

November 2020

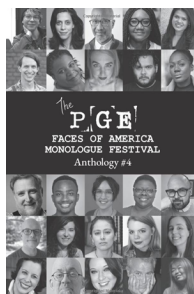
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Anthology #3 - Change

November 2021

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Anthology #4 - Kindness

November 2022

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# Mission Statement

**The PlayGround Experiment** is a home for theatre artists to explore, test, and develop new work while finding inspiration and support from the community that it creates.

*Who are The PlayGround Experiment Artists?*

We are the artists looking to challenge ourselves to be better. We are the artists who lift up the artists around us. We are a community of your supporters, critics and challengers but most importantly we are your advocates, allies and champions.

## Connect with us



[www.thepge.com](http://www.thepge.com)



[info@thepge.com](mailto:info@thepge.com)



[facebook.com/ThePlayGroundExperiment](https://facebook.com/ThePlayGroundExperiment)



[@ThePlayGroundExperiment](https://@ThePlayGroundExperiment)



[@thepge](https://@thepge)



[youtube.com/@ThePlayGroundExperiment](https://youtube.com/@ThePlayGroundExperiment)

*The PGE is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.*

*Contributions made to The PGE are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.*

# Thank Yous

We are so thankful to The PlayGround Experiment community for their passion, generosity and talents. It is because of them that we keep pushing to build on their creative journeys.

Special Thanks for their listening ears, their editing eyes and mostly for their kind hearts. We love you Chelsey Shannon, Ollie Fielding, Melissa O'Connell, Sandra Karas.

Thank you to The PGE Faces of America Selection Committee. Their thoughtful analysis, donation of their time and their commitment to The PGE's mission proves just how an artistic community that comes together can make beautiful art. We love how you think.

## **Selection Committee Chairs:**

Diana Cherkas, Max Raymond and Ollie Fielding

## **Selection Committee:**

Amanda Hsi, Brandon Weber, Chris Rothbauer, Christine Smith, Christopher Buchanan, Darpan Joshi, David Davila, Emily Comisar, Eric Mead, Evan Edwards, Jeff Smith, Johanthan Wong Frye, Julia Botero, Kendra Augustin, Kirsten Hopkins, Lluvia Almanza, Max Gill, Mrinalini Kamath, Rachel Carnes and Rhonda Dodd.

Thank you to all the writers who submitted. Your work was inspiring and each of you has given us proof that the art of words is not dead. May you continue on your artistic journey and we look forward to our paths crossing often.

Thank you to all of The PGE actors who brought their talents, craft and skill to make these words jump off the page for our Festival.

Thank you to every artist who has made The PGE a home and put their art into the world. Your kindness, respect and talent inspires us all.

Lastly, thank you to you, the audience, may these stories teach something about someone you know, someone you don't know or even someone you are. May these stories stay with you and make your journey a little fuller.

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LOWER  
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CULTURAL  
COUNCIL

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The Faces of America Monologue Festival is made possible in part with public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by LMCC.

LMCC serves, connects, and makes space for artists and community. For more information visit: [lmcc.net](http://lmcc.net).



Thanks to Kathryn Colglazier, Caroline Sanchez, Crystal Rivera, Michele Barber-Perry, Slawomir Bazylczyk and the entire staff at the West Side Y for giving us a home to continue to grow, thrive and succeed. We look forward to more adventures to come. [ymcanyc.org](http://ymcanyc.org)



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Sarah Matteucci and everyone at ESPA @ Primary Stages.



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