

Rotate Theatre Company presents

Stage Test: An Evening of Works in Development

Saturday, April 26, 2025 . 4:30pm



Staged readings of new short plays and excerpts from full-length pieces!



ART HOUSE 360° 401 W Verona Ave, Verona, WI

www.RotateTheatre.org



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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 ideas 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), and so many others! We encourage you to engage with storytellers from a wide range of perspectives!

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.

In this region, 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

Run Time: Approximately 75 minutes, including an intermission.

Hold!

- By Ashely Bagot, directed by Richard Paro.
- Featuring: Ashely Bagot, Cyra K. Polizzi, Fashion Joe, Safina Klepzig, Sarthak, Vanessa Uzcategui.

Runners *(excerpt)*

- By Richard Paro.
- Featuring: Audra Koscik, Safina Klepzig.

Unpacking

- By Kristin P., directed by Breahan Eve Pautsch.
- Featuring: Ashely Bagot, Breahan Eve Pautsch, Cyra K. Polizzi, Maria Dahman.

Lighthouse *(excerpt)*

- By Breahan Eve Pautsch.
- Featuring: Brent Holmes, Fashion Joe, Laker Thrasher, Maria Dahman, River Knight, with Sarthak.

Trash Day

- By Ashely Bagot, directed by Richard Paro.
- Featuring: Audra Koscik, Safina Klepzig, Vanessa Uzcategui, with Ashely Bagot.

Let's Eat Mary *(excerpt)*

- By Brooke Allen, directed by Breahan Eve Pautsch.
- Featuring: Cyra K. Polizzi, with Amy Alcott.

Intermission

Paper (excerpt)

- By Ali Mansouri.
- Featuring: Dorsa and Helia B., with Breahan Eve Pautsch.

Mountains

- By Kristin P.
- Featuring: Cyra K. Polizzi, Vanessa Uzcategui, with Amy Alcott.

The Castle

- By Breahan Eve Pautsch.
- Featuring: Brent Holmes, Maria Dahman, with Ashely Bagot.

Shhh! (excerpt)

- By Richard Paro.
- Featuring: Damien Hoepfner, Vanessa Uzcategui.

Departures (excerpt)

- By Rini Tarafder, directed by Breahan Eve Pautsch.
- Featuring: Audra Kosciak, Brent Holmes, Fashion Joe, Maria Dahman, River Knight, Safina Klepzig, Sarthak, Vanessa Uzcategui.

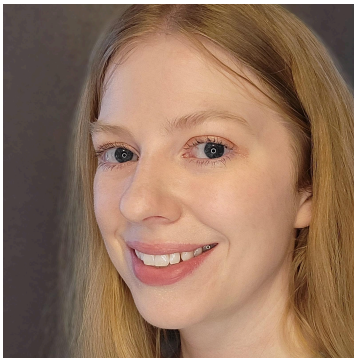
Note: Stage Test is designed for adult audiences. Supervised children are welcome if comfortable with mature themes, humor and language.

The Collaborators



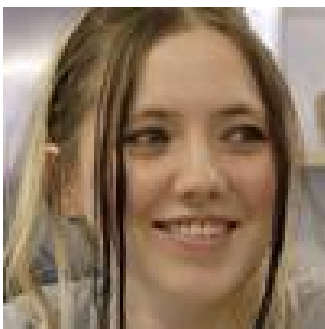
Ali Mansouri
Writer, Director

Ali Mansouri is a Ph.D. student in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies at UW-Madison. He has a background in theatre directing, having earned his master's degree from the Art University of Tehran, Iran. Ali's plays have been published in both Persian and English. His research interests span Contemporary Theatre in the Middle East, Political Performances, Applied Theatre, Migration Studies, and Performance Philosophy. His work delves into the intricate interplay of art, culture, and politics in the Middle East, examines the transformative potential of theatre in effecting positive social change, and explores the experiences of migrants through the lens of performance.



Amy Alcott
Cast

Amy Alcott loves the collaborative aspect of theatre and seeing a show come together from script to stage. She currently lives in Spring Green and works box office and front of house at American Players Theatre. Other recent theater experiences include performing with Lancaster Community Theatre and participating in a Rotate Theatre Acting Workshop series. Amy also enjoys playing piano, reading, movies, hiking, crocheting and knitting, and hanging out with her cat Westley.



Ashely Bagot
Cast, Writer

Ashely Bagot is a Rotate Theatre ensemble member and works in many areas of theatre and film, including directing, acting, playwriting, and designing. In addition to her work with Rotate Theatre, Ashely has collaborated with many other theatre companies, primarily in the Chicago area. Ashely also works assisting people with mental illness access housing and recovery services. she/her, they/them



Audra Kosciak
Cast

Audra Kosciak started acting when they were eight years old. Since then, they've been in many plays, musicals, and televised productions. A few of their favorites include: playing the Harp in Jack and the Beanstalk when they were 10, a televised PSA on cybersecurity when they were 15, and a ten year old boy in StageQ's most recent Queer Theatre Festival.



Breahan Eve Pautsch
Director, Cast, Writer

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



Brent Holmes
Cast

Brent Holmes is a Member-at-Large for the Broom Street Theater Board of Directors and has been acting in Madison, WI for the past 8 years. Their most recent roles include 'Man without a Face/the Professor' in They All Stay With You (Broom Street Theater), cast member of Are We Del'Arte? (Are We Delicious?), and 'Gary' in Sweetest Swing in Baseball (Madison Theater Guild). When not onstage, they are an active Dungeon Master for various Dungeons and Dragons games.



Brooke Allen
Writer

Brooke Allen's works are produced in theatre centers like New York, London, and Chicago, where she's collaborated with Red Tape, Ruckus, Tympanic, Not Waiting, and HealthWorks. Allen is best known for *Ruby Wilder*, *The Deer*, and *The Life and Death of Madam Barker*. Allen has also appeared with Mortified, Write Club, You're Being Ridiculous, and Paper Machete. Allen is a graduate of the Creative Writing program at Webster University and has a masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. she/her



Cyra K. Polizzi
Cast

Cyra K. Polizzi is a theatre actor with a wide range of experiences in other specialties (directing, writing, facilitation, etc) and forms (dance, music, film, etc). Much of their work incorporates humor, queer possibilities, and multi-issue activism. Cyra grew up performing in the driftless area, attended UW-Madison in Acting, Gender, and Environmental Studies, and worked in theatre and film in Chicago for 15 years before happily returning to Teejop to research accessibility and sustainability in theatre practices at UW. www.cyrakpolizzi.com they/them, she/her



Damien Hoepfner
Cast

Damien Hoepfner is a bodyworker, writer, and printmaker in the Madison area. They have been doing improv since they were a kid and love being involved in theater. They are currently pursuing clowning and how to develop a clowning practice. they/he



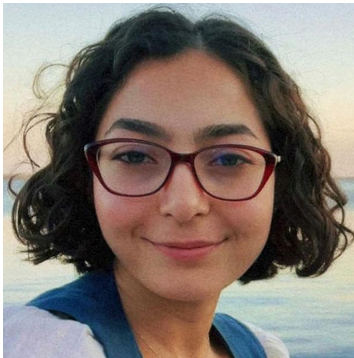
Dorsa
Cast

Dorsa recently graduated with my Master's degree in astrophysics, but has always been in love with theater and cinema. She believes there's something magical about stepping into someone else's life, exploring emotions and experiences we might never get to live ourselves - that's what draws her to acting. Studying science hasn't left much time to pursue this passion, so Dorsa is incredibly excited to be part of this production. "It means a lot to me to be here and to share this story with you."



Fashion Joe
Cast

Fashion Joe has worked in the Film/TV/Commercial industry for the last 19 years as an Editor/VFX Artist. He has always had a passion for performing and is grateful to share that with you!



Helia B
Cast

Helia B is a software developer, originally from Tehran. Helia is very excited for this new experience and to be performing in Stage Test 2025.

Kristin P.
Writer

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



Laker Thrasher
Cast

Laker Thrasher is very excited to be bringing this lovely show to you in their Rotate Theatre debut! Last seen in StageQ's production of Twelfth Night, they love seeing all kinds of new work and are extremely passionate about the stories they tell. When they're not gushing over theatre, they can be found writing or drawing at home with their cat, Figaro. They dedicate this show to their friends Tori, Sean, Randall and John. "Thanks for coming, and enjoy the show!" they/them



Maria Dahman
Cast

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 where she now serves as the artistic director. 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 again.
maria.dahman@gmail.com she/her



Richard Paro
Writer, Director

Richard Paro is often found writing and directing with Rotate Theatre Company where he is a long-time ensemble member. Richard enjoys using highly collaborative techniques throughout the artistic process and has worked with numerous companies in the midwest, many of them in Chicago where he was based for 15 years. In addition, his feature-length and short films have screened at festivals around the world. he/him



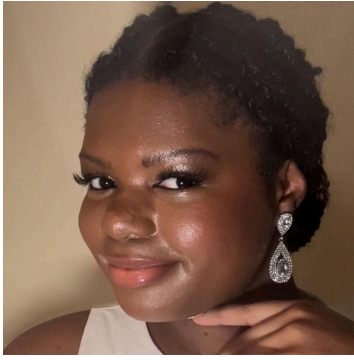
Rini Tarafder
Writer

Rini Tarafder is a playwright and theatre educator. She teaches at the Department of Theatre, University of Denver, and completed her doctorate in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies from the UW-Madison in 2024. Her research is about political performances in South Asia and her classes center underrepresented perspectives. 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. she/her



River Knight
Cast

River Knight has been performing in Madison since 2022, when he moved here after graduating college. This is his first time working with Rotate Theatre and recent performances include Peter Pan (2023) with CTM and She Kills Monsters (2022) with MATC. He has had to take a break recently for top surgery but is excited to get back into ShowBiz!



Safina Klepzig
Cast

Safina Klepzig loves all types of theater from classic plays like *Death of a Salesman* to contemporary musicals like *Hamilton* and *Spring Awakening*. She's performed with Rotate Theatre previously in Rotate Theatre Mini Fest. Safina is also 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. she/her



Sarthak Kumar
Cast

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. he/him



Vanessa Uzcategui
Cast

Vanessa Uzcategui discovered her love for acting at age 10, when she was cast as a very rude tiger in a school play in Venezuela (her country of origin). She took acting lessons in Caracas with German director and acting coach, Ralph Kinnard. She graduated with a BA in theater arts from Flagler College (2011) in Saint Augustine, FL where she got to explore various aspects of theater: stage managing, directing, scenic design, and dancing being some of her favorites. When she moved to Madison (2022), she met a wonderful community of artists through Rotate Theatre and looks forward to continuing to experiment and grow as an actor. she/her

About *Stage Test: An Evening of Works in Development*

Rotate Theatre's winter event, *Stage Test: An Evening of Works in Development*, features staged readings of new short plays and excerpts from full-length pieces, plus audience members are invited to shape the next steps these plays take on their journeys to the stage!

Stage Test comes off the heels of two adult workshop series, one focused on writing, the other on acting. Both mixed-level workshop series emphasized the importance of varied underrepresented perspectives, provided opportunities for experienced and beginner artists to learn from each other, and utilized our Rotation Practices which offer accessible activities for exploration and skill-building. Many of the series artists are featured in *Stage Test* along with other Rotate Theatre collaborators, giving audiences a glimpse into the workshops as the writers and actors experiment with brand new pieces. After the performance, share your questions in a post-show talk-back and cast a ballot for the plays you want to see in Rotate Theatre's future programming!

About Rotate Theatre Company

Rotate Theatre Company, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, brings people together to create and celebrate entertaining new and alternative plays, musicals, and other performing arts featuring varied underrepresented perspectives.

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

Ensemble Members

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

Contact Info

Rotate Theatre Company

RotateTheatre@gmail.com . 608-515-8912

www.rotatetheatre.org



Support Rotate Theatre Company!

Support from individuals and organizations is essential!

Become a Rotate Theatre donor today!

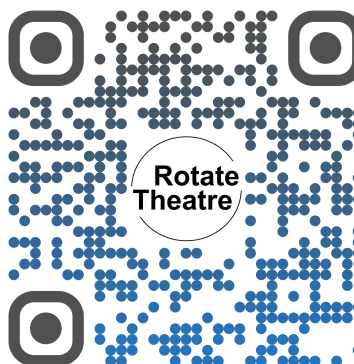
- Click [Donate!](#) to make a one-time or monthly tax-deductible donation.
- If you prefer [Cash App](#), our cashtag is: [\\$RotateTheatre](#)



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

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



Thank You!

Thank you to all of our collaborators, audience members, and friend organizations, including:



South Madison Partnership
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

And, a huge thank you to our individual donors!
Your generosity makes our work possible!