

WORKING THEATER **ANNUAL SUBJECT OF CONTACT OF CONTACT** 

# SEASON 355 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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As it was for everyone, 2020 was a year of change for Working Theater. As we closed the curtain early on our borough-wide tour of Border People in March, we assumed we would be back in theaters in a matter of months. Of course, the reality was quite different. However, thanks to our incredible community of supporters, Working Theater has not only survived but thrived.

Most of Working Theater's live programming occurred early in the season, so we were fortunate to be able to celebrate our 35th Anniversary with a multitude of artisofferings, educational tic and outreach activities. The Season thus far has featured the off-Broadway premiere and NYC borough tour of Dan Hoyle's Border People. As reviewed in TimeOutNY, "Hoyle's piece assembles voices that often go unheard, not only on stage but in public discourse around race, immigration and cultural difference... an undeniably engaging and thought-provoking 75 minutes."

February also featured the weeklong off-Broadway run of The Best of TheaterWorks! - a professional production of some of the best short plays from our adult education program. Both were directed by longtime Working Theater family member Nicole A. Watson. This season we continued the development of brand new American plays through our Five Boroughs/One City Initiative, in which we are engaging communities of working people to create theater that illuminates what home and community mean to residents in varied neighborhoods in each of the five boroughs of NYC. 2020 Season activities also included our TheaterWorks! which program, teaches working people to write and perform their own plays at an off-Broadway venue, and our training and educational plays, offered to members of 32BJ SEIU.

In 2020, thanks in part to an emergency loan from the New York Community Trust, and a Paycheck Protection Progam loan from the Small Business Administration, Working Theater was able to fulfill a long-term goal, in bringing on Tamilla Woodard as co-Artistic Director along with Mark Plesent. We also brought on new Marketing Associate Coryn Carson, both of whom were instrumental in shaping and implementing current programming and planning for the future. Introducing new audiences to theater and creating different points of access is central to our mission.

We have already begun reshaping the way Working Theater connects to our community. We offered our first "zoom" staged readings of short plays about sexual harassment in the workplace to a class at Pathways2Apprenticeship on May 28th. We spotlit members of the building service workers union 32BJ in our first ever Virtual Open Mic Night June 29th, which featured a diverse array of performances including poetry, short works of fiction, spoken word and even a full band performance. We have also taken the opportunity with this new virtual way of communicating to revamp our social media and online presence.

2020 gave us the unique opportunity to pause and reflect on our mission. We know the most important part of Working Theater is our community. Both the artists, audiences and supporters who keep the theater running, and the community of workers who we create theater about and for. Those essential workers, whose value and valor was made undeniably clear as they risk their lives for all of us each day. In a new era of producing theater, Working Theater has deepened our commitment to telling the stories of working people.

Thank you for being part of our community.

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-Mark Plesent & Tamilla Woodard Co-Artistic Directors

### A LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

### AT PATHWAYS2APPRENTICESHIP

**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH** written by Joe Roland **MONGO** written by Ed Cardona, Jr. directed by Rebecca Martinez and Tamilla Woodard

#### featuring:

Robert Arcaro, Cynthia Bastidas, Jason Bowen, Kaaron Briscoe, Brian D. Coats, Will Dagger, Annie Henk, Bob Jaffe, Ava McCoy, Eric T. Miller, Isabelle Pierre, Reynaldo Piniella, Shawn Randall, Arisael Rivera, Jonathan Sale, Jonathan Randell Silver, Nabil Viñas, Amelia Workman

Working Theater presented our Training Plays about diversity and sexual harassment in the workplace to 4 classes across the greater New York area through the organization Pathways2Apprenticeship, which assists people from low-income communities to access union apprenticeships in the building trades. We performed for classes in Coney Island, West Harlem, Long Island City, and for the first time ever, online via Zoom! Performances were followed by an interactive dialogue between the cast and class attendees.

Plays were originally commissioned by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 3, for its Women's Conference and Diversity Conference

### AT THE UFT

### A LABOR STORY

written by Nandita Shenoy directed by Kel Haney

featuring: Janice Amaya Kaaron Briscoe Bob D'Haene Naomi Lorrain

stage manager: Amy Fisk costume consultant: Patrice Trower

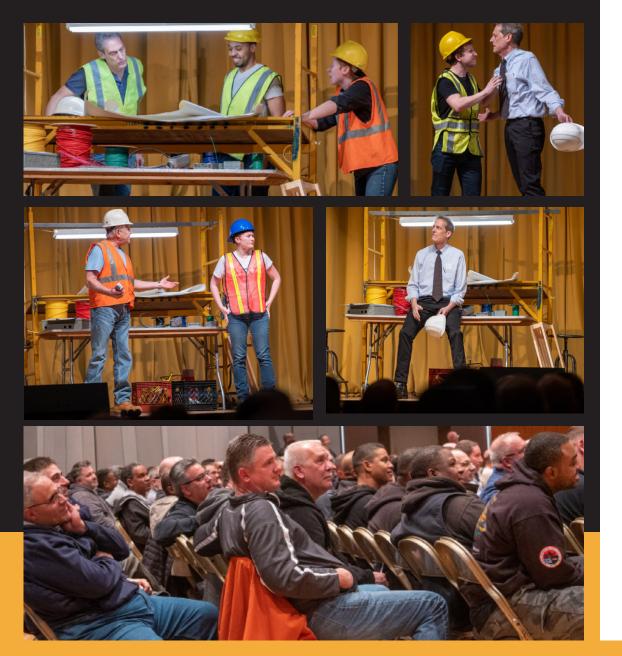
October 31, 2019

The United Federation of Teachers commissioned Working Theater to conceive a short play for their "Future Focus" Conference, introducing students to the history of the labor movement. This 20 minute comedic riff on "A Christmas Carol" was presented for an audience of 500 public high school students.



Photos above by P. Kevin O'Leary: "A Labor Story" at the 2019 UFT "Future Focus" Conference.

### **TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL PLAYS**



### AT IBEW LOCAL 3

SOMEONE'S GOTTA BE THE HERO/ SOMEONE'S GOTTA BE THE DICK written by Adam Kraar directed by Sarah Norris

featuring: Robert Arcaro Bob Jaffe Brandon Jones Jonathan Randell Silver Angie Tennant

stage manager: Daricel Calcano

February 10-12, 2020

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers commissioned Working Theater to present 2 short plays about Labor/Management Relations. The plays were performed 3 nights for an audience of 300 shop stewards and foremen at the IBEW's Collaborative Leadership Conference.

Photos left by P. Kevin O'Leary: "Someone's Gotta Be the Hero..." at the IBEW Local 3 Collaborative Leadership Conference February 2020.

### **TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL PLAYS**



## Written & Performed by Off-Broadway Premiere Directed by Dan Hoyle Nicole A. Watson

OFF-BROADWAY PREMIERE JANUARY 25 - FEBRUARY 22 BOROUGH TOUR MARCH 3 - MARCH 14 BORDER PEOPLE is based on conversations with immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and border crossers of all kinds at both the Northern and Southern borders, and the many unseen borders in between. A startling gallery of portraits of those who cross borders, geographical or cultural, by necessity or choice.

written & performed by DAN HOYLE | directed by NICOLE A. WATSON originally developed with and directed by CHARLIE VARON Scenic Design FRANK OLIVA | Lighting Design JIMMY LAWLOR Sound Design JORGE OLIVO | Video Design YANA BIRŸKOVA Production Stage Manager KARA KAUFMAN | Graphic Design the watsons Press Representation MENDIOLA ARTS MANAGEMENT

OFF-BROADWAY PREMIERE JAN 25- FEB 22, 2020 at the Gural Theatre at the A.R.T./New York Theatres

### NYC BOROUGH TOUR:

March 3-4 @7PM @ SNUG HARBOR CULTURAL CENTER, STATEN ISLAND March 6-7 @7PM @ THE BRONX DOCUMENTARY CENTER March 9 @7PM @RISEBORO COMMUNITY ROOM, BUSHWICK, BROOKLYN (March 13 & 14 performances in QUEENS at IBEW LOCAL 3 cancelled due to covid) Live Spanish translation provided at all Bronx & Brooklyn performances.

### SURROUND EVENTS:

1/31: BORDERS: STORIES IN THE MEDIA, REALITY ON THE GROUND featuring Palika Makam of WITNESS & independent documentary filmmaker Jess Beck

2/6: SOLO PERFORMANCE: MANY VOICES, ONE VESSEL featuring journalistic solo performers Lisa Ramirez, Judith Sloan & Dan Hoyle

### 2/19: U.S. IMMIGRATION: THE POLICY AND THE PEOPLE

featuring Peter Goldberg of the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund in conversation with Marcial Godoy-Anativia, Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics at NYU, Julia Preston of The Marshall Project and Theresa Thanjan of the NY Immigration Coalition.

2/28: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP exploring the current Bronx Documentary Center exhibition, Trump Revolution: Immigration. BDC Founder and Executive Director Mike Kamber will lead a guided tour of the exhibition, followed by a discussion among our community members on the works exhibited and the human cost of American's changing immigration policy.

### **BORDER PEOPLE: OFF-BROADWAY PREMIERE & BOROUGH TOUR**

"Hoyle's piece assembles voices that often go unheard, not only on stage but in public discourse around race, immigration and cultural difference... an undeniably engaging and thought-provoking 75 minutes" - Time Out NY

"This work of documentary theater feels like a master class" - The New York Times

"This is a show that anyone who considers themselves a well-informed citizen should see... These are stories that don't often get told in theater — and Hoyle presents them in an honest, reliable way" - TheaterMania

"A one-man tour-de-force" - OnStage Blog

"Sweet, powerful, nuanced"- Lighting and Sound America

"one of the most special, enlightening, heart warming and informative evenings I have spent at the theater in ages" - StageBiz.com

"Chilling truths are revealed and through it all one is amazed at the ability of the human spirit to transcend and not only survive but flourish despite adversity" - The Front Row Center

"BORDER PEOPLE reminds us of the universality of the human spirit, tugs at your heart strings, and hopefully forever changes how you view "the immigration problem." Brilliant journalistic theatre perfectly timed" - An Electronic Journey

"If you're feeling depressed by the endless, cankerous debate about immigration that has gripped the nation in the last few years, Border People may very well be the tonic you need, a balm of sweet reason and powerful, nuanced insight applied to a subject that, at times, seems to be driving us collectively insane" - Lighting and Sound America



Photos above by Carol Rosegg: Dan Hoyle in Border People at Working Theater, February 2020



Seven stories from the people who make NYC run.

## THE BEST OF THEATER WORKS!

Directed by Nicole A. Watson Off-Broadway World Premiere February 22–29, 2020 The A.R.T./New York Theatres | 502 w53rd Street

Tickets at theworkingtheater.org

An off-Broadway production featuring the best short plays to come out of the last 19 years of Working Theater's TheaterWorks! playwriting program, offered to working people across New York City.

#### THE PLAYS:

The Award by ALMA BROTHERS Comte des Cierges by CARLOS COTTO A Cigarette Girl in the South Bronx by CONSTANCE GEMSON Drawing Close by VALERIE KNIGHT Steps by ALTHEA MATTHEWS To Boldly Go by MICHAEL D. O'HARA Expert Opinion by DHIPINDER WALIA

Directed by NICOLE A. WATSON

OFF-BROADWAY WORLD PREMIERE FEB 22-29, 2020 at the JEFFREY AND PAULA GURAL THEATRE at the A.R.T./NEW YORK THEATRES

Featuring: KEVIN R. FREE, ANNIE HENK, NEYSA LOZANO, REYNALDO PINIELLA, BRENDA PRESSLEY, DARON ROSS

Scenic Design FRANK OLIVA | Costume Design NICOLE WEE Lighting Design JIMMY LAWLOR | Sound Design JORGE OLIVO Video Design YANA BIRŸKOVA | Properties LAUREN PAGE RUSSELL Production Stage Manager MICHEAL MEDINA Assistant Stage Manager: EMILY WHITE-WINTER Graphic Design the watsons Press Representation MENDIOLA ARTS MANAGEMENT

Special thanks to TheaterWorks! instructors DAN HOYLE, JOE ROLAND, JOE WHITE

Deemed some of our favorite works to come out of our TheaterWorks! playwriting and performance program, these plays will transport you from a doorman's dystopian vision of the lobby of a NYC residential building, to the community room in an apartment complex as a young man struggles to come out to his mother before his 14th birthday, to a NYC hotel room where two old friends reconcile differences before attending a Star Trek convention.

### THE BEST OF THEATERWORKS! OFF-BROADWAY PREMIERE



### THE BEST OF THEATERWORKS! OFF-BROADWAY PREMIERE

### THEATERWORKS! FINAL PERFORMANCE

Monday, Feb 24, 2020 @ 7:00pm

at the A.R.T./New York Gural Theatre 502 W 53rd St @ 10th Ave. NYC

presented by Working Theater and the 32BJ Training Fund

Led by resident teaching artist Joe Roland

The Plays: PERFORMANCE ENHANCER by Anthony Delfi SHOWTIME by Pete Mergel ACTIVE SHOOTER by Aaron Commey DJ SPIN THIS! by John J. Ayala BIG TRUCK COMING by John Keane

Guest Actors: Alexandra Garza, Sheila Tapia\*, Analisa Velez\*, Johnny Zito

TheaterWorks! teaches playwriting and performance to working people. In the sixteen-week class, students write and rehearse short theatrical pieces based on their work experiences, and perform them at an off-Broadway venue with professional actors and directors.

\*Guest Actors appear courtesy of Actors Equity Association

Photos by P. K. O'Leary: TheaterWorks! at 32BJSEIU Final Performance, February 2020.



### THEATERWORKS! ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM



### 20 ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY VIRTUAL

June 18, 2020

Honoring Kyle Bragg, President of 32BJ SEIU for bridging the gap between the arts, labor & community

featuring hosts Kevin R. Free and Reynaldo Piniella and performances by Rheaume Crenshaw, Nathan Hinton & Maria-Christina Oliveras\*

Working Theater's 2020 Annual Awards Ceremony included musical performances from Working Theater Alum, a silent auction, tributes giving voice to essential workers in New York and much more.

The event raised money to benefit Working Theater, enabling the company to keep providing vital, relevant, and accessible theater now and into the future. A portion of the proceeds was donated directly to The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation— educating, motivating, organizing and mobilizing Black communities to encourage full participation in a barrier-free democratic process.

\*We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions, through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.







### 2020 {VIRTUAL} ANNUAL AWARDS CERMONY

#### OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE 2020 ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY: Thanks to all who supported with donations, ads and silent auction contributions (full donor list reflected in Annual Supporters page 14):

2020 Annual Awards Ceremony Event Sponsors:

Belluck & Fox LLP Glenwood Management Corp. Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations Stawski Partners United Federation of Teachers

Working Theater 35th Anniversary Season Sponsors:

PLATINUM SPONSOR: MagnaCare

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IUOE Local 94 Local 812 M3 Technology New York State Nurses Association Office of Staff Analysts Schultheis & Panettieri, LLP







### 2020 {VIRTUAL} ANNUAL AWARDS CERMONY







### Better Than Before: A Virtual Open Mic











Monday, June 29, 2020

Working Theater partnered with 32BJ SEIU for a community shine moment in our first ever Virtual Open Mic Night!

A night of original poetry, spoken word, music, and story-telling around the theme of BETTER THAN BEFORE, all performed by and for the members of building service workers union 32BJ SEIU!

Featuring headliners, alumni from our TheaterWorks! program at 32BJ: John Keane, Julien Pimiento & John J. Ayala!



### {VIRTUAL} OPEN MIC NIGHT

Working Theater is extremely grateful to all of the individuals, foundations and companies that supported our 35th Anniverary Season! (Fiscal Year 2020: July 1, 2019– June 30, 2020)

We endeavor to keep this list comprehesive. Please contact us if we have made any inadvertant errors or omissions.

#### Platinum Sponsor:

MagnaCare

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#### Silver Sponsors:

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#### Major Institutional Supporters:

The 21st Century ILGWU Heritage Fund The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation New York Theater Program in partnership with the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York Howard Gilman Foundation New York City Department of Cultural Affairs New York State Council on the Arts One World Fund Shubert Foundation

#### **Generous Gifts From:**

Axel Stawski Elaine & Alan Weiler

#### Angels (\$2500+):

Anonymous Axe-Houghton Foundation The DuBose & Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund Jordan Fox IBEW Local 3 The Michael Tuch Foundation Faith Ryan

#### Pacesetters (\$1000+):

Anonymous Barbara Cohn Kate Dovle John Golden Fund Elise Govette Pat Judah Harris Bill Henning Lowenstein Fund Roslvn Meren George Nicolau John Pescitelli, M3 Technology Garv Reamev Norman & Sandy Reisman Lavender Rouzier José Vargas Dan Wolpert & Debra Bell Dorothy Wolpert

#### Benefactors (\$500+):

Actors' Equity Foundation Robert Arcaro André De Shields Earl Hagan Jonathan & Patricia Kay Dan Kaslow Lipnick Scheuer Charitable Fund Dianne Lob Sony Dabao-Salvador Jose Vargas Joe & Soo Kyung Vitale Dan Wolpert & Debra Bell Tamilla Woodard & Michael Jackson

#### Sponsors (\$250+):

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#### Patrons (\$100+):

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#### <u>35<sup>th</sup> Season Superstars</u> (\$35+):

Melissa Brown Myra Coffield Joy Cooper Nina Howes Tim Main Angel Martinez Margot Osborne Tricia Patrick Jess Roads Barbara Seitz DJ Spyder

#### Friends (\$25+):

Andrew Ade Tita Anntares Margot Avery Ray Babin Kapil Bawa **Ginny Belknap** Lorraine Brennan Lynda Brenner Leila Buck Adrienne Campbell-Holt Carol Cifone Victor Cipullo Judith Cohn Copeland **Diana** Corwin **Douglas Donelan Bob Drevfuss** Tony Galati Rebecca Givan Lewis Gluck Elizabeth Goettler Michelle Grant Anne Hamburger Susan Heuman Dan Hoyle LeeAnne Hutchison JJ Johnson Jacob & Irene Judd Sally Kane John Keane Gordon Kupperstein

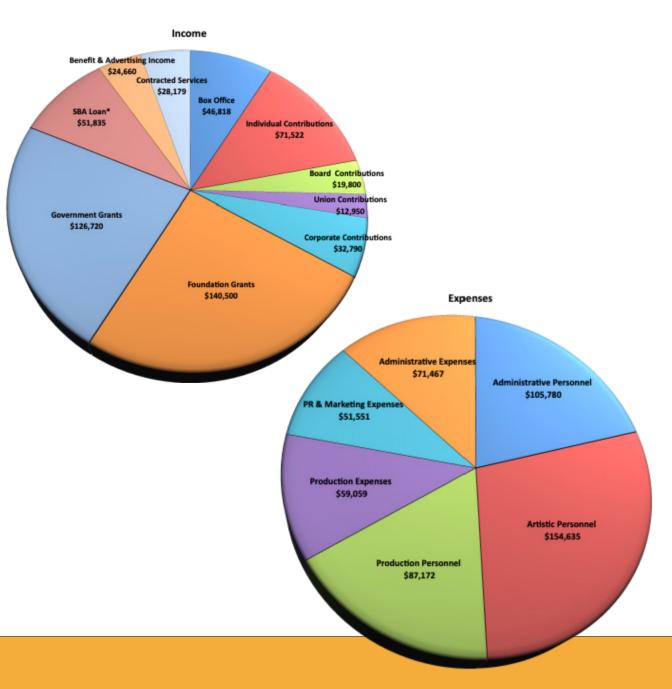
Stacey Letavish Matthew Mahoney Chip Marcin Sherryl Marshall-Miller Randy McArthur Siobhan McCourt James McManus Michael Mendelsohn Paul Monty **Nicole Morris** Grant Neale Olga Newey & Carmin Costa Dean Nolen Lorraine O'Brien Karleen O'Neill Maria-Christina Oliveras Carolyn Parker Mary Piteo **Emanuel Plesent** Lisa Ramirez Rebecca Schull Gary Schoichet Arnold Shasun Norman Small Jennie Smith-Peers Judith Sternlight John Sweeney Heidi Van Patricia Ward Dolores Watson Paul Weller Peregrine Whittlesey

### SUPPORTERS

The Working Theater Co.	<u>, Inc</u>
Fiscal Year 2020:	
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 20 (unaudited figures)	020
Income	
Box Office Income*	\$ 46,818
Benefit & Advertising Income	\$ 24,660
Contracted Services	\$ 28,179
Individual Contributions	\$ 71,522
Board Contributions	\$ 19,800
Union Contributions	\$ 12,950
Corporate Contributions	\$ 32,790
Foundation Grants	\$ 140,500
Government Grants	\$ 126,720
SBA Loan**	\$ 51,835
Total Income	\$ 555,774
<u>Expenses</u>	
Artistic Personnel*	\$ 154,635
Administrative Personnel	\$ 105,780
Production Personnel*	\$ 87,172
Production Expenses*	\$ 59,059
PR & Marketing Expenses	\$ 51,551
Administrative Expenses	\$ 71,467
Total Expense	\$ 529,664

\*The FY19 production of GUMBALLS ran through July 6th, one week into Working Theater's 2020 fiscal year, so some Gumballs production-related expenses and box offce income are reflected in FY20.

\*\* Working Theater received a Paycheck Protection Program Small Business Adminstration Loan to cover payroll expenses in FY20. We anticipate the loan will be fully forgiven.



### **FINANCIALS FY2020**

Working Theater's mission is to Founded in 1985, about working people produce plays for and (the of working in the industrial, majority Americans industries). transportation and service We believe that theater should not be a privilege or a luxury, but a staple. We want working people who may not be able to afford commercial theater or who feel that it does not resonate with their lives and experience, to make play-going a regular part of their cultural activities. Toward that goal, we offer stories that reflect a diverse population of the working majority, their complexity acknowledging and often-denied power in an increasingly complex world. By creating theater of interest to working people and by bringing this constituency to our productions, we aim to change the composition of New York's theater audience to reflect a full range of socio-economic diversity. In a nation that is frequently divided by cultural and class distinctions and where economic disparity continues to widen, Working Theater is committed to making theater that can bridge those divisions, expanding the reach of theater's impact to all people, uniting us in our common humanity.

has commissioned Working Theater and produced more than 70 world premieres of culturally diverse The company has garnered widespread plays. new recognition and critical acclaim for its writing, acting efforts in audience directing, and pioneering and development. The Theater has had over 30 original and fully reprinted plays published, (three featured American Theater Drama in Magazine), six Desk nominations, three Audelco Awards and a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Ensemble for Tabletop.

### Working Theater Staff:

Mark Plesent: Co-Artistic Director Tamilla Woodard: Co-Artistic Director Laura Carbonell Monarque: Managing Director Coryn Carson: Marketing Associate Jessica Angima: Audience & Community Engagement Coordinator Joe Roland & Joseph White: TheaterWorks! Teaching Instructors/Directors Maya Wasserman: Producing & Marketing Intern P. Kevin O'Leary: Event Photographer Mendiola Arts Management - Miguel Mendiola: Press Representation HMG Public Relations - Holly Garman: PR Consultant Redthinking LLC: Website Design & Branding the watsons: Marketing & Graphic Design

### Working Theater Board of Directors: nt Robert Arcaro

Bill Henning, <b>President</b>
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### Working Theater Board of Advisors:

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### ABOUT WORKING THEATER

