

Creative Team

Emily Rainbow Davis
Writer, Director



Emily Rainbow Davis is the Artistic Director of Messenger Theatre Company, for which she writes and directs. Some plays include: *Seeing Inside* (St. Ann's Warehouse), *Persephone*, *The Great God Money*, *Daphne* (Carnegie Mellon's radio series), *fig. a: The Heart*, *Mythellaneous*, *For the Fairest*, and *Daughters of Memory*. Emily completed her MFA in Dramatic Art at University of California, Davis and her BA at Sarah Lawrence College. *The Door Was Open*, was developed through a space grant at Flushing Town Hall. Emily blogs at *Songs for the Struggling Artist* (over 81,000 views) and *The Hamlet Project* (over 257,000 views) linked to by the New York Times. *Songs for the Struggling Artist* is also a podcast. *Ochre Park* was a semi-finalist and *Errors Before Errors* a finalist for Shakespeare's New Contemporaries. Emily wrote and directed our previous audio dramas, *The Dragoning* and *The Chip*.

Scott Ethier
Composer



Scott Ethier is a composer, pianist, and musical omnivore.

Commissions/premieres/workshops: Macon Symphony Orchestra, VocalEssence, Playwrights Horizons, Two River Theatre, TheatreworksUSA, Queens Theatre, Theatreworks Silicon Valley, Kaufman Music Center, and La Mama E.T.C. Music published by Boosey & Hawkes. **Fellowships/Awards:** Richard Rodgers Award - American Academy of Arts and Letters, Dramatists Guild Fellow, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, New Dramatists Composer-Librettist Workshop Studio, BMI Musical Theater Workshop.

Pianist/accompanist/orchestrator: Lincoln Center Theater, Kaufman Music Center, Mark Morris Dance Group, American Opera Project, and many others. **Member:** Dramatists Guild, A.F.M. Local 802. **Latest:** music for Messenger Theatre Company's [The Dragoning](#) and [The Chip](#), and for the documentary [The Arc of Oblivion](#) (Werner Herzog, Exec. Prod.). www.scottethier.com



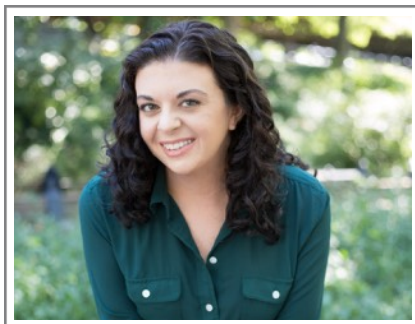
Matt Powell
Sound Designer

Matt Powell is a podcast editor/audio engineer living in New Haven, CT. He holds a BM in Music-Business from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and a MFA in Theatrical Sound Design from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Matt has worked with Messenger Theatre Company on both seasons of *The Dragoning*, *The Chip*, and is looking forward to collaborating with everyone on *The Defense*.



Daniel Massey
Sound Engineer

Daniel Massey is a New York based Sound Designer from Southern Illinois. Recently he has been working all across off-broadway. The last show he worked on was *Night of the Iguana* at the Signature Theatre Company in New York as the Associate Sound Designer. His upcoming project is working on *The Seven Year Disappear* with the New Group as Production Audio.



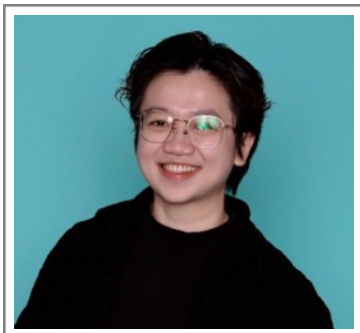
Angela Santillo
Sound Assistant

Angela Santillo's plays have been produced in New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, and Asheville. Recently her play *A Stupendous Illusion of Reality* was listed as a finalist for the Henley Rose Playwright Competition for Women and Athena Project's Play in Progress Series. Her work has been published by Smith and Krause and her nonfiction essays have appeared in *Exposition Review* and *Burningword Journal*. She produces, edits, and hosts the *And Then Suddenly* podcast and has taught documentary theater at Saint Mary's College. MFA: Sarah Lawrence College. www.angelasantillo.com



Ella Lieberman
Stage Manager

Ella Lieberman (she/they) originally hails from Portland, Oregon and received her BA in Theatre Production from Sarah Lawrence College, where she also received the Greta Minsky Prize for Stage Management. Favorite credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (SPARC Theater) *Hilma* (The Tank), and *Almost Equal To* (Sarah Lawrence College). Instagram: @ella.lieberman



Melvin Yen
Producer

Melvin Ningyao Yen (all pronouns!), a theater producer/director/writer/administrator, is renowned for her original production *AWAKE*, a testament to her diverse talents in the theater world. She holds an M.A. in Performing Arts Administration from NYU and has enriched various theatrical projects. Her rich experience includes stints at Playwrights Horizons, Broadway's TBD Theatricals, and Taiwan's U Theatre. Notable credits include “A Christmas Carol” (Broadway, 2022), “Regretfully, So the Birds Are” (Off-Broadway, 2023), and Taiwan's “River Journey” Melvin is the creative force behind A Stage Theatre, bringing innovative Mandarin stories to life. Discover her journey and creations on Instagram: @melvingood.

Cast



Marcella Adams
(Leila)

Marcella Adams is a New York City based actress and creative. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Marcella has been featured onstage in many shows at the Cleveland Playhouse and locally throughout New York. She is currently a private educator and acting coach serving K-8 students and families and in her spare time, she also is an intuitive tarot reader. Marcella's most recent credits include "The Nobodies Who Were Everybody" with Theater in Asylum, "If Women Rose Rooted at the Tank", and various staged readings and educational theater shows. Instagram: @marcellaaa.xo



Amber Jessie
(Mari)

Amber Jessie, a NYC-based actress, studied the Meisner technique at the William Esper Studio. Recently captivating audiences as Assata in *Anytown USofA*, she eagerly embraces the role of Mari in *The Defense*. Look forward to her upcoming performance as Serafina in the play *Rubber* at Theater for the New City this April. Amber brings dedication and versatility to each role, she is grateful for each and every opportunity.



Cosmic Kitty
(Bria)

Born in New Zealand and raised in Singapore, Cosmic Kitty (C.K) is a hybrid multidisciplinary artist who creates music, filmic narratives, theatrical comedic absurdist plays, interactive games and performance art that challenges the inter-connectivity between lineage, knowledge and creation. Her work confronts capitalism and its hold on the subconscious in relation to building intimacy and vulnerability between people. Her chapbook *ATOA: A Meditative Poem Through the Alphabet* won the Southeast Review Editors Choice Chapbook Competition. She received an MFA in Writing from Pratt Institute and an MA in Community Development and Planning from Clark University where she also completed her B.A in Theatre Arts and Women and Gender Studies. Her folk synth album “Everything is Pencil” that critiques the fast-food-pharmaceutical-prison-plastic slave driven war machine is now available on Spotify under her folk music persona “Ana Not Ana” To engage with more of her work, please visit <https://linktr.ee/cosmickittyinspace>



Kristen Vaughan
(Kacey)

Kristen is a three-time New York Innovative Theatre Awards nominee for Lead Actress, winning for Jane in *Benefactors* (Retro Productions). Among Kristen's other favorite roles; Brenda in *Alexandria* (Sanguine), Amelia Cooke in *The Honeycomb Trilogy* and Victoria Frankenstein in *Frankenstein Upstairs* (Gideon Productions), and Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Bleecker Company). Film work includes *The Moosehead Over the Mantel* and *The Horror* at Gallery Kay. www.kristenvaughan.com



Toni Watterson
(Lori)

Toni Watterson (Lori) graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in 2022 where she received a BA in Theater Arts and spent a semester abroad at the British American Drama Academy. Originally from Shaker Heights, Ohio, Toni moved to NYC in 2022. She is currently studying at The Barrow Group and is represented by Citizen Talent. Most recently, she has performed at The Secret Theatre in a production of Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*.

Credits on the Podcast



Now on two Netflix shows (*The Circle* and *Is She The Wolf?*) — Jackie Jing has become a popular influencer, content creator, actor and host with more than 500,000 followers

Host

For January 21st Performance



Comedian, actor, writer and dancer, Kirsten O'Brien produced, headlined and toured *The Boss Bitch Show*, a live standup show and podcast featured in Time Out NY & The Guardian. She was a cast member of NYC's *Accomplice*, host for the Drama Desk Award nominated show *The Ride*, and cast member of Upright Citizen's Brigade sketch show, *The New York Cheeks*.