

Stage Jewels NYC in association with

The Tank presents

Nyad's Dream

A new, magical play by Juliann Lavallee

August 25-27th, 2023



About Stage Jewels NYC

Stage Jewels NYC is a little fiscally sponsored company that emerged to create beautiful things. Although the company focuses on queer and marginalized narratives, it highlights the universality of the human condition and strives to create ripples in its audience that will make the world a better place.

About Nyad’s Dream

Nyad’s Dream is a magic realist allegory for the trans/nonbinary experience. The play follows an artist who develops amnesia after a near drowning experience and their path to recovery with the help of their chosen family. *This production is an Actor’s Equity Approved Showcase.*

The Characters

Phoenix- A non-binary environmentalist and mixed media artist who survives a near drowning experience. Phoenix is a highly reactive personality who delights in the energy of creation.

Devon- Phoenix’s roommate. An E.M.T. and animal activist. Devon is sincere, reliable, and often serious. They often forget to breathe when their friends hurt.

Owen- Phoenix’s roommate. A pro surfer and amateur chef. The most chill and joyful person, prone to fits of song while cooking.

Williams- Ryder’s significant other. A doctor and a perfectionist. Williams is single-minded and magic scares them.

Ryder- Williams’ significant other. A radiologist and novice mystic. Their magical views challenge Williams’ scientific perspective.

Note on Nyads

A Nyad is a water spirit, mythologically often found in lakes, rivers and waterfalls. For the purpose of this play, a nyad is an ancient oceanic guardian whose consciousness springs from the collected perceptions of their environment.

Cast

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Phoenix..... | Robin Murray |
| Devon..... | Mars Madalyn |
| Owen..... | Caeden Musser |
| Williams..... | Maleek Rae |
| Ryder..... | Raekwon Fuller |

Who's Who in the Cast

*these Actors are appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

Raekwon Fuller (Ryder) (he/him) is a freshly graduated actor from Fordham University. Coming from his southern roots in South Carolina the arts was something that helped him excel amongst bigotry. He is proud to be who he is today and is grateful for Nyad's Dream, his family, and God!

Mars Madalyn (Devon) (They/He) is a 2022 graduate of Ball State University where they explored many roles including "Somebody" in Everybody, Sebastian in Twelfth Night, and Renee in Babel. Since graduating and moving to New York this June, Nyad's Dream is their first project in the city. Mars hopes to explore gender nonconformity through a variety of roles as they utilize their transness as a tool for acceptance for other trans actors. Mars gives thanks to the many people who have supported and uplifted them throughout their journey of expression especially their tumultuous move. You can learn more about Mars at marsmadalyn.com and follow their journey @marsmadalyn on all platforms.

Robin Murray (Phoenix) (fae/faer) is overjoyed to help bring Nyad's Dream to waking reality as Phoenix+Aiden! Last seen as Viola in Match:Lit's most recent production of 12th Night, fae is once again washing up on shore to learn how to live (and love) in a strange new world. You can next find Robin at the New York Renaissance Faire, singing to the trees and gossiping with the honeybees.

Caeden Musser (Owen) (they/he) is a Queens based actor/playwright/fighty human who is thrilled to be working on their third Stage Jewels production! They spent the spring touring schools as Orsino in an immersive production of Twelfth Night (Emit Theatre). Previously, they spent 5 months cycling through various characters in Money Heist: The Experience (Netflix/Fever). Other favorite roles include Chiron (Titus Andronicus, Barefoot Shakespeare), Fiona Fiddle/Voice 1 (Under Woodside, Stage Jewels), Ilyan (Damned, Stage Jewels), Launce (Two [gentlemen] of Verona, Monsterpiece Theatre), Cressida (Troilus and Cressida, Rosedale Theater), Tybalt (Romeo and Juliet, Rosedale Theater), and Cassandra (The Trojan Women, The Baron's Men). They've trained with Dylan Hintz and Abra Burkett of SAGA Action Arts, Jayme Woj of Academy of Theatrical Combat, Neutral Chaos, Jared Kirby/NYCSS, Shakespeare & Company, and The Humanist Project. They've also spent the last few years working on writing a free verse, queer adaptation of the Cassandra myth and the fall of Troy.

Maleek Rae* (Williams) (they/them) is a non-binary performing artist from Detroit, MI. A 2018 graduate of the SUNY Purchase BFA acting conservatory. Maleek's recent work includes a work-in-progress showing of their original rap/hip-hop-based ritual piece, Community:A Guttah Ritual, as well as being featured in Terence Nance's SWARM, a solo exhibition at the ICA Philadelphia. TV/Film: Law and Order: Organized Crime and SVU (NBC), The Best Man: The Final Chapters (Peacock), Random Acts of Flyness (HBO), and East New York (CBS). Theatre: Detroit '67 (Detroit Public Theatre), Mud Row (Premiere Stages), The Bacchae(Classical Theatre of Harlem), and Messiah (La Mama).

Who's Who on the Production Team

Juliann Lavallee (Writer, Producer, and Assistant Director) (they/them) is a Chicago born, New York City based, writer and producer of *Nyad's Dream*. Jules earned their M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Long Island University under the close direction of the recently deceased poet and founder of United Artists Press, Lewis Warsh. They miss him greatly. Lewis taught them to write like we live: coming in and out of focus, veering off course, and hopefully having the courage to keep exploring.

In the summer of 2021 their play *Under Woodside* performed in a six venue circuit around parks in New York City. Jules' plays, *Damned*, *DisCards: A Shakespearean Reshuffle*, and *The Culture of Now*, debuted at Dixon Place. *Discards* has since enjoyed a second run at Manhattan Repertory Theater. *The Culture of Now* went on to The Acorn Theatre. Lavallee's short piece, "Soul Food," premiered at *Beyond the Ingénue* in El Barrio's Shakespeare Festival. Jules is currently working on a one act that explores consciousness in the grave called "Pictures of the Dead" and a Shakespearean riff play called *Laertes Shall Be King* with their best friend and collaborator Caeden Musser.

amani meliyah (Director) (she/they) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY. They create socio-political portraits of identity, faith, and community through live performance, movement, poetry, and video. Directing credits include several original devised works, *In the Blood* by Suzan Lori Parks and short films *Parkside* and *Daughters*. She is a Theatre of the Oppressed practitioner with Theatre of the Oppressed NYC and facilitates a residency for queer youth in transitional living at the Ali Forney Center. amani is a co-founder of Blue Lilith Productions and is currently in production for the film *ROOFTOP JESUS* (writer/director). In NYC amani has collaborated with Soho Rep, Experimental Bitch, Vainglory Theatre, Brunch Theatre, and The Tank. Education: Coastal Carolina University BFA in Acting / life lessons from many ancestors and aunties.

Grace Terdoslavich (Stage Manager) has been working behind the scenes in theater for roughly ten years. Her stage management credits include a long stretch as production manager at Hudson Classical Theater Company, where she stage managed *Pride and Prejudice* (March 2019), *Antony and Cleopatra* (June 2019), *Merry Wives of Windsor* (August 2019), *Loves Labors Lost* (July 2021), and *Richard II* (June 2022), and often also did double duty in props design. She also worked on set construction for *Merry Wives of Windsor* (August 2019) and *Richard II* (June 2022). Grace also co-hosts a Shakespeare podcast called *Merely Podcasters*.

Abigail Lo (Intimacy Director) (they/them) is an intimacy director and a recent graduate of Fordham University's acting program. Intimacy credits at Fordham: *And This Is Where We*, *Merry Go Round*, *Blood Wedding*, *The Moors*, *We're Still Here*, *Next to Normal*. Select acting credits: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, *Lost Girl*, *Stoo's Famous Martian-American Gumbo* (Hangar Theatre); *La Cocina*, *A Butterfly Dreams...*, *The Moon and the Wolf* (Fordham University). This will be their first show outside Fordham as an intimacy professional, and they'd like to offer their thanks to everyone on the team for being absolutely wonderful. IG: @theabigaillo | abigaillo.com

Gabrielle Rodriguez (Production Assistant) (she/her) is pleased to work on *Nyad's Dream* this summer! She is a recent graduate of Iona University with a BA in Arts Leadership (Concentration in Theater). Highlights at Iona included stage managing "Master Harold" and the boys,

Veronica's Room, prop mistress for Carrie, and many late nights painting sets. This summer, she was an intern at IATI Theater for their Cimientos Play Development Series. Past Stage Managing and Crew Credits: Production Assistant for Richard II and Jane Austen's Emma (Hudson Classical Theater Company), Stage Manager for The Weir (Iona University Theatre Ensemble), and Scenic Painter for Grease (Iona Players). She considers herself an artist in general because she spends her days doing anything artsy-related. Enjoy the show! @serimaluna on Instagram.

Malakai Brodie (Production Assistant & Text Contributor) (hy/they) is a prospective graduate 2023 at Penn State University where hy majors in Psychology. After a former background in stage crew and set design, hy is taking part in hys first New York City production. Malakai is very appreciative to be a part of Nyad's Dream and thankful to have experienced such a trans-inclusive setting in and outside of the rehearsal space.

Bee Brown-Sparks (Sound Designer) (they/them) is an artist and writer particularly interested in moments of tenderness and building community.

Mira Singer (Magic Advisor) (she/her) is a storymancer. She holds an undergraduate degree in Storytelling and two MFA's in creative writing. In addition, she is a classically-trained performer specializing in Shakespeare and musical theater. Recent performance credits include A Sketch of Pride, Shakespeare's Prisons, Night of the Living Dead, and Bernhardt/Hamlet. She is the co-creator of Merely Podcasters.

Special Thanks to Our Contributors

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