

- 1) Title: “Page to Stage: Pathways to Production in a Virtual and In-Person World”
- 2) Description: Five playwrights describe their varied pathways to production before and during the pandemic. From play contests to networking to agent submissions to using directories, each will describe how their work came to be staged and how play development differs from all other creative writing forms. They will finish the session with an open discussion on how the virtual world may have changed how theater may be shared in the future.
- 3) Category: Playwriting—craft
- 4) Organizer: Bonnie Culver
- 5) Moderator: Bonnie Culver
- 6) Participants, bios:

Bonnie Culver: Bonnie Culver’s plays have been produced nationwide. Her one-woman show *A Ticket to the Circus*, based upon the memoir of Norris Church Mailer, is scheduled for production in 2021 at the Edgemar Center, CA, starring Anne Archer. Co-founder of Wilkes University's M.A./M.F.A. program.

Matthew Hinton: Matthew Hinton holds his MA & MFA in Creative Writing from Wilkes University and is the author of *Quiet Cowboy* & other plays. Hinton is a founding member of Gaslight Theatre Company (Wilkes-Barre, PA), & is Coordinator of Writing and Assistant Director of Student Success at Misericordia University..

Rachel Luann Strayer: Rachel Luann Strayer is a published playwright with an MFA from Wilkes University. Plays: *DROWNING OPHELIA*, *THE POE ASYLUM*, *SONGBIRD*, *A DECAMERON FOR THE APOCALYPSE*, & *THE LAST DAUGHTER* (Jane Chambers Feminist Playwriting Award Finalist). Currently the lead writer for NYC theatre group Stage Fright.

Jean Klein: Jean Klein has been a semi-finalist in the O'Neill competition; a one-act play *Snapshots* was a winner in the Kernodle Play competition at the University of Arkansas. She currently teaches playwriting at Wilkes University and owns Blue Moon Plays, a dramatic publishing company.

Sérgio-Andreo Bettencourt Urbina (a.k.a. s.a.b.u.) is a US-based non-binary, first generation Luso-Peruvian American playwright. Their writing credits include *Hungry, Hungry, Demon* (The Attic & Co.), *Started from the Convent Now We're Here* (Lambda Literary), and *CRIMSON.RUST.AMBER*. (antonym).

7) Opening, welcome: While all writers seek a public outlet for their work, playwrights face a unique pathway when they seek production of a play. This session will explain the multiple ways plays come to life on the stage while sharing the collaborative nature of this art form. For new, emerging, and even produced playwrights, this session will list multiple resources that will help all playwrights find production opportunities.

8) Session outline:

- 1) The moderator, also a participant, will introduce each playwright and offer a short bio.
- 2) Each of the five panelists will briefly summarize their unique pathways to production in live theater.
- 3) Each playwright will describe one-two resources all playwrights should utilize.
- 4) Three of the playwrights will describe their "virtual" theater productions and how theater for them was changed.
- 5) The moderator will lead a "what does theater post-pandemic look like"?
- 6) The last ten minutes will be audience Q&A.

9) Questions to be answered in session:

- a) Describe how your first plays found production and publication. What was your involvement in the process?
- b) What resources do you recommend playwrights use to find production?

- c) What was your theatre experience during the pandemic?
- d) How do you think theatre will change post-pandemic?