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**Hermitage Announces New February and March Programs
Featuring Award-Winning Artists and Performers in Theater,
Music, Literature, Dance, Visual Art, and More**

*The Hermitage's multidisciplinary programming offers audiences a one-of-a-kind look behind the creative process. Hermitage programs in early 2024 are presented in partnership with national and regional arts and cultural organizations including **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Nathan Benderson Park, ASALH, The Ringling Museum, Booker High School, The Town of Longboat Key, Ringling College of Art and Design, and more.** The diverse and expansive programs include previously announced events with **Stephen Cole, David Evans, Jacquelyn Reingold, Joan La Barbara, Laura Kaminsky, Emi Ferguson, James M. Stephenson, Amir ElSaffar, Chris Ryan Williams, and Pulitzer Prize/Tony Award winner Doug Wright, plus newly announced events with acclaimed Hermitage Fellows including Nambi E. Kelley, Limor Tomer, 2023 Hermitage Greenfield Prize finalist Maura Brewer, David 'Doc' Wallace, Mesha Maren, Etienne Charles, Kamala Sankaram, and Brandel France de Bravo.***

January 9, 2024 — **The Hermitage Artist Retreat** (Sarasota County, Florida) today announced new programs extending into February and March. Continuing its commitment to innovative year-round arts programming, these events will be presented throughout the Gulf Coast region, from the Hermitage's beautiful beachfront campus on Manasota Key to the heart of Sarasota's vibrant downtown arts scene in collaboration with Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, The Ringling Museum, Nathan Benderson Park, The Town of Longboat Key, and more. Hermitage programs introduce world-renowned artists to Florida's Gulf Coast community and invite audiences across the country to experience candid and engaging conversations, open studios, music performances, play readings, film screenings, and more.

Newly announced February programs include Hermitage Fellow **Nambi E. Kelly**, a celebrated theater writer, performer, and producer who recently worked on Peacock's hit series "Bel-Air." On Friday, February 9th at 5:30pm at **Booker High School**, hear insights and excerpts of new works from this accomplished storyteller and rising star of the theater, television, and film world.

On Friday, February 23rd at 5pm in Sarasota, Hermitage National Curatorial Council Member **Limor Tomer**, founder of the Live Arts Department at New York's

Metropolitan Museum of Art, will share the unique challenges and opportunities of transforming the hallowed halls of museums into community gathering spaces for performance. She is joined by The Ringling's own Curator of Performance, **Elizabeth Doud**, who is responsible for the internationally-sourced "Art of Performance" series. Their insights into this growing field and its unique place in the artistic landscape will take place under the banyans on the grounds of **The Ringling Museum**.

2023 Hermitage Greenfield Prize finalist **Maura Brewer** and returning Hermitage Fellow **David "Doc" Wallace** will present a two-part program at the Hermitage Beach on Friday, March 1st at 5:30pm. A visual and multimedia artist, Brewer uses video and images to explore and uncover stories about our world, while Wallace expertly blends sounds and music to engage in the present like only a gifted musician can. Hear from both artists and engage with selections of their work.

Hermitage Fellow and acclaimed author **Mesha Maren** joins the Creative Writing Department at Ringling College as a part of the Visiting Writers Forum to inspire students and community members alike for the first installment of "**Hermitage Writes @ Ringling College**." Maren's work has been described by *The New York Times* as "bold," "forceful," and providing a "much needed refresh." Hear selections of her work and gain insights into her process during this conversation series at the **Ringling College of Art and Design** on Tuesday March 12th at 7pm.

On Thursday, March 14th at 6:30pm, the popular "**Hermitage Sunsets @ Nathan Benderson Park**" series continues with "More Than Music," featuring 2022 Hermitage Greenfield Prize finalist and Guggenheim Fellow **Etienne Charles**, along with returning Hermitage alumna **Kamala Sankaram**. These two Hermitage Fellows make more than excellent music; they create experiences that can make you feel the rhythm as quickly as they make you think. Join these two talented artists for a sunset experience of music and conversation by the lake at Nathan Benderson Park.

On Friday, March 22nd at 12pm, Hermitage Fellow **Elisa Bocanegra** gives the keynote address to the Venice Writers Festival at the William H. Jervy, Jr. Venice Library. Following the success of last year's participation from Hermitage Fellow and poet Rigoberto Gonzalez, the Hermitage is pleased to partner once more with this excellent forum of community writers. Bocanegra, a recipient of the 2022-2023 Fulbright as well as the TCG Leadership U Grant, will speak about the intersection of writing, performance, and community building through her work on projects such as *Nuestro Planeta*, which aims to educate audiences about environmental justice in the Americas.

Returning Hermitage Fellow and multi-talented author and poet **Brandel France de Bravo** will marry the worlds of creative poetry and public health policy in an in-depth conversation about the craft and the future of the creative writing field. Join the Hermitage at **Ringling College of Art and Design** on Tuesday, March 26th at 7pm for

the second installment of “**Hermitage Writes @ Ringling College,**” part of the college’s Creative Writing Department.

(Full program details for all events are provided below.)

All of these Hermitage programs are free and open to the public (with a \$5/person registration fee), offering Gulf Coast audiences a rare chance to engage and interact with some of the world’s leading talent. Due to capacity limitations, **registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org.**

A leading national arts incubator, the Hermitage is the only major arts organization in Florida’s Gulf Coast exclusively committed to supporting the development and creation of new work across all artistic disciplines. The Hermitage hosts artists on its Gulf Coast Manasota Key campus for multi-week residencies, where diverse and accomplished artists from around the world and across multiple disciplines create and develop new works of theater, music, visual art, literature, dance, film, and more. As part of their residencies, Hermitage Fellows participate in free community programs, offering audiences in the region a unique opportunity to engage with some of the world’s leading artists and to get an authentic “sneak peek” into extraordinary projects and artistic minds before their works go on to major galleries, concert halls, theaters, and museums around the world. These free and innovative programs include performances, conversations, readings, interactive experiences, open studios, school programs, teacher workshops, and more, serving thousands in our regional community each year.

See below for complete program details and artist bios.

For more information about the Hermitage and upcoming programs, visit: **HermitageArtistRetreat.org.**

The Hermitage Artist Retreat

Sarasota County, Florida
Andy Sandberg, Artistic Director and CEO

The Hermitage is a leading national arts incubator and non-profit artist retreat located on Manasota Key, Florida. For more than two decades, the Hermitage has invited accomplished artists across multiple disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Hermitage artists are invited to interact with the local community, reaching thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors each year with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage Fellows have included 15 Pulitzer Prize winners, Poets Laureate, MacArthur ‘Genius’ Fellows, and multiple Tony, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar winners and nominees. Works created at this beachside retreat by a diverse and accomplished group of Hermitage alumni have gone on to renowned theaters, concert halls, and galleries throughout the world. Each year, the Hermitage awards the Hermitage Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, the Hermitage Major Theater Award for an original theater commission, and the Aspen Music Festival’s Hermitage Prize in Composition.

For more information, visit HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

The Hermitage is supported by:

Hermitage programs are supported, in part, by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues; the State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts; as well as the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

FULL PROGRAM DETAILS

Newly Announced Program Descriptions (February and March):

- **“Script, Screen, and Stage: The Many Roles of Nambi E. Kelley” with Hermitage Fellow Nambi E. Kelley, Friday, February 9, 5:30pm:** Hermitage Fellow **Nambi E. Kelley** has been recognized for excelling in numerous roles within both the theater and television industry. Whether winning acclaim as an actor on the stage in *Pipeline*, penning the celebrated stage adaptation of Richard Wright’s *Native Son*, or producing Peacock’s hit tv series “Bel-Air,” her creativity and talent shines through. Join this cross-disciplinary creator for a candid conversation and excerpts of new work, including her latest commission from Chicago’s Court Theater about Stokely Carmichael. *Presented in partnership with Booker High School and Manasota ASALH. Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org* (\$5/person registration fee) **Booker High School, 3201 N Orange Ave, Sarasota, FL 34234**
- **“Live Arts in Museum Spaces” with Hermitage National Curatorial Council Member Limor Tomer and The Ringling’s Curator of Performance Elizabeth Doud, Friday, February 23, 5pm:** Traditionally the home of some of the world’s most valuable artistic treasures, museums have been repositories for visual art of all styles through the ages. But more recently, thanks to the efforts of innovative and forward-thinking curators like Hermitage Curatorial Council member **Limor Tomer**, museums are increasingly a site for contemporary, live performance as well. From theater and music to dance and other multidisciplinary art forms under Tomer’s leadership, The Metropolitan Museum (NYC) has hosted groundbreaking performance events in its auditorium as well its galleries and public spaces, giving birth to such interdisciplinary pieces as Gavin Creel’s *Walk on Through: Confessions of a Museum Novice*, experienced on the Hermitage Beach in 2022. Hear from a leader in this growing field about the unique challenges and opportunities of transforming these hallowed halls into community gathering spaces for performance. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, 5401 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota, FL 34243**
- **“Stories in Light and Sound” featuring 2023 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Finalist Maura Brewer and returning Hermitage Fellow David ‘Doc’ Wallace, Friday, March 1, 5:30pm:** At the intersection of subject and audience, an artist selects techniques to emphasize elements of a narrative. Will they sustain a particular note in a moment of suspension or communicate power with a low camera angle? No matter the medium, art tells a story about who we are. Visual artist and 2023 Hermitage Greenfield Prize finalist **Maura Brewer** uses video and images to investigate the world around us, while **David ‘Doc’ Wallace** uses music and sound to move us between thoughts and emotions. Despite different mediums, both are experts in their field and both join us to share insights into their creative process and excerpts of some of their latest work. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 34223**

- **“Hermitage Writes @ Ringling College: Mesha Maren” with Hermitage Fellow Mesha Maren, Tuesday, March 12, 7pm:** Part of the Visiting Writers Forum, the Hermitage partners with the Creative Writing Department at Ringling College to inspire students and community members alike. Hermitage Fellow **Mesha Maren** joins the series to offer insight into the process and craft of a writer. Her debut novel *Sugar Run* “creates bold new takes on venerable genres, a much-needed refresh of worn tropes and clichés (*NY Times*). She followed this success with *Perpetual West*, which *The NY Times* placed in the lineage of Cormac McCarthy and described as a “forceful addition” to the history of border literature. Hear this author who is reshaping stories and genres we thought we knew read selections of her work and talk process in this in-depth conversation. *Presented in partnership with the Ringling College of Art and Design. Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org* (\$5/person registration fee). **Ringling College of Art and Design, 1228 Dr. MLK Way, Sarasota, FL 34234**
- **“Hermitage Sunsets @ Nathan Benderson Park: More than Music” with Hermitage Fellows Etienne Charles and Kamala Sankaram, Thursday, March 14, 6:30pm:** Returning Hermitage alumna **Kamala Sankaram** and 2022 Hermitage Greenfield Prize finalist and Guggenheim Fellow **Etienne Charles** know that music is more than simply sound. Their work embodies the people and places of the world, fusing time and place, different cultures, and varied musical styles. *The NY Times* describes Etienne Charles as having a “magnetic sound on trumpet — clear and mellifluous, with a deep sense of economy,” as well as “a composer to be reckoned with” and Kamala Sankaram is “one of the most exciting opera composers in the country,” according to *The Washington Post*. Join these two masterful artists to discover how their work is more than beautiful music; it’s also an experience that can make you feel the rhythm as quickly as it makes you think. *Presented in partnership with Nathan Benderson Park Conservancy. Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org* (\$5/person registration fee). **Nathan Benderson Park, 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle, Sarasota, FL, 34235**
- **“Hermitage Writes @ Venice Writers Festival: Elisa Bocanegra” with Hermitage Fellow Elisa Bocanegra, Friday, March 22, 12pm:** Elisa Bocanegra is a theatrical thought leader, performer, and writer. A recipient of the 2022-2023 Fulbright as well as the TCG Leadership U Grant, she will speak about the intersection of writing, performance, and community building through her work on projects such as *Nuestro Planeta*, a ten year long new work commissioning initiative which aims to educate audiences about environmental justice in the Americas. *Presented in partnership with the Venice Writers Festival. Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org* **William H. Jervy, Jr. Venice Public Library, Gulf Coast Community Foundation Community Room, 300 Nokomis Ave S., Venice, FL 34285**
- **“Hermitage Writes @ Ringling College: Brandel France de Bravo” with Hermitage Fellow Brandel France de Bravo, Tuesday, March 26, 7pm:** Marrying the worlds of creative poetry and public health policy, Hermitage Fellow **Brandel France de Bravo** is a writer and poet with an expansive vision. Spanning languages and including a holistic approach to both the art and the person in the audience, her latest work *Locomotive Cathedral*, about our constant search for permanence in an ever-changing world, was honored by the Backwaters Prize Press in poetry and is forthcoming in 2025. Part of the Visiting Writers Forum, the Hermitage is pleased to partner with the Creative Writing Department at Ringling College to inspire students and community members alike. *Presented in partnership with the Ringling College of Art and Design. Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org* (\$5/person registration fee). **Ringling College of Art and Design, 1228 Dr. MLK Way, Sarasota, FL 34234**

Previously Announced Hermitage Programs (January and February):

- **“Merman’s Apprentice: Musical Theater’s Golden Age” with Hermitage Alumni Stephen Cole and David Evans, Friday, January 12, 5pm:** It’s 1970 and the “Golden Age” of musical theater is drawing to an end... but twelve-year-old Muriel Plakenstein doesn't know that! So she runs away from home to become a theater star and meets the Queen of Broadway, Ethel Merman. What ensues is a musical fable created by Hermitage alumni **Stephen Cole** and **David Evans** that recreates that magic nostalgia of the brightest stages in the country. Join this collaborative team on the Hermitage beach to hear selections of this original work and to learn more about what inspired the musical’s journey. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org (\$5/person registration fee).** **Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 34223**
- **“Songs from the Sand: A Hermitage Cabaret” featuring works by Hermitage Composers performed by some of Sarasota’s greatest talents, Friday, January 19, 5pm:** From **Jeanine Tesori**, **Adam Gwon**, **Michael R. Jackson**, and **Gavin Creel** to **Kit Yan**, **Zoe Sarnak**, **Rona Siddiqui**, and more, the Hermitage has provided space and time to some of the most exciting musical theater writers working today. Hear selections from some of these composers and lyricists, performed by Sarasota’s finest talents at one of the area's newest and most beautiful outdoor stages, Town Center at Longboat Key. In addition to the works themselves, hear little known stories about the creation of some of New York theater’s recent success stories and insights into the creative process. *Presented in Partnership with The Town of Longboat Key.* **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org (\$5/person registration fee).** **Longboat Key Town Center, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228**
- **“Voice, Vision, and Verbs” with Hermitage Fellows Jacquelyn Reingold, Joan La Barbara, and Laura Kaminsky, Thursday, January 18, 5pm:** In a trifecta of innovative musical and theatrical creation, three gifted Hermitage Fellows share how their voice and vision inform their artistic practice across disciplines. Jacquelyn Reingold is a writer for stage and screen whose works include *String Fever* (Ensemble Studio Theater, NY), “Smash,” “Grace & Frankie,” and “The Good Fight.” Composer and performer Joan La Barbara’s ground-breaking vocal stylings have been heard across the country and around for over four decades. Laura Kaminsky is one of the most-produced composer-librettists in contemporary opera whose work dives into the pressing matters of our time. Together, they represent a profound collective knowledge of the human experience and the multitude of ways it can be expressed in art. Hear some of these insights as well as selections of work spanning medium and style. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org (\$5/person registration fee).** **Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 34223**
- **“Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens: Music on the Wind” with Hermitage Fellows James M. Stephenson and Emi Ferguson, Thursday, January 25, 5pm:** Originally from the Chicago area, Hermitage Fellow **James Stephenson** earned his stripes over 17 seasons in the Naples Philharmonic to become a celebrated composer whose work has covered multiple genres, age groups, instruments, and oceans. From his award-winning compositions for the Marine Band to residences and world premieres with some of the best orchestras across the country, his music speaks to something universal in us all. Juilliard-trained Flutist **Emi Ferguson**, who is also featured at this year’s Hermitage Artful Lobster, redefines what it means to be a contemporary musician: mastering not only her instrument, but its history and impact on the broader artistic

landscape. Hear selections from both gifted musician composers and gain direct insight into the composition process from the artists themselves at Selby Gardens' downtown Sarasota campus. *Presented in partnership with Venice Symphony and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Emi Ferguson's Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Liz & Duncan Richardson. James Stephenson's Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Terry Brackett. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 1534 Mound St, Sarasota, FL, 34236***

- **“Hermitage Sunsets @ Nathan Benderson Park: Musical Moods” with Hermitage Fellows Amir ElSaffar and Chris Ryan Williams, Friday, February 2, 5pm:** Growing up in Chicago in a home where Arabic, Spanish, and English were all commonly heard as the Beatles played on the turntable, jazz trumpeter and multi-instrumentalist **Amir ElSaffar** has always been interested in the most expansive range of music possible. Exploring the complex forces shaping the simultaneous realities of trauma and power in all Black Americans, **Chris Ryan Williams'** multidisciplinary works have been seen across the United States and Europe. Both composers have a love for collaboration, improvisation, and experimentation and a deep interest in how music builds community. These two celebrated composers and performers will be sharing the 'stage' at Nathan Benderson Park. Join the Hermitage for an incredible evening of music and conversation with these internationally renowned talents. *Presented in partnership with Nathan Benderson Park Conservancy. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **Nathan Benderson Park, 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle, Sarasota, FL, 34235***
- **“Music Mondays: Hermitage Alum Doug Wright Writes Broadway” with Hermitage Fellow, Pulitzer Prize, and Tony Award Winner Doug Wright, Monday, February 19:** One of the most lauded theater creators of our time returns to Sarasota to share insight into the creation process with iconic numbers from his acclaimed Broadway musicals, performed by some of the best talent in Sarasota. Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning Hermitage Fellow **Doug Wright's** works on Broadway include *I Am My Own Wife*, *Grey Gardens*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *Hands on a Hardbody*, *War Paint*, and the recent smash comedy success *Goodnight, Oscar*. Alongside stellar performances, Wright will offer his perspective on the vital role of a musical librettist, diving into the uniquely collaborative process of bringing a musical to life and the nuances of the various musical styles he has used throughout his celebrated career. *Presented in Partnership with Sarasota Institute of Lifetime Learning. Two presentations: **Church of the Palms, 3224 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota FL, 34239 @ 10:30am** **Venice Presbyterian Church, 825 The Rialto, Venice FL, 34285 @ 3pm***

ALL ANNOUNCED HERMITAGE PROGRAMS:

Friday, January 12th @ 5pm, “Merman’s Apprentice: Musical Theater’s Golden Age,” featuring Hermitage Fellows **Stephen Cole** and **David Evans**, at the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)

Thursday, January 18th @ 5pm, “Voice, Vision, and Verbs,” featuring Hermitage Fellows **Jacquelyn Reingold**, **Joan La Barbara**, and **Laura Kaminsky** at the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)

Friday, January 19th @ 5pm, “Songs from the Sand: A Hermitage Cabaret,” featuring the works of **Hermitage Composers**, at Longboat Key Town Center (Longboat Key) *Presented in partnership with The Town of Longboat Key*

Thursday, January 25th @ 5pm, “Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens: Music on the Wind,” featuring Hermitage Fellows **James M. Stephenson** and **Emi Ferguson**, at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (Downtown Sarasota) *Presented in partnership with Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and Venice Symphony*

*Emi Ferguson’s Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Liz & Duncan Richardson
James Stephenson’s Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Terry Brackett*

Friday, February 2nd @ 5pm, “Hermitage Sunsets @ Nathan Benderson Park: Musical Moods,” featuring Hermitage Fellows **Amir ElSaffar** and **Chris Ryan Williams**, at Nathan Benderson Park (Sarasota/Bradenton) *Presented in partnership with Nathan Benderson Park Conservancy*

Friday, February 9th @ 5:30pm, “Script, Screen, and Stage: The Many Roles of Nambi E. Kelley,” featuring Hermitage Fellow **Nambi E. Kelley**, at the Booker High School (Sarasota) *Presented in partnership with Booker High School and Manasota ASALH*

Monday, February 19th @ 10:30am and 3pm, “Music Mondays: Hermitage Alum Doug Wright Writes Broadway,” featuring Hermitage Fellow **Doug Wright**, at Church of the Palms (Sarasota) @ 10:30am and again at Venice Presbyterian Church (Venice) @ 3pm. *Presented in partnership with Sarasota Institute of Lifetime Learning*
Please Note: This program is part of the SILL “Music Monday” series, and tickets are available at the door on the day of the event for \$15/person.

Friday, February 23rd @ 5pm, “Live Arts in Museum Spaces,” with Hermitage Curatorial Council Member **Limor Tomer**, at the Ringling Museum (Sarasota) *Presented in partnership with The Ringling Museum*

Friday, March 1st @ 5:30pm, “Stories in Light and Sound,” with 2023 Hermitage Greenfield Prize finalist **Maura Brewer** and returning Hermitage Fellow **David ‘Doc’ Wallace**, at the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)

Tuesday, March 12th @ 7pm, “Hermitage Writes @ Ringling College: Mesha Maren,” with Hermitage Fellow **Mesha Maren**, at Ringling College of Art and Design (Sarasota) *Presented in partnership with Ringling College of Art and Design*

Thursday, March 14th @ 6:30pm, “Hermitage Sunsets @ Nathan Benderson Park: More than Music,” featuring Hermitage Fellows **Etienne Charles** and **Kamala Sankaram**, at Nathan Benderson Park (Sarasota / Bradenton) *Presented in partnership with Nathan Benderson Park Conservancy*

Friday, March 22nd @ 12pm, “Hermitage Writes @ Venice Writers Festival,” featuring Hermitage Fellow **Elisa Bocanegra**, at William H. Jerve, Jr. Venice Public Library (Sarasota / Bradenton) *Presented in partnership with the Venice Writers Festival*

Tuesday, March 26th @ 7pm, “Hermitage Writes @ Ringling College: Brandel France de Bravo,” featuring Hermitage Fellow **Brandel France de Bravo**, at Ringling College of Art and Design (Sarasota) *Presented in partnership with Ringling College of Art and Design*

ARTIST BIOS

(in chronological order of January, February, and March programs)

Nambi E. Kelley

Hermitage Fellow **Nambi E. Kelley** is a screenwriter, lead producer, and award-winning actress/playwright. Kelley has performed across the country, including many shows at the Goodman Theatre and Steppenwolf Theatre, has been seen on several television shows, including “Elementary,” “Person of Interest,” “Madam Secretary,” “Chicago PD,” “Chicago Justice,” and has toured internationally. Most recently she appeared in MacArthur Genius Awardee Dominique Morisseau's *Pipeline* in the lead role (City Theatre), the critically acclaimed Off Broadway two-hander production of *Kunstler* (59 E. 59), and *Two Trains Running* (Goodman Theatre). Kelley just made her directorial debut at TheatreWorks Colorado Springs, the first African-American female to helm a production in their over 40 year history. Kelley served as playwright in residence at the National Black Theatre in New York, was a recipient of the Writers Alliance Grants from the Dramatists Guild Foundation, a finalist for the Francesca Primus Award and was awarded The Prince Prize for a play she's developing at Court Theatre in Chicago. Nambi is a co-producer on Peacock's “Bel-Air.” Other television writing includes the upcoming “Lady of the Lake” on Apple, Showtime's “The Chi,” and Fox's “Our Kind of People.” Nambi is also in development with several film/tv projects. www.NambiKelley.com

Limor Tomer

Hermitage National Curatorial Council member **Limor Tomer** has led the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Live Arts program for over a decade, during which time she completely transformed the program into a world leader in museum-based performance. As General Manager of Live Arts, she curates, commissions, produces, and presents groundbreaking performances, both in the Museum's 700-seat auditorium and its galleries and public spaces. Performances reach over 100,000 visitors annually, over 500,000 online, and have garnered consistent critical and audience praise. She regularly gives presentations on museum-based performance art around the world and leads workshops with museums nationally and internationally. Limor holds two degrees from The Juilliard School and an Honorary Doctorate from Manhattan School of Music. She was honored by ETHEL, So Percussion, and ASCAP for her work in adventurous programming, she teaches Entrepreneurship in creative production at The New School, and serves on the National Curatorial Council of the Hermitage Artist Retreat.

Maura Brewer

2023 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Finalist **Maura Brewer** makes essay videos and performances that explore the relationship between capitalism, crime, art and the production of identity in popular culture. Her work has been exhibited at MoMA, Art in General in New York, the MCA in Chicago, the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève in Geneva and the Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wein in Vienna, among other places. Her work has received press coverage in *The Paris Review*, *Art Agenda*, CBS News and *The Guardian*. In addition to being a Hermitage Greenfield Prize Finalist, she is a recipient of a Creative Capital Award, the LENS Award at LACMA, the Fellowship for Visual Arts at CCF and the City of Los Angeles Master Artist Fellowship. Her work is in the private collection of LACMA. She was a Whitney Independent Study Program Fellow in Studio Art in 2015, received her MFA from UC Irvine in 2011, and earned her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2006. She lives in Los Angeles, where she works as a private investigator. MauraBrewer.com

David ‘Doc’ Wallace

Returning Hermitage Fellow **David “Doc” Wallace** improvises like “Jimmy Page fronting Led Zeppelin” (*New York Times*). Whether playing classical viola for the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Texas fiddle with The Doc Wallace Trio, klezmer fusion with Yale Strom’s Broken Consort, new compositions with Hat Trick (his flute-violaharp trio), or six-string electric viola at heavy metal shows, Wallace is at home in front of an audience. Around the globe, musicians have widely adopted the ground-breaking approaches of his book *Engaging the Concert Audience: a Musician’s Guide to Interactive Performance* (Berklee Press). Wallace’s broadcast credits include NPR, PBS, KTV (Korea), Tokyo MX, WQXR, CBS, and ABC. He has recorded for Bridge Records, BIS, Innova, Tzadik, Resonance Records, and Mulatta Records. An award-winning composer, Wallace’s commissions for original compositions and arrangements include the New York Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall, Suntory Hall, the Marian Anderson String Quartet, and violinist Rachel Barton Pine. Currently Chair of Berklee College of Music’s String Department, David previously enjoyed a fourteen-year tenure as a Juilliard professor and seventeen years as a New York Philharmonic Teaching Artist. Learn and hear more at DocWallaceMusic.com

Mesha Maren

Hermitage Fellow **Mesha Maren** is the author of the novels *Sugar Run* and *Perpetual West* (Algonquin Books). Her short stories and essays can be read in *Tin House*, *The Oxford American*, *The Guardian*, *Crazyhorse*, *Triquarterly*, *The Southern Review*, *Ecotone*, *Sou’wester*, *Hobart*, *Forty Stories: New Writing from Harper Perennial*, and elsewhere. She was the recipient of the 2015 Thomas Wolfe Fiction Prize, a 2014 Elizabeth George Foundation grant, an Appalachian Writing Fellowship from Lincoln Memorial University, and fellowships from the MacDowell Colony and the Ucross Foundation. She was the 2018-2019 Kenan Visiting Writer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is an Assistant Professor of the Practice of English at Duke University and also serves as a National Endowment of the Arts Writing Fellow at the federal prison camp in Alderson, West Virginia.

Etienne Charles

Trinidad-born **Etienne Charles**, a Guggenheim Fellow and a finalist for the 2022 Hermitage Greenfield Prize in music, is a performer, composer, and storyteller who is constantly searching for untold tales and sounds with which to tell them. Highlighting marginalized communities and engaging with them has been his mission, evident with projects such as his Guggenheim Fellowship Project, *Carnival: The Sound of a People Vol. 1*, *San Jose Suite*, *Creole Soul*, and *Folklore*. His concerts engage, enlighten, educate, and enrich audiences with energized multidisciplinary performance utilizing original composition, thematic improvisation, dance, short films, and spoken word to create a holistic experience. A firm believer in music and performance as a tool for provoking thought and dialogue, Charles’ themes speak to the status quo while drawing parallels to history. As an Afro-descendant, his work is actively connecting the diaspora and drawing lines to the regions at the roots of migrations.

Kamala Sankaram

Praised as “one of the most exciting opera composers in the country” (*The Washington Post*), returning Hermitage alumna **Kamala Sankaram** moves freely between the worlds of experimental music and contemporary opera. Recent commissions include works for the Glimmerglass Festival (where she was the 2022 Composer-in-Residence), Washington National Opera, the Prototype Festival, and Creative Time, among others. Kamala is known for her operas fusing Indian classical music with the operatic form, including *Thumbprint*, *A Rose, Monkey and Francine in the City of Tigers*, and *The Jungle Book*. Also known for her work pushing the boundaries of the operatic form, recent works include *The Last Stand*, a 10-hour opera created for the trees of Prospect Park, Brooklyn; *Looking at You*, a techno-noir featuring live datamining of the audience; *all decisions will be made by consensus*, a short absurdist opera performed live over Zoom; and *The Parksville Murders*, the world’s first virtual reality opera.

Elisa Bocanegra

Hermitage Fellow **Elisa Bocanegra** is a Puerto Rican artist and the founder of HERO Theatre. Her work with HERO has been featured in *The Los Angeles Times* and *American Theatre Magazine* and is a favorite amongst local theatre critics. Elisa is a 2022-2023 Fulbright recipient. She also won the TCG Leadership U Grant, the nation's largest grant of its kind, for her work with HERO Theatre. This provided her the opportunity to be part of the Leadership Team at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for two seasons. Her stage directing credits include *Troy*, a modern retelling of *The Trojan Women* about women and homelessness in Los Angeles. She directed *Troy* and worked alongside Kilroy List playwright Amina Henry in the development. Other directing credits include *Festival Irene: A Tribute to Playwright Maria Irene Fornés*, *The Floating Island Plays* by Eduardo Machado, and a new screen and stage project called *Nuestro Planeta*, which focuses on educating Latinx audiences about environmental justice within the Americas. *Nuestro Planeta* is a ten-year-long new work commissioning initiative. Elisa was part of the inaugural NEXUS Cohort at New York Stage and Film, where she was later the Pfaelzer Award recipient. As an actor, her first film, "Girlfight," won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Film at The Sundance Film Festival. Her TV credits include a recurring on Apple TV's "Physical," and "Shameless." Elisa has extensive experience performing at major theaters around the country and has also worked at The Roundabout Theatre Company in New York.

Brandel France de Bravo

Hermitage Fellow **Brandel France de Bravo** is the author of *Provenance* (a Washington Writers Publishing House poetry prize winner) and the chapbook *Mother, Loose* (Accents Publishing, Judge's Choice Award). She is co-author of the parenting book, *Trees Make the Best Mobiles: Simple Ways to Raise Your Child in a Complex World*, and editor of the bilingual anthology, *Mexican Poetry Today: 20/20 Voices*. Her poems and essays have appeared in *32 Poems*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Conduit*, *The Georgia Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Poet Lore*, and elsewhere. She has been the recipient of four artist fellowship grants from the Washington, DC Commission on the Arts, which also awarded her the Larry Neal Writer's Award in poetry. As a public health professional, she has run an HIV prevention program in Africa, designed harm reduction strategies for intravenous drug users in Central Asia, and developed materials to help cancer patients in the U.S. make informed decisions about their care. She teaches a meditation program developed at Stanford University called Compassion Cultivation Training and volunteers for the nonprofit Insight on the Inside, which shares meditation practices to inspire and empower the incarcerated, returning citizens, people transitioning from homelessness, and all affected by poverty, aging, and illness.

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