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**Hermitage Artist Retreat Announces Full Line-Up of Events  
for 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Celebration featuring  
Playwright and 2024 HGP Winner Deepa Purohit, A World  
Premiere from 2022 HGP Winner Angélica Negrón, and More  
Live Events April 13-15**

*This year's Hermitage Greenfield Prize Celebration includes the world premiere of the Hermitage Greenfield Prize commission from 2022 HGP Winner **Angélica Negrón**, presented in partnership with **ensembleNewSRQ**; a conversation with playwright and 2024 HGP winner **Deepa Purohit**, presented in partnership with **Asolo Repertory Theatre**; and a panel discussion on South Asian arts in America with **Deepa Purohit** joined by two award-winning Hermitage Fellows, musician **Kavita Shah** and playwright-performer **Nandita Shenoy**.*

March 4, 2024 — **The Hermitage Artist Retreat** (Sarasota County, Florida), in collaboration with the Greenfield Foundation, presents the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the Hermitage Greenfield Prize Celebration. The events span from Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> through Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, including the annual Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner in Sarasota on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. The celebration culminates on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> with the **world premiere** of 2022 Hermitage Greenfield Prize winner **Angélica Negrón**'s original composition "Azul Naranja Salado," presented in partnership with ensembleNewSRQ on the the Hermitage Beach as the sun sets into the Gulf on Manasota Key.

The Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> celebrates the 2024 recipient of the Prize, playwright and theater maker **Deepa Purohit**. The popular event also serves as the Hermitage Artist Retreat's annual Spring Gala, which is co-chaired this year by **Pauline Wamsler** and **Stephanie & Gene Jones**. The event will feature an elegant dinner at Michael's On East and memorable performances.

*Performers and guest artists for the HGP Dinner will be announced at a later date. For information regarding tables and sponsorships, visit **HermitageArtistRetreat.org**, or contact Development Director Amy Wallace:*

[Development@HermitageArtistRetreat.org](mailto:Development@HermitageArtistRetreat.org), (941) 475-2098, Ext. 2.

This year's HGP events begin on **Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 3pm** with "**A Conversation with 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner Deepa Purohit**," on the Hermitage Great Lawn, presented in partnership with Asolo Repertory Theatre. Purohit's work was featured last year in the Atlantic Theater Company's season with the Off-Broadway debut of her play *Elyria*, earning a 2023 Drama League Award nomination for Outstanding Production of a Play. She co-founded and ran Rising Circle Theater Collective, a theater company centered on the stories of people of color. Deepa was recently announced as the Director of New Works at People's Light Theatre. In this conversation, Purohit will discuss her past theatrical works and share a deep dive perspective into the personal and profound question at the heart of her upcoming Hermitage commission: how does one die with dignity?

Later that same day at **6:30pm on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**, the conversation continues on the Hermitage Beach on Manasota Key with "**Hermitage Artists & Thinkers: South Asian Artists in America**," featuring playwright 2024 HGP winner **Deepa Purohit**, Hermitage Fellow and musician-performer **Kavita Shah**, and Hermitage Fellow and playwright-actor **Nandita Shenoy**. This panel discussion, moderated by Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO **Andy Sandberg**, will explore the impact of representation and the rich diversity of South Asian culture reflected in the arts in America and beyond.

Both hour-long Saturday programs honor the distinguished recipient of this year's award. In addition to a \$35,000 commission, Purohit will receive six weeks of residency time as a Hermitage Fellow to develop her new play, as well as the first public presentation of her original work in Sarasota in 2026.

On Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, the weekend continues with a gala dinner at Michael's On East in Sarasota. Previous HGP Dinners have featured surprise appearances from Tony Award Winner **Gavin Creel**, Lucille Lortel Award Winner **Leslie Rodriguez-Kritzer**, internationally acclaimed visual artist **Sanford Biggers**, and more.

The Hermitage Greenfield Prize Celebration concludes on **April 15<sup>th</sup>** with the world premiere of "**Azul Naranja Salado**:" **Angélica Negrón's Hermitage Greenfield Prize Premiere**, bringing the commission full circle from her award in 2022. The celebration begins with newly awarded 2024 HGP winner **Deepa Purohit** and concludes with the first public presentation of **Angélica Negrón's** 2022 HGP commission.

"One of the most exciting elements of the Hermitage Greenfield Prize is bringing multiple winners from different disciplines to Sarasota in three exciting days of events and programming," said Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO **Andy Sandberg**. "It is thrilling to be recognizing the unique talents of **Deepa Purohit** in the discipline of theater at the same time we are inviting audiences to experience a brand new world premiere commission from composer **Angélica Negrón**."

Negrón’s composition will be timed with the setting sun on the Hermitage Beach – starting at **7pm on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**. The piece will feature slowly evolving musical textures, shifting patterns, natural sounds, and changes in scale and dimension that play with the unfolding gradations of light and color on the surrounding land, water, and sky. Composed for a unique ensemble of low strings, harps, percussion, and electronics, Negrón hopes this site-specific work will serve as a gentle reminder to the audience to seek out and surrender to moments of inspiration. This program is presented in partnership with enSRQ.

“We are proud to be partnering once again with the Hermitage for this ambitious world premiere,” said enSRQ Co-Artistic Directors **George Nickson** and **Samantha Bennett**. “We are honored to have presented the work of many extraordinary Hermitage artists in the past, and we know it will always lead to something truly exciting. Angélica is one of the most innovative composers of her generation, and this promises to be a memorable evening.”

*Full program details and artist bios below.*

Both of the talks on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – like all Hermitage community programs – are free and open to the members of the public (*with a \$5/person registration fee*). Registration is required at **HermitageArtistRetreat.org**.

Sponsorships and tables for the Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner on April 14<sup>th</sup> (\$1,250 to \$10,000) and tickets to Angélica Negrón’s premiere on April 15<sup>th</sup> (\$25/person) must be purchased in advance. More details for these events can also be found at **HermitageArtistRetreat.org**.

The Hermitage Greenfield Prize – now celebrating its 16<sup>th</sup> year and rotating annually between theater, music, and visual art — includes a six-week Hermitage residency and a \$35,000 commission to create and develop a new work, which culminates with a public presentation in Sarasota. The Hermitage Greenfield Prize Celebration is presented in partnership with the **Greenfield Foundation**, with the **Community Foundation of Sarasota County** serving as Lead Community Sponsor.

For more information, to register for one of the special HGP programs, or to learn more about the Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner, visit:

**HermitageArtistRetreat.org**.



THE HERMITAGE  
GREENFIELD PRIZE

## **The Hermitage Greenfield Prize Celebration – Schedule of Events:**

- **“A Conversation with 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner Deepa Purohit” with Playwright & 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner Deepa Purohit, Saturday, April 13, 3pm:** While we do not often discuss it directly, there is a question we all must encounter in our lives — how does one die with dignity? This question is at the heart of this year’s Hermitage Greenfield Prize winner **Deepa Purohit**’s new play commission. Further complicating this personal and profound theatrical exploration is a society that values a sophisticated medical system centered on a key tenet: to prolong life. Growing up with a father who immigrated to Ohio and built his career as a surgeon in the American medical system, and a mother who spent many years at the end of her life navigating the complex system as a patient, Purohit brings deep personal connections and insight to the creation of this new work of theater. Join the Hermitage for a candid conversation with this gifted playwright at the very beginning of this work’s journey, as well as her recent Off-Broadway debut at the Atlantic Theater Company. *Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and Asolo Repertory Theatre. **Registration is required at [HermitageArtistRetreat.org](https://HermitageArtistRetreat.org) (\$5/person registration fee). Hermitage Great Lawn, 6660 Manasota Key Rd. Englewood, FL 34223.***
- **“Hermitage Artists & Thinkers: South Asian Artists in America,” with 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize winner in Theater Deepa Purohit, Hermitage Fellow and Musician Kavita Shah, and Hermitage Fellow and Playwright Nandita Shenoy Saturday, April 13, 6:30pm:** Central to 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner **Deepa Purohit**’s commission are the lives of South Asian women. To uplift and contextualize those stories and in honor of the Hermitage’s mission to serve artists across multiple disciplines, several Hermitage Fellows are coming together for a panel conversation highlighting the impact of representation and the rich diversity of lived experience coming from that particular part of the world. Singer, composer, and educator **Kavita Shah** has been praised by NPR for her “amazing dexterity with musical languages,” and her unique talents have taken her to concert halls and communities around the world. Playwright and actor **Nandita Shenoy**’s work has been seen across the United States, and her work on the steering committee for the Asian-American Performers Action Coalition (AAPAC) was honored with a 2020 Obie Award for their advocacy in the field of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Join these three remarkable women to hear about their artistic practices as innovative South Asian artists making bold and original work in the United States. Moderated by Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO **Andy Sandberg**. *Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. **Registration is required at [HermitageArtistRetreat.org](https://HermitageArtistRetreat.org) (\$5/household registration fee). Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, Florida 34223.***
- **GALA DINNER! – 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner, Sunday, April 14, 6pm:** The 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner recognizes this year’s recipient, theater artist **Deepa Purohit**. This 16<sup>th</sup> year of the Hermitage Greenfield Prize dinner will feature live performances with guest artists announced at a later date. *Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. **Michaels On East (1212 South East Ave., Sarasota, FL 34239). For information on tables and sponsorships (\$1,250 to \$10,000), visit [HermitageArtistRetreat.org](https://HermitageArtistRetreat.org), or call (941) 475-2098, Ext. 2.***

- **WORLD PREMIERE! – “Azul Naranja Salado: Angélica Negrón’s Hermitage Greenfield Prize Premiere” with 2022 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner Angélica Negrón, Monday, April 15, 7pm:** Angélica Negrón’s commission seeks to engage the senses and encourage listeners to resist distractions. Her composition will be timed with the setting sun and inspired partly by the sun’s low-frequency sounds, as captured by scientists from NASA and the European Space Agency. The piece will feature slowly evolving musical textures, shifting patterns, natural sounds, and changes in scale and dimension that play with the unfolding gradations of light and color on the surrounding land, water, and sky. Composed for a unique ensemble of low strings, harps, percussion and electronics, Negrón hopes this site-specific work will serve as a gentle reminder to the audience to seek out and surrender to moments of inspiration. *Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and enSRQ. Please note this program is not part of the Hermitage’s traditional free programming. This event is presented in partnership with enSRQ as part of their season of work. Tickets (\$25/person) can be purchased at <https://ensrq.org/season8/angelica-negron>. The Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, Florida 34223.*
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## **The Hermitage Greenfield Prize**

The Hermitage Greenfield Prize (HGP) is a transformative partnership between the Hermitage Artist Retreat and the Greenfield Foundation. Rotating between the fields of theater, music, and visual art, this prestigious national prize seeks to “bring into the world works of art that will have a significant impact on the broad as well as the artistic culture of our society.” The Hermitage Greenfield Prize is awarded annually and includes a Hermitage Fellowship, as well as a \$35,000 commission for a new and original piece of work to be created within a two-year time frame. A residency at the Hermitage Artist Retreat on Manasota Key in Englewood, Florida, ensures time and space in which to do the work. Past recipients of the Hermitage Greenfield Prize include: Rennie Harris, choreographer (2023), Sandy Rodriguez, visual artist (2023), Angélica Negrón, composer/instrumentalist (2022); Aleshea Harris, playwright (2021); Helga Davis, composer/performer (2019); Martyna Majok, playwright (2018); David Burnett, photojournalist (2017); Coco Fusco, interdisciplinary artist (2016); Bobby Previte, composer/drummer (2015); Nilo Cruz, playwright (2014); Trenton Doyle Hancock, visual artist (2013); Vijay Iyer, composer/pianist (2012); John Guare, playwright (2011); Sanford Biggers, visual artist (2010); Craig Lucas, playwright (2009); and Eve Beglarian, composer (2009).

## **The Hermitage Artist Retreat**

Sarasota County, Florida

Andy Sandberg, Artistic Director and CEO

The Hermitage is a leading national arts incubator and nonprofit 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 or performance, 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](https://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 Community Foundation of Sarasota County.*

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**ALL ANNOUNCED HERMITAGE PROGRAMS:**

**Tuesday, March 12 @ 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*

**March 10 – July 7, "Impact: Contemporary Artists at the Hermitage Artist Retreat,"** curated by **Dan Cameron** and featuring Hermitage Fellows **Diana Al-Hadid, Sanford Biggers** (Hermitage Greenfield Prize winner 2010), **Chitra Ganesh, Todd Gray, Trenton Doyle Hancock** (Hermitage Greenfield Prize winner 2013), **Michelle Lopez, Ted Riederer, John Sims, Kukuli Velarde**, and **William Villalongo**, at Sarasota Art Museum (Sarasota)  
*Presented in partnership with Sarasota Art Museum*

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

**Tuesday, March 26 @ 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*

**Thursday, March 28 @ 7pm, "Ruby E. Crosby Alumni Music Initiative: Piano Classics Remade,"** featuring Hermitage Fellow **Conrad Tao**, at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (Sarasota)  
*Presented in partnership with Marie Selby Botanical Gardens*  
*Conrad Tao's concert and Hermitage residency are made possible through the **Ruby E. Crosby Alumni Music Series at the Hermitage***

***HERMITAGE GREENFIELD PRIZE CELEBRATION EVENT! – Saturday, April 13 @ 3pm,***  
***"A Conversation with 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner Deepa Purohit,"*** featuring playwright and 2024 HGP recipient **Deepa Purohit**, Hermitage Great Lawn (Manasota Key)  
*Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and Asolo Repertory Theatre*

***HERMITAGE GREENFIELD PRIZE CELEBRATION EVENT! – Saturday, April 13 @ 6:30pm,***  
***"Hermitage Artists & Thinkers: South Asian Artists in America,"*** featuring Hermitage Fellows **Deepa Purohit, Kavita Shah**, and **Nandita Shenoy**, Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)  
*Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County*

**HGP GALA DINNER! – Sunday, April 14 @ 6pm, “2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner,”** honoring Theater Artist **Deepa Purohit**. This is the Hermitage’s annual spring gala, and sponsorship packages range from \$1,250 to \$10,000.

*Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation and Community Foundation of Sarasota County*

**HGP WORLD PREMIERE! – Monday, April 15 @ 7:30pm, “Azul Naranja Salado: Angélica Negrón’s Hermitage Greenfield Prize Premier,”** featuring 2022 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner **Angélica Negrón** at Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key). *Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and enSRQ. Please note this program is not part of the Hermitage’s traditional free programming. This event is presented in partnership with enSRQ as part of their season of work. Tickets can be purchased at <https://ensrq.org/season8/angelica-negron>*

**April 21 – September 29, “The Truth of the Night Sky:” A Hermitage Collaboration** featuring Hermitage Fellows **Anne Patterson** and **Patrick Harlin**, at Sarasota Art Museum (Sarasota)

*Presented in partnership with Sarasota Art Museum*

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## **ARTIST BIOS:**

### **Deepa Purohit (2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner)**

**Deepa Purohit** (she/her) is a Brooklyn-based playwright. She made her Off-Broadway debut in the Atlantic Theater Company's 2022-23 season with the world premiere of her play *Elyria* (2023 Drama League Award Nominee for Outstanding Production of a Play, 2017 NEA Commission, and 2019 Jerome Foundation support w/Ma-Yi Theater Company). She received the 2023 Laurents/Hatcher Foundation Award for Excellence in Playwriting, and a 2022-23 Edgerton Foundation Award for *Elyria*. Plays: *Crushed Earth* with Sanjit De Silva (2017 People's Light Theatre: New Play Frontiers Commission) – 2023 audio play debut with People's Light, Theatre Horizon, and Hedgerow Theatre, *The In Between*, *Mxx/perience*, *A Valentine* (2016 Kilroys Honorable Mention), *Bones* (2017 Andrew Mellon Foundation Residency w/Ma-Yi Theater Company), *Have Sari Will Travel!* (Rising Circle Theater Collective), *Flight*, and *Mothering: a collection of short form plays*. Co-writing with Sanjit De Silva and Rising Circle Theater Collective: *Pulling the Lever*, *American Family Project*, *Grace*. Deepa is currently adapting *Elyria* into a TV series and working on a NYSCA new play commission from Atlantic Theater Company. She co-founded and ran Rising Circle Theater Collective (2000-2012), a theater company centered on the stories of people of color. A former Baltimore City middle school teacher and 1992 Teach For America alumna, Deepa has a BA in History from Northwestern University, Masters in Public Health from Columbia University, and an MFA in Playwriting from Brooklyn College. She is currently the Director of New Works at People's Light Theatre.

### **Angélica Negrón (2022 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner)**

Puerto Rican-born composer and multi-instrumentalist **Angélica Negrón** is the winner of the 2022 **Hermitage Greenfield Prize**. She writes music for accordions, robotic instruments, toys, and electronics as well as for chamber ensembles, orchestras, choir, and film. As the recipient of the 2022 **Hermitage Greenfield Prize**, Angélica has composed a work synchronized to the setting sun, inspired by solar pulses captured by NASA. Her music has been described as “wistfully idiosyncratic and contemplative” (WQXR/Q2), while *The New York Times* noted her “capacity to surprise.” Negrón has been commissioned by the Bang on a Can All-Stars, Kronos Quartet, loadbang, Prototype Festival, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Sō Percussion, the Dallas Symphony

Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, and the New York Botanical Garden, among others. Negrón received an early education in piano and violin at the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico where she later studied composition under the guidance of composer Alfonso Fuentes. She holds a master's degree in music composition from New York University where she studied with Pedro da Silva and pursued doctoral studies at The Graduate Center (CUNY), where she studied composition with Tania León. Also active as an educator, Negrón is currently a teaching artist for New York Philharmonic's Very Young Composers program. She has collaborated with artists like Sō Percussion, Lido Pimienta, Mathew Placek, Sasha Velour, Cecilia Aldarondo, Mariela Pabón, Adrienne Westwood, Tiffany Mills and has written music for films, theater and modern dance. She was recently an Artist-in-Residence at WNYC's The Greene Space working on *El Living Room*, a 4-part offbeat variety show and playful multimedia exploration of sound and story, of personal history and belonging. Recent and upcoming premieres include works for the Seattle Symphony, LA Philharmonic, Louisville Orchestra and NY Philharmonic Project 19 initiative and multiple performances at Big Ears Festival 2022. | AngelicaNegron.com

### **Kavita Shah**

Hermitage Fellow **Kavita Shah** is an award-winning vocalist, composer, researcher, and educator who makes work in deep engagement with the jazz tradition, while also addressing and advancing its global sensibilities. A lifelong New Yorker of Indian origin hailed for possessing an “amazing dexterity for musical languages” (NPR), Shah incorporates her ethnographic research on Brazilian, West African, and Indian traditions into her original music. Notable projects include “Visions” (2014), co-produced by Lionel Loueke, “Folk Songs of Naboréa” (2017), presented at the Park Avenue Armory, and “Interplay” (2018) in duo with François Moutin, which was nominated for France’s Victoires de la Musique for Jazz Album of the Year. Shah regularly performs her music at major concert halls, festivals, and clubs on six continents. She holds a B.A. in Latin American Studies from Harvard and a Master’s in Jazz Voice from Manhattan School of Music.

### **Nandita Shenoy**

Hermitage Fellow and theater artist **Nandita Shenoy** is a New York-based writer and actor. Her play *The Future is Female* was recently a Finalist for the O’Neill National Playwrights Conference, and her *Rage Play* was named to the 2020 Kilroys List. Her play *Washer/Dryer* has been produced multiple times nationally after its world premiere at LA’s East-West Players and an Off-Broadway production at Ma-Yi Theater, in which she also starred. Her first full-length play, *Lyme Park: An Austonian Romance of an Indian Nature*, was produced by the Hegira in Washington, DC. Her one-acts have been produced in New York City and regionally. Nandita won the 2014 Father Hamblin Award in Playwriting. Her acting credits range from dancing on national tours to Shakespeare festivals to world premieres of new plays by living playwrights. She is a proud member of the Ma-Yi Writers Lab, Dramatists Guild, Actors Equity Association, and SAG/AFTRA. She also sits on the Steering Committee of the Asian-American Performers Action Coalition (AAPAC), which won a 2020 Obie for their Advocacy in the Field of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Nandita holds a BA in English literature from Yale University. NanditaShenoy.com

[HermitageArtistRetreat.org](https://www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org)

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