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THE HERMITAGE
artist retreat



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

*The Hermitage's multidisciplinary programming offers audiences a one-of-a-kind look into the creative process. New Hermitage programs in April and May are presented in partnership with regional arts and cultural organizations including **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, State College of Florida, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Oak Street Stage, and more.** The expansive spring programming includes previously announced events with **Mesha Maren, Etienne Charles, Kamala Sankaram, Conrad Tao, Brandel France de Bravo, 2024 HGP Winner Deepa Purohit, Kavita Shah, Nandita Shenoy, and 2022 HGP Winner Angélica Negrón, plus newly announced events with celebrated Hermitage Fellows including Julia Jordan, Xochitl Gonzalez, Sarah Gancher, Bill Bowers, Kavita Shah, Rebecca Crenshaw, Bess Wohl, Shayok Misha Chowdhury, and Robert Pound.***

March 11, 2024 — **The Hermitage Artist Retreat** (Sarasota County, Florida) today announced new programs in April and May. 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 collaborations with Selby Gardens, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Oak Street Stage, and more. Frequently only an hour in length, Hermitage programs introduce world-renowned artists to Florida's Gulf Coast community and invite audiences across the country to experience candid and engaging conversations, music performances, play readings, open studios, film screenings, and more.

Newly announced April programs begin with a presentation from Pulitzer Prize finalist and *New York Times* bestselling author **Xochitl Gonzalez** (*Olga Dies Dreaming*), alongside award-winning playwright and librettist **Julia Jordan** (*Murder Ballad*). These two Hermitage Fellows make work that speaks for itself; they also advocate for equity among their fellow artists and citizens who are deserving of recognition. On Friday, April 5th at 6:30pm on the **Hermitage Beach**, hear how these two trailblazing women are shaping our future through art and action during the program "Stage, Page, and Useful Rage." Julia Jordan's Hermitage Residency

generously sponsored by Gerald & Sondra Biller. Xochitl Gonzalez's Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Liz & Duncan Richardson.

Next up in April is the previously announced Hermitage Greenfield Prize Celebration – with four events spanning April 13 to 15. *Further details on these events can be found in the full program descriptions below.*

Then on Wednesday, April 24th at 3:30pm, hear from an Obie Award-winning playwright whose work has been produced at some of the country's leading theaters. Hermitage Fellow **Sarah Gancher** is no stranger to writing for the stage. Her works include the recent Off-Broadway play *Russian Troll Farm*, as well as musical projects like *Hundred Days* and *The Lucky Ones* in collaboration with The Bengsons. In this special program made possible by the **Annette Dignam State College of Florida Residency in Literature at the Hermitage**, Gancher will share excerpts of her original work and offer insight into how she approaches a range of theatrical writing projects. “Writing for the Stage” is the first public presentation of this longstanding endowed literature residency, which has previously only been open to students. This program is presented in partnership with the **State College of Florida** on their Venice campus.

Hermitage programming in May kicks off at Spanish Point with one of the nation's greatest mimes and storytellers **Bill Bowers**, who was trained by the legendary Marcel Marceau, and **Kavita Shah**, an award-winning vocalist and composer who has performed all over the world. A celebrated mime by training and a master of physical theater techniques, Bill Bowers has been hailed as “the great American mime.” He is also a charismatic storyteller who is currently writing his remarkable life story in a memoir about making theater all over the world. A Sarasota favorite, Bowers returns to the Hermitage after his previous waitlist-only appearances. Hailed for her “amazing dexterity for musical languages” (NPR), Kavita Shah speaks several languages and sings amazingly in them all. These two Hermitage Fellows embrace both the sounds and the silences surrounding them. “Sound and Silence” is part of the **Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens** series on May 2nd at 6:30pm at **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens Historic Spanish Point**.

Floridians are no strangers to the sand and sun, but that familiar environment can be transformed into an inspirational environment by the creativity of artists like Tony Award-nominated playwright **Bess Wohl** and violinist **Rebecca Crenshaw**. Bess Wohl is familiar to Hermitage audiences from the development and early sharing of her play *Camp Siegfried* on the Hermitage Beach prior its successful Off-Broadway run; her Broadway and Off-Broadway plays like *Grand Horizons* and *Small Mouth Sounds* are praised by audiences and critics alike for their poignant humor, smart characterizations, and inventive theatricality. Rebecca Crenshaw is a New Orleans-based artist, educator, and violinist; her practice is shaped by the soundwaves she creates with bands like Grammy Award-winners Arcade Fire and Mumford & Sons. These two innovative

Hermitage Fellows present “Waves: Movements that Shape Us” on the Hermitage Beach as the sun sets into the Gulf of Mexico on Friday, May 10th at 6:30pm.

Not only are the arts for people of all backgrounds and identities, but they have the power to shape the world in which we live. An Obie Award-winning Hermitage Fellow, playwright, and director, **Shayok Misha Chowdhury**’s work crosses continents, encompassing different languages, peoples, cultures, identities, and beliefs. Fresh from Soho Rep’s critically acclaimed production of *Public Obscenities* and its subsequent transfer to Theater for a New Audience (*NY Times* Critic’s Pick), this Relentless Award Winner shares work and talks process in a candid and empowering program. “Seeing Oneself & Celebrating Identity” is presented at the Koski Center on Friday, May 15th at 6:30pm. This program is presented in partnership with **ALSO Youth** and **Asolo Repertory Theatre**; “Seeing Oneself & Celebrating Identity” is funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with National Endowment for the Arts and the Florida Department of State Division of Arts and Culture.

Returning Hermitage Fellow and composer **Robert Pound**’s original piano piece “Sonata in Memoriam Lloyd Arriola” will be performed at **Oak Street Stage** in Sarasota on Friday, May 24th at 5:30pm. Pound was commissioned to create this composition after a chance encounter at the Metropolitan Opera in 2015 with **Lloyd Arriola**, a friend and Juilliard-trained pianist. After Arriola suddenly passed away in 2016 at the age of 43, this solo piano composition took on an entirely new dimension, which Pound used his residency at the Hermitage to create. Hear insights from the composer and the sweeping, complex piece performed by a close friend and fellow Juilliard-trained pianist, **Charles Hulin IV**.

(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. Running time for most Hermitage programs is 60-70 minutes. 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 (April and May):

- **“Stage, Page, and Useful Rage” with Hermitage Fellows Julia Jordan and Xochitl Gonzalez, Friday, April 5, 6:30pm:** Some artists adapt their art to get produced and noticed in the industry, but innovators like Hermitage Fellows **Julia Jordan** and **Xochitl Gonzalez** change the industry itself. Julia Jordan co-founded The Lilly's, an organization dedicated to gender and racial parity in the American theater and served as its Executive President while creating such acclaimed theater works as *Murder Ballad*. Xochitl Gonzalez is a staff writer for *The Atlantic*, where she was honored as a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2023, and author of *The New York Times* bestselling novel *Olga Dies Dreaming*. Through both the works they create themselves and their advocacy for fellow artists, these two women are shaping our future world through their art and their words. *Julia Jordan's Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Gerald & Sondra Biller.*

Xochitl Gonzalez's Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Liz & Duncan Richardson. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 34223**

- **Annette Dignam State College of Florida Residency in Literature at the Hermitage: “Writing for the Stage” with Hermitage Fellow Sarah Gancher, Wednesday, April 24, 3:30pm:** An Obie Award-winning playwright whose work has been produced at some of the country's leading theaters, Hermitage Fellow **Sarah Gancher** is no stranger to writing for the stage. From works such as the recent Off-Broadway play *Russian Troll Farm* to collaborative musical projects like *Hundred Days* and *The Lucky Ones* with The Bengsons, Gancher has done it all. In this special program, Gancher will offer insight into how she approaches a range of projects, give updates on what is next for her, and share samples of her original works. *Presented in partnership with State College of Florida. Sarah Gancher’s Hermitage Residency made possible by the Annette Dignam State College of Florida Residency in Literature at the Hermitage. Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org* (\$5/person registration fee). **State College of Florida, Venice Campus, 8000 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34293**
- **Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens: “Sound and Silence” with Hermitage Fellows Bill Bowers and Kavita Shah, Thursday, May 2, 6:30pm:** We say a lot with our words, but in the hands of a gifted artist, the notes in between and the gestures underneath unlock even deeper expression. Hear from two such creators in “Sound and Silence” as part of Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens series, featuring returning Hermitage Fellows **Bill Bowers** and **Kavita Shah**. A celebrated mime by training and a master of physical theater techniques, Bill Bowers is a charismatic storyteller who is currently writing his remarkable life story in a memoir about making theater all over the world. Hailed for her “amazing dexterity for musical languages” (NPR), Kavita Shah speaks *several* languages and sings amazingly in them all. These two Hermitage Fellows embrace both the sounds and the silences surrounding them as opportunities for connecting through performance. *Presented in partnership with the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org* (\$5/person registration fee). **Selby Gardens’ Historic Spanish Point, 401 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229.**
- **“Waves: Movements That Shape Us” with Hermitage Fellows Rebecca Crenshaw and Bess Wohl, Friday, May 10, 6:30pm:** Floridians are no strangers to the sand and sun, but that familiar environment can be transformed by the creativity of artists like **Rebecca Crenshaw** and **Bess Wohl**. A violinist whose practice is shaped by the soundwaves she creates with bands like Grammy Award-winners Arcade Fire and Mumford & Sons as well as her community-oriented yoga practice, Rebecca Crenshaw is a New Orleans-based artist and educator. Hermitage audiences will remember Tony Award-nominated playwright Bess Wohl from her sharing of *Camp Siegfried* on the beach before its successful Off-Broadway run; her Broadway and Off-Broadway plays like *Grand Horizons* and *Small Mouth Sounds* are praised by audiences and critics alike for their poignant humor, smart characterizations, and inventive theatricality. Join these two innovative Hermitage Fellows on the Hermitage Beach as the sun sets into the Gulf of Mexico. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 34223**
- **“Seeing Oneself & Celebrating Identity” with Hermitage Fellow Shayok Misha Chowdhury, Wednesday, May 15, 6:30pm:** Not only are the arts for people of all backgrounds and identities, but they have the power to shape us, and the world in which

we live. Obie Award-winning Hermitage Fellow, playwright, director, and poet **Shayok Misha Chowdhury**'s work crosses continents, encompassing different languages, peoples, cultures, identities, and beliefs. Fresh from his critically acclaimed play at Soho Rep and Theater for a New Audience (*NY Times* Critic's Pick), this Relentless Award Winner shares work and talks process in a candid and empowering program. Presented in partnership with ALSO Youth and Asolo Repertory Theatre. This program is funded in partnership part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Florida Department of State Division of Arts and Culture **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **Koski Center, 1009 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota, FL 34243**

- **“A Piano Performance: Sonata in Memoriam Lloyd Arriola” with Hermitage Fellow Robert Pound, Friday, May 24, 5:30pm:** A chance encounter at the Metropolitan Opera in 2015 with Lloyd Arriola, a Juilliard-trained pianist, sparked a conversation for a commission to be composed by Hermitage Fellow **Robert Pound**. Something ambitious, evocative, and undeniably powerful was needed to satisfy Arriola's thirst to extend the canon and Arriola couldn't wait to perform it. When Arriola suddenly passed away in 2016 at the age of 43, this solo piano composition took on an entirely new dimension, which Pound used his residency at the Hermitage to create. Hear insights from the composer and the sweeping, complex result performed by a close friend and fellow Juilliard-trained pianist, **Charles Hulin IV**, interpreted as only someone with such insight into the source material can. Presented in partnership with Oak Street Stage. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **Oak Street Stage, 2050 Oak Street, Sarasota, FL 34237**

Previously Announced Hermitage Programs (March and April):

- **“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. Etienne Charles’ Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Terry Brackett. Kamala Sankaram’s Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Ellen Berman & Roy Cohen. 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” 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. Jervey, 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**
- **HERMITAGE GREENFIELD PRIZE CELEBRATION EVENT! – “A Conversation with 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* (\$5/person registration fee). **Hermitage Great Lawn, 6660 Manasota Key Rd. Englewood, FL 34223.**

- HERMITAGE GREENFIELD PRIZE CELEBRATION EVENT! – 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 (\$5/person 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, playwright and theater artist **Deepa Purohit**. This 16th 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. Lead Community Sponsor: 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, or call (941) 475-2098, Ext. 2.*
- HGP 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 ensembleNewSRQ. Please note this program is not part of the Hermitage’s traditional free programming. This event is presented in partnership with ensembleNewSRQ 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.*

ALL ANNOUNCED HERMITAGE PROGRAMS:

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

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

Thursday, March 14 @ 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
Etienne Charles' Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Terry Brackett
Kamala Sankaram's Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Ellen Berman & Roy Cohen

Friday, March 22 @ 12pm, “Hermitage Writes @ Venice Writers Festival,” featuring Hermitage Fellow **Elisa Bocanegra,** at William H. Jervey, 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***

Friday, April 5 @ 6:30pm, “Stage, Page, Useful Rage,” featuring Hermitage Fellows **Julia Jordan** and **Xochitl Gonzalez,** at Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)
Julia Jordan's Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Gerald & Sondra Biller
Xochitl Gonzalez's Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Liz & Duncan Richardson

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 Community Foundation of Sarasota County

HGP GALA DINNER! – Sunday, April 14 @ 6pm, “**2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner,**” honoring playwright **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***

Lead Community Sponsor: 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>

SPECIAL EXHIBITION! – 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*

Wednesday, April 24 @ 3:30pm, “Annette Dignam State College of Florida Residency in Literature at the Hermitage: Writing for the Stage,” featuring Hermitage Fellow **Sarah Gancher**, at State College of Florida, Venice Campus (Englewood)

Presented in partnership with State College of Florida

Sarah Gancher’s Hermitage Artist Residency made possible by the Annette Dignam State College of Florida Residency in Literature at the Hermitage.

Thursday, May 2 @ 6:30pm, “Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens: Sound and Silence,” featuring Hermitage Fellows **Bill Bowers** and **Kavita Shah**, at Selby Gardens’ Historic Spanish Point (Osprey) *Presented in partnership with Selby Gardens’ Historic Spanish Point*

Friday, May 10 @ 6:30pm, “Waves: Movements that Shape Us,” featuring Hermitage Fellows **Rebecca Crenshaw** and **Bess Wohl**, at Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)

Wednesday, May 15 @ 6:30pm, “Seeing Oneself & Celebrating Identity,” featuring Hermitage Fellow **Shayok Misha Chowdhury**, at Koski Center (Sarasota)

Presented in partnership with ALSO Youth and Asolo Reparatory Theatre and funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Florida Department of State Division of Arts and Culture

Friday, May 24 @ 5:30pm, “A Piano Performance: Sonata in Memoriam Lloyd Arriola,” featuring Hermitage Fellow **Robert Pound** with a performance by pianist **Charles Hulin IV**, at Oak Street Stage (Sarasota) *Presented in partnership with Oak Street Stage*

ARTIST BIOS

(in chronological order of March, April, and May programs)

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 houselessness 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.

Julia Jordan

Hermitage Fellow **Julia Jordan**'s credits include select musicals; *Murder Ballad* (Conceived by, Book and Lyrics – Lortel, Drama Desk, Outer Critics nominations) *Sarah Plain and Tall* (Book – Kleban Award, Jonathan Larson Award, ATandT Onstage Award) Select Plays; *Boy* (Susan Smith Blackburn Honorable Mention) *Tatjana in Color* (Francesca Primus Prize, Susan Smith Blackburn shortlist) DARK YELLOW (Susan Smith Blackburn shortlist) Film; *The Hat* (Sundance Film Festival, Bravo Channel) *Dark Yellow* (Best Short, Jackson Hole Film Fest.). Fellowships: Hermitage Artist Retreat, Lucille Lortel, Manhattan Theater Club, MacDowell, Juilliard Fellowships. Julia recently stepped down from her role as Executive Director of The Lilly Awards. She founded The Count, The Family Residency at SPACE on Ryder Farm, and The Lorraine Hansberry Initiative, Sculpture and Scholarship. She is the Former Treasurer of the Dramatists Guild and previously taught playwriting at Barnard College and NYU. Her work has been developed at Sundance, The O'Neill Playwrights Center, Ojai Playwrights Festival.

Xochitl Gonzalez

Hermitage Fellow **Xochitl Gonzalez** is a cultural critic, producer, screenwriter, and the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Olga Dies Dreaming*. Named a “Best of 2022” by *The New York Times*, *TIME*, *Kirkus*, *Washington Post*, and *NPR*, *Olga Dies Dreaming* was the winner of the Brooklyn Public Library Book Prize in Fiction and the New York City Book Awards. Her new novel, *Anita de Monte Laughs Last*, was just released by Flatiron Books. Gonzalez is a 2021 M.F.A. graduate from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her non-fiction work has been published in *Elle Decor*, *Allure*, *Vogue*, *Real Simple*, and *The Cut*. As a staff writer for *The Atlantic*, she was recognized as a 2023 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Commentary. Prior to her career as a writer, Gonzalez was an entrepreneur, fundraiser, and all-around hustler for nearly 20 years. She is a board member of the Lower East Side Girls Club and the Brooklyn Public Library, and a trustee of the corporation of Brown University, where she received her B.A. in Visual Art. A native Brooklynite and proud public school graduate, she lives in her hometown of Brooklyn with her dog, Hectah Lavoe.

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.

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

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. | AngelicaNegrón.com

Sarah Gancher

Hermitage Fellow **Sarah Gancher** is an Obie Award-winning playwright who loves epic stories, big ideas, and deep comedy. Her plays have been produced or developed at London's National Theatre, Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre, The Public, New York Theater Workshop, Playwrights Horizons, The Vineyard, The Atlantic, Berkeley Rep, Steppenwolf, New York Stage and Film, Ars Nova, WP Theatre, The Flea, La Jolla Playhouse, Seattle Rep, Geva Theatre, Hartford Stage, and RoundHouse, among others. She has been a Time Warner Fellow at the WP Playwrights Lab, a member of P73's writer's group, a Playwrights' Realm Writing Fellow, a member of the Orchard Project's Greenhouse Lab, and a member of the Ars Nova Play Group. She is a resident at New Dramatists. Sarah is the winner of the Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theatre, New York Stage and Film Founder's Award, and the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. Her play *Russian Troll Farm* won a special citation Obie Award, and was named one of the year's ten best productions of 2020 by *The New York Times*. Sarah has written two musicals with rock band The Bengsons:

The Lucky Ones, a commission for Ars Nova, and *Hundred Days*, which had its New York premiere at the 2017 Under the Radar festival at the Public and went on to rave reviews at New York Theatre Workshop and a national tour. Both *The Lucky Ones* and *Hundred Days* garnered a number of Lortel, Drama League, and Drama Desk nominations and wins. Sarah was the collaborating playwright on *Mission Drift*, a musical about capitalism and the myth of the frontier written with director Rachel Chavkin, composer Heather Christian, and The TEAM. It was included on *The Guardian's* "Top 50 Shows of the 21st Century." Her latest musical in development, *Eugene Onegin*, was a 2024 finalist for the Kleban Prize in Musical Theatre. She currently teaches playwriting at NYU Tisch's Department of Dramatic Writing and The New School's MFA Playwriting program.

Bill Bowers

As an actor, mime, and educator, returning Hermitage Fellow **Bill Bowers** has traveled to all fifty of the United States, and throughout Europe and Asia. His Broadway credits include Zazu in *The Lion King* and Leggett in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Bowers has written and performed his own plays Off-Broadway and in theaters around the world. These plays include: *'Night Sweetheart*, *'Night Buttercup*, *Under a Montana Moon*, *It Goes Without Saying*, *Beyond Words*, and *All Over the Map*. His newest solo play, *The Traveler*, is streaming online and he has just completed filming an adaptation of *Peter and the Wolf* with the American Classical Orchestra that will air on PBS this season. A returning Hermitage Fellow, Bowers has been hailed by critics as "the great American mime," winning top honors at festivals throughout the world. He was a student of the legendary Marcel Marceau. Bill-Bowers.com

Rebecca Crenshaw

A New Orleans-based teaching artist and violinist/violist, Hermitage Fellow **Rebecca Crenshaw** combines knowledge, connection, expression, and balance in her work, whether teaching, performing on a concert stage, developing arts-integrated curricula, or leading a yoga class. Her passions and talent for building community, promoting playful expression, and healing the mind and body continue to afford her professional opportunities that benefit the local and global music communities while fostering self-awareness, enrichment, and creativity. In addition to active collaborations with New Orleans artists and musicians, Crenshaw has performed and recorded with artists such as Arcade Fire, Mumford & Sons, Hurray for the Riff Raff, Samantha Fish, Judith Owen, Ronnie Spector, and more. She has 15 years of teaching experience and, in 2021, earned an Executive Graduate Degree from the Global Leaders Program's 360° Executive Education Program for Arts Innovators. She is registered with the Yoga Alliance as an RYT 500 instructor and has been teaching yoga since 2015.

Bess Wohl

Hermitage Fellow **Bess Wohl's** plays include *Camp Siegfried* (developed in part at the Hermitage), *Grand Horizons* (Tony Nominations for Best Play; Outer Critics Circle Honor, Drama League Award nom.), *Make Believe* (*NYTimes* Critics' Pick, Best of 2019, Outer Critics Circle Honor), *Continuity*, *Small Mouth Sounds* (John Gassner Outer Critics Circle Award, top ten lists in *The New York Times*, *The New York Post*, *The Guardian* and others), *American Hero*, *Barcelona*, *Touched*, *In*, *Cats Talk Back*, and the musical *Pretty Filthy*, with composer/lyricist Michael Friedman and The Civilians (Lucille Lortel and Drama Desk nominations for Outstanding Musical). Her plays have been produced or developed at theaters in New York and around the country, including Second Stage, Manhattan Theater Club, Ars Nova, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Goodman Theater, Geffen Playhouse, People's Light, The Contemporary American Theater Festival, Vineyard Arts Project, Pioneer Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Northlight Theater, TheaterWorks New Works Festival, Ojai Playwright's Conference, Cape Cod Theatre Project, PlayPenn, and the New York International Fringe Festival (Award for Best Overall Production). In 2015, Bess won the Sam Norkin special Drama Desk Award for "establishing herself as an important voice in New York theater, and having a breakthrough year." Other awards and honors include the Athena Award for her screenplay, *Virginia*, a MacDowell Fellowship, and inclusion on Hollywood's "Black List" of Best Screenplays. She is an associate artist with The Civilians, an alumna of Ars Nova's Play Group, and the recipient of new play commissions from Manhattan Theatre Club, Hartford Stage, and Lincoln Center. She also writes screenplays and has developed multiple original television projects for HBO, ABC, USA, FOX, Disney, Paramount, and others. She is a graduate of Harvard and the Yale School of Drama.

Shayok Misha Chowdhury

Hermitage Fellow **Shayok Misha Chowdhury** is an award-winning writer and director based in Brooklyn. A Mark O'Donnell Prize and Princess Grace Award recipient, Misha was an inaugural Project Number One Artist at Soho Rep, where his new play *Public Obscenities* recently premiered, co-commissioned by NAATCO. The production, which Misha also directed, was a *NY Times* Critic's Pick and transferred subsequently to Theater for a New Audience. Misha was also awarded a Jonathan Larson Grant for his body of work writing musicals with composer Laura Grill Jaye; their most recent collaboration, *How the White Girl Got Her Spots and Other 90s Trivia*, was awarded the 2022 Relentless Award. As a Resident Artist @ HERE Arts Center, Misha is developing *Rheology*, a concert-memoir-physics-symposium, for which he was awarded an inaugural Sundance Asian American Fellowship. Other collaborations: *SPEECH* (Philly Fringe) with Lightning Rod Special; *Brother, Brother* (New York Theatre Workshop) with Aleshea Harris; *MukhAgni* (Under the Radar @ The Public Theater) with Kameron Neal; *Your Healing Is Killing Me* (PlayMakers Rep) with Virginia Grise. Misha was also a soloist and collaborator on the Grammy-winning album *Calling All Dawns*. Misha is the creator of VICHITRA, a series of sound-driven, cinematic experiments, including *Englandbashi* (Ann Arbor Film Festival); *The Other Other* (Ars Nova); *An Anthology of Queer Dreams* (Audio Unbound Award finalist); and *In Order to Become* (The Bushwick Starr), which he is developing into a live Carnatic opera. Residencies: Hermitage Artist Retreat, Rhinebeck Writers Retreat, Ucross, SPACE on Ryder Farm, Mercury Store. He has taught and directed at Stanford, Brown, NYU, CalArts, Fordham, Syracuse, UArts, Hunter College, CMU, and Williams.

Robert Pound

Hermitage Fellow and composer **Robert Pound**'s numerous works have been featured by the Atlanta Symphony (*Irrational Exuberance*, 2005; *Heartenings*, 2011) and the Columbus Symphony which commissioned *a luminous jewel lone* (2002) jointly with the River Center for the Performing Arts. The St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra commissioned Pound's *Fêtes and Fireworks* in celebration of its 35th anniversary (2005). His recording of *The Orbit of the Soul*, settings of texts by Oscar Wilde, was released in October 2018 and hailed by *Fanfare* as "a positively revelatory release." Albany Records released Pound's album of song cycles, *Relics of Memory*, in 2020, earning acclaim from *Opera News*. His music may also be heard on recordings by trumpeter Jack Sutte (The Cleveland Orchestra), *Fanfare Alone* (2014) and *Beyond the Moon* (2011). Pound has received commissions from such distinguished ensembles as the Corigliano Quartet, the Amernet Quartet, the Timaeus Ensemble, Alarm Will Sound, and the Florestan Recital Project. His works have also been featured by the Verge Ensemble, the New Juilliard Ensemble, and at Fondation Bemberg. In 2011, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra commissioned Pound to compose a fanfare for the 10th anniversary of Robert Spano as Music Director and Donald Runnicles as Principal Guest Conductor. He has composed numerous works for the theater including *What Passes for Comedy* (Chain Theatre, NYC), *The Dance of Death* (Jean Cocteau Repertory Theatre, NYC), and *Oedipus at Colonus* (Handcart Ensemble, NYC). His music has also been adapted for film by director Rick Hamilton. In March 2002, Pound was Composer-in-Residence at Columbus State University. In 2020, Pound was a Fellow at the Hermitage Artist Retreat. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas and Masters and Doctoral degrees from the Juilliard School, where he was a composition student of Stephen Albert and Milton Babbitt. Also, an active conductor, Pound has appeared as guest conductor with the Atlanta Symphony, as conductor of the Verge Ensemble at the June-in-Buffalo Festival, as a Fellow at the Tanglewood Festival of Contemporary Music, as Music Director of the West Shore Symphony Orchestra, and as Director of the orchestra at Dickinson College, where he is Professor of Music.

Charles Hulin IV

A Juilliard-trained pianist, **Charles Hulin IV** was a prize winner in the Hilton Head International Piano Competition and a recipient of special recognition for collaborative work in the Liszt-Garrison International Piano Competition. Hulin studied with Yoheved Kaplinsky at Juilliard and Ellen Mack at Peabody while participating in the masterclasses of Leon Fleisher. Before moving to Florida, he performed extensively in the mid-Atlantic states, frequently appearing with members of the U.S. Naval Academy Band and as a soloist for performances of the Richmond Ballet. He has participated in a wide range of festivals including University of Richmond's Third Practice Festival of Electro-Acoustic Music, the University of Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium, and the annual conference of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada.

The recording of his own hymn-inspired concert works, *Be Thou My Vision*, is available online. Currently, Dr. Hulin directs the study of piano and music theory at Southeastern University and coordinates the Lasker Summer Music Festival.

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