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THE HERMITAGE
artist retreat



**Hermitage Continues Year-Round Programming
With New Summer Events Featuring
2024 Tony Award Nominee Leslie Rodriguez Kritzer,
The Lazour Brothers, and More!**

*The Hermitage's year-round multidisciplinary programming offers audiences a one-of-a-kind look into the creative process. New June, July, and August programs are presented in partnership with regional arts and cultural organizations throughout Sarasota County including **Asolo Repertory Theatre, Oak Street Stage, Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Bookstore1**, and more. New events include programs with current Tony Award nominee **Leslie Rodriguez Kritzer** and 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Finalists **The Lazour Brothers**, joining previously announced May events including Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Raven Chacon**, internationally acclaimed visual artist **Diana Al-Hadid**, Tony Award-nominated playwright **Bess Wohl**, and more.*

May 7, 2024 (Sarasota County, Florida) — **The Hermitage Artist Retreat** today announced new programs throughout the months of June, July, and August. Continuing its commitment to innovative year-round arts programming, these events will be presented throughout Sarasota County, from the Hermitage's beautiful beachfront campus on Manasota Key to the heart of Sarasota's vibrant downtown arts scene. Hermitage programs introduce world-renowned artists to Florida's Gulf Coast community for candid and engaging conversations, open rehearsals, play readings, and film screenings.

Fresh from her 2024 Tony Award, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle nominations, Hermitage Fellow **Leslie Rodriguez Kritzer** returns to Manasota Key for "Stealing the Show: Broadway, Beach, and Beyond" on Wednesday, June 26th at 6:30pm on the Hermitage Beach. Leslie previously performed as part of the Hermitage's 20th Anniversary Celebration alongside Andy Sandberg at the Van Wezel, then again at the 2023 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner. Kritzer is a **2024 Tony Award nominee** for her showstopping performance in *Spamalot*, where the *New York Times* noted that "she steals the show." Broadway audiences have celebrated Kritzer for years thanks to her powerhouse voice, her pitch-perfect comic timing, and her iconic

roles in Broadway's *Beetlejuice*, *Something Rotten!*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, and more. TV audiences have also come to know her, notably through her memorable turn as Carol Burnett on the series finale of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." Now, Hermitage audiences will get to know Leslie as a gifted writer, composer, and lyricist who has been developing her own original projects right here along the inspirational shores of the Hermitage. In this special beach program, this quadruple-plus threat will share some of her own original work as well as some of Broadway's greatest hits.

"This year's Hermitage summer season promises to be a memorable one," notes Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO **Andy Sandberg**. "Year-round Gulf Coast residents have been growing rapidly, and we are excited to be presenting some truly one-of-a-kind offerings throughout the summer. Pulitzer Prize winners, Tony Award nominees, and more are well worth a little summer heat!"

On Friday, June 28th at 6pm, celebrated author and Hermitage Fellow **Kimberly King Parsons** will read selections from her novel and dive into conversation about the writing process in **Bookstore1**'s intimate loft space. Her short story collection *Black Light* was long-listed for the National Book Award, and this Hermitage program will shed light on her highly anticipated debut novel, *We Were the Universe*. Parsons' remarkable style has readers turning pages and discovering entirely new frames of mind; from trips to Oregon to acid trips, life, death, and rock 'n roll, Sarasota audiences will get to experience this exemplary writer's work from the author herself.

The "2024 Hermitage STARS" initiative continues into its fourteenth season with a culminating program on the Historic Hermitage campus on Friday, July 12th at 2pm. **The State Teaching Artist Residencies (STARS)** at the Hermitage Artist Retreat is designed to nourish the artist within Florida's dedicated arts teachers and proudly serves educators from across the state in partnership with the **Florida Alliance for Arts Education (FAAE)**. The STARS program is one of only a few programs in the United States that offers five educators an inspirational residency opportunity that culminates in a free public sharing with the Gulf Coast community. This public program is presented in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Sarasota and Desoto Counties as well as the Englewood YMCA. The selected teachers span multiple artistic disciplines and will be announced at a later date; this year's STARS recipients will offer insights into their creative practice to an audience of all ages, in a program presented in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Sarasota & Desoto Counties and the Englewood YMCA.

On Thursday, July 25th at 6:30pm, Hermitage Fellows **Jeffery Renard Allen** and **Yasi Alipour** both work on paper to create narrative, but Allen uses letters while Alipour prefers lines and intricately folded patterns. In the original works created by these innovative Hermitage artists, time collapses and worlds expand; the future is present, and history is interrupted. Splitting time between New York and Johannesburg, Allen is an award-winning author of six books, including the critically acclaimed debut *Song of*

the Shank. His latest work “Fat Time and Other Stories” is a collection of short works described by *The New York Times* as a “fierce itching dazzle.” Alipour, a celebrated visual artist interested in paper, politics, and performance, explores systems of math and history in her work. Informed by her time studying at the University of Tehran, intricately folded pages take on three-dimensional presence when imbued with her intuitive and highly technical art. Hear from both artists about why they make the work they make, and what they hope an audience will see and hear when they encounter it with “Interrupted History” on the Hermitage Beach.

Hermitage programs continue into August with Hermitage Fellow **Mónica Lavín** and translator-collaborator **D.P. Snyder** for “Translation-Traducción” on the Hermitage Beach on Friday August 9th at 6:30pm presented in partnership with **UnidosNow**. When done right, two writers’ literary DNA recombine to create not mere reproductions but wholly new works. What is the alchemy by which this literary magic takes place? How does such an interchange enrich the work and its readers? In this age of A.I. and ever more present translation technology, these gifted writers offer audiences a chance to explore the Spanish-English literary dynamic and the deeply human activity of understanding another person’s voice as they share insight into the intimate, generous, and empathetic act of literary translation.

On Friday August 23rd at 6:30pm, audiences will experience a truly dynamic duo as 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize finalists **Daniel & Patrick Lazour** present “The Lazour Brothers: A Lifelong Collaboration.” Musical theater has a long history of storied collaborators: Rodgers & Hammerstein, Kander & Ebb, Ahrens & Flaherty, Pasek & Paul, and now Daniel & Patrick Lazour. **The Lazour Brothers** are already Jonathan Larson Grant and Richard Rodgers Award recipients, and their works have been recognized by such prestigious institutions as American Repertory Theater and Lincoln Center. Blending cultures and weaving stories as eloquently as they meld musical styles, the Lazour Brothers are two of the most innovative and evocative musical storytellers working in the American theater today. Hear selections of past and upcoming works and learn what’s next for this energetic duo on the Hermitage Beach.

See below for complete program details and artist bios. Additional summer programs will be announced soon.

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](https://www.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 year-round 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.

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 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, 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 the National Endowment for the Arts; 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 (June, July, and August):

- **“Stealing the Show: Broadway, Beach, and Beyond” with Hermitage Fellow and 2024 Tony Award Nominee Leslie Rodriguez Kritzer, Wednesday, June 26, 6:30pm:** Returning Hermitage Fellow **Leslie Rodriguez Kritzer** is a **2024 Tony Award nominee** for her recent performance in *Spamalot*, where *The New York Times* noted that “she

steals the show.” Broadway audiences have celebrated Kritzer for years thanks to her powerhouse voice, her pitch-perfect comic timing, and her iconic roles in Broadway’s *Beetlejuice*, *Something Rotten!*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, and more. TV audiences have also come to know Leslie, notably through her memorable turn as Carol Burnett on the series finale of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.” Now, Hermitage audiences will get to know Leslie as a gifted writer, composer, and lyricist who has been developing her own original projects right here along the inspirational shores of the Hermitage. Join this quadruple-plus threat for a bit of both worlds: the songs you know and the next great work of American theater. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org (\$5/person registration fee).** **Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 34223**

- **“We Were the Universe” with Hermitage Fellow Kimberly King Parsons, Friday, June 28, 6pm:** From the author of the short story collection *Black Light* (National Book Award longlist) comes the highly anticipated debut novel *We Were the Universe*. Set in Texas and through the stream-of-consciousness narration from Kit, Hermitage Fellow **Kimberly King Parsons** “has created a character so appealing in her cheerful brokenness that you won’t want to leave her side for a minute.” (*Kirkus Review*) From trips to Oregon to acid trips, life, death, and rock’n roll, Parsons’ remarkable style has readers turning pages and discovering entirely new frames of mind. Hear selections of the novel read by this Hermitage author and dive into conversation about the writing process in Bookstore1’s intimate loft space. *Presented in partnership with Bookstore1.* **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org (\$5/person registration fee).** **Bookstore1, 117 South Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236**
- **“2024 Hermitage STARS” Friday, July 12, 2pm:** Now in its fourteenth season, the **State Teaching Artist Residency (STAR)** at the Hermitage Artist Retreat is designed to nourish the artist within Florida’s Arts Teachers. Proudly serving teachers from all across the state, this partnership with the Florida Alliance for Arts Education is one of the few of its kind in the country and offers five educators two weeks of inspiration on the Hermitage’s historical campus. Culminating in a free public sharing with the Gulf Coast community, the selected teachers span artistic disciplines and offer insights into their creative practice to audiences of all ages. Selected teachers will be announced at a later date. *Presented in Partnership with FAAE, Boys & Girls Club of Sarasota & Desoto Counties and the Englewood YMCA.* **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org (\$5/person registration fee).** **Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 34223**
- **“Interrupted History” with Hermitage Fellows Jeffery Renard Allen and Yasi Alipour, Thursday, July 25, 6:30pm:** In the works created by these remarkable Hermitage artists, time collapses and worlds expand; the future is present and history is interrupted. Both work on paper to create narrative, but **Jeffery Renard Allen** uses letters while **Yasi Alipour** prefers lines and intricate patterns. Splitting time between New York and Johannesburg, Allen is an award-winning author of six books, including the critically acclaimed debut *Song of the Shank*. His latest work “Fat Time and Other Stories” is a collection of short works described by *The New York Times* as a “fierce itching dazzle.” Alipour, a celebrated visual artist interested in paper, politics, and performance, explores systems of math and history in her work. Informed by her time studying at the University of Tehran, intricately folded pages take on three-dimensional presence when imbued with her intuitive and highly technical art. Hear from both of these artists about why they make the work they make, and what they hope an audience will see and hear when they encounter it. **Registration is required at**

HermitageArtistRetreat.org (\$5/person registration fee). **Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 34223**

- **“Translation-Traducción” with Hermitage Fellow Mónica Lavín and Translator-Collaborator D.P. Snyder, Friday, August 9, 6:30pm:** The relationship of author and translator is uniquely collaborative and somewhat elusive. When done right, two writers' literary DNA recombine to create not mere reproductions but wholly new works. What is the alchemy by which this literary magic takes place? How does such an interchange enrich the work and its readers? In this age of A.I. and ever more present translation technology, Hermitage Fellow **Mónica Lavín** and her writer-translator collaborator **D.P. Snyder** offer audiences a chance to explore the Spanish-English literary dynamic and the deeply human activity of understanding another person's voice. Join these two gifted writers for insight into the intimate, generous, and empathetic act of literary translation. *Presented in Partnership with UnidosNow. Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org* (\$5/person registration fee). **Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 34223**
- **“The Lazour Brothers: A Lifelong Collaboration” with 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Finalists Daniel & Patrick Lazour, Friday, August 23, 6:30pm:** Musical theater has a long history of storied collaborators: Rodgers & Hammerstein, Kander & Ebb, Ahrens & Flaherty, Pasek & Paul, and now **Daniel & Patrick Lazour**. Finalists for the 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize, the Lazour Brothers are already Jonathan Larson Grant and Richard Rodgers Award recipients, and their works have been recognized by such prestigious institutions as American Repertory Theater and Lincoln Center. Blending cultures and weaving stories as eloquently as they meld musical styles, the Lazour Brothers are two of the most innovative and evocative musical storytellers working in the American theater today. Join them to hear selections of past and upcoming works, and to learn what's next for this energetic duo. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 34223**

Previously Announced Hermitage Programs (May and June):

- **“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**

- **“Visualizing Culture” with Hermitage Fellows Diana Al-Hadid, Raven Chacon, and Candice Hopkins Thursday, May 23, 6:30pm:** Art, no matter the medium, helps to make abstract concepts like culture and broad historical narrative a palpable, personal experience. Engaging directly with this idea through her work currently on display at the Sarasota Art Museum, internationally acclaimed visual artist **Diana Al-Hadid**'s art "is a masterclass in duality... both ancient and modern, fierce and delicate, simultaneously growing and disintegrating—reminding us there is no such thing as a fixed state," (*Vogue*). In a special beach program, Al-Hadid discusses her work alongside **Pulitzer Prize-winning** composer **Raven Chacon** whose unique graphic scores capture "a concentrated and powerful musical expression with a haunting visceral impact," (*New York Times*). Adding insight and nuance to the conversation is **Candice Hopkins**, a citizen of Carcross/Tagish First Nation whose curated exhibitions have traveled across the country and around the world. Join these remarkable creators for insights into their groundbreaking processes and perspectives on the contemporary arts landscape. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 34223**
- **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**
- **“Standing at the Beach's Edge: London to Sarasota” with 2024 Hermitage Major Theater Award Winner Chris Bush – Friday, June 7, 6:30pm:** London theatergoers can't get enough of 2024 **Hermitage Major Theater Award** winner **Chris Bush**'s latest musical *Standing at the Sky's Edge*. After its premiere in the town where it's set and this gifted theater maker hails from, Sheffield, the production moved to the National Theatre in London and is now running on the West End, garnering accolades and rave review along the way. Now, one of the show's lead creative minds is coming to Sarasota. Hear from Hermitage Major Theater Award winner Chris Bush about her career, creating theater in the UK, and how she plans to reimagine Virginia Woolf's iconic novel *Orlando*

for the 21st century and set in Florida. *Chris Bush's residency and Hermitage Major Theater Award are made possible with generous support from Flora Major and the Kutya Major Foundation. Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org (\$5/person registration fee). Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 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*

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*

Friday, May 10 @ 6:30pm, “Waves: Movements that Shape Us,” featuring Hermitage Fellows **Rebecca Crenshaw** and **Bess Wohl,** on the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key) *Bess Wohl's Hermitage Residency generously sponsored by Carol White Bold & Larry Bold*

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

Thursday, May 23 @ 6:30pm, “Visualizing Culture,” featuring Hermitage Fellows **Diana Al-Hadid, Raven Chacon** (Pulitzer Prize winner), and **Candice Hopkins,** on the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)

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*

Friday, June 7 @ 6:30pm, “Standing on the Beach’s Edge: London to Sarasota,” featuring 2024 **Hermitage Major Theater Award** winner **Chris Bush,** on the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key) *The Hermitage Major Theater Award and Chris Bush's residency are made possible with generous support from **Flora Major** and the **Kutya Major Foundation.***

Wednesday, June 26 @ 6:30pm, “Stealing the Show: Broadway, Beach, and Beyond,” featuring Hermitage Fellow and 2024 Tony Award Nominee **Leslie Rodriguez Kritzer,** on the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)

Friday, June 28 @ 6:30pm, “We Were the Universe,” featuring Hermitage Fellow **Kimberly King Parsons,** at Bookstore1 (Sarasota) *Presented in partnership with Bookstore1*

Friday, July 12 @ 2pm, “2024 Hermitage STARS,” featuring **Florida Arts Educators,** on the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key) *Presented in partnership with FAAE, Boys & Girls Club of Sarasota & Desoto Counties, and Englewood YMCA*

Thursday, July 25 @ 6:30pm, “Interrupted History,” featuring Hermitage Fellows **Jeffery Renard Allen** and **Yasi Alipour**, on the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)

Friday, August 9 @ 6:30pm, “Translation-Traducción,” featuring Hermitage Fellow **Mónica Lavín** and Translator-Collaborator **D.P. Snyder**, on Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)
Presented in partnership with UnidosNow

Friday, August 23 @ 6:30pm, “the Lazour Brothers: A Lifelong Collaboration,” featuring 2024 **Hermitage Greenfield Prize** Finalists **Daniel Lazour** and **Patrick Lazour**, on the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)

NEW ARTIST BIOS

(in chronological order of newly announced programs)

Leslie Rodriguez Kritzer

Hermitage Fellow **Leslie Rodriguez Kritzer** is a **2024 Tony Award Nominee** for her showstopping turn as ‘Lady of the Lake’ in the Broadway revival of *Spamalot*. She previously starred on Broadway as Delia in *Beetlejuice*, for which she received Drama Desk, Drama League, and Chita Rivera Award nominations. Additional Broadway credits include *Something Rotten!*, *Elf*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *Legally Blonde*, *A Catered Affair* (Drama Desk nomination) and *Hairspray*. Off-Broadway: *The Robber Bridegroom* (Lucille Lortel Award and Drama League Award), *Gigantic* (Lucille Lortel nomination), *ROOMS: A Rock Romance* (Outer Critics Circle nomination), and others. She can be heard on several original casting recordings. TV: “Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” (as Carol Burnett in the Series Finale) “The First Lady,” “Bridge & Tunnel,” “New Amsterdam,” “Difficult People,” “Kevin Can Wait,” “Younger,” “Vinyl,” and “Law & Order: SVU.” Sarasota audiences have previously seen Leslie perform alongside Andy Sandberg in the Hermitage 20th Anniversary Concert (Van Wezel Hall) and at the 2023 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner (Ringling Museum). @lesliekritzer

Kimberly King Parsons

Hermitage Fellow **Kimberly King Parsons** is the author of the forthcoming novel *We Were the Universe* and the short story collection *Black Light*, which was longlisted for the National Book Award and the Story Prize. A recipient of Fellowships from the Hermitage Artist Retreat, Yaddo, and Columbia University, Parsons won the 2020 National Magazine Award for “Foxes,” a story published in *The Paris Review*. She lives in Portland, Oregon with her partner and children. Born in Lubbock, Texas, Parsons earned a BA in English and an MA in Literary Studies from the University of Texas at Dallas. She then moved to New York, where she earned an MFA in Fiction from Columbia and served as the editor-in-chief of *Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art*. Parsons’ book reviews and interviews have appeared in *Bookforum*, *BOMB*, *Time Out New York*, *The Millions*, and elsewhere. Parsons’ collection *Black Light* was a finalist for the 2020 Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction, the 2020 Texas Institute of Letters Best Work of First Fiction Award, and the 2020 Oregon Book Award.

Jeffery Renard Allen

Hermitage Fellow **Jeffery Renard Allen** is the award-winning author of six books of fiction and poetry, including the celebrated novel *Song of the Shank*, which was a front-page review in both *The New York Times* “Book Review” and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. Allen’s other accolades include The *Chicago Tribune*’s Heartland Prize for Fiction, The Chicago Public Library’s Twenty-First Century Award, the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, a grant from Creative Capital, a Whiting Writers’ Award, a Guggenheim fellowship, residencies at the Bellagio Center, Ucross, The Hermitage, VCCA, Monson Arts, and Jentel Arts, and fellowships at The Center for Scholars and Writers, the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Studies, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. He was a finalist for both the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. Allen is the founder and editor of

Taint Taint Taint magazine and is the Africa Editor for *The Evergreen Review*. His latest books are the short story collection *Fat Time* and the memoir *An Unspeakable Hope*, the latter co-authored with Leon Ford. Making his home in both New York and Johannesburg, Allen is at work on several projects, including a two-volume memoir entitled *Mother-Wit* and a short story collection called *Try Me*. Find out more about him at www.WriterJefferyRenardAllen.com.

Yasi Alipour

Hermitage Fellow **Yasi Alipour** is an Iranian artist, writer, and folder who currently lives in Brooklyn and wonders about paper, politics, and performance. She is a teacher at Columbia University and SVA and is currently a resident at the Sharpe Walentas Studio program. She uses text and intricately folded pieces of paper to explore systems of math and history. In her series “As Dreams Become History,” Alipour asked Iranian friends born after the revolution to share secondhand memories of that decade shared by family and older friends. She paired these texts with sheets of paper printed with black ink and then folded them into geometric tessellations referencing Middle Eastern abstraction. Her research-based practice spans sculpture, installation, performance, drawing, writing, lectures, and experimentation, probing personal history to parse issues around political instability and interrupted histories. Columbia University, MFA 2018. For further information, please visit YasamanAlipour.com.

Mónica Lavín

Hermitage Fellow **Mónica Lavín**, hailing from Mexico City, is the author of nine books of short stories, notably “Ruby Tuesday no ha muerto” (Gilberto Owen Literary National Prize, 1996); “Uno no sabe” (2003, Antonin Artaud award finalist); “La corredora de Cuernavaca y el aficionado a Schubert” (Punto de Lectura, 2008), “Manual para enamorarse” (2011), and “La casa chica” (Planeta: 2012). She has written ten novels including: *Café cortado* (Best Book of the Year, Premio Narrativa de Colima 2001); *La más fallera* (Grijalbo), a best-selling novel for young readers; *Despertar los apetitos* (Alfaguara, 2005); *Yo, la peor* (Grijalbo, 2009; winner, Premio Iberoamericano de Novela Elena Poniatowska); *Doble filo* (PRHM, 2014); and *Cuando te hablen de amor* (Planeta, 2017). Her stories appear in anthologies both in Mexico and around the world, and she is a fellow at the Hermitage Artist Retreat, Banff Centre for the Arts, and Yaddo. She writes for the Universal newspaper and interviews for Public Television in Mexico. She belongs to the Sistema Nacional de Creadores (FONCA) and is a professor in the Creative Writing Department of the Universidad Autónoma in México City.

D.P. Snyder

D.P. Snyder is a writer specializing in short fiction, essays, interviews, and literary criticism. Currently at work on a novel, she is also a skilled translator, focusing primarily on literature from Mexico, Colombia, the Caribbean, and Spain, with a focus on literary works by women and works of social importance. As a former singer-songwriter, she also translates lyrics, principally for The New York Festival of Song. She was the Co-Director of The Latin American Workshop in New York City, a non-profit cultural organization that produced over three-hundred art exhibits, readings, and crossover concerts featuring artists like Philip Glass, Tico Da Costa, Pete Seeger, León Gieco, Papo Gely, Luis “El Terror” Díaz, and David Byrne, among many others under her tenure. She is a member of the American Literary Translators Association (ALTA), and serves on the Board of Editors at Reading in Translation and on the Translation Committee of PEN America. Snyder received a B.A. in Language and Literature from Yale University and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Sewanee: The University of the South and is an alumna of the Under the Volcano writing community in Tepoztlán, México. She has studied narrative art and poetry with Mexican writers Mónica Lavín, Jaime Mesa, and David Huerta.

Daniel Lazour & Patrick Lazour

Daniel Lazour & Patrick Lazour, brothers and musical theater writers, were finalists for the **2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize**. Their musical *We Live in Cairo* premiered at the American Repertory Theater in 2019. Projects in development include a musical adaptation of Ritesh Batra’s film *The Lunchbox* (Lincoln Center Theater commission) and their sing-along theater experiment about patients and caregivers, *Night Side Songs* (A.R.T./Philadelphia Theater Company co-production). Their movie musical *Challenger: An American Dream* is being developed with Bruce Cohen Productions. Original songs by the Lazours can be

heard on their independently released albums: *Freres*, *Flap My Wings (Songs from We Live in Cairo)*, *Beth's Homemade Cowboy Breakfast*, and *Lullabies*. They are Jonathan Larson Grant and Richard Rodgers Award recipients; Hermitage Artist Retreat, MacDowell, and Yaddo Fellows; and New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspects. Patrick holds a B.A. from Boston College, and Daniel holds a B.A. from Columbia University.

PREVIOUS ARTIST BIOS

(in chronological order of previously announced May and June programs)

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.

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.

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.

Diana Al-Hadid

Returning Hermitage Fellow **Diana Al-Hadid** examines the historical frameworks and perspectives that continue to shape discourse on culture and materials today. With a practice spanning sculpture, wall reliefs, and works on paper, the artist weaves together enigmatic narratives that draw inspiration from both ancient and modern civilizations. Al-Hadid's rich allegorical constructions are born from art historical religious imagery, ancient manuscripts, female archetypes, and folkloric storytelling. Born in Aleppo, Syria in 1981, Al-Hadid lives and works between upstate New York and Brooklyn, NY. She received a BFA in Sculpture and a BA in Art History from Kent State University (2003); an MFA in Sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University (2005); and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (2007). She has been the recipient of a Joan Mitchell Grant, a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant, a Pollock-Krasner Grant, and The Academy of Arts and Letters Art Award. She is also a Hermitage Artist Retreat Fellow, a USA Rockefeller Fellow, and in 2022, she was awarded a Fellowship with the Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship Program. Al-Hadid's work can be found in numerous institutional collections worldwide, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and the National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens, Greece, among others. Her work is currently on display at Sarasota Art Museum as part of the exhibition *Impact: Contemporary Artists at the Hermitage Artist Retreat*.

Raven Chacon

Hermitage Fellow **Raven Chacon** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, performer, and installation artist from Fort Defiance, Navajo Nation. As a solo artist, collaborator, and a member of Postcommodity from 2009 to 2018, Chacon has exhibited, performed, or had works performed at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Renaissance Society, Chicago; San Francisco Electronic Music Festival; REDCAT, Los Angeles; Vancouver Art Gallery; Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; Borealis Festival, Seattle; SITE Santa Fe; Chaco Canyon, New Mexico; Ende Tymes Festival, New York; The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.; Whitney Biennial, New York; documenta 14, Athens and Kassel; Carnegie International, and Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh.

Candice Hopkins

Hermitage Fellow **Candice Hopkins** is a citizen of Carcross/Tagish First Nation and lives in Red Hook, New York. Her writing and curatorial practice explore the intersections of history, contemporary art, and Indigeneity. She is Executive Director of Forge Project (Taghkanic, NY) and Senior Curator for the 2019 and 2022 editions of the Toronto Biennial of Art. She was part of the curatorial team for the Canadian Pavilion at the fifty-eighth Venice Biennale, featuring the work of the media art collective Isuma; and co-curator of notable exhibitions including the national traveling survey *Art for New Understanding: Native Voices, 1950s to Now*; *SITELines.2018: Casa Tomada*, SITE Santa Fe; documenta 14, Athens and Kassel; and *Sakahàn: International Indigenous Art*, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. Notable essays include "The Gilded Gaze: Wealth and Economies on the Colonial Frontier," in the *documenta 14 Reader*; "Outlawed Social Life," in *South as a State of Mind*; and "The Appropriation Debates (or The Gallows of History)," in *Saturation: Race, Art, and the Circulation of Value* (New Museum/MIT Press, 2020).

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.

Chris Bush

A Sheffield-born playwright, lyricist, and theatre maker, **Chris Bush** is the 2024 recipient of the **Hermitage Major Theater Award**. Current and past work includes *Standing at the Sky's Edge* (Sheffield Theatres/National Theatre – Olivier Award and UK Theatre Award for Best Musical, South Bank Sky Arts Award for Best Theatre), *Pericles* and *The Odyssey* (both National Theatre); *Rock/Paper/Scissors*, *The Band Plays On*, *What We Wished For*, *A Dream*, and *The Sheffield Mysteries* (all Sheffield Theatres); *Jane Eyre* (Stephen Joseph Theatre, New Vic Theatre); *The Doncastrain Chalk Circle* (CAST Doncaster/National Theatre); *Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World* (Kenny Wax, UK Tour – UK Theatre Award for Best Show for Children & Young People); *Hungry* (Paines Plough); *Kein Weltuntergang/Not the End of the World* (Schaubühne, Berlin); *Nine Lessons and Carols: Stories for a Long Winter* (Almeida Theatre); *Faustus: That Damned Woman* (Headlong/Lyric Hammersmith/Birmingham Rep); *The Last Noël* (Attic Theatre/UK tour); *The Assassination of Katie Hopkins* (Theatr Clwyd - UK Theatre Award for Best Musical); *The Changing Room* (NT Connections); *A Declaration from the People* (National Theatre: Dorfman); and *Larksong* (New Vic, Stoke-on-Trent). Film includes *Mars* (dir. Abel Rubinstein).

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