

EMERGING  
ARTISTS  
THEATRE



SPARK  
THEATRE FESTIVAL NYC

**MUSICALS**

FALL 2026



IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE



The Spark Theatre Festival NYC supports artists in the development of new work by providing the opportunity to present works in progress before a live audience. A key part of the festival experience is the post-performance talkback, where artists, collaborators, and audience members engage in open conversation about the work. Produced by Emerging Artists Theatre, the festival is dedicated to fostering new work, supporting emerging talent, and amplifying diverse voices.

Founded in 1993 by Artistic Director Paul Adams,  
**EMERGING ARTISTS THEATRE** has been an incubator  
for new voices, from the page to the stage for 33 years.

This Fall, Emerging Artists Theatre brings you the Spark Theatre Festival NYC. Visit the theater any evening during this three-week event and you'll find yourself transported in a number of surprising ways: by a single performer embodying a whole host of characters; by a dance piece that mesmerizes and entertains; by a play that forces you to think or laugh; or perhaps by a bouncy new musical that will have you humming.

Emerging Artists has always been about new works and diverse voices. That's never been more evident than now. And you, the audience, are the vital ingredient to making this a success. Your presence and participation in the unique talkback with the artists provides the insight they need to move their work forward.

During our 33 year history, Emerging Artists has premiered over 2,000 new works and also garnered a Drama Desk Nomination, received the American Theatre Wing Grant Award for Consistent Commitment to Excellence in Theatre, and was named Best Off-Off Broadway Theatre Company in NYC for Actors to Work With by Backstage Magazine. In the last five years alone, Emerging Artists has provided opportunities for more than 5,000 diverse artists to see their work developed and premiered at no cost to the artists to submit or participate.

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Emerging Artists Theatre acknowledges that this festival of new work is situated on the Lenape island of Manhattan (Mannahatta) and more broadly in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We pay respect to the Munsee Lenape ancestors and offer our care and gratitude.

## **28th Street Theatre**

15 West 28th Street, 2nd floor,  
between Broadway and 5th Avenue  
New York, NY

# NOV 2026

**SPARK**  
THEATRE FESTIVAL NYC

## MON, NOV 2

7Pm An Hour with Ben  
Yarmolinsky

## WED, NOV 4

7Pm Not Really Strangers

7Pm Kaleidoscope

7Pm Keep It Growing:  
A 60's Jukebox Musical

## SAT, NOV 7

7Pm Love Defined

## SUN, NOV 8

5Pm CLICKBAIT

5Pm Treason

## TUE, NOV 10

7Pm Brighter Than the Sun

## WED, NOV 11

7Pm Brighter Than the Sun

## THU, NOV 12

4Pm The Great Mortality

7Pm Brighter Than the Sun

## FRI, NOV 13

4Pm The Great Mortality

7Pm Standing Above Pajaro

7Pm The Man Who Could  
Imitate A Bee

9Pm Coming Home

## SAT, NOV 14

7Pm Sailing Man

7Pm The Man Who Could  
Imitate A Bee

9Pm Reign of Smoke and  
Lust (Seduced by the  
Shadow King's Son)

## SUN, NOV 15

2Pm Coming Home

5Pm 16/32

5Pm The Man Who Could  
Imitate A Bee

7Pm Jeremy Worried About  
the Wind

## MON, NOV 16

7Pm Mysterious Rays

## TUE, NOV 17

7Pm The Untitled Kusama  
Musical

## WED, NOV 18

7Pm Long Ago Song

## THU, NOV 19

4Pm Alexandros

7Pm Reign of Smoke and  
Lust (Seduced by the  
Shadow King's Son)

## FRI, NOV 20

4Pm Alexandros

7Pm Long Ago Song

## SAT, NOV 21

7Pm Queen of Clubs

9Pm Stud Country Shuffle

## SUN, NOV 22

2Pm Long Ago Song

5Pm The Love Is Afoot!  
Musical Cabaret

5Pm From the Abuelas'  
Window

7Pm The Selkie Bride

# FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES

MON, NOV 2, 7PM

## An Hour with Ben Yarmolinsky

Writer & Performer: Ben Yarmolinsky

For those who enjoy the songs of Tom Lehrer, Dave Frishberg and Randy Newman, Ben Yarmolinsky has prepared a program of his new and recent satirical and sentimental songs, including “The Ethical Culture Fight Song” “You-Know-Who,” and “Warriors for Peace and Social Justice.”



WED, NOV 4, 7PM

## Not Really Strangers

Writer & Director: Maggie Monaghan

Musical Director: James Bally

*Not Really Strangers* is a musical comedic drama about grief in an age obsessed with efficiency. At a struggling New Jersey branch of fast-food chain MeatDay, owner Elliot grieves his brother's death and grasps to keep the business afloat. This 10-minute excerpt explores what happens when the constant pursuit of efficiency isolates everyone.



WED, NOV 4, 7PM

## Kaleidoscope

Writers: Searcy's and Street

Director: Rosie Corr

Writing Team: Liam Searcy, Sam Street, Jordy Searcy

Four astronauts, adrift, alone, and short on oxygen, reckon with their lives and the choices they've made. How did we get here? Was it worth it? Who will remember? Is it too late?



FULL-LENGTH

SOLO SHOW

SHORT

TICKETS \$20 – \$40 | EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG

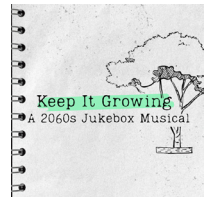
WED, NOV 4, 7PM

## Keep It Growing: A 60's Jukebox Musical

Writer: Lain Walls

Director: Caroline Mack

In the year 2076, an ensemble of theatre artists workshop a government-approved jukebox musical about a seemingly idyllic garden, until the show's story reveals the bleak world outside it. Featuring all the greatest hits of the last decade, the 2060s!



SAT, NOV 7, 7PM

## Love Defined

Book, Music, and Lyrics: Matthew Jordan

Director/Co-Producer: Carly L. Bodnar

The same word used to describe your favorite restaurant and the most important person in your life. The word that tells a child that you care and tells someone you want to spend your life with them. Love. Join us as we explore what it means to love.



SUN, NOV 8, 5PM

## CLICKBAIT

Writer: Matthew Climbingbear

Composer: Tiffany Hwang

Collaborator: Seungyeon Kwon

A new musical about what it means to be distracted at work. Watch two rivals fight for a promotion on a random Saturday as they get roped into the rabbit hole that is Clickbait! Will they overcome or be consumed by an algorithm that knows their deepest insecurities?



SUN, NOV 8, 5PM

## Treason

Book and Lyrics: Donna Sanders

Music: Deena Zammam

In 1779, Stony Brook, NY is a loyalist stronghold infiltrated by vigilante patriots who pursue their cause under the constant specter of death. One fatal night, Annette Williamson is forced to choose between her love for a convicted traitor, and her commitment to the hard-fought war for freedom.



FULL-LENGTH

SOLO SHOW

SHORT

TICKETS \$20 - \$40 | EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG

TUE, NOV 10, 7PM

## Brighter Than the Sun

Writer & Composer: Collin Hendley

Director & Choreographer: Jojo Minasi

*Brighter Than the Sun* is an autobiographical, anecdotal musical that analyzes the relationship between a young man desperately seeking to come to terms with his identity and his grandmother during both of their upbringings in South Georgia. The narrative is a simple, yet incredibly evocative tale of broken dreams, familial ties, and the concurrent cycles of birth and death that compose everyone's story.



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THU, NOV 12, 4PM

## The Great Mortality

Music and Lyrics: Holly Doubet, Kathy Babylon, John Vester

The Plague narrates: In 1600s Venice, destitute composer Vivaldi and wealthy castrato Farinelli share a friendship. Vivaldi reunites with Anna, a former singer in his orphan choir. Her father dons a Plague Doctor costume for coin, unknowingly bringing death home. Anna and Farinelli die; grief silences Vivaldi—until her ghostly voice births “Spring,” defying even the Plague.



FULL-LENGTH

SOLO SHOW

SHORT

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FRI, NOV 13, 7PM

## Standing Above Pajaro

Story and Libretto: Conrad A. Panganiban

Music: Jeremy Rafal

On a desperate early morning in 1930, Celestino Tobera breaks into the Watsonville General store seeking refuge from an angry mob threatening to kill all the Filipino Immigrant workers there. Melissa Crawley, the store owner, must decide between helping Celestino or the person in charge of the mob—her son.



FULL-LENGTH

SOLO SHOW

SHORT

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FRI, NOV 13, 7PM

## The Man Who Could Imitate A Bee

Writer: Jason Curtis Rivera

Director: Katie Claire Harrigan

Hervey Deyo has, from a very young age, devoted himself to the study of science. His particular passion is ornithology, the study of birds.

However, as he got older he noticed he suddenly had interests unfeathered, specifically: girls. When he notices a male competitor pursuing a girl he admired he decides to take a page out of his book and implement a party trick sure to woo anyone he fancies. He learns he can do an immaculate imitation of a bee, and his life explodes from there.



FRI, NOV 13, 9PM

## Coming Home

Writer/Director: Lawrence Dandridge

Assistant Director: Amoria Burks

Production Stage Manager: Bella Dimichino

*Coming Home* meets a family at their first reunion after years of estrangement. Siblings discover just how much has changed. Through music inspired by our favorite cookout classics and eye-opening dialogue, we challenge the traditions that make up strong Black families and uncover the timeless, unconditional bond that is love.



SAT, NOV 14, 7PM

## Sailing Man

Writer & Composer: Seungyeon Kwon & Elliot Pemberton

Director: Matthew Climbingbear

Across 127 years, two people living at different speeds meet through a broken radio. On a stage strictly divided between two worlds, a fantasy unfolds. In a universe of uncertainty, where are we sailing toward?



FULL-LENGTH

SOLO SHOW

SHORT

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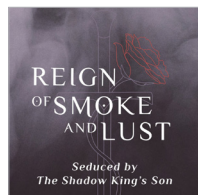
SAT, NOV 14, 9PM

## Reign of Smoke and Lust (Seduced by the Shadow King's Son)

Music: Rose Bauman

Lyrics: Miranda Holliday

Creative Director: Maddie Mooregan



Lust, power, and magic... will our Female Main Character discover what fate has in store for her? Come along for the ride in this enemies-to-lovers tale that's got everything: a steamy love triangle, a sexy misunderstood villain, and copious amounts of fae wine!

SUN, NOV 15, 2PM

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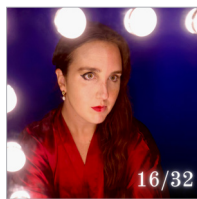
SUN, NOV 15, 5PM

**16/32**

Writers: Henrietta Steventon and Jacob Iglitzin

Performer: Henrietta Steventon

Accompanist: Jacob Iglitzin



In a Midtown rehearsal room, veteran actress Andrea meets with Broadway's newest star Babs to rehearse for a tribute concert to a legendary composer. In this one-woman musical, the divas flip through the songbooks of their own lives – and uncover the cuts along the way. Both the 16...and the 32.

SUN, NOV 15, 5PM

## **The Man Who Could Imitate A Bee**

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Director: Katie Claire Harrigan



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SUN, NOV 15, 7PM

## **Jeremy Worried About the Wind**

Book, Music, & Lyrics: Jeremy F. Richter

Director: Stephen Santa



Jeremy has a list of 673 worries. Maggie has none. Mom has her own anxieties. And the wind? It has other plans entirely! Adapted from Pamela Butchart's book, this fast-paced family musical sweeps an anxious boy on a whirlwind adventure to choose fun over fear.

**FULL-LENGTH**

**SOLO SHOW**

**SHORT**

TICKETS \$20 – \$40 | [EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG](http://EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG)

MON, NOV 16, 7PM

## Mysterious Rays

Book, Music, & Lyrics: Noah Canby

Alan is a pioneering trans radiologist in the 1930s. Lauren is a closeted tween track star in the 2000s. What happens when a vlogger turned time-traveling hacktivist shows up? A gorgeous mission to save transkind. A new musical about early YouTube, the double-edged sword of trans visibility, and X-rays.



TUE, NOV 17, 7PM

## The Untitled Kusama Musical

Music by Yuriko Shibata

Lyrics by Andrew Strano

Book by Yuriko Shibata & Andrew Strano

A tiny polka dot touches the sublime pattern. A gameshow fixates on pasta and other p-words. Shiny things are kinda mean, and a giant dress becomes a party as music, ritual, and collective play, guide us from fear and isolation toward something shared, vast, communal, and alive.



WED, NOV 18, 7PM

## Long Ago Song

Writers: Lynda Crawford and Gary Kupper

Musical Director: D. Michael O'Dell

Director: Lee Summers

*LONG AGO SONG* revolves around Ruthie Coleman, an elderly Black poet whose memories ignite when a young musician plays an obscure tune he found in an old songbook. The story goes back and forth between the present and the 1920s–1940s of Tin Pan Alley, the Harlem Renaissance, and World War II, as the puzzle of Ruthie's past is revealed.



FULL-LENGTH

SOLO SHOW

SHORT

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THU, NOV 19, 4PM

## Alexandros

Writer & Lyricist: Elizabeth Filippouli

Music: Dirk Brossé

What if a neurodivergent teenager who feels voiceless and abandoned could meet the myths that taught the world to dream big? By pairing a contemporary story of resilience with the fascinating mythology surrounding a historical figure, the play explores friendship, loyalty, love, as well as identity, resilience and empowerment.



THU, NOV 19, 7PM

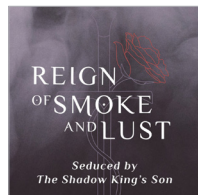
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SAT, NOV 21, 7PM  
**Queen of Clubs**

Bookwriter, Composer & Lyricist: Kimberly Korn & D. Michael O'Dell  
Producer: Ski Gozo



The music of rock 'n' roll fuels *Queen of Clubs*, a new musical about Sydney—a daring, tenacious, and passionate woman navigating New York City's chaotic club scene over five decades. Her resilient journey reveals unexpected friendships, grit, and how, when life breaks your heart, music can heal your soul.

SAT, NOV 21, 9PM  
**Stud Country Shuffle**

Bookwriter & Lyricist: Isabel Beatriz Tongson  
Composer: D. Michael O'Dell & The Blue Genes Collective  
Producer: Ski Gozo



When the House of Donna—a queer line dancing hall—runs into financial trouble, the newest generation of queer line dancers must save the hall from shutting down. When traditional line dancers seek to buy the hall, both groups must confront what the true spirit of line dancing is to them. After all, in the House of Donna, all are welcome.

FULL-LENGTH

SOLO SHOW

SHORT

TICKETS \$20 – \$40 | [EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG](http://EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG)

SUN, NOV 22, 2PM

## Long Ago Song

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Musical Director: D. Michael O'Dell

Director: Lee Summers



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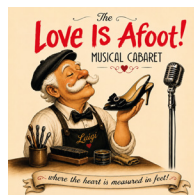
SUN, NOV 22, 5PM

## The Love Is Afoot! Musical Cabaret

Writer: Michael LaFata

Composer/Lyricist: Perry Sachs

Composer: Kevin Guillaume



Step into “Love Is Afoot!”, a wildly original musical comedy cabaret where Golden Age Broadway meets big-band swing! Featuring four fabulous singers, blazing brass, toe-tapping tunes, and a delightfully unconventional love story, this 30-minute spectacle celebrates desire, acceptance, and the beautiful absurdity of love—one foot at a time!

FULL-LENGTH

SOLO SHOW

SHORT

TICKETS \$20 – \$40 | [EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG](http://EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG)

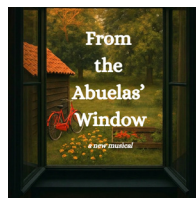
SUN, NOV 22, 5PM

## From the Abuelas' Window

Book and Lyrics: Nancy Burke

Music: Ignacio Valdivia

Additional Lyrics: Ed Levy



In Chile in 1973, Maribel learns her Papa is among the disappeared.

A gift from a trio of magical abuelas empowers her to help local prisoners to freedom while she holds onto hope that someone, somewhere does the same for her missing Papa.

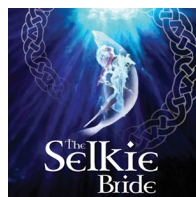
SUN, NOV 22, 7PM

## The Selkie Bride

Writer: Regan Hicks

Music Director/Orchestrator: Jaz Koft

Director: Alysia Homminga\*\*



Inspired by Celtic mythology, this folk musical follows a young selkie (half-seal, half-woman) who finds herself trapped on a struggling island and confronted with the world of men. Will she return to the sea or become a Selkie Bride, stripped of her autonomy and forced to marry a human?

*\*Appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association*

FULL-LENGTH

SOLO SHOW

SHORT

TICKETS \$20 – \$40 | [EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG](http://EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG)

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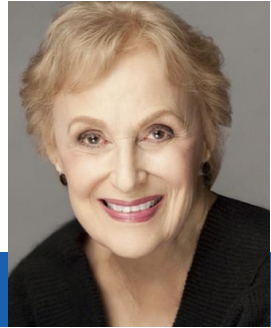
|                        |                        |                      |                  |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Jane Altman            | Deb Guston & Pat Nixon | Tim McMath           | Nicola Sheara    |
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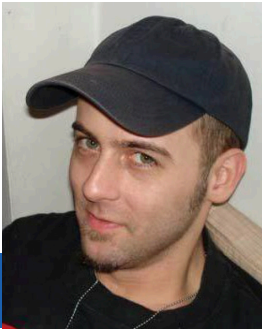
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| Noah Berch                      | Julie Feltman         | Cheryl Howard             | John Major            | Nick Ruggeri           | Sean Welch           |
| James Berry                     | Mark Finley           | Terry Hueneker            | John Malatesta        | Nathan Samuel          | Janice Williams      |
| Kelly Blincoe                   | Emanuele Fiore        | Josh Hyman                | Kal Mansoor           | Sylvia Scalia          | David Wickland       |
| Matt Boethin                    | Alexis Fishman        | Neil Ioannou              | Molly Maranik         | Bruce Schaffer         | Chris Widney         |
| Tiffan Borelli                  | Natalie Fishman       | Rach Ireland              | Loribeth Marshall     | Janelle Schittone      | Lisa Yves Winner     |
| Christopher Borg                | Patty Fitzgerald      | Derek Jamison/Tim Leavitt | Paulette Mattson      | Jon Schuster           | Zachary Wobensmith   |
| James Bosley                    | Gregory Fletcher      | Alice Jankell-Shatkin     | John McCooe           | Vanessa Shealy         | Jonathan Wood        |
| Laura Bosley                    | Shaun Fletcher        | Kate Jansyn               | Eileen McCormack      | Steve Sherman          | Dan Wooldridge       |
| Bob Boulanger/<br>Liza O Keffee | Lisa Flores           | Esquire Jauchem           | Steven McElroy        | Don Shewey             | Marcus Woolen        |
| Broadway Cares                  | Joan Forster          | Carl Jaynes               | Patrick McEvoy        | Marlene Shyer          | Darci Wutz           |
| Elena Brun                      | Jake Friedman         | Caytha Jentis             | Mary McGarry          | Scott Sickles          | Patricia Vogelsang   |
| Christine Bruno                 | Michele Fulves        | Beth Jucovy               | Kate McLeod           | David Simon            | Benjamin Yarmolinsky |
| Miguel Burke                    | Jack Garrity          | Laura Izquierdo           | Lue McWilliams        | Shivinder Singh        | RouRou Ye            |
| Kristen Busalacchi              | Erin Hadley Ginocchio | Jurado                    | Vivian Meisner        | Jo & Michael Sirgado   | Jonathan Zich        |
| Richard Byrne                   | Irene Glezos          | Ann Kahn                  | Craig Miller          | Myra Slotnick          | Alison Zima          |
| Bridget Calzaretta              | Joseph Godfrey        | Greg Kalleres             | Hershey Miller        | Sally Sockwell         | David Zinn           |
| Lo Canale                       | Carl Gonzalez         | Lee Kaplan                | Bob Minikel           | Jon Spano              |                      |
| Hal Cantor                      | Pamela Weiler         | Scott Katzman             | Carol Monda           | Michael Spara          |                      |
|                                 | Grayson               |                           | Darlene Monda         | Suzanne Sponsler       |                      |

# IN MEMORIAM

Emerging Artists suffered a huge loss when we lost these 8 great artists. These artists will always be in our heart for their unique and creative abilities that made them stand out on stage and on the page. We send these talents and their families our love and a never-ending standing ovation for what they meant to us and to their audiences.



**JANE ALTMAN** ACTOR



**DAVID BELL** ACTOR & PLAYWRIGHT



**RON BOPST** ACTOR



**GARY COWLING** ACTOR

# IN MEMORIAM



**GLORY ELIZABETH GALLO** ACTOR



**GEANY MASAI** ACTOR & PLAYWRIGHT



**EMILY JON MITCHELL** ACTOR & PLAYWRIGHT



**STACI SWEDEEN** PLAYWRIGHT



**IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE  
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## WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE PERFORMERS' UNIONS:

Actors' Equity Association, American Guild of Musical Artists, American Guild of Variety Artists, and SAG-AFTRA through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.



Actors' Equity Association ("AEA" or "Equity"), founded in 1913, is the labor union that represents more than 49,000 Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans, for its members. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity Emblem is our mark of excellence.  
[www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)



**We gratefully acknowledge the following funders for their support.**

This program is supported, in part, by the Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Fund, and though public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

**The Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Fund**



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