EMERGING ARTISTS THEATRE

SPARK Musical

THEATRE FESTIVAL NYC

FALL 2026

EMERGING ARTISTS THEATRE

IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE

FIRST ANNUAL

SPARK Musical

THEATRE FESTIVAL NYC

The Spark Musical 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 Musical Theatre Festival NYC. Across three weeks, discover new musicals in every form, from short pieces that make an impression in minutes to one-act and full-length shows that draw you into another world. You may leave humming a new tune, laughing at an unexpected twist, or thinking about a story that stays with you long after the curtain falls.

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 Musical 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 Apollo the Musical

SUN, NOV 8
5Pm CLICKBAIT
5Pm Treason

MON, NOV 9
6:30Pm Sparktacular Evening to benefit the Spark Musical Theatre Festival

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 Kusama Project

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 Twin or Lose
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

EMERGING ARTISTS THEATRE SPARKTACULAR

Emerging Artists Theatre will hold a

Sparktacular Cocktail Party and Musical Theatre Trivia Event

on Monday, November 9, at 6:30 pm at the

28th Street Theatre

15 W. 28th Street, NYC

Isabelle Stevenson Tony Award-winning actress and comedian **Julie Halston** (*Sex and the City, Just Like That*) brings the heat as the evening's host, joined by TalkinBroadway critic **Michael Dale**.

Broadway performers **Ann Harada** (*Schmigadoon, Avenue Q*) and **Nick Cartell** (*Lloyd Webber's Masquerade, Les Misérables, Jesus Christ Superstar*) will lend their vocal fireworks to our Musical Theatre trivia event.

The evening benefits the new Spark Musical Theatre Festival, which will present 30 new musicals from November 2 - 22 at the 28th Street Theatre.

Learn more at the QR code below or go to
emergingartiststheatre.org/donate/join-our-sparktacular

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?

SHORT MUSICAL | FULL-LENGTH MUSICAL | ONE-ACT MUSICAL

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

APOLLO

Writer: Thomas Jaques
Choreographer: Alex Bronchetti
Director: Ava Fackler

APOLLO: A New Musical goes behind the glory of the Space Race, following determined rocket scientist Martha Matthews and former Nazi scientist Frederich Bauer as ambition, reinvention, and history collide. Funny, provocative, and explosive, *APOLLO* asks: who gets credit for progress, and what happens after humanity finally reaches the Moon?

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?

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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.

MON, NOV 9, 6:30PM

A Sparktacular Evening

Join us for a **Sparktacular Cocktail Party and Musical Theatre Trivia Event** to benefit the Spark Musical Theatre Festival. More information the QR code below.

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.

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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.

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.

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FRI, NOV 13, 9PM

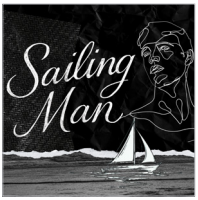
Coming Home

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?

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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

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.

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.

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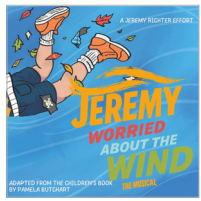
SUN, NOV 15, 7PM

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.

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.

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TUE, NOV 17, 7PM

The Kusama Project

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.

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.

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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

Twin or Lose

Book: Jesse Ayala
Composer: Jen Coogan
Lyrics: Beth Barton and Jen Coogan

Twin or Lose is a fast, irreverent musical comedy. When a sandbag set by the mob mistakenly drops it on their frontrunner for Miss New Jersey, her overlooked twin sister is forced to step into her sister's gown, only to discover that she just might want the crown for herself.

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.

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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!

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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?

*** Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC)*

SHORT MUSICAL | FULL-LENGTH MUSICAL | ONE-ACT MUSICAL

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Donna Bungo
Matt Casarino
Blanche Cholet
Brett Douglas
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Joe Godfrey
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Sarah Hollister
Rebecca Hoodwin
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Kerri Kochanski
Kurt Kingsley
Mark Lambeck
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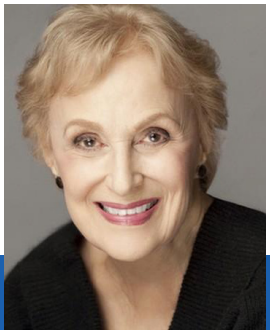
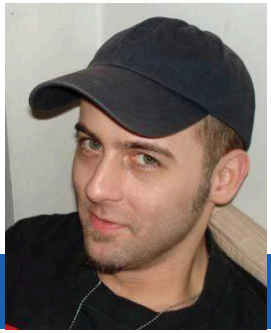
Jonathan Reuning
Charles Rice-Gonzalez
Richard Rivera
Maya Rosewood
Nick Ruggeri
Nathan Samuel
Sylvia Scalia
Bruce Schaffer
Janelle Schittone
Jon Schuster
Vanessa Shealy
Steve Sherman
Don Shewey
Marlene Shyer
Scott Sickles
David Simon
Shivinder Singh
Jo & Michael Sirgado
Myra Slotnick
Sally Sockwell
Jon Spano
Michael Spara
Suzanne Sponsler
Susan Steiger
Dean Streyle
Anne Stockton
Curt Strickland
Aksel Tang
Melinda Tanner
Susan Taylor
Ken Thompson
Ned Thorne
Henry Tieu
Doris Toumarkine
Christopher Trindade
Deborah Unger
Vanda Wryter
David Virgil
Maia Virgil
Philip Vlahakis
Roy Walker Jr.
Edward Walters
David Ward
Stuart Warmflash
Allen Warnock
Morgana Kate Watson
Janet Weakley
Angela Weigel
Adam Weinstock
Sean Welch
Janice Williams
David Wickland
Chris Widney
Lisa Yves Winner
Zachary Wobensmith
Jonathan Wood
Dan Wooldridge
Marcus Woolen
Darci Wutz
Patricia Vogelsang
Benjamin Yarmolinsky
RouRou Ye
Jonathan Zich
Alison Zima
David Zinn

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

EMERGING ARTISTS THEATRE

IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE
TO EMERGING ARTISTS THEATRE
HERE'S HOW:

Online at

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SPARK
THEATRE FESTIVAL NYC

Spark Theatre Festival NYC
A home for emerging artists, a playground for emerging work.

SUBMISSIONS OPEN NOV. 1, 2026:

To submit your new play, musical, dance, solo show, or other theatrical piece to the Spark Theatre Festival NYC go to **emergingartiststheatre.org**.

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

We gratefully acknowledge the following funders for their support.

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The Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Fund

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