



For Immediate Release

Contact: Karen Gunn
Soiree Fair Talent & Literary
SOIREEFAIR@gmail.com
stageleftseries@gmail.com

***STAGE LEFT*, A DOCUMENTARY WEB SERIES THAT EXPLORES THEATRE AND COMMUNITY TO DEBUT IN 2020**

NEW YORK, NY – *Stage Left*, a new documentary web series about theatre and community created by Ashley Marinaccio announces its first full season to launch in January 2020. *Stage Left* examines the impact of theatre and performance on local communities and introduces viewers to the performances, artists, theatre-makers and communities that are creating work in places that go largely unnoticed by the mainstream. Each episode of *Stage Left* investigates a theatre company, performance tradition or performative ritual that is actively using theatre to engage, challenge and inspire their own communities.

The first season of *Stage Left* covers the work of *Cabaret for Life*; a Jersey Shore based charity that puts on original dinner theatre productions about the local area to raise money for HIV/AIDS research; *MAAFA* (Kiswahili term for “terrible occurrence”), performed by the Incarn Ministry at Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, a Brooklyn-based church congregation theatricalizing the Middle Passage and Trans-Atlantic slave trade; *Tribe of Fools*, a Philadelphia based circus troupe who utilizes physical theatre to address pressing mental health issues in the community; *University Settlement*, the oldest settlement house in New York which provides artistic leadership programs for historically underserved communities; *The Queens Theatre*, a senior citizen ensemble (ages 65+) who are staging their life stories; and *Eagle Project/ASHTAR Theatre*, a Native American and Palestinian theatre group who are collaborating to build solidarity around telling indigenous peoples’ stories in New York and Ramallah.

Stage Left is made possible by grants from the CUNY Graduate Center’s Provost Digital Innovations, CUNY Graduate Center New Media Lab, Altfest Fellowship, and a fellowship from New York Public Humanities. For more information about *Stage Left* and to view the trailer and downloadable press materials visit www.stageleftseries.com.

Follow *Stage Left* on Instagram @stage_left_series

Follow *Stage Left* on Facebook facebook.com/stageleftseries

About the *Stage Left* Creative Team

Janet Bentley (Director, Editor, Production Sound Designer/Mixer) holds an MFA in dramaturgy from the University of Iowa. Select projects: *The Waiting Room* (Co-director/Sound), *The Dark* and *Our Fantasia* by John Patrick Shanley (Director), *Round Went The Wheel* by Frank Ceruzzi (Director/Sound & Video), *Basement* by Michael Hagins (Director/Producer), *Friendly's Fire* by John Patrick Bray (Composition/Sound), *CC: You In Hell!* by Mark Levy (Directing/Sound), *Life X 3* by Yasmine Reza (Composition/Sound), *Detroit '67* by Dominique Morriseau (Sound), *Experimenting With Katz* by David Adam Gill (Sound), *Horse* (Director/Writer), *Brooklyn (Cain's Adventure)* by Mario Fratti (Director/Composer), *Mr. Chekhov and Mr. Porter* (Director/Development/Scenic), *Troubadour Struck by Lightning* by Ed Malin (Director), *Blankets and Bedtime: 3 Restless Plays* by Erik Champney (Director), *After Tartuffe* by Judy Klass (Director).

Noura Boustany Jost (Editor, Director of Photography, Videographer) is a Director of Photography, Director, and Actor. She graduated May of 2018 from Pace University with a degree in Film, TV, Voice-Overs, and Commercials. Her passion is centered around social activism films. She has participated in / helped create films about immigration, identity, toxic masculinity, 9/11, and more. She is so thrilled to be a part of this production, as well as the discussion of how theater and performers affect the world around them.

Melissa Ingle (Assistant Director): Melissa is a New York City-based director, and 2020 Graduate of Pace University's International Performance Ensemble. Her work explores family, sexuality, and technology through the deconstruction of text and time. She is currently directing a devised piece on growing up under the working title *According to This*, utilizing home videos, childhood writing assignments, and journals. Other projects include *Loading, Mother, Daughter, Father, Son, Sunday in the Field with Christina, Shakespeare Translate: Romeo & Juliet, 15 Reasons NOT to be in a Play*, and *The Tourist*. melissaingle.com

Robert A. K. Gonyo (Field Sound Recorder and Sound Mixer) is a theatre artist, voiceover talent, musician, and tour-guide residing in Queens. Directing: Regional: *Million Dollar Quartet* (Riverside Center); New York: *Season to Taste, Muzungu* and *O Brave New World* (Co-Op Theatre East); *Cascando* and *Un jour comme un autre* (thingNY); Educational: *Carthaginians, Picnic*, and *Dinner With Friends* (Stella Adler Studio of Acting). As a sound designer, his work has been heard with companies such as Co-Op Theatre East, End Times, The New Collectives, Writopia Lab's Worldwide Plays Festival, Amios, and at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. He is a Director with Co-Op Theatre East (cooptheatre.org), company member with End Times Productions, producer & host of the radio horror podcast *Apparitions*, the producer & host of *Go See a Show!*, New York City's independent theatre podcast (goseeshowpodcast.com), and a member of *The Best Thing Ever*, a directors collective. robertgonyo.com

Karen Gunn (Producer) Ms. Gunn is Owner/President of Soiree Fair, Inc. a Talent & Literary Management Company she founded in 1995 based in NJ. She has been a producer/company

manager of the off-Broadway musical *Camp Morning Wood* and on the producing team of *Fat Kid Rules The World* in NY. She was also a producer on the independent film *Nicky Newark* from Feenix Films. Ms. Gunn is V.P. and co-founder of Camp Maranacook Arts, a N.J. based non-profit that teaches youngsters life skills through the arts. She is also a board member of The Crystal Ship Filmmakers, NYC that develops/represents diverse content creators.

Ashley Marinaccio (Creator, Director, Host) is dedicated to storytelling that documents that socio-political issues that define our times. She has been a TED speaker and her theatrical work has been seen off-Broadway, at TEDx conferences, the White House, the Apollo, United Nations and on tour throughout the United States and Europe. Her work has received critical acclaim from the *NY Times*, *New Yorker*, *Huffington Post*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Ebony*, *NY Press*, *Time Out NY*, *Backstage* and *Show Business* and has been featured in segments on BuzzFeed, NBC, BBC, Al Jazeera, MTV, VH1, and NY1. Ashley has traveled extensively throughout the world as an artist, researcher, and teacher. Currently, Ashley is working on her Ph.D. in Theatre and Performance at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her research interests include exploring theatre practices in war zones, applications of theatre in social justice movements, politics and performance in times of crisis, community-based theatre, intersections between anthropology and theatre, and documentary theatre. Ashley holds her M.A. in Performance Studies from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and BA in theatre directing and sociology/anthropology with minors in women/gender and Middle Eastern from Pace University. She is a member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA. ashley-marinaccio.com.

Sarah Misch (Social Media Consultant) is an NY-based actor, dancer, educator, and filmmaker. She is a company member with Improbable Stage, a movement-based theatre company, and she serves as the Social Media Coordinator and produces for Film Repertory Group, a collective of emerging indie theatre artists. Sarah is a self-taught social media nerd and has consulted and generated social media marketing content for Film Repertory Group, Improbable Stage, Full City+: a site-specific serial comedy, the Actors Forum, *Girls Night: the Musical*, The Living History Project, and of course, herself. Follow her on Instagram: @smischievous. More info at sarahmisch.com.

Micheal Rybicki (Field Sound Recorder): Micheal is an aspiring filmmaker, photographer, and sound engineer who is dedicated to combining the art of film with social activism. They are currently a student at Pace University in Film & Screen Studies and Art, as well as minors in Women's & Gender Studies and Digital & Time-Based Art. Additionally, they are the co-founder of Pace University's Film & Screen Studies Majors and Minors Association (FSSMA). They have previously worked with Ashley on *Rapture* (Production Sound Mixer) and is excited to be a part of *Stage Left*.