

## Passage Theatre Company Production History

1985

**The Undoing** by William Mastrosimone is produced at the Mill Hill Playhouse. The show's success sparks the founding of Passage Theatre by Veronica Brady, director of the show.

1986-87

Passage produces **Essentials** by Pearl Clege and **American Shorts**, a collection of one-act plays commissioned for the Theatre, including plays by Mastrosimone, Keith Curran, Zina Jasper, Casey Curtti, Donald Marguiles and Donald J. Rothchild.

1987-88

Mainstage productions **In This Fallen City** by Bryan Williams, **The Madonna Project** by Francis P. Bilancio, **Queen Christina** which was commissioned by New Jersey State Museum.

1988-89

Mainstage productions **American Shorts '89** featuring works by Mastrosimone, and John Sayles, **Bob's Guns** by Jim McGrath, **The Dance Concert** by June Anderson and Nancy Theil, **King of Dominoes** by Bill Vargas.

1989-90

**I, Lionel** and **Occupation: Troubadour**, both by Bryan Williams, **Palm Sunday** by Paula Cizmar, along with several readings and workshops. Nine plays are also performed in the **Lunchtime Productions** series.

1990-91

Mastrosimone's **Sunshine** at the Mill Hill Playhouse, readings and workshops include **Roebling Steel** by Jim McGrath, and **Mr. Parnell** by Larry Kirwan. **Lunchtime Productions** is highlighted by Chekhov's **The Marriage Proposal** performed by the National Asian American Theatre Company.

1991-92

McGrath's **Roebling Steel** (World Premiere) directed by Stephen Stout is performed in a factory in the Roebling complex. Veronica Brady directs **Thin Air: Tales From a Revolution** by Lynne Alvarez.

## 1992-93

Walter Allen Bennet, Jr.'s **This City of Dreams** set in Trenton produced at the Mill Hill Playhouse. Reading series includes Mastro Simone's **Burning Desire**.

## 1995

Bruce Jacoby's **Three More Gone** (World Premiere) plays to favorable reviews at the Mill Hill, the Theatre's first musical, critically acclaimed **Avenue X**. June Ballinger establishes **Write On**, the start of The State Street Project

## 1996

McGrath's **Trenton Giants** presented for one performance at the Mill Hill Playhouse. Pulitzer Prize-winner Beth Henley's futuristic drama **Signature** is directed by Stephen Stout who also directs **Pee Wee and the Wheelman**.

## 1997-98

**Winterfest**, a series of staged readings of works by five playwrights hosted at four venues around the city. The State Street Project stages first full productions with sets and costumes, **No Way Jose**.

## 1998-99

**Move It and It's Yours** (World Premiere), written by Bill Weeden, David Finkle and Sally Fay (selected by the Star-Ledger as the New Jersey musical of the year)

**Black Comedy: The Wacky Side of Racism**, written and performed by Nancy Giles

## 1999-2000

**Gift of the Magi**, based on the short story by O. Henry, music & lyrics by Peter Ekstrom

**Bang Bang Your Dead**, William Mastro Simone's searing drama addressing teen violence, performed by a cast of Mercer County high school students

**Zora Neale Hurston**, by Laurence Holder

**Blinding Light** (World Premiere), by William Mastro Simone

## 2000-2001

**Welcome Home Marian Anderson**, written by and starring Vanessa Shaw

**Solo Flights Festival** (A series of works by solo artists)

- **Surface Transit**, a free performance for high school students presented in conjunction with the Fleet Diversity Series at the Trenton War Memorial
- **LoveSuites**, an evening of Spoken Word, Music, and Dance written by and featuring Mo Beasley
- **Manchild In The Promised Land**, based on the novel of the same name by Claude Brown performed by Joseph Edward and presented in conjunction with the City of Trenton for Black History Month
- **Fly**, written by and starring Joseph Edward

**Victor and the Virgin**, written by Thomas Dunn

## 2001-2002

**The Book of Candy** (World Premiere), by Susan Dworkin and Mel Marvin, directed by Ahvi Spindell. Co-produced with Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey. Awarded the “Best Musical New to NJ” by the Star-Ledger.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Solo Flights Festival**

- **Manchild In The Promised Land**, based on the novel of the same name by Claude Brown performed by Joseph Edward and presented in conjunction with Black History Month.
- **Florida Girls**, written and performed by Nancy Hasty
- **TranceZenDance**, written and performed by Korean American John Woo Taak Kwon
- **Notes of a Negro Neurotic**, written and performed by Nancy Giles.

**Paul Robeson**, by Phillip Hates Dean starring Tony Award winner Chuck Cooper

## 2002-2003

**Mosaic: Fragments of a Jewish Life**, by Robin Hirsch

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Solo Flights**

- **Manchild In The Promised Land**, based on the novel of the same name by Claude Brown performed by Joseph Edward and presented in conjunction with Black History Month
- **Heavy Mettle**, written and performed by Richard Hoehler
- **No Lie**, written and performed by Aaron Jafferis
- **High Dive**, written and performed by Leslie Ayvazian
- **Comedy Tonight**, written and performed by Nancy Giles and Joseph Edward

**Lovely Day** (workshop), written by Leslie Ayvazian

**Shangri-La** (workshop), written by Yusef Komunyakaa, composed by Susie Ibarra

## 2003-2004

***The Afghan Women*** (World Premiere), written by William Mastrosimone. Selected by the Star-Ledger as one of the ten best plays of 2003.

#### **Fourth Annual Solo Flights Festival**

- ***The Man Who Danced with Marlene Dietrich***, written and performed by Robin Hirsch
- ***Watermelon- Git it while it's Hot***, written and performed by Cece Antoinette
- ***Downloaded and In Denial***, written and performed by Cynthia Adler
- **Special Events-Music: Christine Lavin; Joanne Brackeen; Yuri Lane; Kip Rosser**

***In Mahalia's Light*** (World Premiere), conceived by Queen Esther Marrow, Roseanne Kirk, Richard Bell

#### **2004-2005**

***Willie B Came Into The Sun*** (World Premiere), written by Jean Sterrett

***Rosemary and I*** (re-staging of new draft), written by Leslie Ayvazian

***Pretty Fire*** (with the assistance of St Louis Black Repertory Company), written by Charlayne Woodard

#### **2005-2006**

***Move It and It's Yours*** (remount), written by Bill Weeden, David Finkle and Sally Fay

#### **Fifth Annual Solo Flights Festival**

- ***Love to All, Lorraine***, written and performed by Elizabeth Van Dyke

***The Stone Carver***, written by William Mastrosimone

#### **State Street Project**

***If I Could in My Hood I Would...***, by David Lee White and young people from the Get Set Program

***Word for Word***, 21<sup>st</sup> Century programs

***Winterfest***, a series of new play readings

#### **2006-2007**

***Second Line***, written by Seret Scott

### **Sixth Annual Solo Flights Festival**

- **Ole!**, performed by the Alborada Dance Company
- **Underneath the Lintel**, written by Glen Berger, performed by Chris Coucill
- **Tea for Three**, written by Eric H. Weinberger, performed by Elaine Bromka
- **Beat Box Chicago**, written and performed by Yuri Lane
- **For Lost Words**, composed and created by Vince DiMura from the poetry of Yusef Komunyakaa

**The Deacons**, written by Yusef Komunyakaa

### **State Street Project**

- **Fire Girls**, written by David Lee White, performed by the State Street Project Ensemble
- **Playmaking** – a 21<sup>st</sup> century program, directed by David Lee White

**Trenton Lights** (reading), written by June Ballinger and David Lee White based on interviews with seniors from the Trenton community

### **2007-2008**

### **Play Lab Workshop**

- **Random Horrible Thoughts About Love**, written by David Lee White
- **The Devil's Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith**, written by Angelo Parra
- **Pa's Hat** (AEA Workshop), written by Cori Thomas

### **Seventh Annual Solo Flights Festival**

- **It goes without saying**, written and performed by Bill Bowers
- **Fuego: The Fire Within**, choreographed and performed by Eva Lucena
- **For Lost Words**, conceived and composed by Vince DiMura
- **A Womb With A View**, written and performed by Debra Barsha
- **Flat Black**, written and directed by Alysia Souder
- **Metamorphoses**, written and performed by Todd Conner
- **A Sense of Wonder**, written and performed by Kaiulani Lee
- **Nimbus Dance Works**, choreographed by Michelle deFremery and John Paul, Jr, performed by Michelle deFremery
- **Blood Cherries**, written and performed by Dawn Akemi Saito
- **Tales from The Beatbox**, written and performed by Yuri Lane

### **Play Lab: The Gallery Plays**

- ***Eleanor Descending a Staircase***, written by Ian August  
Inspired by Marcel Duchamp's *Nude Descending a Staircase*
- ***Seven in Heaven***, written by Lynne Elson  
Inspired by René Magritte's *The Lovers*
- ***The Marvin Party***, written by Sonya Aronowitz  
Inspired by Patrick Caulfield's *Still Life: Autumn Fashion*
- ***Back Fire***, written by David Lee White  
Inspired by René Magritte's *Backfire*
- ***The End of My Tour***, written by Peter Gruen  
Inspired by Norman Rockwell's *Homecoming*
- ***Wednesday is Taco Night***, written by Hope Gatto  
Inspired by Bill Stoneham's *The Hands Resist Him*

***Cecilia's Last Tea Party***, written by Russell Davis

**State Street Project**  
**Playmaking – *The Kids Are in Control!***

2008-2009

***The Summer House***, written by Amber Kain

***Eighth Annual Solo Flights Festival***

- ***Salmonpeople***, written and performed by Peter Donaldson
- ***If My Friends Could See Me Now***, written and performed by Mary Cleere Haran and Don Rebic
- ***On The Way To Timbuktu***, written and performed by Petronia Paley
- ***You A Man Now?***, written and performed by Mo Beasley
- ***Ethel Waters: His Eye is on the Sparrow***, written by Larry Parr
- ***The Yellow Wallpaper***, performed by Michèle LaRue, based on the direction of Warren Kliewer in his staging of the short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- ***Ragtime***, written and performed by Terry Waldo
- ***BUST***, written and performed by Lauren Weedman
- ***Nimbus Dance Works***, choreographed by Sam Pott and Randy James

***Instructions for Breathing***, written by Caridad Svich

**State Street Project**  
**Playmaking**

- ***The Willington Animals***, written by Max Gatto
- ***Wrestling Rivalry***, written by Tomas Ucci
- ***Secrets and Spiders***, written by Kenyana Olford
- ***Don't Erase My Brain***, written by Erin Wallace

- **Michael and the Talking Book**, written by Diana Haiti
- **Gabrielle and Her Two Wishes**, written by Luciana Ucci
- **The Games**, written by Davon Parks
- **Superbaby and Superbot**, written by Marquis Phillips
- **Megabot and Superbot VS. Workerman**, written by Gbaweah Sandy

### Play Lab: FM Radio

- **Battlefield**, written by Ian August
- **Master of the Universe**, written by Sonya Aronowitz
- **Crazy Crazy On You**, written by Lynne Elson
- **The Infanta**, written by Peter Gruen
- **Can't Fight This Feelin'**, written by James Christy, Jr.
- **Too Late For Goodbyes**, written by Christopher Kess
- **Ink**, written by Hope Gatto

### 2009-2010

**Ethel Waters: His Eye is on the Sparrow**, written by Larry Parr

**Blood: A Comedy** (World Premiere), written by David Lee White

### Holiday Musicale

Vocals: Miche Braden, Christopher Coucill, Sarah Donner, Liz Fillo, Sam Frisby & Best of Friends

Piano: Miche Braden, Sam Frisby & Best of Friends, Michael McLean, Vince DiMura

Bass: Chris Clark

Guitar: Sarah Donner

Cajon: Brad Sicotte

### **Ninth Annual Solo Flights Festival**

- **Hurricane Season**, written and performed by Naima and Alexa
- **This is Ragtime**, written and performed by Terry Waldo
- **The Reluctant Optimist**, written and performed by Mary Martello
- **MotherSON**, written and performed by Jeffrey Solomon
- **BUST**, written and performed by Lauren Weedman
- **No...You Shut Up!**, written and performed by Lauren Weedman

**Trenton Lights** (World Premiere), conceived and created by June Ballinger and David Lee White and members of the Trenton community

### Play Lab: Fortune Smiles

### Ten Minute Play Festival

- **The Ask**, written by David Lee White
- **The Ride**, written by James Christy, Jr.
- **Unicycle, Unicycle or This Happy Dream**, written by Ian August
- **Three Cubes and Some Noodles**, written by Hope Gatto
- **The Breakthrough**, written by Paula T. Alekson

## 2010-2011

**Love and Communication**, written by James Christy, Jr. Winner of the 2011 Virginia Brown Martin Philadelphia Award.

**Santa Claus is Coming Out**, written and performed by Jeffrey Solomon

### **Tenth Annual Solo Flights Festival**

- **In the Style of Weill**, written and performed by Mary Martello
- **Tales from the Bawdy House**, written and performed by Terry Waldo
- **Draw the Circle**, written and performed by Deen
- **Wanderlust**, written and performed by Martin Dockery
- **Black Comedy: The Wacky Side of (Post?) Racism**, written and performed by Nancy Giles
- **No Parole**, written and performed by Carlo D'Amore
- **Forgive to Forget**, written and performed by chandra thomas

**NJTA Stages Festival: Slippery as Sin** (workshop)

**Samuel J and K**, written by Mat Smart

## 2011-2012

**De Novo: mas alla de las fronteras (Beyond Borders)**, written, curated and directed by Jeffrey Solomon, co-presented with The Houses on the Moon Theatre Company

**The History of Light**, written by Eisa Davis

### **Eleventh Annual Solo Flights Festival**

- **Broke Wide Open**, written and performed by Rock WILK
- **Comes Love**, written by Demetria Joyce Bailey and Vince DiMura
- **Leah Stein Dance Company**, created by Leah Stein and Toshi Makihara
- **Donna Orbits the Moon**, written by Ian August
- **Punchkapow**, written by Team Sunshine Performance Corporation
- **Beyond Words**, written and performed by Bill Bowers

**NJTA Stages Festival: Cuentos del Arbol**, created by Pushcart Players



***Slippery as Sin*** (World Premiere), written by David Lee White

**2012-2013**

***Dancescapes NJ***, co-created by Passage Theatre, DanceSpora, and D&R Greenway Land Trust

***Blessed Are*** (World Premiere), written by Jessica Bedford

**Passage Presents:**

***SRO***, written and performed by Lauren Weedman

**State Street Project: *This Trenton Life***, written by David Lee White

**One-Minute Play Festival**

***Roundelay*** (World Premiere), written by R.N. Sandberg

**Passage Presents:**

***Sarah Dash: One Woman***, created and performed by Sarah Dash

**Passage Presents:**

***Christine Lavin***, created and performed by Christine Lavin

**2013-2014**

***True Story*** (World Premiere), written by EM Lewis

***The Screwtape Letters***, written and performed by Anthony Lawton

**One-Minute Play Festival**

***Profiles*** (World Premiere), conceived and created by June Ballinger and David Lee White and members of the Trenton community

***Tamer of Horses***, written by William Mastrosimone

**Play Lab: Prix Fixe Reading Series**

**2014-2015**

***Little Rock*** (World Premiere), written and directed by Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj. Winner of the 2015 Barrymore Award for Outstanding Ensemble in a Play.

***Bad Dreams Passin'*** (workshop), written by Vince DiMura and R.N. Sandberg

## **Play Lab: Prix Fixe Reading Series**

- **Reveille**, written by Jessica Bedford
- **The Text of Sex**, written by Michele Aldin-Kushner
- **Shorts**, written by Greg Nanni; *Strange Dog*; June Ballinger; Lisa Huberman

**The Gun Show**, written by EM Lewis

**State Street Project: Bobashela**, written by David Lee White, based on Trenton High School students' writings from 1935-2015

**The Goldilocks Zone** (World Premiere), written by Ian August

### 2015-2016

**Song for the Disappeared** (World Premiere), written by Tanya Saracho

### **Twelfth Solo Flights Festival**

- **Manchild in the Promised Land**, based on the novel of the same name by Claude Brown, performed by Joseph Edward
- **Panther Hollow**, written and performed by David Lee White
- **Remembrance Day** (World Premiere), written and performed by June Ballinger
- **Mention My Beauty** (World Premiere), written and performed by Leslie Ayvazian
- **Etty**, written and performed by Susan Stein
- **Everything's Fine!**, written and performed by Alex Clothier

**White Guy on the Bus**, written by Bruce Graham

### 2016-2017

**Out of the City**, written by Leslie Ayvazian

**Remembrance Day**, written and performed by June Ballinger

**Miracle in Rwanda**, written and performed by Leslie Lewis

**Fixed** (World Premiere), written by David Lee White