

For complete “Healing Arts” Playbill, go to wualstudio.org

These one-act plays and scenes portray individuals struggling with mental health issues such as depression and anxiety due to loss. These themes offer great insight to the struggles many share, while offering hope for a better life. The “Healing Arts” project also features community mental health professionals and performing artists in the field of vocal and instrumental music, dance, poetry and more.

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The Director

Eric Schmiedl

The Playwrights

Peter A. Fields, THAT GUY

Rosalind Royce, WRITING WAS MY MUSE

Ife Gail Young, RECROWNING KING

The Actors

Deja Foster, Gillian, Calliope

Lisa Payne Jones, Rezina

Peter Lawson Jones,* Kevin

Patrick Lafferty, Stephen, Him

Olivia Queener, Her

The co-Coordinator

Judith Allen, Owner

Excellence Zone

The WUAL Team

Judy Allen, Program Developer, PR, Mktg.

Lester H. Bryant, Sr., Editor

John Clegg, Instructor

James McGilbray, Video

Amara Romano, Web Design

WUAL Director

Sue Johnson

Director, Wake Up and Live’s Actors Studio

**“Wake Up to Healing Arts: Using Performance and Media
for
Direction, Hope, Health, and Total Well-being”
Saturday, September 9
Playbill**



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Cuyahoga Arts and Culture



Ohio Arts Council



Special thanks to Dunham Tavern and Museum

**“Wake Up to Healing Arts: Using Performance and Media for
Direction, Hope, Health, and Total Well-being”
Playbill
Sept. 10, 2022**

**Project Summary**

“Wake Up to Healing Arts: Using Performance and Media for Direction, Hope, Health, and Total Well-being” is a performance, media and educational series designed to address mental health issues which have a significant impact on the African American community, with an emphasis on mental health challenges

We will do this by presenting original one-act plays, classical and contemporary music and dance performances which reflect and / or demonstrate the mental health issues which Blacks experience more so than Caucasian communities, such as loss. Loss as a result, in part, from the Pandemic, from finances, death, relationships, domestic issues and more

“Wake Up to Healing Arts:” is a performing , educational, and inspirational series which addresses mental health issues affecting the Black community through theatre performance and digital / visual arts YouTube and Zoom programs.

Meet the Playwrights

PETER A. FIELDS wrote and performed in dozens of radio plays which were aired on WJCU, John Carroll University from 1997 to 2002. Then, from 2003 to 2015, as a director, editor and co-writer, Fields shepherded fourteen short and feature-length, independent films. His film work awards include a Telly® Award and a Communicator® Award. Fields’ work as a filmmaker ended when he was diagnosed with early onset Parkinson’s disease in 2015. Despite this life challenge, Fields wanted to continue his career as a storyteller. So, he turned to his other passion—the Theatre—and became a playwright.

Fields has written several stage plays which have been read or performed at play festivals in Ohio, Texas, Wisconsin, Saint Louis, MO, and London, U.K. In 2020, Fields’ full length stage play, “*That Guy*”, won the BEST BOOK AWARD in the Performing Arts category, sponsored by American Book Fest. In 2021, the video productions of his monologue, “Another Kind of Cancer” and his short play, “You People”, each won a Davey Award®. Peter earned his BA from Kent State University in Theatre Studies with a concentration in Theatre and Society, and he is a proud member of the Dramatist Guild.

ROSALIND ROYCE has been writing ever since she can remember. Many of her writings are deeply personal like WRITING IS MY MUSE. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Berklee and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Case Western Reserve University. Rosalind has taught hundreds of students to write poetry, plays and stories at public and private schools across the nation. She has performed her writings at the Kennedy Center, The Arts Education Partnership, the International Children’s Theatre Festival, New Jersey Arts Council, Nebraska State Arts Council, Idaho Commission on the Arts and Humanities, India Festival USA, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Corning Glass Museum, New Jersey Arts Education Connect, The Gathering Place and more. Rosalind has been by the National Storytelling Network an “emerging, under-appreciated and regional treasure storyteller.”



Ife Gail Young was born, raised, and educated in Cleveland, OH. She has earned a B.A. in Dramatic Arts with concentrations in arts management and playwriting. To date, she has produced a large repertoire of full length and one-act plays, skits, stories, and songs for all ages. She has won several awards including an Outstanding Writer's Award while pursuing her degree. Some of her works have been presented locally, (Karamu House, East Cleveland Theater, Cleveland Public Theater, Playwrights Local, etc.) Her works, plays and stories have also been staged/performed in many locations, too numerous to mention, including in PA and New York City where she resided for approximately seven years. Ife has future plans to also focus on social-drama, theater, film, and storytelling. She is a member of National Association of Black Storytellers, Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers and Ensemble Theater Stagewrights (playwrights) Ife has authored adults and children's books and has a mission to help empower young people with her writings. She can be contacted at ifethestoryteller@gmail.com

Meet the Actors



Deja Foster is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, who graduated from Baldwin Wallace University and the Cleveland School of the Arts. Her major, while in school, was Theater and Dance. She enjoys performing with a passion and helping other achieve their dream through the arts. Her acting experience consists of national and regional performances or works. *Blue and Black Rhapsody*, *Policewoman*, Cleveland, Ohio, Directed by Richard Asbury. *The Gift*, Queen, Rainey Institute, Directed by: Jimmie Woody. *These Walls Don't Talk*, Yolanda, Cleveland, Ohio, Directed by: Rainey Institute MAPP program. *Dreamgirls*, Charlene, Ensemble, Cain Park, Directed by: Victoria Bussert. *Blood Wedding*, Death, Baldwin Wallace U. *Ma' Rainey's Black Bottom*, Dussie Mae, Beck Center, Directed by: Sarah May Secrets, Monica, Kaiser Ed. Theater, National Theater Group, Directed by: Tony Sias. *My Backstage experience includes, follow spot operator, SM, ASM, on-Camera Experience, Costume Designer, Scenic Designer, Singing skills, Dancing Skills, and Brand Ambassador



Lisa Payne Jones. This is the first theatrical production for Lisa Payne Jones. She is nervously excited to learn and grow within the arts. Although she is a lifetime fan of theatre, movies and television, she has only recently considered performing as an actress. Her first experience in film was her role in a Marathon Oil "Life Milestones" television commercial with her husband, Peter Lawson Jones, shot during the 2020 Pandemic. She also appears in a Progressive Insurance ad on their website. Lisa is a versatile professional and administrator with marketing, public relations, events and project planning expertise. She has worked in both the public and private sectors and as an entrepreneur. She is the proud mother of three children, Ryan, Leah and Evan.



Peter Lawson Jones* who can next be seen, starting Christmas Day, in *A Man Called Otto*, with Tom Hanks, is a member of both Actors' Equity and SAG-AFTRA. He has appeared in over twenty films (*White Boy Rick*, *Alex Cross*, *The Assassin's Code*, *Starve*), on network television (NBC's *Chicago Fire* as a guest star and ABC's *Detroit 1-8-7*), in national commercials for Marathon Oil and Kia

and on stages throughout Northeast Ohio. A playwright, his drama, *The Bloodless Jungle*, received two full productions at Ensemble Theatre (Cleveland Heights) and staged readings at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Dallas Convention Center, National Black Theatre Festival, Duquesne University and in Harlem. *Land of Cleve*, a regional arts and culture blog, ranked the play's 2017 production among the best in Northeast Ohio that year. His most recent work, *The Phoenix Society*, successfully premiered earlier this year at Playwrights Local in Cleveland, Ohio. The drama was commissioned by the Life Exchange Center, a nonprofit agency that assists those recovering from mental health and substance abuse challenges. His first play, *The Family Line*, has been produced at Karamu, Ohio University and Harvard University, where he received his bachelor's and law degrees. Peter received the 2016 Indie Gathering International Film Festival Best Ohio Supporting Actor and the 2012 African American Playwrights Exchange Artist of the Year awards. In addition to being an actor and dramatist, Peter is a lawyer, consultant and former elected official.



Patrick Lafferty recently left a corporate career to pursue his creative passions and is happy to again be performing with Wake Up and Live Studio, having done so some 20 years ago. He's elated to get a chance to help bring to life these new original works related to the significantly important struggles associated with mental health.



Olivia Queener is a talented actor based in northeast Ohio. She has served fourteen years in the United States Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. Since leaving active duty, Olivia has expanded her acting career in various roles and is a recent graduate of Ohio Media School. She is excitedly portraying the role of "Her" in "Writing Was My Muse."

Meet the Director



Eric Schmiedl is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and a graduate of Kent State University (B/A English) and the University of Hawai'i (MFA Playwriting Camp; Children's Theatre). As a playwright and director he has worked with theatres including the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, the Cleveland Play House, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Cleveland Public Theatre, Beck Center for the Arts, Karamu House, the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, the Oregon Children's Theatre, the Hololulu Theatre for Youth, the Lantern Theatre, and Great Lakes Theater. Eric is the recipient of a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, a Creative Workforce Fellowship, an Aurand Harris Fellowship, and a Sloan Foundation Commission. His work has been awarded three Edgerton Foundation New American Play Awards. His newest play *My Hemisphere*, a collaboration with his wife and storyteller Adaora Nzelibé Schmiedl, is a 2021 National Playwrights Conference finalist at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. He is also working with acclaimed poet Philip Metres on a theatrical adaptation of Metres's book *Shrapnel Maps*, a compassionate examination of the historic conflict between Palestinians and Israelis. For three years Eric partnered with the arts programming wing of the Cleveland Treatment Center creating work with and for diverse and underserved communities. Eric has taught playwriting and theatre history at theatres, colleges, and universities including Spalding University, Cleveland State University, Case Western Reserve University and Baldwin Wallace University. Eric is also a proud member of the Cleveland-based folk group The Welcome Table with his buddies Tina Stump and Bill Hoffman.

Meet the co-Coordinator



Judith Allen. Owner, Excellence Zone Marketing, has carved a professional niche in solving marketing, communications, training and management challenges, and she is continually discovering new ways to ensure project success.

Judy was employed by Campbell's Soup, Merck Sharp & Dohme, and Procter & Gamble, to market consumer and health care products. She applies the skills she honed in marketing, research, communications and training through her consulting firm Excellence Zone Marketing Strategies, Inc.. Judy provides instruction in the business as a professor at local colleges. In addition to being a consultant and instructor, Judy is a writer, public speaker, book reviewer and editor. Her reviews and op-eds have been featured in the Plain Dealer, Call and Post, and at aalbc.com. She is a tremendous asset to the WUAL team.

Meet the WUAL Team

Judy Allen, Program Developer, PR, Mktg.

Lester H. Bryant, Sr, Editor

John Clegg , Project Developer, Instructor Project Developer, Video.

James McGilbray, Video

Amara Romano, Web Designer

Meet the WUAL Director

Sue Johnson, Director of the Wake Up And Live's Actors Studio (WUAL) is an actor, director, producer, coach and consultant. Sue Johnson is an actor whose professional stage credits include *The Sunshine Boys*, *Simply Heavenly*, *Purlie*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. She received the Karamu Actors Guild, 1999-2000 (Outer Circle) Award), "Best Supporting Actress in a Musical," for her role as Idella in Beck Center's production of *Purlie*.

Sue produces, directs and hosts "Wake Up And Live With the Arts" YouTube show which celebrates and showcases the diversity of performing and cultural artists. Under Sue's leadership, established in 1997, WUAL has provided more than 800 aspiring and experienced performing artists and playwrights with an opportunity to learn, improve and practice their crafts and skills through artistic performance, which provides actors and other performing artists the opportunity to showcase their talents through plays, prose, poetry, performance pieces, dance and music.

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Questions: wualstudio@gmail.com

***Peter Lawson Jones appearance courtesy Actors Equity Association**