Rotate Theatre Company presents

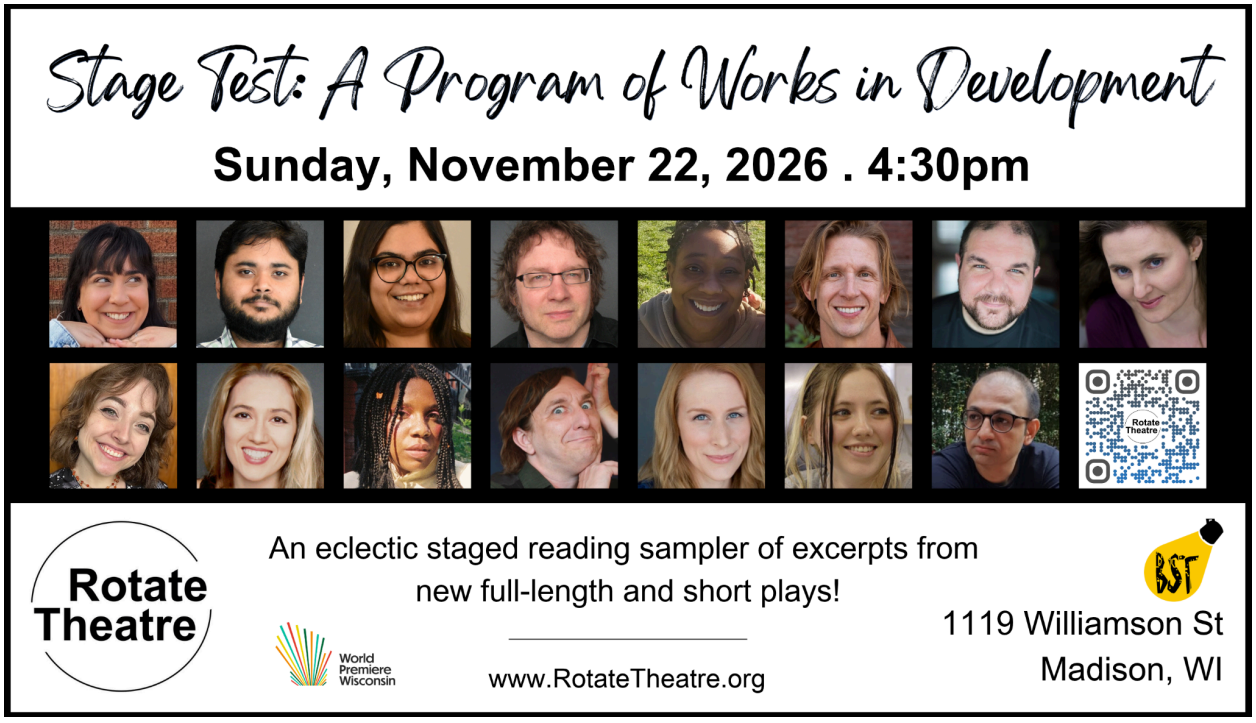


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Accessibility

Please email RotateTheatre@gmail.com, call 608-515-8912, or view our current Audience Access Chart for information or requests regarding access or accommodations.

Land and Labor Acknowledgement

We are grateful for the labor performed by so many storytellers that have influenced our practices and offer ideas from a range of disciplines including Queer Disability Justice (ex: Sins Invalid), Indigenous Environmental Studies (ex: Robin Wall Kimmerer), Black Feminisms (ex: Audre Lorde), Indigenous Performing Arts (ex: Monique Mojica), and so many others! We encourage you to engage with storytellers from a wide range of perspectives!

This project was created in the Great Lakes Region, where many Native nations and Indigenous communities have long cultural and governmental histories that go back thousands of years and continue today, despite genocidal invasion and ongoing colonization by the United States. Much of this production took place on occupied Ho-Chunk land in Teejop / Madison.

In this region, we use buildings and technology disproportionately built and cared for through the ongoing extraction of materials and labor from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and other marginalized communities around the world.

This context, and how we respond collectively and as individuals, impacts our work, our communities, and our stories.

The Plays

Run Time: Approximately 75 minutes, followed by a short talk-back with the artists.

Running order TBD.

Dear Julian *(excerpt)*
- By Ashely Bagot.
- Featuring: Cyra K. Polizzi, Vanessa Uzcategui.

The Dracula Society *(excerpt)*
- By Richard Paro.
- Featuring: Chelsea Gaspard, Cyra K. Polizzi.

Haunted *(excerpt)*
- By Breahan Eve Pautsch.
- Featuring: Brent Holmes, Maria Dahman, Vanessa Uzcategui.

The Knock *(excerpt)*
- By Chelsea Gaspard.
- Featuring: Breahan Eve Pautsch, Brent Holmes, Maria Dahman, Petrovnia Charles.

The Less We Say The Better *(excerpt)*
- By Brent Holmes, directed by Breahan Eve Pautsch.
- Featuring: Ashely Bagot, Peter Jurich, Nick Kaprelian, with Maria Dahman, Petrovnia Charles, and Brent Holmes.

Meeting Up
- By Rini Tarafder, directed by Breahan Eve Pautsch.
- Featuring: Laker Thrasher, Petrovnia Charles, Sarthak Kumar, Vanessa Uzcategui.

The Square *(excerpt)*
- By Ali Mansouri, directed by Ashely Bagot.
- Featuring: Maria Dahman, Nick Kaprelian.

Ugly Sweater *(excerpt)*
- By Kristin P., directed by Richard Paro.
- Featuring: Ashely Bagot, Breahan Eve Pautsch, Cyra K. Polizzi.

Unlock-Screen
- By Vanessa Uzcategui, directed by Richard Paro.
- Featuring: Chelsea Gaspard, Laker Thrasher, Peter Jurich.

Note: Stage Test is designed for adult audiences. Supervised children are welcome if comfortable with mature themes, humor and language.

The Collaborators

 **Ali Mansouri** Writer	**Ali Mansouri** is a Ph.D. student in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies at UW-Madison. He has a background in theatre directing, having earned his master's degree from the Art University of Tehran, Iran. Ali's plays have been published in both Persian and English. His research interests span Contemporary Theatre in the Middle East, Political Performances, Applied Theatre, Migration Studies, and Performance Philosophy. His work delves into the intricate interplay of art, culture, and politics in the Middle East, examines the transformative potential of theatre in effecting positive social change, and explores the experiences of migrants through the lens of performance.
 **Ashely Bagot** Writer, Director, Cast	**Ashely Bagot** is a Rotate Theatre ensemble member and works in many areas of theatre and film, including directing, acting, playwriting, and designing. In addition to her work with Rotate Theatre, Ashely has collaborated with many other theatre companies, primarily in the Chicago area. Ashely also works assisting people with mental illness access housing and recovery services. she/they
 **Breahan Eve Pautsch** Writer, Director, Cast	**Breahan Eve Pautsch** is a director, actor, and writer. In addition to her work with Rotate, Breahan has collaborated with Raven Theatre, International Voices Project, Wildclaw Theatre, Broken Nose, Speaking Ring, Halcyon, Theatre Entropy, North Lakeside Players, Scriptworks, and Akvavit where she served in many roles including artistic director. She is frequently called upon for her expertise directing contemporary Nordic plays for US audiences. Breahan grew up in Cadott, WI, graduated with a BA in Theatre and English from UW-Madison, and was based in Chicago for many years before returning to Madison and completing a graduate degree at UW. she/her

 **Brent Holmes** Writer, Cast	**Brent Holmes** is an actor and board member of Broom Street Theater, their most recent role was Horatio in Mercury Player Theater's Hamlet. They are excited to return to Stage Test and work with Rotate Theater! they/them
 **Chelsea Gaspard** Writer, Director, Cast	**Chelsea Gaspard** is a Miami born artist and writer whose creative practice spans theatre, performance art, and creative direction. She serves on the board of Broom Street Theater, has directed two plays with Stage Q (Southies and Cocaine), and created a performance art showcase at Broom Street Theater. Chelsea also facilitates performance art and poetry workshops. she/her
 **Cyra K. Polizzi** Writer, Cast	**Cyra K. Polizzi** is a theatre actor with a range of experiences in other specialties (writing, directing, facilitation) and forms (dance, music, film, etc). Much of their work incorporates humor, queer possibilities, and multi-issue activism, and is influenced by their grad studies on accessibility and sustainability in theatre practices. Cyra grew up performing in the Driftless, attended UW in Acting, Gender, and Environmental Studies, and worked in theatre and film in Chicago for 15 years before returning to Teejop. Cyra is a Rotate ensemble member and serves on TCIP's Access Advisory Board. www.cyrakpolizzi.com they/she
 **Laker Thrasher** Cast	**Laker Thrasher** is very excited to return to Rotate Theatre! Last seen in StageQ's production of Twelfth Night, they love seeing all kinds of new work and are extremely passionate about the stories they tell. They dedicate this show to their friends Tori, Sean, Randall and John. "Thanks for coming, and enjoy the show!" they/them

 **Maria Dahman** Cast	**Maria Dahman** has been performing in Madison since moving here in 2017. Recent performances include Laconia (2022) and Lysistrata (2019), both at Broom Street Theater where she now serves as the artistic director. She really enjoys new works and experimental theater that incorporates music and dance, and is so happy to have the opportunity to work with Rotate Theatre again. maria.dahman@gmail.com she/her
 **Nick Kaprelian** Cast	**Nick Kaprelian** would like to thank you for coming and supporting the arts and new theater works.
 **Peter Jurich** Cast	**Peter Jurich** is a Madison-based actor and comedian. He is involved in the WI bi-annual 48-Hour Film Project. Film credits include THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER, SUPER SKILLET SAMURAI FROM OUTER SPACE!, IF NOT NOW, WHEN?, and SEVERANCE PAYBACK, for which he won “Best Villain” at Twisted Dreams Film Fest. Theatre credits include BASKERVILLE, a comedic take on the popular Sherlock Holmes mystery, and Rotate Theatre Mini Fest. Peter trained with Black Box Theatre in Chicago. As a stand-up comedian, he has opened for Joe Fenti, Jon Dore, Jen Kober, Anthony DeVito, and Justin Leon.
 **Petrovnia Charles** Cast	**Petrovnia Charles**, a therapist by day, is so excited to have an opportunity to continue expanding her theatrical experiences and being a part of Rotate Theater’s Stage Test. She first fell in love with theater as an adult mentor with Proud Theater in the late 90’s / early 2000’s and has enjoyed theater being part of her life ever since then!

 **Richard Paro** Writer, Director	**Richard Paro** is often found writing and directing with Rotate Theatre Company where he is a long-time ensemble member. Richard enjoys using highly collaborative techniques throughout the artistic process and has worked with numerous companies in the midwest, many of them in Chicago where he was based for 15 years. In addition, his feature-length and short films have screened at festivals around the world. he/him
 **Rini Tarafder** Writer	**Rini Tarafder** is a playwright, theatre educator, and arts organizer currently working in India. She completed her doctorate in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies at UW-Madison researching political performances in South Asia, and recently taught Theatre at the University of Denver. Her classes center underrepresented perspectives. Rini also experiments with poetry, musical instruments, photography, sewing, and digital forms of performance art. Rini's ideal day would include walking through the woods, looking at birds. she/her
 **Sarthak Kumar** Cast	**Sarthak Kumar**'s fascination of good storytelling has always motivated him to explore, appreciate, and perform theatre. Sarthak's experience includes writing and directing for the theatre during his undergraduate studies in India. He has also worked in translation and editing of plays from English to Urdu, informed by his deep passion for Urdu and Hindi poetry. When bringing characters to the stage, Sarthak also draws on his extensive scientific background and deep interest in behavioral psychology. he/him
 **Vanessa Uzcategui** Writer, Cast	**Vanessa Uzcategui** discovered her love for acting at age 10, when she was cast as a very rude tiger in a school play. She graduated with a BA in theater arts from Flagler College in Saint Augustine, FL. You may have seen her at Broom St. Theater as power hungry Hera in *Prometheus Rex*, or as an unhinged small town mayor in *Dragonsocks and Queen of the Universe*. she/her

About *Stage Test 2026: A Program of Works in Development*

Rotate Theatre's *Stage Test 2026: A Program of Works in Development* is an eclectic staged reading sampler of excerpts from new full-length and short plays. Audience members are invited to share feedback to help shape the next steps these plays take on their journeys to full productions.

Stage Test 2026 comes off the heels of two adult workshops, one focused on writing, the other on acting. Both mixed-level workshop series emphasized the importance of underrepresented perspectives, provided opportunities for experienced and beginner artists to learn from each other, and utilized our Rotation Practices which offer accessible activities for exploration and skill-building. Along with Rotate Theatre ensemble members and guest artists, many of the workshop participants are featured in *Stage Test*, giving audiences a glimpse into the workshops as the writers and actors experiment with brand new pieces.

Stage Test 2026: A Program of Works in Development is part of World Premiere Wisconsin, a statewide festival celebrating new plays and musicals.



About Rotate Theatre Company

Rotate Theatre Company, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, brings people together to create and celebrate entertaining new and alternative plays, musicals, and other performing arts featuring varied underrepresented perspectives.

By engaging audiences in laughter and discussion, embracing practices that enrich the lives of collaborative artists, and incorporating multidirectional learning, Rotate Theatre Company contributes to larger webs of strategies that build more just futures for professional artists and the general public.

Ensemble Members

Ashely Bagot, Crystal Hartford, Richard Paro,
Breahan Eve Pautsch, Cyra K. Polizzi, Rini Tarafder

Contact Info

Rotate Theatre Company
RotateTheatre@gmail.com . 608-515-8912
www.rotatetheatre.org

Support Rotate Theatre Company!

Support from individuals and organizations is essential!

Become a Rotate Theatre donor today!



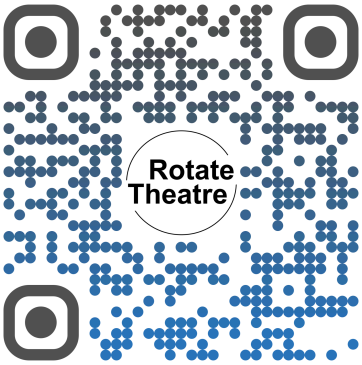
- Click **Donate!** to make a one-time or monthly tax-deductible donation.

We use alternative ticketing models to offer a significant number of very low-cost tickets to our productions, available to all. We also offer artists very low-cost workshops. Your donation helps make this possible! Thank you!

Stay in Touch & Spread the Word!



- Join our **Mailing List**.
- Connect with us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**.
- Email us at **RotateTheatre@gmail.com**.
- Visit **www.RotateTheatre.org**.



Thank You!

Thank you to all of our collaborators, audience members, and friend organizations, including:





And, a huge thank you to our individual donors!

Your generosity makes our work possible!