

September 8, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW NORMAL REP PRESENTS THE FINAL STREAMING PRODUCTION OF ITS INAUGURAL SEASON**



**TICKETS ON SALE NOW – STREAMING AT [NewNormalRep.org](http://NewNormalRep.org) BEGINS SEPTEMBER 30**

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ACCESS PROMOTIONAL PHOTOS & VIDEO: [NewNormalRep.org/press](http://NewNormalRep.org/press)

ARRANGE FOR INTERVIEWS WITH PARTICIPATING ARTISTS: Contact Keith Sherman & Associates, [keith@ksa-pr.com](mailto:keith@ksa-pr.com).

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[NNR - New Normal Rep](http://NewNormalRep.org) (Jack Canfora, Artistic Director; Sally Klingenstein-Martell, Executive Producer), the new streaming theater company dedicated to producing reflective and inclusive plays, concludes its inaugural season with the world premiere of ***F.I.R.E.*** by **Julia Blauvelt**. Streaming on demand September 30 through October 20 at [NewNormalRep.org](http://NewNormalRep.org). Tickets for ***F.I.R.E.*** are \$25, \$10 for students, educators and theater professionals, and can be purchased at [NewNormalRep.org](http://NewNormalRep.org).

**Heather Arnson** (*Your Title Goes Here* at Theatre Row) directs a cast including **Jeffrey Bean** (*Amadeus* on Broadway), **Kierra Bunch** (*King Hedley II* at Chicago's Court Theatre), **Nathaniel P. Claridad** (*Here Lies Love* at The Public), **Ella Dershowitz** (*Can You Forgive Her?* at Vineyard Theater; *Intimacy*, The New Group), **Aaron Matteson** (*Becky Shaw* at Centenary Stage Company), **Nygel D. Robinson** (*Beau: The Musical* at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center), and **Carol Todd** (*Jericho* at 59E59, *Intermission* at The Clurman).

It's Summer Drinks Night at an average Fifth Avenue hedge-fund and, for the generally isolated back office accountants, the most important night of the year. But when an emergency audit comes crashing down on the team moments before the exodus, networking and free snacks are replaced with panic and chaos. If the gang is to get through the night unscathed, they will have to confront those all-too-avoidable truths that conveniently slip into the shadows of corporate comfort.

New Normal Rep's production of *Lines in the Dust* features costume design by **David C. Woolard**, multi-media design by **Edward T Morris**, and sound design by **Lindsay Jones**.

"Julia Blauvelt's play *F.I.R.E.* is the kind of play I love. It has the most warm, rich characters; a multi-layered plot with a rich psychology; deadly serious steaks; and laughs throughout that make you hurt," says Jack Canfora, Artistic Director, New Normal Rep. "I first read some of Julia's work when she was a talented actress just dipping her toes into playwriting. Her voice is unmistakable and frankly, as a playwright, enviable. *F.I.R.E.* is a play with effortless wit, keen psychological insight, an unerring sense of pace, and real people with high stakes."

[NNR, New Normal Rep](#) exists not in spite of the pandemic, but because of it. Dedicated to presenting new and lesser known plays, via the internet, [NNR](#) will present works with divergent perspectives that explore the historical, cultural, and psychological forces that have helped to shape our 21st Century lives. [NNR](#) commits to anti-racism training as well as partnership with BIPOC organizations to ensure that diversity is present in the curation of our seasons and the assembling of our companies. Above all, [NNR](#) is dedicated to producing deeply entertaining, engaging and illuminating work.

All [NNR](#) productions are streamed on demand and can be accessed at [NewNormalRep.org](https://NewNormalRep.org).

"New Normal Rep began with casual conversations at the beginning of the pandemic and expanded into something substantive," says Jack Canfora, Artistic Director. "NNR is a theatre company for our world today. We strive to illuminate and warm, to offer eclectic stories from diverse voices that will intrigue and unite us, and so much more."

"As theater people, we always knew that our craft had value," says Jill Eikenberry, founding artist, NNR. "But since the plague has descended on us and the possibility of theater has been taken away, we have come to understand more deeply our need to tell stories and the audiences need to hear them."

"Online theater is a new medium with unique challenges, but we also believe it presents unique opportunities," says Sally Klingenstein-Martell, Executive Producer, NNR. "For too many years, high quality theater has felt out of reach financially and culturally to too many people. New Normal Rep, in a small way, aims to help in bridging this disconnect by providing affordable, diverse, high quality theater to a literally limitless audience."

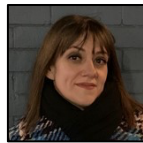
The New Normal Rep Board of Directors includes: Jeffrey Bean, Jack Canfora, Jill Eikenberry, Melanye Duschene Finister, Eleanor Handley, Melissa Joyner, Sally Klingenstein-Martell, Maria Gabriella Landers, John Schaeffler, Carol Todd and Carl Vorwerk.

Tickets for upcoming NNR productions are \$25, \$10 for students, educators and theater professionals, and can now be purchased at [www.NewNormalRep.org](https://www.NewNormalRep.org).

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS



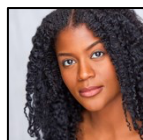
**JULIA BLAUVELT** (*Playwright*) is finishing up her second year as an MFA candidate at NYU Tisch Rita and Burton Goldberg Department of Dramatic Writing, where she is the recipient of the Oliver Stone Screenwriting Scholarship, the Dalio Family Foundation Scholarship, and a Tisch School of the Arts Graduate Scholarship. With a background in devised theatre, notable projects include creating and performing in Richard Schechner's *Imagining O* (New York Times' Critics Pick 2014) and *Three* (directed by Stephen Spinella, Winner of the 2016 Emerging Female Artist Grant through New York Society Library). Other writing projects include readings and workshops at HERE Arts Center, Culture Project, Dixon Place, United Solo Festival, and the Benchmark Theatre in Denver, CO. Her play *F.I.R.E.* was a semi-finalist for the 2020 New American Voices Festival at The Landing Theatre Company.



**HEATHER ARNSEN** (*Director*). Selected: Roundabout Theatre Company's Refocus Series and Roundabout Theatre Company's Remote Series (Director Digital Production Creation); 2021 Writers Guild of America Awards Show, "Broadway Inspirational Voices – "A Season of Hope & Inspiration"; TheatreWorks USA Connect the Dots: A Virtual Benefit"; *Sundogs* with Jenn Gambatese and Jordan Bridges; AATE – Young Playwrights Series, and the digital staged reading of Jack Canfora's *Battleground States* with NNR. Stage Directing: *The Adult In The Room*; *Right Before I Go*; *Your Title Goes Here*; *The Permanent Night*; *Elizabeth: Almost By Chance A Woman*; *Wasp*; *The Whole Shebang*; *Beau: The New Musical* (Assoc. Dir.); *The Wolves* (A.D., Lincoln Center). In development: *Don't Quote Me* by Howard Emanuel; *Wait For Her* by Jenna Cox-Hadley (musical). A graduate of UCLA, Heather is the Creative Director of Broadway Virtual, the Artistic Director of The WDA, and recently launched her production company Yes And Productions. Yes And is currently producing an Untitled Docu-Series (Creator/Director) about the women on the business-side of Broadway with the esteemed Broadway Women's Alliance. [HeatherArnsen.com](http://HeatherArnsen.com)



**JEFFREY BEAN** (*Chris*) recently appeared Off-Broadway in *Dublin Carol* directed by Ciarán O'Reilly at the Irish Repertory Theatre, receiving a 2020 Drama League Award nomination for Distinguished Performance. He also appeared Off-Broadway in *The Thanksgiving Play* directed by Moritz von Stuelpnagel (Playwrights Horizons) and *About Alice*, an adaptation by Calvin Trillin of his memoir of the same title, directed by Leonard Foglia (Theatre For A New Audience). On television he can be seen on "Billions," "Lincoln Rhyme," "The Blacklist," "The Good Fight" and others. His Broadway credits include the revival of *Amadeus* directed by Sir Peter Hall and the revival of *Bells Are Ringing* directed by Tina Landau. After graduating from SMU's Meadows School of The Arts in 1989, he began his professional acting career at Houston's Alley Theatre where he was a Resident Company member for 24 seasons. At the Alley he performed in over a hundred productions, working with directors David Cromer, Pam McKinnon, Jackson Gay, Michael Wilson among others. Favorite highlights of his residency in Houston include playing Cyrano, creating the role of Isaak Babel in the world premiere of Rajiv Joseph's *Describe the Night* directed by Giovanna Sardelli, performing in *Danton's Death* directed by Robert Wilson, and performing Salieri in *Amadeus* directed by Jonathan Moscone.



**KIERRA BUNCH** (*Shauna*) is thrilled to be working with New Normal Rep's production of *F.I.R.E.* She was most recently seen in Court Theatre's production of *King Hedley II* as Tonya (Jeff Nomination/ Performer in Supporting Role) Windy City's Playhouse production of *Southern Gothic*, and Lookingglass Theatre's, *Plantation*. She had the honor to work with many other notably theater companies in Chicago including Urban Theater Company, Black Ensemble Theater and ETA Theater (Black Theater Alliance Awards Nomination for Best New Actress and Best Performance in an Ensemble). She can currently be seen in a recurring role in the new sitcom, *Southside* on HBO Max. She's

performed roles in "Shameless," "Chicago Med" and FOX's "Empire." *She* was a series regular on the Emmy Award winning children's television show, "Green Screen Adventures." Kierra is very thankful for her family and friends for their continuous support and encouragement. "Kierra is happily represented by the wonderful team at Paonessa Talent Agency.



**NATHANIEL P. CLARIDAD** (*Jazz*). Off-Broadway/NYC credits include *Here Lies Love* (The Public Theater), *Taylor Mac's 24-Decade History of Popular Music* (St. Ann's Warehouse), *The Awesome 80's Prom*, work with Red Bull Theater, Noor Theatre, NYShakespeare Exchange, NYMF, PS122, N.A.A.P.; International: *Laser Beak Man* (Dead Puppet Society/Brisbane Festival & tour - Sydney Opera House, HOTA, & Melbourne Arts Centre), *Taylor Mac's...* (The Forum, Melbourne Festival); National Tour: *Alice* (The Kennedy Center); Regional: The Kennedy Center, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Folger Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Florida Studio Theatre, Cape Fear Regional, Imagination Stage, Hangar Theatre, Barrington Stage. Directing credits include Weathervane Theatre, Out of the Box Theatrics, Southern Rep, The One Minute Play Festival, ShakesBEER, The Drama League. MFA: University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

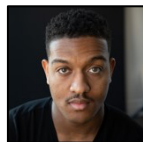


**ELLA DERSHOWITZ** (*Penny*). Off-Broadway/NYC: *Can You Forgive Her?* (Vineyard Theater), *Intimacy* (The New Group), *Card and Gift* (Clubbed Thumb), *Connected* (59E59), *On The Verge* (Attic Theater), *Three Musketeers 1941* (Project Y), *A Splintered Soul* (Theater Three). Bay Area: *Actually* (Aurora), *The Wolves* (Capital Stage), *Sovereignty* (Marin Theatre Company), *The Siegel* (City Lights), *Thomas and Sally* (Marin Theatre Company). Other regional: *4,000 Miles* (Hudson Stage), *You Will Remember Me* (Hudson Stage), *Visitors* (MV Playhouse), *The Screenwriter's Daughter* (MV Playhouse), *Twelfth Night* (Payomet). TV/Film: *Phil Spector* (HBO), *The Affair* (Showtime), *Lie to Me* (Fox), *Knife Fight*, *Two-Bit Waltz*, *Addiction: A 60's Love Story*, *I Am Michael*, *Pitching Tents*. Training: Yale University and LAMDA.

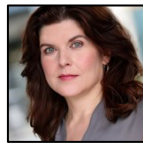


**AARON MATTESON** (*Hutch*) is very excited to be back in the world of FIRE. An alum of Sarah Lawrence College's theatre program and the Actors Theatre of Louisville's Acting Apprenticeship, Aaron's recent roles include Andrew in *Becky Shaw* at Centenary Stage Company and Daniel in *Untitled Short Film About White*

People.



**NYGEL D. ROBINSON** (*Noel*) is a singer, actor, writer, and multi-instrumentalist based in New York City. Select musical theatre credits include Larry in the workshop and Lincoln center concert version of *Beau: The Musical*, and Actor/Musician in *The All Night Strut* (Milwaukee Rep). Nygel and Brian Quijada are the co-writers of the new musical *Mexodus* which started being developed through New York Stage and Film in early 2020 and was featured in NYSAF's 2021 Powerhouse summer season.



**CAROL TODD** (*Danica*). Off-Broadway: *Jericho* (59E59); *Intermission* (The Clurman). NYC: *To She Who Waits*, *A Marriage Proposal* (ARTC); *Ferguson*, *Making Peter Pope* (30th Street Theatre). Selected Regional: *Ants*, *Jericho*, *Place Setting*, *Apple*, *Whores* (NJ Rep); *The Song of Grendelyn*, *Whores* (Writers Theatre of NJ); *Top Girls*, *The Road to Mecca* (Theatre Project); *Rain* (East Lynne Theatre Co.); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Foundation Theatre); *Voice of Good Hope* (Luna Stage). Film: *The Sounding*, *20th Century Boys II*, *Blind Trust*, *Showers of Happiness*. Selected TV: "High Maintenance" (HBO), "Sex&Drugs&Rock&Roll" (FX) "One Bad Choice" (MTV). AEA, SAGAFTRA  
[www.caroltoddactress.com](http://www.caroltoddactress.com)



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