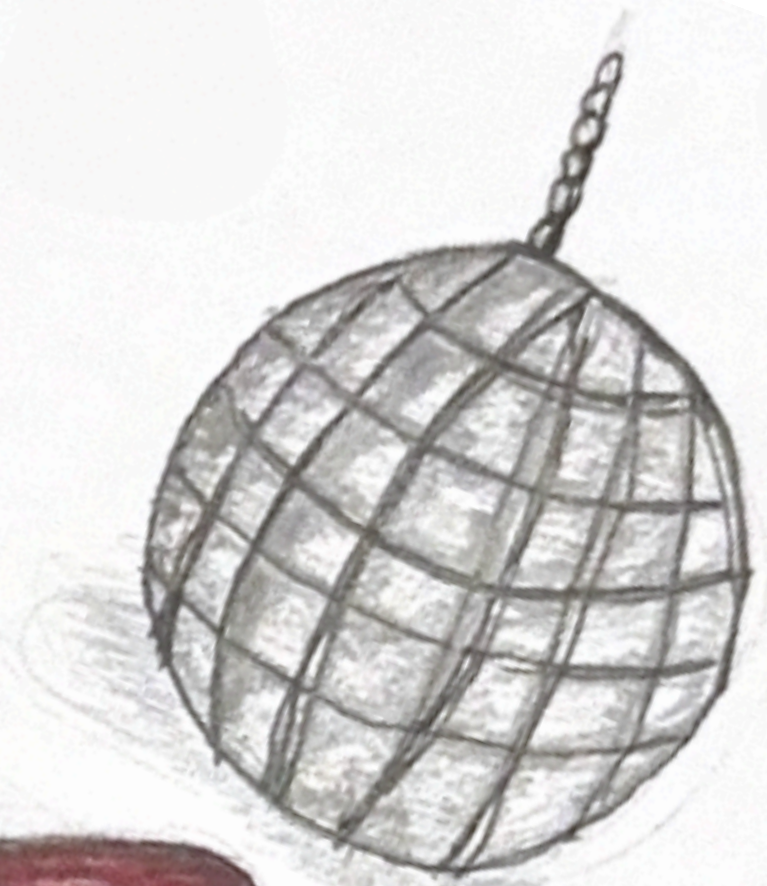


NYU Steinhardt Youth Theatre Ensemble
2026
Festival of 10 Minute Plays



NYU Steinhardt Youth Theatre Ensemble

2026 Festival of 10 Minute Plays

True

by Melissa Gawlowski

Directed by Alex Lanning & Kylie Mukai
Featuring Elizabeth Ketsbaia & Grace Weir

Teenager Maya is grieving the loss of her best friend, Baz. A surprise conversation with Baz provides a feeling of love, closure, and understanding.

Uncomfortable

by Elle Anhorn

Directed by Sarah Bonds & May Tashiro
Featuring Elman Hasan, Aimey Van-Tull & Sarah Bonds

In a high school bathroom, Kyla attempts to escape from feeling like she doesn't quite fit in. An old friend, Anna, disrupts her peace and the two reconnect.

Artifacts

by Ari Richardson

Directed by Ashlyn Prieto
Featuring Amaya Weston Colon & Elena Porsella

In a post apocalyptic world, two strangers meet – one searching for lost family, and the other searching for connection. Their conversation forces each of them to confront what they are really looking for.

The First Last

by Chad Beckhim

Directed by Michael Luciano & William Shaheen
Featuring Catalina Chelli, Calum Giles, & Grace Weir

On the night of the school dance, high school sweethearts Peter and Gabby run into some unexpected trouble. Together they must come to terms with their relationship to themselves and each other.

37 Scenes and a Watermelon

by Ian Downes

Directed by Jacqueline Chen & Camila Herrera
Featuring Keira Flannery & Noa Quinones

In 37 absurdist scenes, a Person and a Watermelon go through all stages of friendship – the unexpected, the complicated, the tender-heartedness, and the dread.

TRUE



Elizabeth Ketsbaia is a freshman drama major at LaGuardia High School. This is her first year with the NYU Youth Ensemble. Outside of theatre, she loves to bake, cook, and play tennis. Elizabeth would like to thank her friends & family for all of their unconditional love and support. She couldn't do this without them!



Grace Weir is a sophomore at NYU. This is her first year (and first week) with the youth ensemble! Outside of theatre, she loves to ski, sail, and above all, eat frozen yogurt. She would like to thank her wonderful directors, Kylie and Alex, her amazing co-star, Elizabeth, and, of course, Alice and Amy. I hope you enjoy the show!



Alex Lanning is a former middle school and high school teacher from the state of Texas. Alex has collaborated on a variety of projects such as, "John Proctor is the Villain", and the University of Texas-Arlington's 10-Minute play festival. He would like to thank all of his friends, family, and actors!



Kylie Mukai is a graduate student studying Theatre for Social and Civic Engagement. She is an active member of NYU's theatre community, serving as the Teaching Artist for NYU's premier Shakespeare touring troupe, Shakespeare to Go, where she also developed pre- and post-show education materials for NYC public school students. Additional theatrical credits include production crew for *11 to Midnight* (Off-Broadway), a secondary teaching certificate with endorsements in Theatre and English from Gonzaga University (2025), and an engagement internship at New York Theatre Workshop (2025). Thank you to Alex, Elizabeth, Grace, and Kai for their collaborative work on this piece.

Uncomfortable



Elman Hasan is a senior at Forest Hills High School. This is her 5th year with the NYU Youth Ensemble! Outside of Theatre, she loves to do Kathak, and watch movies. Elman is excited to perform one last time at the Black Box before she attends college at Binghamton next fall.



Aimey Van-Tull is a junior in her third year in high school. This is her first year in the NYU ensemble. Outside of theater she likes to sing, dance, and cook.



Sarah Bonds (She/Her/Hers) is a NYC based, Black femme actor. Originally from Chicago's south side, she holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theater from Columbia College. Currently she is pursuing an M.A at NYU Steinhardt for Applied Theater. Her credits include BCQ at Steppen Wolf (Ensemble), Ragtime (Sarah and Sarah's Friend) and Detroit 67' (Chelle u/s). Sarah is a proud alumna of The Chicago High School of Arts, Merit School of Music and The Broadway Collective. She would like to thank her community for their continued support of all of her endeavors. "The function of art is to do more than tell it like it is – it's to imagine what is possible" -Bell Hooks



May (she/her) is pursuing her master's degree in Steinhardt's Educational Theatre program and working toward certification as a K-12 theatre teacher. She is currently student teaching and looks forward to beginning her career as a drama educator in 2026. She also works as a teaching artist, serving low-income communities through after-school theatre programs. In addition to her work as an educator, May has been involved in theatre in many capacities. Her past credits include Love and Information (Ensemble/ASM), Pink Morph Suits (SM), This Can't Be Happening (SM), Macbeth (Ross), and Twelfth Night (Maria). She would like to thank Sarah, Elman, and Aimey for this fun and creative process. She also sends heartfelt thanks to Amy and Alice for their support.

Artifacts



Elena Porsella is a senior at Fiorello LaGuardia High School. This is her fourth year with the NYU Youth Theatre Ensemble! She is very excited to be able to present her work with the ensemble again. Outside she of acting she enjoys creative writing and singing. Elena is so glad to be working with her great team on this play.



Amaya Weston-Colon is a 11th grader at Brooklyn High School Of The Arts, where she is a Drama major. This is her fourth year with the NYU Youth Ensemble! Outside of the youth ensemble, she is apart of her schools play production, a national honor society member, and member of the NYU Youth Advisory Council. She would like to thank her family, friends, director, and scene partner, Elena, for all of their support this year!



Ashlyn Prieto is a San Antonio-born multidisciplinary artist and history enthusiast whose work sits at the intersection of theatre, education, and public engagement. She attended the North East School of the Arts in San Antonio and earned her BFA in Musical Theatre from Point Park University in 2021. Ashlyn is currently pursuing her MA in Theatre for Social and Civic Engagement at New York University and is deeply committed to making art accessible to all audiences. This is her directorial debut and is excited to share this story. She'd like to thank her actors, cohort, and professors for making this work possible!

The First Last



Catalina is a senior at Saint John's Prep. This is her fifth and last year with the NYU youth ensemble. Although she isn't sure which college she will be committing to yet, she will be majoring in biology and going towards a pre med track.



Calum Giles is a sophomore at Professional Performing Arts School for drama. This is Calum's second year at NYU Youth Ensemble and has been doing theater for 4 years.



Michael Luciano is currently a senior studying Educational Theatre at NYU. Previous theatre credits include Grease (TEEN ANGEL), The Little Mermaid (PRINCE ERIC), Godspell (JESUS) and many more. Michael would like to thank Amy and Alice for all of their support on this project, his co-director, Will, and incredible actors, Catalina and Calum. Enjoy the show!!



William Shaheen (he/him) is currently a junior studying Educational Theatre. He has previously been involved in the Educational Theatre main stage productions of: *Everything You Wanted*, *A Monster Calls*, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, and *Sonder: The Dreams We Carry*, as well being a touring member of Shakespeare To Go. He would like to thank the whole cast and crew for their dedication this semester, especially his actor's Catalina and Calum and co director Michael. Enjoy the show!

37 Scenes and a Watermelon



Keira is a Sophomore at Professional Performing Arts School. This is her third year participating in the NYU Youth Ensemble. Currently she's in her high schools production of "Lord of the Flies" taking on the role of Simon. Outside of theatre she loves all kinds of sports and traveling. She hopes she can continue to be an actress and hopefully continue to do it professionally.



Noa Quinones is a junior at Innovation Charter High School. This is her first year with the NYU Youth Ensemble! Outside of theater, she loves to socialize and try new things. This is her first ever acting performance. She'd like to apologize for the mess in advance.



Jacqueline Chen is a senior at NYU double majoring in Educational Theatre and Economics. She is particularly interested in handcrafting and theatrical production. Her creative experiences include serving as Art Director for the experimental short film Echoes of Creation, as well as contributing as a makeup artist for Celestial Tides and Backwards. She loves collaborating with her co-director Camila and the youth ensemble members! She hopes you enjoy the show — with a watermelon.



Camila Herrera (she/her) is a current junior studying Drama at the New Studio on Broadway and minoring in Educational Theatre at NYU. Originally from Miami Florida, Camila is a proud first-generation Cuban-American artist and performer now based in NYC. Some of her recent credits include Titanic (Fleet), As You Like It (Adam), Into the Woods Off-Broadway at The Flea (Jack's Mother) and NYU's Broke People Play Festival. She is thrilled to direct this play alongside her co-director Jacqueline, and can't wait for everyone to see the work her actors have done! herrera.camila.com Instagram: @camilaherreraaa

Grad Directors & Production Team

Kylie Mukai

Michael Luciano

Alex Lanning

William Shaheen

Sarah Bonds

Camila Herrera

May Tashiro

Jacqueline Chen

Ashlyn Prieto

Amy Cordileone – Artistic Director & Producer



Amy is a director, choreographer, & designer whose artistic work and research is focused on investigating aesthetic spaces across the globe . As a full-time faculty member at NYU, Cordileone continues to develop innovative content for a variety of Steinhardt programs, including the NYU Youth Theatre Ensemble, Theatrix, Playlabs, and the Writers' Roundtable; additionally, she is the Editor-in-Chief for the Teaching Artist Journal (a Taylor & Francis publication) . Amy's passion for new work development led to the curation of the NYU Forum on Developing New Work for the Theatre (2013) and the Forum on Site-Specific Performance (2015) . Her directing and choreography credits include: The Winter's Tale, Peter & the Starcatcher, Comedy of Errors, Noël Coward's Brief Encounter, Meta (premiere), The Heart Cycle (premiere), Underground: An Unauthorized Ben Folds Jam Session (premiere), Two Noble Kinsmen, Alice: Looking Glass Girl, Here... All Dwell Free, and more. Cordileone holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance from the University of California, at Irvine; she completed both her MA and PhD at NYU.

Alice Hallock – Company Manager & Production Stage Manager



Alice Hallock is currently a senior studying Educational Theatre and Politics at NYU. Past theatrical credits include: The Handless Maiden (Production Stage Manager), Everybody (Everybody), and The Two Noble Kinsmen (Asst. Stage Manager). She is currently serving as the Assistant Director for NYU's premier Shakespeare touring troupe, Shakespeare to Go, where she has previously served as an actor and company manager. In the fall, she'll be continuing her time at NYU as she pursues a Master of Science in Public Policy. Thanks to the Youth Ensemble & Grad Directors for their tremendous work this semester – enjoy the show!!

Special Thanks To...

Jack H . Knott, Kristie Patten, Marilyn Nonken, Jonathan Jones, David T . Montgomery, Joe Salvatore, Nancy Smithner, Natasha McLeod, Aubrey Mann, Clare Mckelway, Matt Holcombe, Joe Mathers, Khal-el Barner, Wegmans Grocery, Keith R. Huff, Daryl Embry, Ari Richardson, and you – our friends and families!

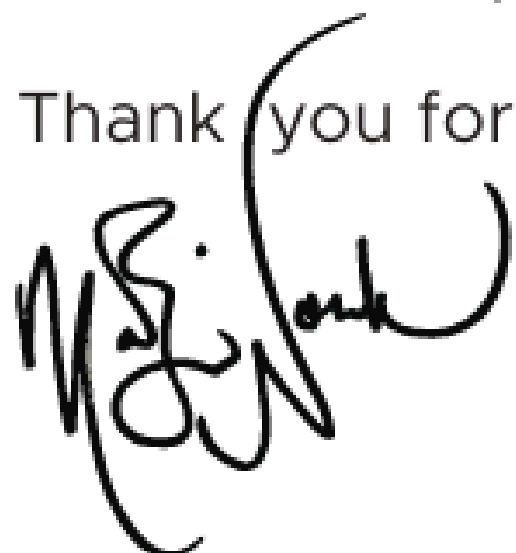
MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS PROFESSIONS

Welcome to the Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions. Whether you are a current or prospective student, a member of the community, or one of our valued alumni, I am thrilled that you have come to engage with our exceptional cultural and academic programming.

The Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions hosts a faculty of unique accomplishment and attracts a student cohort that is talented and ambitious. Our internationally renowned programs – ranging from baccalaureate to doctoral degrees – share a commitment to not only artistic and academic excellence, but also diversity, access, and social justice. We seek to advance the education, health, and well-being of people and communities on the Square and around the world, through disciplined and interdisciplinary endeavors exploring Music Performance and Composition, Music Business and Arts Administration, Music Technology, Music and Drama Therapy, and the Arts in Education (including programs in Educational Theatre, Music, and Dance). Through research, publication, and elite performance, our faculty members establish professional, scholarly, and artistic practices that capture international attention and serve as models for progress. Bridging theory and practice, culture and commerce, and science and art, we foster a community whose vibrant programs expand the possibilities for our graduates and those they serve.

Faculty and students in Performance and Composition devote themselves not only to the pursuit of craft and virtuosity, but to reaching new audiences and defining inclusive, newly relevant performance practices. Educational Theatre and Drama Therapy programs develop and perform creative works focused on topics such as disability rights and civic engagement. Combining techniques and methodologies from the arts, humanities, and sciences to understand and model human cognitive abilities, the Music Audio Research Laboratory innovates the analysis and creation of music. The Nordoff-Robbins Center for Music Therapy, a locus for multi-disciplinary collaboration, provides community service, while Arts & Health @ NYU advances artistic practice in line with therapeutic innovation and policy development. Through these activities and more, the Department embraces the arts, entrepreneurship, science, health, and social action.

Thank you for joining us.



*Marilyn Nonken, PhD
Chair, Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions
Director, Program in Piano Studies
Professor of Music and Music Education
NYU Steinhardt*