



The Adelphi Alumni Playwrights Group Presents

A new, virtual evening of monologues,  
musings, and potential technical hiccups...



# *Buffering...*

New Work by Adelphi Alumni Playwrights

Produced by Megan Lohne

Directed by Brittany Mills

# CAST

(In order of appearance)

Benjamin Farha.....	<b>Jackson</b> <i>The List by Dan Ciba</i>
Joanna Georghiou.....	<b>Caroline</b> <i>Miss Givings by Kyle Smith</i>
Colin Murphy.....	<b>Human</b> <i>The Hand That Feeds by Michael DiFrancisco</i>
Greg Carey.....	<b>Noah</b> <i>Go For A Punch by Benjamin Sherman</i>
Harper LaBrozzi.....	<b>Lilah</b> <i>The Door War by Jess Kreisler</i>
Danielle Jade.....	<b>Amy</b> <i>The Party by Athena Priftakis</i>
Brittany-Laurelle.....	<b>Lauren</b> <i>Garlic Scapes by Lauren Brickman</i>
Samuel Adams.....	<b>Seth</b> <i>Truth or Dare by Colin Murphy</i>
Ray Rodriguez.....	<b>Monarch</b> <i>Caligulitis by Benjamin Farha</i>
Tasha Berol.....	<b>Avery</b> <i>Avery's Doomsday by Rae Bartolai</i>
Rae Bartolai.....	<b>Emerson</b> <i>Sharing Silence by Megan Lohne</i>

# PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	<b>Brittany Mills</b>
Producer.....	<b>Megan Lohne</b>
Co-Stage Manager/Designer.....	<b>Laura Ryan</b>
Co-Stage Manager/Asst.Designer.....	<b>Samantha Stone</b>
Original Music.....	<b>Rosbel Franklin</b>

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

This play is not about a pandemic. This play is about the shift in our lives, values and perspectives as a result of a pandemic.

The inspiration for this production started in a Zoom meeting Mid-July when the members of the Adelphi Alumni Playwrights Group answered the writing prompt “write a monologue about the coronavirus that isn’t about the coronavirus.” This piece, which was rooted in a conversation surrounding our fear of isolation, death, and the unknown future, evolved into the outlet we all collectively needed - the space to understand, empathize, and laugh.

In one dramatic way or another our entire existence, individually and as a society, shifted in March 2020. With the loss of family members, friends, jobs and routines, the universal desire to connect with one another became palpable. Through the exploration of our thoughts and screens, this process continued to gain momentum from our “virtual evening of monologues” idea to the actualization of this truly dynamic production.

My hope is that this piece leaves you with the desire to connect deeper with those dear to you, reconnect with the person you have been thinking about, and furthermore, to reconnect with yourself.

I am pleased to share with you tonight the innovative, thoughtful responses our group members developed through this process, presented by the talents of an entire Adelphi Alumni cast, team and designers. Thank you all for supporting the Adelphi Alumni Playwrights Group and for attending this production. Please enjoy the show!

## **PRODUCER/FOUNDER'S NOTE**

I had been thinking of beginning an Adelphi Alumni Playwrights Group for some time and with the onset of pandemic, it seemed like an important moment to come together and create. As a student at Adelphi University years ago, under the mentorship of now Associate Dean Maggie Lally, I wrote my first play. I often think of what would happen if she hadn't urged me to write those first words, to get out of my head in terms of what it means to be a playwright. Without that encouragement, I may never have gone on to get my Masters of Fine Arts in Playwriting, to have plays produced, be hired to write words for the screen, to form my theatre company with my collaborator Shoshannah Tarkow, Like Fresh Skin, where I continue to write for a now virtual landscape.

In bringing all generations together, it is my hope that the founding members can continue to inspire new generations to write, to step outside of themselves in terms of what it means to be an artist and answer the questions of the now with vulnerability and purpose. Adelphi means so much to each and every one of us from our personal remembrances to a theatre program that has taught us all to be well rounded and inquisitive artists. I look forward to what's next for this group and am so glad and thankful to all of the tireless writers, technicians, artists, and our valiant director for donating their time during an uncertain period, diving in head first and being willing to create.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Benjamin Farha** (Playwright/Jackson) Originally from Oklahoma City, Benjamin discovered his passion for theatre at Classen SAS, majoring in Drama. He graduated from Adelphi University with a BFA in Acting. While there, he wrote and directed a stage adaptation of Zoe Heller's novel, *Notes on a Scandal*. Upon graduation, he became a founding member of the ensemble-driven Rapidfire Bootleg Theater. Since then, Benjamin has been seen as an actor and singer all over New York. He is a member of Larry Moss Studios. Benjamin currently lives in New York City. As of August 2020, he has kept a houseplant alive for 9 months.

**Joanna Georghiou** (Caroline) Joanna Georghiou is an actor and director who is a recent graduate of Adelphi University with her BFA in theatre. Most recently she has been featured in a number of zoom productions such as Too Solid Flesh (TBall), The Law of The Excluded Middle (Abigail) and Aristophane's "The Frogs" (Hercules). Joanna has also directed productions of "Lady Windermere's Fan" and "Dog Sees God". Joanna would like to thank Brittany, Kyle and Megan for the opportunity to work on such an awesome and interesting piece with an amazing group of collaborators.

**Colin Murphy** (Playwright/Human) Colin Murphy is from a small NJ town where he learned to pronounce water with a "d". He graduated Adelphi University with a BFA in performing arts in 2009 where he studied playwriting under the guidance of Anton Dudley. He is a 2008 recipient of the Don Axinn Playwriting Award for his one act, Edgar's Smile, which was later produced at the Manhattan Reperatory Theater as part of their one act festival in 2010, directed by Michael DiFrancisco. Colin continues to enjoy creating with AU alumni and take writing classes. Tonight gives thanks to Sam, Brittany, and Megan.

**Greg Carey** (Noah) Greg Carey is thrilled to be apart of *Buffering...*! Greg is a recent graduate from Adelphi University with a BFA in Theatre Acting, with interests in writing and performing cabaret theatre. He would like to thank everyone involved for their love and support!

**Harper LaBrozzi** (Lilah) Harper LaBrozzi is from Pennsylvania and a recent graduate of Adelphi University where she received a BFA in Acting with a minor in Dance. She also holds a Diploma in Classical Acting from London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and most recently, Harper spent her summer as an Apprentice for Commonwealth Shakespeare Company. She currently spends her free time watching "Tiny Kitchen" videos and working on a paint-by-number that is far above her skillset. She is trilled to be apart of *Buffering!* Soli Deo Gloria.

**Danielle Jade** (Amy) Danielle Jade is a recent graduate of Adelphi University where she earned her BFA in Theatre Acting. In addition to training at Adelphi, Danielle gained classical training at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts.

**Brittany-Laurelle** (Lauren) Brittany-Laurelle is an Actress, Storyteller and Theater Creator from Harlem, NY. She has appeared in commercials, indie films and onstage in plays, musicals and multi-disciplinary pieces. Her acting training at La Guardia High School for Performing Arts, Adelphi University and UCB provided safe spaces to fine tune the art of storytelling. As an artist, Brittany-Laurelle creates space for vulnerability and connection through dynamic performance.

**Samuel Adams** (Seth) Samuel Adamas was born in Manhattan, raised in the Catskills. New York credits include the title character in *Hamlet* (Kraine Theater), *Summer & Smoke* (at Theatre Row), *Surface to Air* (at the Symphony Space Theatre), Lewis Carroll in *Your Alice* (Ophelia Theater Group), DC Theater credits include playing Mozart in *Amadeus* at the Folger Shakespeare Theater (directed by Richard Clifford), Orlando in *As You Like It* (directed by Aaron Posner), *Measure for Measure* (directed Timothy Douglas). Trained at Adelphi University, the London Dramatic Academy, and an MFA from the Academy for Classical Acting with the Shakespeare Theater Company. Atlas Talent; Andreadis Talent. Thank you, to my family. (AEA, SAG-AFTRA)

**Ray Rodriguez** (Monarch) Ray currently teaches movement at Adelphi University. He has taught at The Strasberg Institute, New York Film Academy, Harlem School of the Arts, NYU & North Carolina School of the Arts. Ray is resident fight director and a core teaching artist with New Perspectives Theatre Company since 1999. He was also the resident fight director for Moosehall Theater Company/Inwood Shakespeare Festival.

**Tasha Berol** (Avery) Tasha Berol is a New York based actor, director, and combatant, with a background in classical and movement based theatre. Previous stage credits include Henrietta in *The Hollow*, Mavis Johnson in *The Rimers of Eldritch*, Evadne in *A Maid's Tragedy*, The First Fairy in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Cucurucu in *Marat/Sade*. She has acted in several short films and other video projects. It is an honor to work alongside so many Adelphi Alum, and she wants to thank Brittany for considering her for this project. (she/they)

**Rae Bartolai** (Playwright/Emerson) Rae Bartolai grew up on Long Island, New York and attended Adelphi University from 2000 to 2004 with a concentration in Acting. She moved to Pennsylvania over 10 years ago and put the performing arts on hold while taking the time to start her family in North Eastern, Pa. Avery's doomsday is her first piece being preformed on stage. Rae is super excited about being apart of the Adelphi Alumni Playwright Group and cannot wait to see what the group will accomplish in seasons to come.

**Brittany Mills** (Director) Brittany Mills recently graduated from Adelphi University with her B.F.A. in Acting, despite the current pandemic. She would like to thank her supportive mentors, loving classmates and the creators of Zoom for getting her to where she is now. After learning the bases of her craft in her hometown, Atlanta, GA, Brittany moved to New York where she continues to Act, Direct and explore her passion developing new works. She would like to thank Megan and the entire Adelphi Alumni Playwright's Group for welcoming her in and creating this wonderful piece together. Enjoy the show! [www.thebrittanymills.com](http://www.thebrittanymills.com)

**Megan Lohne** (Founder/Producer/Playwright) Megan Lohne has a B.F.A. in acting from Adelphi University and an M.F.A. in playwriting from The New School for Drama. In addition to her career as a Talent Agent, Megan is also a playwright and a screen writer. She is the co-founder of Like Fresh Skin, a company utilizing emerging technologies to create text-based, immersive theatrical experiences which champion untold feminist stories. <https://www.likefreshskin.org/> Megan was selected to attend the 2007 Young Writers' Programme at The Royal Court Theatre. She is also a member of The Dramatists Guild and Actor's Studio Playwrights/Directors Workshops. She is Upright Citizens Brigade trained.

**Laura Ryan** (Co-Stage Manager/Designer) Laura Ryan is a Philadelphia based costume designer, scenic designer, and artist and is a recent graduate from Adelphi University. She has experience working with a number of New York and Philadelphia based theaters, costume distributors, educational programs, and festivals including The Long Island Musical Theatre Festival, The Theater for the New City, The Handwork Studio, and the John W. Engeman Theatre. Some of her past credits include *The Walt Whitman Festival*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Words Like Fresh Skin*, *A Chorus Line*, and *The Rimers of Eldritch*. For more examples of her work, check her website: <https://lauraryan2.wixsite.com/lauraryan> and her instagram @lauratheartwitch

**Samantha Stone** (Co-Stage Manager/ Asst. Designer) Samantha Stone is a freelance Stage Manager from Brooklyn, NY. She graduated from Adelphi in 2018 with a BFA in Theatre Design and Technology. Samantha is excited to be working with the Adelphi Alumni Playwrights Group. Previous theatre credits include Broadway Stage Management Symposium, "Life: An Exploration into AI" (10C, The Players Theatre), "Disney Upfront Experience 2019" (Disney, Lincoln Center), Off Broadway Alliance Awards (Off Broadway Alliance), "Chita: A Legendary Celebration!" (Adelphi University Performing Arts Center), and "John Tesh: Songs and Stories..." (Adelphi University Performing Arts Center). Samantha also works in TV/Film as a Production Assistant. Credits include "New Amsterdam" (NBC), "For Life" (Sony Pictures Television), "Wu-Tang: An American Saga" (Hulu), "The Outsider" (HBO), and "Orange is the New Black" (Netflix).

**Athena Priftakis** (Playwright) Athena Priftakis is a recent 2020 Adelphi graduate who has a BFA in Acting. She is working on publishing "Discontent" her one-act about YouTube. Speaking of YouTube you can find her on the Athena P YouTube channel where she posts "Music Mondays" and "Chaotic Fridays".

**Benjamin Sherman** (Playwright) Ben Sherman recently graduated with a BFA in Acting from Adelphi University. This is his playwriting debut, and he would like to thank Megan Lohne, Brittany Mills, and Greg Carey for helping to bring his vision to life. You can find Ben on youtube where he does the Sure, Man Podcast with Athena Priftakis, and on instagram @\_noway\_its\_ben\_

**Daniel Ciba** (Playwright) Daniel Ciba teaches theater history, playwriting, and dramatic theory at Ramapo College of New Jersey. He is currently drafting a book project about Tennessee Williams and memory studies.

**Jess Kreisler** (Playwright) Jess Kreisler is a playwright who focuses mainly on topics from voices that are seldom heard. She recently had a staged reading of her play "Entangled" which addresses mental illness, family ties and abandonment — which are key concepts she generally touches upon. Jess is a native of Bayside, New York, and has recently graduated from Adelphi University in May with a B.F.A. in acting and a minor in English. She received her Associate from Queensborough community college in May of 2018. She has worked with playwrights such as J. Julian Jimenez and Leslie Ayvazian. She is currently working on creating a theatre company where voices that are rarely represented have a space to be heard.

**Kyle A. Smith** (Playwright) Kyle A. Smith's plays include The Part of Me (Madlab Theatre, Princess Grace Finalist), Unstuck in Time (No Frills Theater), Whiteout (Shakespeare's New Contemporaries Semi-Finalist), Blinded (Goldberg Prize Finalist), Princess Jazzberry's Wild Ride (Reading at Equity Library Theatre), Miss Conduct (1st place New Thrills Theater Fest), Miss Direction (Adelphi University, Queen's Theater), Miss Orientation (Adelphi University), Frisky (Emerging Artist's Theatre, Equity Library Theatre), and Don (Winner Equity Library Theatre Fall Festival, Finalist Secret Theatre's One Act Festival). His short play, Don, was published in 2018 as part of the Secret Theatre's Act One: One Act Anthology. Kyleanthonymsmith.com. MFA: NYU, DDW.

**Lauren Brickman** (Playwright) Lauren Brickman is a Queens, NY based actor & writer. She has appeared off-broadway in the play Stuffed with Lisa Lampanelli as well as in numerous tv shows, films, and commercials. She is 1/2 of the comedy duo We Stan Together alongside Caitlin Bitzagaio. New episodes of their podcast drop every Tuesday thanks to the More Banana podcast network. Find out more by following them @WeStanSocial on Instagram. Lauren's writing had been featured in Glamour Magazine, The Cherry Picks, and on stage at the Upright Citizen's Brigade Theatre

where she was a house performer and director for many years. Lauren is also a Story Pirates company member and is on faculty at Queensborough Community College, New York Film Academy, and Adelphi University. To learn even more about her check out [www.LaurenBrickman.com](http://www.LaurenBrickman.com)

**Michael DiFrancisco** (Playwright) Micheal DiFrancisco is an actor, director, and writer from New York. He studied Theatre Arts at Adelphi University. He proudly served as a founding member and the Artistic Director at Rapidfire Bootleg Theater, a developing theater company which produced more than twenty shows in its four years of operations. For more information about the whale featured in The Hand That Feeds, please visit [whalesanctuaryproject.org](http://whalesanctuaryproject.org) and [sacredsea.org](http://sacredsea.org).

## **Adelphi Alumni Playwrights Group Members**

Athena Priftakis, Benjamin Farha, Benjamin Sherman, Brittany Mills, Colin Murphy, Daniel Ciba, Greg Carey, Jess Kreisler, Kyle Smith, Lauren Brickman, Megan Lohne, Michael DiFrancisco, Rae Bartolai.

**For more information about  
The Adelphi Alumni Playwrights Group  
visit [www.adelphialumniplaywrightsgroup.com](http://www.adelphialumniplaywrightsgroup.com)**

