

Manifest Minifest 4

ALYSSA HERNANDEZ (Mandy, *MyHEB*) is currently attending the University of Texas at Austin as B.F.A Acting major. Recent credits include Three Sisters (The Factory) Love and Information (UT Theatre & Dance) and the short film Choices We Made (Carcosa Cabin). Alyssa is honored to be a part of the Manifest Minifest this year.

ARIANE STIER (Blanca, *Witch Queen*) is an actor and theatre artist. She graduated from UT Austin's Theatre & Dance Program. Ariane has most recently been seen in the Austin Latinx New Play Festival, and will perform in Bottle Alley Theatre Company's production of We Have Always Lived in the Castle in November 2022. She is excited to be part of the NMTC festival!

ESTRELLA SALDANA (Phil, *There Will Be Bears*) is a graduate of the UT Austin Department of Theatre and Dance, where she had the pleasure of working almost exclusively on new and devised plays. Since graduating she has been in productions such as Hyde Park Theatre's *The Wolves*, Austin Playhouse's *The Immigrant*, Shrewd Productions' *The Madres*, Theatre Heroes' *Gretel!*, and Teatro Vivo's *La Pastorela*. Estrella is grateful for the opportunity to play onstage with this lovely team of artists.

JANELLE BUCHANAN (Loretta, *MyHEB*) is a veteran actress with more than 100 productions on her resume in addition to many film, industrial, voice and print credits. Representative productions include The Lifespan of a Fact, Significant Other, The Grapes of Wrath, Laramie Project, Doubt, August: Osage County, A Delicate Balance, Vagina Monologues, Love and Information, Bleacher Bums, Much Ado About Nothing, and Macbeth.

JUNE JULIAN (Barbara, *Kitchen Conversations*) has been a part of the Central Texas arts and music scene for over 20 years as a singer, actress, producer and administrator. She most recently performed as Jack's mother in *Into the Woods* with ZACH Theatre, and was inducted into Gilbert & Sullivan Austin's Hall of Fame earlier this year. June is excited to be a part of the Minifest at New Manifest Theatre!

KATE TAYLOR (Amy, *There Will Be Bears*) is a wandering wonder sponge, attempting to combat the doom of this mad world with an expansive lens and resilient heart: by putting hands in dirt, playing in that good patch of light, trusting the pace that's needed, never abandoning idiot humor as anecdote, seeking strength through tenderness, rooting for reciprocity on all planes, and rejecting the traditional bio with meandering lists. She has served as the Salvage Vanguard Artistic Director since June 2019.

KENAH BENEFIELD (Wilson, *MyHEB*) is an award winning actor and improviser from Austin, TX. He started performing at ColdTowne Theater as an improviser with the all black troupe, Sugar Water Purple, which won "Best Improv Troupe" from the B. Iden Payne awards in 2019. He has been seen in productions at The Hidden Room Theater, The Vortex, The Scottish Rite Theater, and Ground Floor Theatre. He has also been seen on the Facebook show Skam Austin and the comedy sitcom The Windups. In addition to this, Kenah is the host of the children's show, The Adventures of Zobey. He voices various characters in the DC Universe Online video

game including fan favorites such as Cyborg and Static Shock. Currently he is represented by Collier Talent.

NICOLE SMALLS (Elise, *There Will Be Bears*) is excited to be making her Austin debut after graduating with a BFA in Theatre from Midwestern State University. Some of her previous credits include Tina in *Death Tax*, Pennywise in *Urinetown*, and Mrs. Webb in *Our Town*. She would like to thank her family for their love and support and Christie Maturo for always believing in her.

SAMANTHA SMITH

STEPHANIE VASQUEZ FONSECA (Fiona, *There Will Be Bears*) is a queer Afro-Latinx immigrant originally from Santa Marta, Colombia. They are skilled in a variety of mediums of artistic endeavors: from improvising on "Eff This Week" and "Good Fight" at Fallout Theater every week to performing with the Paramount Story Wranglers during the school year. Stephanie's most recent achievement was their directorial and written debut of "Robi-Rob's Boriqua Anthem: A Sketch Variety Show" at Fallout Theater, a love letter to their Latinx experience and the people that have been their home away from home. Stephanie received their BFA in Theatre Arts from New Mexico State University and is thrilled to be back on stage. You can catch them in the world premiere of "Casta" by Adrienne Dawes and produced by Salvage Vanguard Theater at the Blanton Museum of Art in October.

TONIE KNIGHT (Reina, *Witch Queen*) was most recently seen playing Ofelia in the critically acclaimed production of *Anna in the Tropics* with Ground Floor Theatre. Other credits include Mrs. Joe in *Great Expectations* with Different Stages, Nadine in *Secret Lives of the Sexists* with Different Stages, Lady Teazle in *The School for Scandal* with the Public Theater of San Antonio, and Cassie in *Rumors* with the Madison Theatre Guild. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Performance Studies from UT Austin.

ZOË PARKINSON (Brandi, *Kitchen Conversations*) is a performer and teacher native to Austin. A recent University of Central Oklahoma grad, her recent credits include: Maya in *Where's Your Line?*, Amy in *Little Women*, and Swing in *Time Stands Still*. Zoë is so excited to be making theatre in her favorite city and would like to thank her parents for their unwavering support.

DIRECTORS

CB FELLER (*There Will Be Bears*) is thrilled to be part of Manifest Minifest. They have been in Austin for ten years dabbling on and off stage. You might have caught their last work as scenic artist in *Anna and the Tropics* at Ground Floor or perhaps singing in *Sunflower the Musical* at Scottish Rite. When not doing theatre, CB is a graphic artist who loves to crochet and cuddle up with their pup.

JOI GREEN (*MyHEB*) is a director and writer raised in Austin, TX. This is her first Minifest with New Manifest Theatre Company. She became a part of the New Manifest Ensemble when she

worked on their 2020 production of *good friday* as an Assistant Director and Stage Manager. Joi thanks everyone coming out to watch Manifest's Minifest!

MIA KING (*Witch Queen*) is an Austin-based actor, writer, and violinist. Recent feature film credits include *Marisol*, *Momma Bird*, *The Wild Man*, an upcoming Lifetime original movie, and official SXSW 2018 selection *Hold To Your Best Self*. Past theatre credits include *I and You* (Capital T Theatre, directed by Simone Alexander), *893 | Yakuza* (GenEnCo), and *The King and I* (ZACH Theatre). She is a recent graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where she double-majored in Theatre and Advertising. Between semesters, she worked in the company management departments of the Williamstown Theatre Festival and at the Manhattan Theatre Club.

RORY ROBERTS (Kitchen Conversations) is a recovering high school theatre teacher who is absolutely delighted to be working with New Manifest Theatre on the Minifest 2022. When not working or volunteering, she can be found curled up with a good book and her cats (and is happy to offer book recommendations to all and sundry), playing with history and art in her graphic design endeavors (because you *know* you want pop art inspired by early 20th century suffragettes), or striving to earn the "World's Greatest Aunt" moniker by showering her two amazing nieces with much deserved praise and affection. Heaps of thanks to New Manifest Theatre for the incredible work you're doing, and especially to the ladies of Kitchen Conversations. It has been an honor and a pleasure to watch you bring this story to life.