

## Women Playwrights Series 2018

**Turning** by Darrah Cloud

Wednesday, April 11 at 7:30 PM

In the heart of 1930s Newark, a group of scrappy young women began to train in backyards for what would become the experience of a lifetime. Inspired by local resident Ada Lunardoni & the stories of the 1<sup>st</sup> US Women's Gymnastics team & the controversial 1936 Berlin Olympics.

### About the playwright:



**Darrah Cloud** has over 10 movies-of-the-week produced on CBS and NBC to her name. Her recent work for the theater includes the play, *OUR SUBURB*, which premiered at Theater J in Washington, DC in 2014 and Center Stage in Rochester. Her play for teens, *JOAN THE GIRL OF ARC*, premiered at Cincinnati Playhouse in January, 2014, then toured. Other plays produced in New York, Europe and across the U.S. include *WHAT'S BUGGING GREG?*, *THE STICK WIFE*, *THE MUD ANGEL*, *DREAM HOUSE*, *BRAILLE GARDEN* and *THE SIRENS*. Her musicals include *HEARTLAND*, (Goodspeed

Opera, Madison Repertory Theatre, The Majestic Theatre/Dallas, TheatreWorks Palo Alto) *THE BOXCAR CHILDREN* (Theatreworks USA), *HONOR SONG FOR CRAZY HORSE* (TheatreWorks Palo Alto) and the stage adaptation of Willa Cather's *O PIONEERS!*, which has received over 100 productions in the United States and was filmed starring Mary McDonnell for American Playhouse. Her work is published by Dramatic Play Publishing. Cloud's awards include the Macy's Prize for Theatre for Young Audiences, an National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and a Rockefeller. She is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and an alum of the Iowa Writers Workshop and New Dramatists. She co-directs The Howl Playwrights Lab in Rhinebeck, NY and teaches at Goddard College. <http://darrah.cloud.wix.com/darrah-cloud>

**Havana Orthodoxy** by Vita Patrick Morales

Wednesday April 18 at 7:30 PM

Inspired by a true story. A harrowing story of courage and commitment by one family embroiled in the political turmoil of 1950s Cuba – torn between idealism and survival.

### About the playwright:



**Vita Patrick Morales** has a BA in Italian Literature from Rutgers University, and a MA in Theater and Film from Hunter College. An educator and a playwright, Vita is an adjunct professor of Spanish and Italian at the County College of Morris in Randolph, NJ.

Her play, *Francis of Assisi*, won the award for best Master's Thesis for the Arts and Humanities at Hunter College. Her one-act play, *All God's Children*, was produced several times in NYC, and won numerous awards. She also co-wrote the libretto for the short opera, *Old Befana*, with the late composer John Colligan.

Her play, *The Final Tolling of the Bells*, received the prestigious medal of merit from the Daughters of the American Revolution and had a performance in Millstone, NJ.

In March of 2017, *The Diagonal Trilogy* was performed at the Jersey City Theater Center. It tells the tale of an Italian-American family living in Newark during the cusp of World War II. Other plays by Vita include *The Wall* and *Esmeralda and the Pacific Gyre*. Both works make poignant social comments about the current political Administration and the environment.

In addition to teaching and writing, Vita is on the committee for the Women Playwrights Series for Centenary Stage Company.

### **Another Revolution** by Jacqueline Bircher

Wednesday, April 25 at 7:30 PM

It is 1968. From opposing disciplines & worlds, Kate and Henry are forced to share a lab in the midst of a campus devolving into political chaos. As the turmoil of the outside world threatens to intrude, they each discover what it's truly like to be thrown into someone else's orbit.

### About the playwright:



**Jacqueline Bircher** is a playwright and screenwriter born and raised in New York City. Plays include *Another Revolution* (2017 Primary Stages ESPA\*Drills winner), *Webster's Bitch* (Little Theatre of Alexandria) and *The Rule of Thirds*. Her short plays *Reaction*, *Thin Ice*, and *Yesterday Somewhere* have been produced in the Detention series at Primary Stages, and her screenwriting work has been featured at the WILDsound Film Festival and recognized by the Creative World Awards and

WeScreenplay's Diverse Voices competition. Jacqueline has also received readings and workshops with Clutch Productions, Geneva Theatre Guild, and Talk Back Theatre at the Chance Theater in Orange County, CA. She studied creative writing and literature at Oxford University and Fordham College at Lincoln Center, where she was the recipient of the Ullly Hirsch/Robert F. Nettleton Prize and the Margaret Lamb Prize for Fiction.