

Women Playwrights Series 2020

DRIVE by Deborah Yarchun

Nov. 4 @ 7:30 | Kutz Theatre



A community of truckers in a small town in Iowa are forced to shift gears when they lose their jobs to self-driving vehicles. When Gloria becomes the only trucker in town still employed, resentments begin to surface. Set in a future not far down the road, Drive explores our collective fears. **With original songs by Hannah Fairchild.**



Deborah Yarchun A NYC-based playwright, Yarchun's plays have been developed with the Civilians, Ensemble Studio Theatre, The New Harmony Project, Jewish Plays Project's OPEN Festival, The Great Plains Theater Conference, Jewish Ensemble Theater, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, The Playwrights' Center, Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, TheatreSquared's Arkansas New Play Festival, the William Inge Center for the Arts, WordBRIDGE, and Workhouse Theater Company, and produced at Amphibian Stage Productions, Fusion Theatre, Theater Master's National MFA Playwrights Festival, EstroGenius Festival, the Minnesota Fringe, the Philadelphia Fringe, The Samuel French Off Off Broadway Festival, Playwrights Horizons' Peter Jay

Sharp Theater by Young Playwrights Inc., Williams Street Repertory Theatre, and at theaters and universities across the United States and Canada. Deborah's honors include two Jerome Fellowships at The Playwrights' Center, a Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellowship, an EST/Sloan Commission, Dartmouth's 2020 Neukom Literary Arts Award for Playwriting, The Kennedy Center's Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award, the Kernodle New Play Award, the Richard Maibaum Playwriting Award, and Women in the Arts & Media Coalition's 2019 Collaboration Award. Her play GREAT WHITE was an honorable Mention for the Relentless Award. She was recently a playwright-in-residence at the William Inge Center for the Arts and a member of the Civilians' R&D Group. Deborah earned her M.F.A. from the University of Iowa where she was an Iowa Arts Fellow.

BADLANDS by Nora Leahy

Nov. 11 @ 7:30 | Kutz Theatre



The play follows three library employees in the heart of "The Badlands" who have become first responders to the opioid crisis and witness to a changing neighborhood. *Badlands* examines what we owe to each other, and to the places we come from.



Nora Leahy A Chicago-based playwright and theatre artist. Nationally, her work has been developed or produced at Lean Ensemble Theater (Hilton Head, SC); The Shuler Theater (Raton, NM); Nashville Story Garden (Nashville, TN); The Arden (Philadelphia, PA); Actors Theatre of Charlotte (Charlotte, NC). In Chicago her work has been seen at The New Colony, The Greenhouse Theater, Victory Gardens, and Jackalope Theatre Company.

Her plays have been nationally recognized, including *BADLANDS* (Relentless Award Honorable Mention, 2019); *IF YOU FORGET ME* (Princess Grace Award Semi-Finalist, 2019); and *THE BRIDGE* (Woodward Newman Award Finalist, 2017). Nora was the recipient of the 2020 Haas Fellowship at PlayPenn in Philadelphia on behalf of *BADLANDS*.

Nora currently serves as Managing Director of Jackalope Theatre Company in Chicago, a company committed to cultivating theatre that manifests the adventure deeply rooted in the American mythos. Previously she served as Business Manager of Lookingglass Theatre Company and Managing Director of Two Pigs Productions. In 2018, Nora was named one of the "50 People Who Really Perform For Chicago Theatre" by *NewCity Magazine*.

I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO CRY ABOUT by Patricia Cotter

Nov. 18 @ 7:30 | Kutz Theatre



Paulette and Ann Marie are sisters - they share some DNA, a brutal sense of humor and that's about it. So what happens when Paulette shows up unannounced to Ann Marie's San Francisco apartment? "I'll Give You Something to Cry About" is a ruthless comedy that investigates the meaning of family, responsibility and the power of letting go.



Patricia Cotter Awards include American Academy of Arts Letters, Richard Rodgers Award, Emmy Award, Writers Guild of America Award, Plays include: *1980 (Or Why I'm Voting For John Anderson)* Chicago's Jackalope Theatre 2017, Jeff Awards nominee for Best New Play, *The Surrogate*, winner of the 2016 Susan Glaspell Award, finalist at the 2016 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, produced at Centenary Stage Company, NJ, in 2017. *Rules of Comedy*, produced in 2015 Humana Festival of Ten-Minute Plays. *The Stars Look Very Different Today* was produced as part of Theatreworks 17th Annual New Works Festival, 2018. *Drinking on A Plane* in 2018, and *The Anthropology Section* in 2015 both produced by The Actors Theatre of Louisville's The Tens, *The Break Up Notebook* (a GLAAD Award nominee). Musicals (librettist/adaptations) include *Rocket Science: A Musical*, received readings at Playwrights Horizons in New York (directed by Kathleen Marshall) and was produced at The Village Theatre, Seattle; *The Break-Up Notebook: A Musical* (based on her play), at The Vineyard Theatre in New York. She was asked by Disney Theatricals and MTI to write *Mulan, Jr.* (based on the Disney film *Mulan*), which is produced and performed nationally. Patricia adapted *The Surrogate* for Kanbar Entertainment and the film is slated for a 2020 release. Patricia's most recent play; *After All I Did For You* was commissioned from Theatre Lab at FAU as part of their Fair Play Initiative with a reading scheduled for October 2019. She is in residence as a playwright at the Playwrights Foundation in San Francisco. In addition to writing for the stage, Patricia has written for Twentieth Century Fox Television, Disney Theatrical, and Comedy Central.