

Passage Theatre Company Production History

1985

The Undoing by William Mastrosimone is produced at the Mill Hill Playhouse. The show's success sparks the founding of Passage Theatre by Veronica Brady, director of the show.

1986-87

Passage produces **Essentials** by Pearl Clege and **American Shorts**, a collection of one-act plays commissioned for the Theatre, including plays by Mastrosimone, Keith Curran, Zina Jasper, Casey Curtti, Donald Marguiles and Donald J. Rothchild.

1987-88

Mainstage productions **In This Fallen City** by Bryan Williams, **The Madonna Project** by Francis P. Bilancio, **Queen Christina** which was commissioned by New Jersey State Museum.

1988-89

Mainstage productions **American Shorts '89** featuring works by Mastrosimone, and John Sayles, **Bob's Guns** by Jim McGrath, **The Dance Concert** by June Anderson and Nancy Theil, **King of Dominoes** by Bill Vargas.

1989-90

I, Lionel and **Occupation: Troubadour**, both by Bryan Williams, **Palm Sunday** by Paula Cizmar, along with several readings and workshops. Nine plays are also performed in the **Lunchtime Productions** series.

1990-91

Mastrosimone's **Sunshine** at the Mill Hill Playhouse, readings and workshops include **Roebling Steel** by Jim McGrath, and **Mr. Parnell** by Larry Kirwan. **Lunchtime Productions** is highlighted by Chekhov's **The Marriage Proposal** performed by the National Asian American Theatre Company.

1991-92

McGrath's **Roebling Steel** (World Premiere) directed by Stephen Stout is performed in a factory in the Roebling complex. Veronica Brady directs **Thin Air: Tales From a Revolution** by Lynne Alvarez.

1992-93

Walter Allen Bennet, Jr.'s **This City of Dreams** set in Trenton produced at the Mill Hill Playhouse. Reading series includes Mastro Simone's **Burning Desire**.

1995

Bruce Jacoby's **Three More Gone** (World Premiere) plays to favorable reviews at the Mill Hill, the Theatre's first musical, critically acclaimed **Avenue X**. June Ballinger establishes **Write On**, the start of The State Street Project

1996

McGrath's **Trenton Giants** presented for one performance at the Mill Hill Playhouse. Pulitzer Prize-winner Beth Henley's futuristic drama **Signature** is directed by Stephen Stout who also directs **Pee Wee and the Wheelman**.

1997-98

Winterfest, a series of staged readings of works by five playwrights hosted at four venues around the city. The State Street Project stages first full productions with sets and costumes, **No Way Jose**.

1998-99

Move It and It's Yours (World Premiere), written by Bill Weeden, David Finkle and Sally Fay (selected by the Star-Ledger as the New Jersey musical of the year)

Black Comedy: The Wacky Side of Racism, written and performed by Nancy Giles

1999-2000

Gift of the Magi, based on the short story by O. Henry, music & lyrics by Peter Ekstrom

Bang Bang Your Dead, William Mastro Simone's searing drama addressing teen violence, performed by a cast of Mercer County high school students

Zora Neale Hurston, by Laurence Holder

Blinding Light (World Premiere), by William Mastro Simone

2000-2001

Welcome Home Marian Anderson, written by and starring Vanessa Shaw

Solo Flights Festival (A series of works by solo artists)

- **Surface Transit**, a free performance for high school students presented in conjunction with the Fleet Diversity Series at the Trenton War Memorial
- **LoveSuites**, an evening of Spoken Word, Music, and Dance written by and featuring Mo Beasley
- **Manchild In The Promised Land**, based on the novel of the same name by Claude Brown performed by Joseph Edward and presented in conjunction with the City of Trenton for Black History Month
- **Fly**, written by and starring Joseph Edward

Victor and the Virgin, written by Thomas Dunn

2001-2002

The Book of Candy (World Premiere), by Susan Dworkin and Mel Marvin, directed by Ahvi Spindell. Co-produced with Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey. Awarded the "Best Musical New to NJ" by the Star-Ledger.

2nd Annual Solo Flights Festival

- **Manchild In The Promised Land**, based on the novel of the same name by Claude Brown performed by Joseph Edward and presented in conjunction with Black History Month.
- **Florida Girls**, written and performed by Nancy Hasty
- **TranceZenDance**, written and performed by Korean American John Woo Taak Kwon
- **Notes of a Negro Neurotic**, written and performed by Nancy Giles.

Paul Robeson, by Phillip Hates Dean starring Tony Award winner Chuck Cooper

2002-2003

Mosaic: Fragments of a Jewish Life, by Robin Hirsch

3rd Annual Solo Flights

- **Manchild In The Promised Land**, based on the novel of the same name by Claude Brown performed by Joseph Edward and presented in conjunction with Black History Month
- **Heavy Mettle**, written and performed by Richard Hoehler
- **No Lie**, written and performed by Aaron Jafferis
- **High Dive**, written and performed by Leslie Ayvazian
- **Comedy Tonight**, written and performed by Nancy Giles and Joseph Edward

Lovely Day (workshop), written by Leslie Ayvazian

Shangri-La (workshop), written by Yusef Komunyakaa, composed by Susie Ibarra

2003-2004

The Afghan Women (World Premiere), written by William Mastrosimone. Selected by the Star-Ledger as one of the ten best plays of 2003.

Fourth Annual Solo Flights Festival

- ***The Man Who Danced with Marlene Dietrich***, written and performed by Robin Hirsch
- ***Watermelon- Git it while it's Hot***, written and performed by Cece Antoinette
- ***Downloaded and In Denial***, written and performed by Cynthia Adler
- **Special Events-Music: Christine Lavin; Joanne Brackeen; Yuri Lane; Kip Rosser**

In Mahalia's Light (World Premiere), conceived by Queen Esther Marrow, Roseanne Kirk, Richard Bell

2004-2005

Willie B Came Into The Sun (World Premiere), written by Jean Sterrett

Rosemary and I (re-staging of new draft), written by Leslie Ayvazian

Pretty Fire (with the assistance of St Louis Black Repertory Company), written by Charlayne Woodard

2005-2006

Move It and It's Yours (remount), written by Bill Weeden, David Finkle and Sally Fay

Fifth Annual Solo Flights Festival

- ***Love to All, Lorraine***, written and performed by Elizabeth Van Dyke

The Stone Carver, written by William Mastrosimone

State Street Project

If I Could in My Hood I Would..., by David Lee White and young people from the Get Set Program

Word for Word, 21st Century programs

Winterfest, a series of new play readings

2006-2007

Second Line, written by Seret Scott

Sixth Annual Solo Flights Festival

- **Ole!**, performed by the Alborada Dance Company
- **Underneath the Lintel**, written by Glen Berger, performed by Chris Coucill
- **Tea for Three**, written by Eric H. Weinberger, performed by Elaine Bromka
- **Beat Box Chicago**, written and performed by Yuri Lane
- **For Lost Words**, composed and created by Vince DiMura from the poetry of Yusef Komunyakaa

The Deacons, written by Yusef Komunyakaa

State Street Project

- **Fire Girls**, written by David Lee White, performed by the State Street Project Ensemble
- **Playmaking** – a 21st century program, directed by David Lee White

Trenton Lights (reading), written by June Ballinger and David Lee White based on interviews with seniors from the Trenton community

2007-2008

Play Lab Workshop

- **Random Horrible Thoughts About Love**, written by David Lee White
- **The Devil's Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith**, written by Angelo Parra
- **Pa's Hat** (AEA Workshop), written by Cori Thomas

Seventh Annual Solo Flights Festival

- **It goes without saying**, written and performed by Bill Bowers
- **Fuego: The Fire Within**, choreographed and performed by Eva Lucena
- **For Lost Words**, conceived and composed by Vince DiMura
- **A Womb With A View**, written and performed by Debra Barsha
- **Flat Black**, written and directed by Alysia Souder
- **Metamorphoses**, written and performed by Todd Conner
- **A Sense of Wonder**, written and performed by Kaiulani Lee
- **Nimbus Dance Works**, choreographed by Michelle deFremery and John Paul, Jr, performed by Michelle deFremery
- **Blood Cherries**, written and performed by Dawn Akemi Saito
- **Tales from The Beatbox**, written and performed by Yuri Lane

Play Lab: The Gallery Plays

- ***Eleanor Descending a Staircase***, written by Ian August
Inspired by Marcel Duchamp's *Nude Descending a Staircase*
- ***Seven in Heaven***, written by Lynne Elson
Inspired by René Magritte's *The Lovers*
- ***The Marvin Party***, written by Sonya Aronowitz
Inspired by Patrick Caulfield's *Still Life: Autumn Fashion*
- ***Back Fire***, written by David Lee White
Inspired by René Magritte's *Backfire*
- ***The End of My Tour***, written by Peter Gruen
Inspired by Norman Rockwell's *Homecoming*
- ***Wednesday is Taco Night***, written by Hope Gatto
Inspired by Bill Stoneham's *The Hands Resist Him*

Cecilia's Last Tea Party, written by Russell Davis

State Street Project
Playmaking – *The Kids Are in Control!*

2008-2009

The Summer House, written by Amber Kain

Eighth Annual Solo Flights Festival

- ***Salmonpeople***, written and performed by Peter Donaldson
- ***If My Friends Could See Me Now***, written and performed by Mary Cleere Haran and Don Rebic
- ***On The Way To Timbuktu***, written and performed by Petronia Paley
- ***You A Man Now?***, written and performed by Mo Beasley
- ***Ethel Waters: His Eye is on the Sparrow***, written by Larry Parr
- ***The Yellow Wallpaper***, performed by Michèle LaRue, based on the direction of Warren Kliewer in his staging of the short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- ***Ragtime***, written and performed by Terry Waldo
- ***BUST***, written and performed by Lauren Weedman
- ***Nimbus Dance Works***, choreographed by Sam Pott and Randy James

Instructions for Breathing, written by Caridad Svich

State Street Project
Playmaking

- ***The Willington Animals***, written by Max Gatto
- ***Wrestling Rivalry***, written by Tomas Ucci
- ***Secrets and Spiders***, written by Kenyana Olford
- ***Don't Erase My Brain***, written by Erin Wallace

- **Michael and the Talking Book**, written by Diana Haiti
- **Gabrielle and Her Two Wishes**, written by Luciana Ucci
- **The Games**, written by Davon Parks
- **Superbaby and Superbot**, written by Marquis Phillips
- **Megabot and Superbot VS. Workerman**, written by Gbaweah Sandy

Play Lab: FM Radio

- **Battlefield**, written by Ian August
- **Master of the Universe**, written by Sonya Aronowitz
- **Crazy Crazy On You**, written by Lynne Elson
- **The Infanta**, written by Peter Gruen
- **Can't Fight This Feelin'**, written by James Christy, Jr.
- **Too Late For Goodbyes**, written by Christopher Kess
- **Ink**, written by Hope Gatto

2009-2010

Ethel Waters: His Eye is on the Sparrow, written by Larry Parr

Blood: A Comedy (World Premiere), written by David Lee White

Holiday Musicale

Vocals: Miche Braden, Christopher Coucill, Sarah Donner, Liz Fillo, Sam Frisby & Best of Friends

Piano: Miche Braden, Sam Frisby & Best of Friends, Michael McLean, Vince DiMura

Bass: Chris Clark

Guitar: Sarah Donner

Cajon: Brad Sicotte

Ninth Annual Solo Flights Festival

- **Hurricane Season**, written and performed by Naima and Alexa
- **This is Ragtime**, written and performed by Terry Waldo
- **The Reluctant Optimist**, written and performed by Mary Martello
- **MotherSON**, written and performed by Jeffrey Solomon
- **BUST**, written and performed by Lauren Weedman
- **No...You Shut Up!**, written and performed by Lauren Weedman

Trenton Lights (World Premiere), conceived and created by June Ballinger and David Lee White and members of the Trenton community

Play Lab: Fortune Smiles

Ten Minute Play Festival

- **The Ask**, written by David Lee White
- **The Ride**, written by James Christy, Jr.
- **Unicycle, Unicycle or This Happy Dream**, written by Ian August
- **Three Cubes and Some Noodles**, written by Hope Gatto
- **The Breakthrough**, written by Paula T. Alekson

2010-2011

Love and Communication, written by James Christy, Jr. Winner of the 2011 Virginia Brown Martin Philadelphia Award.

Santa Claus is Coming Out, written and performed by Jeffrey Solomon

Tenth Annual Solo Flights Festival

- **In the Style of Weill**, written and performed by Mary Martello
- **Tales from the Bawdy House**, written and performed by Terry Waldo
- **Draw the Circle**, written and performed by Deen
- **Wanderlust**, written and performed by Martin Dockery
- **Black Comedy: The Wacky Side of (Post?) Racism**, written and performed by Nancy Giles
- **No Parole**, written and performed by Carlo D'Amore
- **Forgive to Forget**, written and performed by chandra thomas

NJTA Stages Festival: Slippery as Sin (workshop)

Samuel J and K, written by Mat Smart

2011-2012

De Novo: mas alla de las fronteras (Beyond Borders), written, curated and directed by Jeffrey Solomon, co-presented with The Houses on the Moon Theatre Company

The History of Light, written by Eisa Davis

Eleventh Annual Solo Flights Festival

- **Broke Wide Open**, written and performed by Rock WILK
- **Comes Love**, written by Demetria Joyce Bailey and Vince DiMura
- **Leah Stein Dance Company**, created by Leah Stein and Toshi Makihara
- **Donna Orbits the Moon**, written by Ian August
- **Punchkapow**, written by Team Sunshine Performance Corporation
- **Beyond Words**, written and performed by Bill Bowers

NJTA Stages Festival: Cuentos del Arbol, created by Pushcart Players

Slippery as Sin (World Premiere), written by David Lee White

2012-2013

Dancescapes NJ, co-created by Passage Theatre, DanceSpora, and D&R Greenway Land Trust

Blessed Are (World Premiere), written by Jessica Bedford

Passage Presents:

SRO, written and performed by Lauren Weedman

State Street Project: *This Trenton Life*, written by David Lee White

One-Minute Play Festival

Roundelay (World Premiere), written by R.N. Sandberg

Passage Presents:

Sarah Dash: One Woman, created and performed by Sarah Dash

Passage Presents:

Christine Lavin, created and performed by Christine Lavin

2013-2014

True Story (World Premiere), written by EM Lewis

The Screwtape Letters, written and performed by Anthony Lawton

One-Minute Play Festival

Profiles (World Premiere), conceived and created by June Ballinger and David Lee White and members of the Trenton community

Tamer of Horses, written by William Mastrosimone

Play Lab: Prix Fixe Reading Series

2014-2015

Little Rock (World Premiere), written and directed by Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj. Winner of the 2015 Barrymore Award for Outstanding Ensemble in a Play.

Bad Dreams Passin' (workshop), written by Vince DiMura and R.N. Sandberg

Play Lab: Prix Fixe Reading Series

- **Reveille**, written by Jessica Bedford
- **The Text of Sex**, written by Michele Aldin-Kushner
- **Shorts**, written by Greg Nanni; *Strange Dog*; June Ballinger; Lisa Huberman

The Gun Show, written by EM Lewis

State Street Project: Bobashela, written by David Lee White, based on Trenton High School students' writings from 1935-2015

The Goldilocks Zone (World Premiere), written by Ian August

2015-2016

Song for the Disappeared (World Premiere), written by Tanya Saracho

Twelfth Solo Flights Festival

- **Manchild in the Promised Land**, based on the novel of the same name by Claude Brown, performed by Joseph Edward
- **Panther Hollow**, written and performed by David Lee White
- **Remembrance Day** (World Premiere), written and performed by June Ballinger
- **Mention My Beauty** (World Premiere), written and performed by Leslie Ayvazian
- **Etty**, written and performed by Susan Stein
- **Everything's Fine!**, written and performed by Alex Clothier

White Guy on the Bus, written by Bruce Graham

2016-2017

Out of the City, written by Leslie Ayvazian

Remembrance Day, written and performed by June Ballinger

Miracle in Rwanda, written and performed by Leslie Lewis

Fixed (World Premiere), written by David Lee White

State Street Project: Trenton's Midsummer Magic Festival, written by Christina Forshey and Trenton Central High School students, inspired by the works of William Shakespeare

2017-2018

***Paradise**, written by Laura Maria Censabella (co-production with Luna Stage)*

***I of the Storm**, written by RJ Bartholomew and performed by Richard Hoehler*

***Caged** (World Premiere), written by the New Jersey Prison Cooperative*

2018-2019

***Salt Pepper Ketchup** (World Premiere), written by Josh Wilder (co-production with InterAct Theatre Company)*

***The Real Life Adventures of Jimmy de las Rosas**, written by Ricardo Gamboa (a staged reading)*

***To My Unborn Child: A Love Letter from Fred Hampton**, written and performed by Richard Bradford*

***Bicycle Face**, written and performed by Hannah Van Sciver*

***Morir Sonyando**, written by Erlina Ortiz*