

Who's Who

ReproFreedomArts.org Presents ReGENERATION: Our Reproductive Freedom Then and Now August 26 at 7 pm ET on Zoom

Gen Z

Manju Bangalore (writer/performer, *a love song*) is a physicist, actor, and the founder of Operation Period, a youth-led nonprofit addressing menstrual inequity through art, advocacy, education, community engagement, and mutual aid. She has worked at two NASA centers, Marshall Space Flight Center and Johnson Space Center on propulsion and the cockpit displays for the Orion spacecraft, as well as in the White House under President Obama on science policy. She currently holds the title of Miss World California and placed top 10 at Miss World America in October. (Paired with Judith Arcana.)

Aleina Dume (writer, *Under Construction*, post-performance discussion) is a first-generation college student studying at Swarthmore College from New York City. As of 2020, she is a sophomore. Aleina is passionate about amplifying unheard or marginalized voices through work in education and media. Her goal is always to make opportunities more accessible and equitable. She plans to graduate in 2023 with a degree in Sociology and Educational Studies. Aleina has experience in writing, journalism, teaching, social media/graphic design, and social justice work. She's worked at Columbia University's Double Discovery Center, Swarthmore College's Intercultural Center, Her Agenda, The Trace, and Barnes & Noble. (Paired with Luz Rodriguez.)

Isabella Gallegos (writer, performer, *Further*) is a rising senior at Townsend Harris Highschool. She is an aspiring actor who has attended the New York State Summer School of the Arts for two years and worked closely with a non-profit organization called Kids Creative Collective. She also likes to write plays and stories, the most recent of which is a production at her highschool which she helped direct as well. Isabella hopes to inspire positive change in others through her art and is thrilled to be participating in a project dedicated to promoting reproductive rights with such amazing artists. (Paired with Mildred Lewis.)

Emory Kempf (writer, performer *A Come to Jesus Moment*) once considered being a chef, a professional soccer player, and an astronaut after a rousing tour of the National Air and Space Museum. She decided those careers weren't stable enough, so she is now a writer and performer. Her personal projects are usually intersections of theater, sketch-comedy, and advocacy (especially pertaining to mental health and gender). Favorite credits include: The NYU Reality Show (writer/performer), A Chorus Line (Kristine, Edinburgh Fringe Festival), and Smile, Because It Happened: An NYU Tisch Drama Senior Thesis Project Experimental Devised Puppet Theater Two-Person One-Woman Show (writer/Gritty Bits). Thanks to Stacey, Alinca, Cindy, and all of our wonderful collaborators! NYU Tisch '20. (Paired with Rev. Rebecca Turner.)

Ava Elizabeth Novak (she/he/they) (writer, performer *3 Notes to Hold Each Other*) is a film and theatremaker based in New York City. She is currently attending NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, pursuing a BFA in Drama at Playwright Horizons Theatre School and a film minor. Their most recent credits include being a reader for the Quarantine Play Bakeoff (University of Minnesota), video editor for Run Me My Money (nicHi douglas, The Movement Theatre Company I Move Commissions), and one of the Sams in sam at the base of the mountain (Yousef Liepert, Nextfest 2020). Ava would like to thank Stacey Linnartz for giving her this opportunity and the entire team for such a fantastic process. (Paired with Cassandra Medley.)

Elliot Stewart (writer, performer *Thoughts from Charlotte*) is a performer, writer, choreographer, and designer based in NYC. When not on stage they have been a farmer, educator, waiter, or all of the above. They are so thankful to Stacey, Alinca, Cindy, and everyone who is a part of this project for bringing them on board and welcoming them to the Repro Freedom Arts family! Previous work includes Julius Caesar (actor) and God's Ear (choreographer) at Playwrights Horizons Downtown, and Asphodels (props) at the Hudson Guild Theater. For any and all inquiries contact them at elliottstewartnyc@gmail.com. Remember to get out there and VOTE! (Paired with Charlotte Taft.)

Gen 'Roe'

Judith Arcana: Born in Ohio during WWII, Judith Arcana lives in Oregon, where she writes stories, poems, essays and books. She's a Jane, a member of Chicago's pre-Roe underground abortion service, and taught women's health, sexuality and maternity classes for the Chicago Women's Liberation School and Columbia College in the 1970s. Her poetry collection *What if your mother treats multiple themes*, notably abortion, adoption, and IVF; her new story collection -- *Hello. This is Jane.* -- is linked fiction about abortion and tattooing. Visit juditharcana.com. (Paired with Manju Bangalore.)

Mildred Lewis: After Oberlin College, Mildred began as a director at the Actors Studio and Circle Repertory's LAB. After graduating from UCLA's film school, she won Samuel Goldwyn and HBO New Writers Awards. *Unbowed*, a feature based on her work, screened at the Palm Springs, American Indian and Pan African Film Festivals. Her plays have been produced in Chicago, Cincinnati, London, New York and Spokane. She teaches English at Chapman University and has won several teaching awards. (Paired with Isabella Gallegos.)

Cassandra Medley: Award winning playwright produced across the US. Several published plays, two online broadcasts: "Cell," and "Relativity." Retired from Sarah Lawrence College. Member Ensemble Studio Theater. (Paired with Ava Novak.)

Luz Marina Rodriguez is a co-founder of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective. Luz spent 13 years at the Foundation Center as its NY Lead and Training Specialist where she designed and delivered bilingual fundraising and philanthropy training throughout the U.S. and across borders in regions such as Italy, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Nigeria. She is the Founding Principal of Visionary Allies and is a sought-after coach and mentor to many social change agents for her expertise in fundraising, capacity-building and leadership development. (Paired with Aleine Dume.)

Charlotte Taft: Born 1950. BA and MA in Feminist Studies. Fell in love with a woman and moved to Dallas, Texas in 1975. Got a job in an abortion clinic. Director of a clinic from 1978-1996. Pioneered 'Head and Heart' counseling. Live in New Mexico with my partner of 32 years, Shelley Oram, and our beloved dogs. Director of the Abortion Care Network from 2009-2015. Counsel before and after abortion over the phone, 1996-present. Creating a series of YouTube abortion counseling videos, *Before and After Abortion*. Written two unpublished novels. (Paired with Elliot Stewart.)

Rev. Rebecca Turner: Since ordination in a Southern Baptist Church in 1986, Rev. Rebecca Turner has found many ways to heed the biblical call to do justice in the world. For 9 years, she was the Executive Director of Faith Aloud, an interfaith organization for reproductive justice that provided unique spiritual counseling services and materials to women choosing abortion and to abortion providers. These materials have been used throughout English- and Spanish-speaking countries around the world. She has served as Minister of churches in Baptist, Disciples of Christ, and United Church of Christ traditions. As the current Pastor of Christ Church UCC in Maplewood, MO, she continues to advocate for justice for women, LGBTQ+ folks, black lives, immigrants, and the environment. (Paired with Emory Kempth.)

Guest Artists

Dawn Elizabeth Clements (performer, *You Can Sit Anywhere*) is a native of Bessemer, Alabama and she is a graduate of Columbia University M.F.A Acting Program. Dawn has been seen in productions such as, *Pride & Prejudice* (Lydia Bennet/Lady Catherine), *The Pride Plays Festival's Blueprints to Freedom: An Ode to Bayard Rustin* (Miriam Caldwell), *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), and *In the Red and Brown Water* (Mama Moja, The Woman That Reminds, and Nia). She is excited to be apart of this wonderful production. Jeremiah 29:11

Julissa Roman (performer, *Under Construction*) is a faculty member of HB Studio. In theater has worked with Catherine Filloux at La MaMa Theatre in "Luz" (Jose Zayas), "Nanas" (Dir. Tatiana Pandiani at IATI and LATEA), "A is for Abortion Play" (NY Fringe) "The Death of a Dream" (directed Obie Award winner Frank Perez); "Crossings" (N.Y. Fringe and Europe Theater Encounters); "Girl Who Died Often" (Repertorio Español), she developed "Torera" by Monet Hurst-Mendoza at Westport Country Playhouse. Film credits: "We Speak NYC" (George LaVoo) "Exposed", performing next to Keanu Reeves and Ana de Armas, "Nueva York" (Tribeca and NY Latino F.F.); "4 Latas" (San Diego F.F. and Human Rights F.F. Argentina), "Marie" (Women in Action F.F.) among others. www.julissaroman.com

Dr. Jaye Austin Williams (performer, *We have always done this*) teaches in the Program in Africana Studies at Bucknell University. Prior to her transition into academia, she spent thirty years as a professional actor, director, playwright and consultant, on and off Broadway and regionally; including *Words of Choice* with creator Cindy Cooper, Stacey Linnartz, Carl H. Jaynes and director Francesca Mantani Arkus. Her play, *A Not So Quiet Nocturne*, will be published next year by Routledge, in a collection edited by Willy Conley. She is currently completing a monograph entitled, *Staging (Within) Violence: Slavery, the "Post-" Colony and (Anti-) Black Modernity*.

Sarah Wolf (workshop guest) is a social media intern at Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.

Artistic Team

Alinca Hamilton (Creativity Coordinator, Director) is a born and bred NYC based actor. Her work explores the intricacies of urban communities through humor. She believes a conscious comical approach to storytelling helps to break down barriers and open minds. Her artistry ranges from acting to going behind the scenes producing, writing, and directing. Alinca is committed to using her love of the arts to promote worthy causes, using theatre and filmmaking as platforms for traditionally marginalized voices to engage in dialogue. Her favorite acting credits include: *Calphurnia* in *Julius Cesar*, Classic Stage Company; *Philly* in *Someone Dies at the End*, Edinburgh Fringe Festival; and the title character in *Melody June Cooper: Actress* for Hire*, which she conceived and produced. She holds an MFA in Acting from Columbia University.

Stacey Linnartz (Creativity Coordinator, Acting Coach) is a professional actor, director, and teacher of acting. Most recently, she starred in the Off-Broadway hit LIFE SUCKS by Aaron Posner, directed by Jeff Wise (Drama Desk Nomination and OBA Award.) Last fall, the solo show she directed, AS SOON AS YOU'RE BORN (THEY MAKE YOU FEEL SMALL), had its Off-Broadway premiere at The United Solo Festival, where it received a Critic's Choice Award. She has acted in and directed several projects for Repro Freedom Arts, including the Reproductive Freedom Theatre Festival. MFA, Graduate Acting, NYU. StaceyLinnartz.com.

Cindy Cooper (Producer) is an award-winning playwright and journalist in New York. Her plays have won awards from Pen & Brush, Samuel French, Nantucket Playwrights Festival, Malibu Intern'l Festival, and others. Her work has been produced in New York at The Women's Project, Primary Stages, Wings, EST, Art and Work Ensemble, WOW, Theatreworks USA, Anne Frank Center, Center for Tolerance, Ronald Feldman Gallery, Center for Jewish History, Lincoln Center Clark Studio, New Circle Theatre Company and more, as well as in Boston, Philadelphia, LA, Chicago, Minneapolis, Buffalo, Reno, Vancouver, Budapest, Montreal, Helsinki, and others. A two-time Jerome Fellow, her plays are published in 16 publications, and edited *Short Plays on Reproductive Freedom*. The founder of ReproFreedomArts.org (formerly Wors of Choice), she has been honored by NARAL Pro-Choice America, the Abortion Conversation Projects and Quixote Foundation, and others

Emory Kempf, Social Media and Graphics, see above.

Declan C Zhang, Zoom Producer, is a producer, playwright, actor, and musician. Recent credits: *Hyacinth and Apollo* and *The Sun Club* at Dixon Place, *Frankenstein* at The Tank, and *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Wildness* at NYU Tisch. They are a 2050 Administrative Fellow at New York Theatre Workshop, in the Executive department, and an amateur chef. BM: NYU.
@dclnzhang

ReproFreedomArts.org uses dynamic theater, arts and creativity to open new conversations in support of reproductive freedom and human rights. This mission includes addressing the many issues related to reproductive health, rights, justice and freedom, and many intersectional issues, as well — support for bodily autonomy, economic sustainability, equality, gender identity, LGBTQI rights, full access to health care, abortion access, contraception, maternity care, sex education, parenting support, environmental sustainability, immigration rights and voting access, and a world free of violence, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, misogyny and gender oppression. Repro Freedom Arts is a platform of Words of Choice, a 501c3 nonprofit organization in New York State.

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