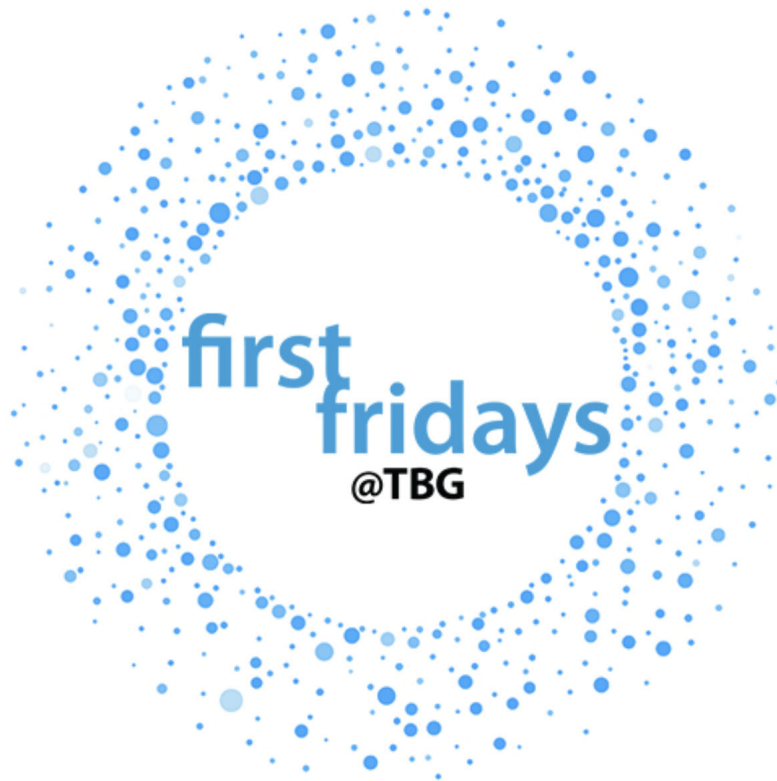


# **First Fridays Festival @ The Barrow Group**

curated by co-artistic directors Seth Barrish and Lee Brock  
produced by Candace Clift, Farrah Crane, Xander Jackson  
and Quinn Vogt-Welch



Friday, June 17, 2022

7pm

Online

***Tree Hugs*** by Evan Baughfman

Directed by Tim Abou-Nasr

Featuring: Gregg Blake, Paige Howard, Jonathan Lipnick, Amory Walsh

***True Skies*** by John Mabey

Directed by Shannon Patterson

Featuring: Michael Giese and Alyson Schacherer

***Carol's Column*** by Kayla Hopkins

Directed by K. Lorrel Manning

Featuring: Amberlin McCormack, Lanae Richelle, and Cara Ronzetti

***A Benevolent Alliance of Mourners*** by Ken Preuss

Directed by Anne Richardson Hansen

Featuring: Ciara Van Buren, Mason Van Gieson, and Eric Ruffin



Tim Abou-Nasr



Evan Baughfman



Gregg Blake



Michael Giese



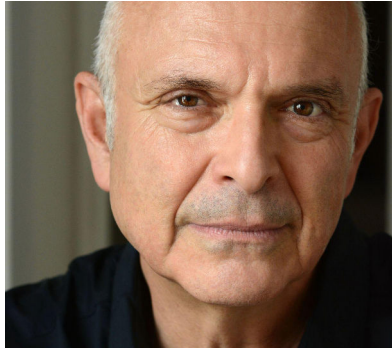
Anne Richardson Hansen



Kayla Hopkins



Paige Howard



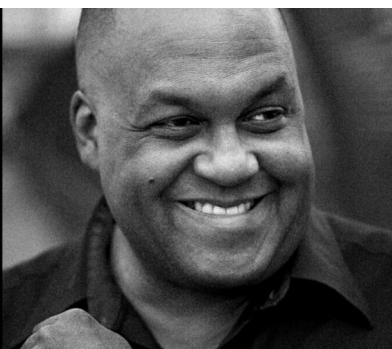
Jonathan Lipnick



John Mabey



Amberlin McCormick



K. Lorrel Manning



Shannon Patterson



Ken Preuss



Lanae Richelle



Cara Ronzetti

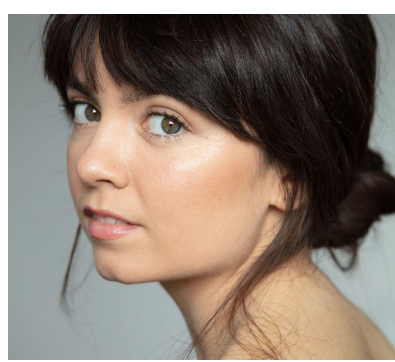


Eric Ruffin

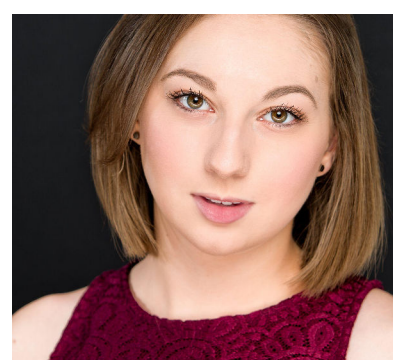




Alyson Schacherer



Ciara Van Buren



Mason Van Gieson



Amory Walsh

**Tim Abou-Nasr** is an actor, director, writer, singer, /guitarist who has studied with The Barrow Group for the past 5 years. At TBG, he's worked on his skills in acting, directing, teaching, and playwriting. Tim has appeared Off-Broadway and at regional theaters across the country. He also served as resident musician at Holland America's McKinley Wilderness Lodge, the largest hotel in Alaska, for 3 years. He met his wife, Paige, at The Barrow Group and is so happy to continue to grow with Seth, Lee, and all of the wonderful colleagues at TBG.

Much of **Evan Baughfman's** writing success has been as a playwright. He's had many different plays produced across the globe. A number of his scripts are published by YouthPLAYS, Heuer Publishing, Next Stage Press, and Drama Notebook. He is a theater company member with Force of Nature Productions of Burbank, CA. Evan also writes horror fiction and screenplays. His first collection of short stories, **THE EMACIATED MAN AND OTHER TERRIFYING TALES FROM POE MIDDLE SCHOOL**, is available through Thurston Howl Publications. His novella, **VANISHING OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**, will soon be published by D&T Publishing. More information is available at [amazon.com/author/evanbaughfman](https://amazon.com/author/evanbaughfman)

**Gregg Blake** is a writer, director, and actor living in Atlanta, GA. He has been involved in dozens of media productions in one or more of these capacities for the past decade. His award nominated (Nightmares Film Festival) and winning (Coney Island Film Festival) short film, **The Smiler**, debuted on newly launched **Bloody Disgusting TV**. As an actor he has appeared in both feature length film and television productions on Netflix, MTV, TruTV, Investigation Discovery Channel and Travel Channel. He appears in the feature film **The Trouble**, available on Amazon Prime.

**Michael Giese** has been a member of the Barrow Group community since 2001. He is an award winning actor who has been seen on television in **As The World Turns** and **Nurse Jackie**, in multiple short and feature length films, most recently **Life Hack** which won the Audience Award for Best Feature at the San Diego International Film Festival and in numerous national network commercials for products such as Coca-Cola, Hellman's, ESPN and Dr. Scholl's. He appeared in **Grand Theft Auto V** as Fabien LaRouche and has been seen on stage regionally and off Broadway in various short and full length plays including here at The Barrow Group, most notably in a new adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's **An Enemy Of The People** by TBG's own Seth Barrish & K. Lorrell Manning.

**Anne Richardson Hansen** is an award nominated actor, screenwriter and filmmaker in New York City. Anne is a member of Drama Desk & Obie Award Winning Theatre Company The Barrow Group, a 2007 LAByrinth Theatre Company Artistic Fellow, a Helen Hayes Award Nominee for THE CRADLE WILL ROCK, and a Best Actress nominee for her work as a young blind woman in BLINDNESS (Tenerife Film Festival). As a screenwriter, Anne has a real gift for genre writing with 3 thrillers on the Lifetime Channel and counting including Baby Obsession, Murder In the Vineyard, Friends in Deadly Places with more in development. She is also a Sundance Episodic Writer's Lab semi-finalist. As a director, Anne shot her first film I'LL HIDE, YOU SEEK (short) under the guidance of legendary producer Michael Hausman (Amadeus, Brokeback Mountain, Gangs of New York, et al) and continues to study with Hausman and Annette Insdorf at Columbia Film School. With an insatiable love of storytelling and conviction for social justice, Anne has a passion for inclusive stories that dig deep into human characters while challenging social thought. What drives her creatively is how to make films with artistic depth that also thrill and entertain.

**Kayla Hopkins** is a black, queer writer and actor operating out of Brooklyn, NY. Currently working in the film industry as a Production Assistant, Kayla is able to focus on honing her skills both as a playwright and screenwriter. With every piece she writes, Kayla looks to "normalize the BIPOC and Queer experience without trauma attached to it." She's had the opportunity to work on and even cameo in Netflix's Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness and looks forward to continuing to work on projects that highlight queer and POC joy, in a similar fashion. A short piece of her screenplay, Carol's Column, has been featured in the February 2022 First Friday's event and will be performed again in the 2022 First

Friday's Festival. Her career is just beginning but her voice and mission are well developed. We look forward to seeing what she does next!

**Paige Howard** is an actor and writer in NYC who has studied with The Barrow Group for the past seven years. She attended TISCH School of the Arts to receive her BFA. She has been seen onstage at the Vineyard Theater in NYC and onscreen in various films and television shows, such as Nickelodeon's "The Astronauts", "Happy", "Arrested Development", "Adventureland", "Medium", "90210" and others. Paige is passionate about creative community and is honored to be a part of The Barrow Group family.

**Jonathan Lipnick:** TROUBLE IN MIND: A Celebration of Black American Playwrights from the 1800's to NOW, The Barrow Group; The Room Where I Was Held, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse; The Buffer, Crown Cork Cafeteria, Til Then, Working Theater, founding member; Fifty Flat, New York Theater Festival; The Writer, Actor's Studio; Romeo and Juliet, The Taming of the Shrew, National Players; Comedy of Errors, D.C. Shakespeare Festival; Film/TV; Once Upon A Bookshop, Trophy Boys, The Chosen, Ryan's Hope, and Masada. LMC Productions member. Jonathan, a rabbi, was a consultant of Jewish content for Paolo Sorrentino's, This Must Be the Place. He studies acting with Lee Brock and Seth Barrish at The Barrow Group. With gratitude to Susan, Daniella, Abby, and Noah for their love and support.

**John Mabey** is a writer and storyteller whose plays have been produced on stage in 7 countries and throughout the United States. John lived internationally for a decade in London and Amsterdam before residing in Atlanta and continues to work with theatre companies around the globe both virtually and

in-person. They are also a certified Mental Health Counselor and published author on the topics of sexual identity and spirituality in academic books and journals. Recent awards for full-length plays include the '2021 Panowski Playwriting Award,' the '2022 Essential Theatre Playwriting Award,' and the '2022 Getchell New Play Award,' and in both 2021 and 2022, had plays published in Smith & Kraus' Best 10-Minute Plays, Best Women's Monologues and Best Men's Monologues. When not writing, they enjoy teaching and performing improvised comedy and true storytelling around the world.

**Amberlin McCormick** is so excited to be making her First Friday debut in Carol's Column. Their most recent credits include Viola in Twelfth Night (National Black Theatre Festival), Eurydice in Eurydice (Warehouse Performing Arts Center), and Avigail in The Unusual Tale of Mary and Joseph (River and Rail Theatre). Amberlin would like to thank her wonderful mentors, family, and friends who inspire her artwork. You can follow their artistic journey on Instagram: @merlin\_lives

**K. Lorrel Manning** is an award-winning writer, director, actor, and musician who works in both theatre and film. His critically-acclaimed play Awake, which he also directed, had its world premiere at the Barrow Group in 2019. Recent theatre work includes: We Need P\*rn, Model Activist, and Incident #19283746 for Theatre Revolution and Midnight Cowboys for Martha's Vineyard Playhouse. He is currently prepping his second narrative feature film, Sheila & the Punk Rock, and two shorts - The Red Shoes and Nowhere - A Meditation on Life, Death & All the Sh\*t in Between. Manning has an MFA in Film from Columbia University and a BFA in Drama from the University of Georgia. He is a proud member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA. He currently teaches screenwriting, directing, and advanced acting at Sarah Lawrence College,

and he is a resident director and instructor at the Barrow Group Theatre Compa

**Shannon Patterson** is a NY based director, coach and actress. She has directed quite a few off-Broadway plays, many here at TBG. She is on faculty as an acting and directing teacher at The Barrow Group and recently just finished on set of an HBO show as the acting coach. One of her favorite things as an artist is developing new works, so she would like to thank John for his beautiful play and First Fridays for their determination to share these new works and feature new voices!

**Ken Preuss** is a Florida-based writer and performer who became a teacher to guarantee an audience 5 days a week. Although his published one-acts for teens and assorted short plays for adults have been produced in festivals and schools in Australia, Canada, China, England, Germany, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, Thailand, and 48 of 50 States, Ken can be found rooted near Orlando with his wife, two sons, and assorted pets.

**Lanae Richelle** is an Antiguan-American based in New York who is currently training at The Barrow Group in their 1-year Professional Acting Program. She loves all acting mediums but is happiest on stage - as this was where she first fell in love with acting on the island of Antigua where she was raised. Her goal as an actor is to be able to portray complex characters that are seen in all facets of their humanity. Instagram: lanae\_richelle

**Cara Ronzetti** is a multidisciplinary artist who was born and raised in Miami, Florida. Some of her identifiers include queer, gender non-conforming, Italian-American, middle child, and graduate of the acting conservatories at both Carnegie Mellon University and Drama

Centre London. She recently worked on The Reunion, for which she won Best Performance in a Lead Role for a Feature Film at Soho International Film Festival. She loves to read, write, shoot film, make music, rock climb, and skateboard, and she is passionate about mental health advocacy. An important project of hers is Words4Warmth, in which she creates handmade one-of-a-kind poetry books out of cut-out words, the proceeds of which go to help those experiencing homelessness in the city. She also has a cat named Rocco, who may in fact be the love of her life.

**Eric Ruffin** starred as Milo in THE TRANSFIGURATION written and directed by Michael O'Shea. The Film was an Un Certain Regard Official Selection at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival, won The Jury Award at The 2017 Dublin Film Festival and was nominated for the John Cassavetes Award 2018 Independent Spirit Awards. Born in North Carolina, he considers himself a true New Yorker when he and mom moved to Brooklyn when he was 1 years old. Eric started acting in commercials at the age of 7 and made his TV debut recurring as Dylan Bishop in The Good Wife. His other TV credits include: Hot Angry Mom (Pilot), Wu-Tang: An American, 30 Rock, Person of Interest, A Gifted Man.

**Alyson Schacherer** has been a part of The Barrow Group for 15 years as an actor (Save Me), director (The Pavilion), and teacher. She was also the Business Manager for a decade. [www.AlysonSchacherer.com](http://www.AlysonSchacherer.com)

**Ciara Van Buren** is an actor and writer from Dublin, Ireland. She has studied at The Gaiety, The Lir Academy, and is currently a student of the One Year Professional Actors Program at The Barrow Group. She has played both lead and supporting roles in Irish award winning films, such as Clodhna in 'The Shift' and Maggie in 'At Sea', as well as a guest appearance on the RTÉ comedy series 'Finding Joy'. Last summer she co-starred, wrote and produced 'Sarah & Sadie', her first written piece to be brought to the screen.

**Mason Van Gieson** is an actor and vocalist based in Astoria, Queens. New York: Pigeons Mate for Life (Theatre Now), Summoned (Dramatic Question Theatre @ The Flea). Regional: Freida, or the Red, Blue & Black (Obsidian Theatre Festival @ Detroit Opera House), Emily Wilson's The Odyssey (Brighton PAC). UMich: What Every Girl Should Know (Theresa), The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui (The Actor), Mr. Burns (Lisa Simpson). Mason has also worked on the other side of the table in production (credits include The Sound Inside @ Studio 54). She is an a cappella vocalist, singing with BLACKOUT and VICE A Cappella (highlights include Good Morning America, 54 Below). She also works as a scholastic vocal music clinician, helping students find the "why" behind their music. Proud Michigan native, UMich grad.

**Amory Walsh** is a professional actor, and has studied at the BARROW GROUP for years. She has appeared in films and TV.

# **The Barrow Group**

## **[www.barrowgroup.org](http://www.barrowgroup.org)**

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Director of Education.....Farrah Crane  
Associate Director of Education  
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Operations Manager.....Candace Clift  
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