



**JONAH**

STUDIO



# FRIENDS,

This is the second time this season that a playwright joins the group of 20 or so writers who Studio has produced three or more times. *The Mother Play* put Paula Vogel in the club. And now joins Rachel Bonds, a writer who is as entwined with my tenure at Studio as any other.

During my early years here, we began to commission writers to write plays for us. Rachel was one of the first writers we commissioned, and her play *The Wolfe Twins* was the first commissioned play Studio ever produced. Next came *Curve of Departure* in 2017. Those plays, like *Jonah*, were staged in the Milton Theatre, the most intimate of our intimate spaces. That's not happenstance—the subtlety, nuance, and quiet grace of Rachel's plays beg for up-closeness.

*Jonah* shares many of the signatures of those earlier plays. Everyday talk written with unusual craft. Speech that is fragmented, interrupted, and real. A keen control of emotional subtext, of the gap between words and thoughts. But *Jonah* also showcases Rachel's evolution as a playwright, as she skillfully plays with form, using storytelling and theatrical craft to disorient and surprise us.

This production pairs Rachel with director Taylor Reynolds, whose production of *Fat Ham* was a megawatt hit with Studio audiences. Joining them is a notably talented cast and creative team, with faces both familiar and new to Studio. It's my sincere pleasure to share with you the fruits of their labor.

Yours,

David Muse  
Artistic Director

Scan to read  
a note from  
our dramaturg  
about Rachel  
Bonds's gift for  
observation,  
honesty, and  
hard-earned  
connection.



# STUDIO THEATRE

**DAVID MUSE**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**REBECCA ENDE  
LICHTENBERG**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## PRESENTS

# JONAH

BY **RACHEL BONDS**

DIRECTED BY  
**TAYLOR REYNOLDS**

Originally Produced in New York City by Roundabout Theatre Company at the Harold and Miriam Steinberg Center for Theatre / Laura Pels Theatre on February 1, 2024.

**SDC** The Director and/or Choreographer is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.



The scenic, costume, lighting, and sound designers in LORT Theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA829 of the IATSE.

This Theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theaters and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

SET DESIGNER  
**SIBYL WICKERSHEIMER**

COSTUME DESIGNER  
**DANIELLE PRESTON**

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
**ANDREW CISSNA**

SOUND DESIGNER  
**FABIAN OBISPO**

INTIMACY DIRECTOR  
**SIERRA YOUNG**

DRAMATURG  
**ADRIEN-ALICE HANSEL**

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER  
**TAYLOR KIECHLIN\***

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION  
**JEFFERY MARTIN**

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
**RHIANNON SANDERS**

CASTING  
**KATJA ZAROLINSKI, CSA**

UNDERWRITTEN BY  
**TERESA AND DAN SCHWARTZ**

# CAST



**ANA  
ISMENIA  
MENDES\***



**JONAH  
ROHAN  
MALETIRA\***



**DANNY  
QUINN M.  
JOHNSON\***



**STEVEN  
LOUIS REYES  
MCWILLIAMS\***

## UNDERSTUDIES

**ANA  
AYSIA GLENN**

**JONAH  
NICOLAS JOHN  
BURGOS**

**DANNY  
CLINT  
BLAKELY**

**STEVEN  
COLEMAN  
PEDIGO**

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## SETTING

A series of bedrooms. Present day and the past.

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\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Mangers in the United States

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# PLAYWRIGHT



**RACHEL BONDS** is a playwright, screenwriter, and writer for scripted podcasts. Her plays have been developed or produced by Studio Theatre, Roundabout Theatre Company, MCC Theater, Ars Nova, Manhattan Theatre Club, Atlantic Theater Company, McCarter Theatre Center, Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, La Jolla Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and NYS&F. Recent projects include *Jonah*, winner of the 2024 Laurents/Hatcher Award, which premiered at Roundabout Theatre Company; *The Lonely Few*, with music & lyrics by Zoe Sarnak, which ran at MCC Theater and The Geffen Playhouse; and the scripted series *The Boar's Nest*, starring Mandy Moore, for Audible. She was the Tow Foundation Playwright-in-Residence at Ars Nova, and in addition to the Laurents / Hatcher Foundation Award, her plays have received the L. Arnold Weissberger Award, the Sky Cooper Prize, and the Heideman Award.  
[rachelbonds.com](http://rachelbonds.com)

# DIRECTOR



**TAYLOR REYNOLDS** is an OBIE-award winning director based in New York, originally from Chicago. Her work centers around joyful collaboration and new play development. DC directing credits include *Fat Ham* at Studio Theatre (Helen Hayes nomination for Best Director), *Merry Wives* at Shakespeare Theatre Company, *Primary Trust* at Signature Theatre, and *The Sensational Sea Mink-ettes* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. New York and regional directing credits include *The Waterfall* at WP Theater/Thrown Stone, *This Land Was Made* at Vineyard Theatre, *Tambo & Bones* at Playwrights Horizons/Center Theatre Group, *Man Cave* at Page 73, *Plano* at Clubbed Thumb (Drama Desk nomination for Best Director), *Clyde's* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre/Huntington Theatre Company, *The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington* at Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (*New York Times* Critic's Pick), and *Richard & Jane & Dick & Sally* at Baltimore Center Stage/Playwrights Realm. Taylor has also worked as a director and collaborator with companies including The Movement Theatre Company, Playwrights' Center, Keen Company, Ojai Playwrights Conference, MCC Theater, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and The 24 Hour Plays. She is a New Georges Affiliated Artist, 2021 League of Professional Theatre Women Lucille Lortel Award recipient, 2017-2018 Clubbed Thumb Directing Fellow, and Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab alum. She has a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University and is a proud member of SDC.

# 2025-2026

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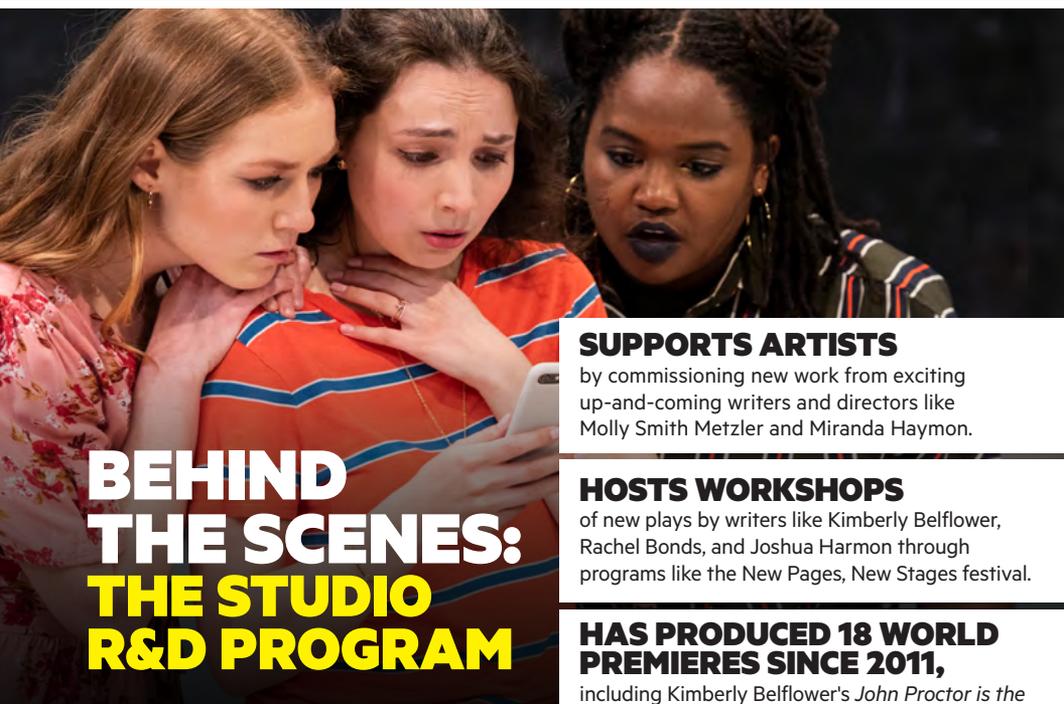
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## BEHIND THE SCENES: THE STUDIO R&D PROGRAM

Jordan Slattery, Miranda Rizzolo, Deidre Staples in  
*John Proctor is the Villain*. Photo by Margot Schulman

### SUPPORTS ARTISTS

by commissioning new work from exciting up-and-coming writers and directors like Molly Smith Metzler and Miranda Haymon.

### HOSTS WORKSHOPS

of new plays by writers like Kimberly Belflower, Rachel Bonds, and Joshua Harmon through programs like the New Pages, New Stages festival.

### HAS PRODUCED 18 WORLD PREMIERES SINCE 2011,

including Kimberly Belflower's *John Proctor is the Villain* (which went on to a successful Broadway run and is in development as a major film) and James Ijames' *Good Bones* (recently produced by The Public Theater).

# ACTORS

**ISMENIA MENDES** (Ana) is a proud immigrant and Portuguese-American actor. Her theatre credits include *Mac Beth* with Red Bull Theater at the Lucille Lortel Theatre, *Mary's Seacole* at LCT3, *Troilus and Cressida* with The Public Theater, and *All's Well That Ends Well* at The Old Globe. Ismenia can also be seen in television episodes of *Orange Is the New Black* (Netflix), *High Maintenance* (HBO), and *Evil* (Paramount+). She is a recipient of Red Bull Theater's Matador Award for Extraordinary Talent in Classical Theater, as well as a Drama Desk Ensemble Award for *The Wayside Motor Inn* at Signature Theatre Company (NYC). Ismenia is a graduate of the Juilliard School for Drama.

**ROHAN MALETIRA** (Jonah) makes his Studio debut. His recent credits include *A Few Good Men* at University of Michigan and *Prometheus: Beginnings* at the Sibiu International Theatre Festival. He is a recent graduate from the University of Michigan's BFA acting program.

**QUINN M. JOHNSON** (Danny) returns to Studio after appearing in *Clyde's*. His Off Broadway credits include *Jordans* at The Public Theater and *Black Mother Lost Daughter* at Atlantic Theater Company. Regionally Quinn has appeared in *Clyde's* and *Goodspeed* (staged reading) at Denver Center; *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Our*

*Town* at Shakespeare Theater Company; and *Jesus Hopped the A Train* at Short North Stage. International credits include *The Bacchae* with the International Festival of Greek Drama; and *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *The Changeling*, and *Revenger's Tragedy* at Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Quinn was recently featured in *FBI* (CBS) and is a proud alumnus of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the Shakespeare Theater Academy.

**LOUIS REYES MCWILLIAMS** (Steven) is an actor, writer, and filmmaker. He previously appeared at Studio Theatre in *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*. His Off Broadway credits include *Coriolanus* and *Titus Andronicus*, both with The Public Theater, *Café Utopia* with Notch Theatre Co., and *Anna Karenina: a riff* at The Flea Theater. Regional work includes *A Tale of Two Cities* at Alliance Theatre; *Clyde's* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Huntington Theatre Company; *Teenage Dick* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Huntington Theatre Company, and Pasadena Playhouse; and *Little Women* at Dallas Theater Center and The Old Globe. His on-screen work includes *Elsbeth* on CBS and the film *Little Footsteps*, which he also wrote and directed. Louis is an ensemble member with Notch Theatre Company. On social media @louisreyesmcfly (Instagram). [louisreymcwilliams.com](https://www.louisreymcwilliams.com).

# PRODUCTION

**SIBYL WICKERSHEIMER** (Set Designer) is making her Studio debut. New York credits include *The Lonely Few* at MCC Theater, *Mindplay* at Greenwich House Theater, and *Julius Caesar* at The Theatre for a New Audience. Regionally, she has worked with American Repertory Theater, Arena Stage, Huntington Theatre Company, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Rep Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Portland Center Stage, Berkeley

Repertory Theatre, ACT, Center Theatre Group, The Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, and New World Center. She has designed exhibitions *Sacrifice Zone: LA* and the *Encounters* stage at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and *Scene Shift: The Exhibit* at the Fisher Museum of Art. Sibyl co-authored the book *Scene Shift: U.S. Set Designers in Conversation*. Sibyl is an Associate Professor at USC in the School of Dramatic Arts. [sawgirl.com](https://www.sawgirl.com).

**DANIELLE PRESTON** (Costume Designer)'s previous Studio credits include *The Mother Play*, *Downstate*, *At the Wedding*, *Fat Ham*, *Clyde's*, and *P.Y.G. or the Mis-Education of Dorian Belle*. Off Broadway credits include *This Much I Know* at 59E59. Recent regional credits include *Julius X* at Folger Theatre; *fire work* at Theater Alliance; *Primary Trust*, *King James*, and *Blues for an Alabama Sky* at Barrington Stage Company; *The Sensational Sea Mink-ettes* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company; *Passing Strange* and *Penelope* at Signature Theatre (DC); and *Sleepova* at Olney Theatre Center. Danielle received a 2024 Helen Hayes nomination in Costume Design for *Agreste (Drylands)* at Spooky Action Theater. She holds an MFA in Costume Design from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. On social media @danielleprestondesign (Instagram). [daniellepreston.com](http://daniellepreston.com).

**ANDREW CISSNA** (Lighting Designer) is based in Washington, DC where he teaches lighting and multimedia design and technology at the University of Maryland. At Studio Theatre he has designed *Wipeout*; *People, Places & Things*; *Queen of Basel*; *Murder Ballad*; *Silence! The Musical*; and *I Wanna Fucking Tear You Apart*. Other DC credits include *John* and *Sex with Strangers* at Signature Theatre, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at Round House Theatre, and *1984* at Catalyst Theatre Company, all of which received Helen Hayes Award nominations. Regionally, Andrew has designed *Jitney* at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, *Noises Off* and *Harvey* at Milwaukee Rep, *Seminar* and *Native Gardens* at PlayMakers Repertory Company, *God of Carnage* at the Cape Playhouse, and *Noises Off* at Perseverance Theatre.

**FABIAN OBISPO** (Sound Designer) recent theatre credits include *Chinese Republicans* at Roundabout Theatre Company's Laura Pels Theatre and *Sumo*, *The Chinese Lady*, and *Teenage Dick* at The Public Theater/ Ma-Yi Theater Company. He received a Lucille Lortel Award for *Sumo* and was nominated for *The Chinese Lady*. Other awards include

the Barrymore and the Berkshire Theatre Critics Award. He has received nominations for a Helen Hayes Award, Henry Hewes, Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle, Suzi Bass, NAACP, Audelco, and IRNE award. His music for the movie *Vancouver* won the Best Original Score award at the LA Film Festival's Indie Short Fest Award, International Motion Picture Awards, and the South Film and Arts Academy Festival Awards. On television he wrote the score for *20 Years of Asian American Playwriting*, a PBS Documentary.

**SIERRA YOUNG** (Intimacy Director) is a Helen Hayes nominated fight and intimacy director in the DC/Baltimore Area. Recent Studio Theater credits include *Paradise Blue*, *The Scenarios*, *Downstate*, and *The Colored Museum*. Recent DC credits include *Inherit The Wind*, *The Age of Innocence*, *Ja Ja's African Hair Braiding*, *POTUS!* at Arena Stage; *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors* and *Head Over Heels* at Constellation Theatre Company; *Julius X* and *Twelfth Night* at Folger Theatre; *1776*, *The American Five*, *Sister Act*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* at Ford's Theatre; *Everything Is Wonderful*, and *Hand to God* at Keegan Theatre; *Frankenstein*, *As You Like It*, and *King Lear* at Shakespeare Theatre Company; and *Porgy & Bess* with Washington National Opera. Sierra is the resident fight and intimacy director for Mosaic Theater Company and Baltimore Center Stage. She is an active member of the SAFD and IDC. [sierrayoung.org](http://sierrayoung.org)

**ADRIEN-ALICE HANSEL** (Dramaturg) is the Literary Director at Studio, where she oversees new work development, supports season planning, and has served as the dramaturg on roughly 70 plays, including world premieres of *Good Bones*, *John Proctor is the Villain*, *I Hate it Here*, *Red Speedo*, and *Lungs* and productions of *The Heart Sellers*; *Paradise Blue*; *Summer, 1976*; *The Colored Museum*; *Fat Ham*; *Fun Home*; *English*; *Curve of Departure*; and *Wig Out!* among others. Her recent freelance work includes projects for Solas Nua, Musical Theatre Factory, and Young Artists of America. Prior to joining Studio, she spent eight seasons as a member of and then running the Literary Department at the Actors Theatre of Louisville and its Humana Festival

of New American Plays. Adrien-Alice holds an MFA from the Yale School of Drama.

**TAYLOR KIECHLIN** (Production Stage Manager)'s DC credits include *Fun Home* and *Espejos: Clean* at Studio Theatre; *La Cage aux Folles*, *Into the Woods*, *Passing Strange*, *Hair*, *The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical*, *In the Heights*, and *In Clay* at Signature Theatre; *The Winter's Tale* and *Where We Belong* at Folger Theatre; two seasons at Ford's Theatre; and *Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie Starring Indigo Blume* at The Kennedy Center. Her regional credits include *Godspell*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *Jersey Boys* at the Great Lakes Center for the Arts; a season at Bristol Riverside Theatre; and *Moscow, Moscow, Moscow, Moscow, Moscow, Moscow* at Williamstown Theatre Festival.

**KATJA ZAROLINSKI, CSA** (Casting) is thrilled to be casting for another production for Studio Theatre. Katja is a New York-based casting director handling productions for theater, film and television. Previous casting work includes Broadway, Off Broadway and regional productions at Alley Theatre, Arena Stage, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Barrington Stage Company, Berkshire Playwrights Lab, Cape Playhouse, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, City Theatre Company, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, Contemporary American Theater Festival, Crossroads Theatre Company, Everyman Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre, George Street Playhouse, Goodspeed Musicals, Guthrie Theater, Irish Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Mosaic Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Pittsburgh CLO, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Pittsburgh Public Theater, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Seattle Rep, Shakespeare & Company, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Signature Theatre (DC), South Coast Repertory, TheaterWorks Hartford, Virginia Stage Company, Virginia Theatre Festival, Weston Theater Company and many more.

**STUDIO THEATRE** is a national leader in the production of contemporary plays. Over 46

years and more than 425 productions, Studio has grown from a company that produced in a single rented theatre to one that owns a multi-venue complex stretching half a city block, but has remained committed to core distinguishing characteristics: deliberately intimate spaces; excellence in acting and design; and seasons that feature many of the most significant playwrights of our time. Studio's seasons are intentionally diverse and eclectic, featuring buzzworthy plays from today's hot writers, groundbreaking world premieres, and reinvigorated contemporary classics, produced and performed by leading local, national, and international artists. Studio also incubates and develops new work, nurtures the next generation of arts leaders, and proactively engages with its community through a wide array of initiatives. Studio is committed to inclusion and access, and makes a concentrated effort to proactively dismantle barriers that have excluded people from joyful participation in our art form. Studio's location, rich history, unique venues, and commitment to artistry have made it a regional landmark, where audiences find the best that contemporary theatre has to offer.

#### **ROUNABOUT THEATRE COMPANY**

founded in 1965, is the New York not-for-profit institution that celebrates the power of theatre by spotlighting classics from the past, cultivating new works of the present, and educating minds for the future. Across its five theatres, on Broadway and off, Roundabout produces a mix of revivals and world premieres. Its educational initiatives impact over 30,000 students, educators, and community-members annually. [roundabouttheatre.org](http://roundabouttheatre.org).

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# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Studio regularly partners with organizations connected to the communities and topics of the work we produce, to engage people at the core of stories we bring to the stage and to offer interested audience members a way to learn more about and support the work of these organizations. For *Jonah*, our community partners are DC Writers' Salon, House of Ruth, My Sister's Place, and Supporting Roles.



**DC Writers' Salon** is a studio and community for writers based in Dupont Circle, inviting local authors to engage

with the otherwise solo writing process in a way that's connected, accountable, and encouraging.



Founded in 1976, **House of Ruth** is a leading provider of housing and supportive services for women, children, and families experiencing trauma associated

with domestic violence, homelessness, mental health, substance use disorder, and poverty in Washington, DC.



**Supporting Roles** takes an integrated approach to create and support a culture of mental health and equitable practice in the American theatre, supporting performing arts practitioners in all aspects of their work and helping to build and maintain resilient, productive, and impactful creative teams.



**My Sister's Place** (MSP) is the oldest domestic violence shelter in Washington, DC, working to end domestic

violence and empower survivors and their children, while providing resources to build a supportive community.

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# STUDIO INFINITUM



Kate Eastwood Norris  
and Holly Twyford in  
*Summer, 1976*. Photo  
by Margot Schulman

Planned giving is a meaningful way to support the causes you care about long into the future, often through a gift in your will or estate plan. By including Studio in your legacy plans today, you help ensure that our distinctive brand of contemporary, intimate theatre thrives for years to come.

**TO DISCUSS MORE ABOUT STUDIO INFINITUM,**  
contact Bianca Beckham, Director of Development,  
at [bbeckham@studiotheatre.org](mailto:bbeckham@studiotheatre.org) or at 202.919.3717.





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The Studio Fellows-in-Residence program prepares future artists and administrators for a successful career in the arts through a rigorous, hands-on training experience over the course of a full theatrical season.

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