



## Chào bạn!

In 2021, we took in-person shut downs as a chance to pause and reinvest in our community. From the beginning, we've been an organization devoted to reclaiming the Vietnamese narrative and giving a platform for emerging artists of color. To that end, we launched the inaugural Việt Writers Lab with six playwrights of the Vietnamese diaspora from across North America and helped them develop their works through a holistic program. Beginning with a generative process drawn from the story circle tradition as practiced by Free Southern Theatre and Junebug Productions, we moved into masterclasses and panel discussions with professionals in the field, and then a more traditional writing group format.

We've continued that process with our second Việt Writers Lab. We have had the immense pleasure of working with three talented playwrights based in the Northeast region of the United States. Through a hybrid model of digital meetings and rehearsals, we conclude our week of in-person work with presentations of their new plays.

## Featuring:

### [Pale Caramel An American Play by Tuânminh A. Đỗ](#)

*An unexpected bond forms between a Barista and his customer as they discover more about each other's lives outside of the café.*

### [Circle Talk by Trang Le](#)

*Confined to a boat drifting at sea, Lien is forced to face the consequences of her memories.*

### [Stuck by Quentin Nguyen-duy](#)

*"Stuck" a night in celebration of creative stuck-ness. Three miniature plays featuring a talented ensemble of Viet American actors. Threading the three vignettes together is the common theme of what it means to be stuck with others, in one's own life path, or with one's self, and the ways in which we may continue to move freely.*

*This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council*

# Pale Caramel

An American Play

by Tuânminh A Đỗ

## Pale Caramel An American Play

An unexpected bond forms between a Barista and his customer as they discover more about each other's lives outside of the café.

Directed by Andrés López-Alicia

Dramaturgy by Linnea Valdivia

Stage managed by Mars Neri

### Cast

Ray K. Souen

Illiana Guibert\*

Maja Wampuszyc\*

Sarah Adler

Rebecca Jimenez

Barista

Laura

O.W.L.

W.L.

Stage Directions

*\*Actors' Actor Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers*



### **Tuânminh Albert Đỗ (Playwright)**

Tuânminh A Đỗ (he/him/em) is a Việt-Polish immigrant artist. '22-23 Artist-In-Residence at University Settlement Performance Project. Founder of Bai-Ka. BFA NYU Tisch Drama, Minor in East Asian Studies.

[tuanminhalbertdo.wixsite.com/dotma](http://tuanminhalbertdo.wixsite.com/dotma)

[bai-ka.org](http://bai-ka.org)

@tuanminhalbert

Thank you for watching, hope you enjoy!

Uściski dla mojej rodziny, ôm thật chặt gia đình của tôi.

### **Andrés López-Alicia (Director)**

Andrés López-Alicia is a Puerto Rican director, actor, and teaching artist based in New York. MFA Directing The New School. BA degree Architecture and Drama. His work has been seen in Williamstown Theatre Festival, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Tank, NYU, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Playwrights Realm, The Cherry Lane and others. Awarded in 2019 with the Clubbed Thumb Theater Directing Fellowship and in 2021 part of the Roundabout Directors Group. [www.andreslopezalicea.com](http://www.andreslopezalicea.com)





**Linnea Valdiva (Dramaturge)**

Linnea Valdivia (she/they) is a bicoastal scholar and theatre practitioner. Her specialties include developmental dramaturgy, queer theatre and Latinx theatre. They have artistic credits at: the Lark, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, National Queer Theater, Curious Theatre, Art House Productions, Playwrights Realm and New Dramatists. Linnea is most interested in supporting and creating spaces for new work that re-imagine popular cultural narratives, challenge American folklore and explore histories that have undergone relentless historical erasure.

**Mars Neri (Production Stage Manager)**

Mars Juno Bartolome Neri (they/them) is an artist and stage manager dedicated to supporting those who want to tell their personal stories and creating community through social justice oriented art through new plays or devised works. Their passion lies in community care and the joy that can be found through these collaborative storytelling processes. Previous collaborators include Leviathan Lab, Rattlestick Theater, Breaking the Binary Theatre, and Signature Theatre DC. [www.marsjbneri.com](http://www.marsjbneri.com)







**Ray K. Soeun (Barista)**

Ray K. Soeun (he/they) is a Bostonian-turned-New Yorker! Proud first-generation Cambodian-American. Proud queer person. Proud cat dad. They have specific passions for New Works, Movement Theatre/Stage Combat, and Shakespeare. They are driven by new and exciting ways to expose the human condition! Previous stage credits include: Liu Bei (Three Kingdoms, Ma-Yi Theater Company), Romeo (Romeo & Juliet, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company), and Rosalind (As You Like It, Theater at Monmouth) | IG: @rayksoeun | [www.rayksoeun.com](http://www.rayksoeun.com)

**Illiana Guibert (Laura)**

Illiana Guibert (she/her) got her start at New York City's Gramercy Arts Theatre where she originated many roles for Repertorio Espanol. Recent theater performances include "Anna in the Tropics" Bay Street Theater, "Supersititions" Ohio Theater, "It's Okay for MCC's Youth Company and "Voices from a Pandemic" for Notch Theater which won her a Broadway World nomination. She also appears on television shows and independent films. @illiana.Guibert





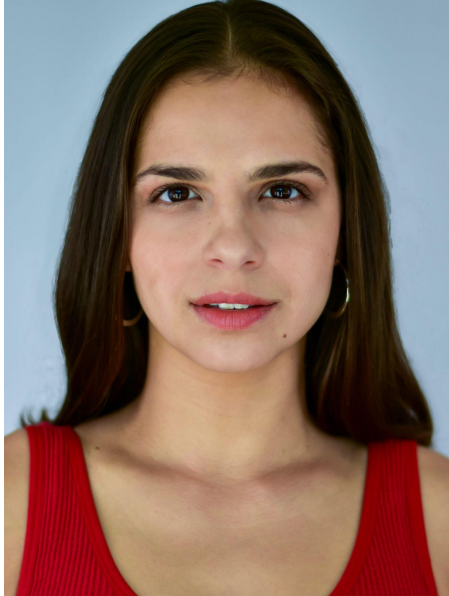
**Maja Wampuszyc (O.W.L)**

MAJA WAMPUSZYC (she/her): Broadway: IRENA'S VOW. Off Broadway, etc.: ZAGŁADA, LADY MACBETH & HER LOVER (world premieres); HOUSE OF CONNELLY; FOGGY BOTTOM; AN OAK TREE & POOL (NO WATER); Anna Akhmatova in NIGHT SHADOWS, HOW TO LIVE (Krakow). Film & TV: THE IMMIGRANT by James Gray; SVU; THE KNICK; MADAME SECRETARY; SEARCH PARTY & Ayn Rand in THE DISCIPLINE, Thirdwing, LTD. PDW, The Actors Studio & The Actors Gym. Thank you, PALE CARAMEL & SONG COLLECTIVE.

**Sarah Adler (W.L.)**

Sarah Adler (she/her) is an actor from Half Moon Bay, California. She is enamored with the creative process and believes in art as intimacy and history to interrogate existing structures. Sarah graduated with a BFA from NYU Tisch Drama and a minor in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Studies. Sarah is grateful to Minh, for his boundless artistry, and to Gabriel, for his endless love and support.





**Rebecca Jimenez (Stage Directions)**

Rebecca Jimenez is an actor and playwright from Miami, based in New York City. Off-Broadway: Comedy of Errors: Mobile Unit (The Public Theater), Our Dear Dead Drug Lord (2nd Stage/WP). NY Theater: Superstitions (New Ohio), The Sketchy Eastern European Show (Players Theatre). BFA graduate from SUNY Purchase.



# Circle Talk

by Trang Le

## Circle Talk

Confined to a boat drifting at sea, Lien is forced to face the consequences of her memories.

Directed by Alexandra Haddad  
Dramaturgy by Gin To  
Stage managed by María De Barros

### Cast

Katelyn Trieu	LIÊN 1
Bi Jean Ngo*	LIÊN 2
Thammie Quach	Stage Directions

*\*Actors' Actor Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers*





**Trang Le (Playwright)**

(she/her) Born in Vietnam and raised in MA, Trang Le is an artist who enjoys foreign films, Animal Crossing, and Mary Oliver's poetry.

**Alexandra Haddad (Director)**

Alexandra (she/her) directs, writes, and intimacy choreographs. She centers those who are not wholly represented, including women, the queer community, & people of the Global Majority. She recently became the Creative Producer of Personal Pizza Party, a theatre collective based in NYC. She received the 2023 SDCF Fellowship with Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, is a cohort member with the Kennedy Center Directing Intensive, and is a member of the Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists. [alexandradarcyhaddad.com](http://alexandradarcyhaddad.com)





**Gin To (Dramaturge)**

Gin To (she/they) is a writer, visual and theatre artist currently based in San Diego. Originally from HCMC, Vietnam, Gin received a BA in American Studies from DePaul University and is currently pursuing an MFA in Writing from University of California, San Diego. When Gin lived in Chicago, they worked in theatre as a dramaturg, ASM, AD, administrator, producer, playwright and performer. This is Gin's second time dramaturging for VWL. Say hi on Instagram @gintonic2912!

**María De Barros (Production Stage Manager)**

María De Barros (she/her) Song Collective debut! Previously worked on stage management teams at Disney Theatrical Productions, The Public Theater, Baltimore Center Stage, Barrington Stage Company, and Maltz Jupiter Theatre. [mariafdebarros.com](http://mariafdebarros.com)





**Katelyn Trieu (LIÊN 1)**

Hailing from Canada, Katelyn (she/her) is a second-gen daughter of Vietnamese refugees. She is excited to return to TSC's Viet Writer's Lab! Honored to be in community and share this space with such a loving, supportive creative team and scene partner. She is passionate about creating and telling stories that promote social justice and bridge the gap between communities and generations. Select credits: *Rent*, *Metamorphoses*, *Seven Spots On the Sun* (CRT); *Anthem*, *Mass Effect* (BioWare).

**Bi Jean Ngo (LIÊN 1)**

Bi Jean Ngo (she/her) recent acting credits: *The Chinese Lady* (InterAct Theatre) & her solo show *In Search of the Kitchen Gods* (1812 Productions). Directed *King of the Yees* at Princeton University. Bi is a member of the Wilma Theatre's Hothouse. Education: MFA, The Actors' Studio Drama School and B.S. film/TV, Boston University. Trained at Dell'Arte, Suzuki Company of Toga, Shakespeare & Co, The Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski. Awards: Fox Foundation Fellowship Award administered through TCG, & F. Otto Haas Emerging Artist Barrymore Award.





**Thammie Quach (Stage Directions)**

Thammie Quach (she/her) is an actor based in NYC. Theatre credits include MUSES (Theatre East), RICHARD II (Stella Adler Studio of Acting), and PROMENADE (NYU Tisch). Next month, she will perform in Transforma Theatre's BIOADAPTED at CultureLab LIC. She is also a Sóng Collective fan (woo!!). BFA in Drama, NYU Tisch School of the Arts. [thammiequach.com](http://thammiequach.com) @thammielaine





by Quentin Nguyen-duy

## Stuck

### **Blessed in the Eyes' God**

*In a hospital room in Cement, Oklahoma, a boy robs a pawn shop and hides under the bed of a comatose man. When it turns out the man is his girlfriend's dad, and he has come to ask for his blessing to marry his daughter, a neo-Shakespearean tragedy ensues.*

### **Love by the Hour**

*Bi and Thuy meet multiple times throughout their lives, seeking refuge in each other, and within the walls of a rent-by-the-hour love hotel in Saigon, Vietnam. Tracking their relationship from 2010 – 2067, this non-chronologically ordered play tracks the identity of a couple and a country as they endure significant changes.*

### **Boy in Front of Burning Building**

*Two fraternal twins meet at their dead dad's art opening to claim rights to his masterpiece "Boy in Front of Burning Building." When the identity of the faceless boy in the photo becomes subject to question, all chaos ensues. Boy in Front of Burning Building is a dark, farcical dramedy about art, ownership, and the secrets that tear a family apart.*

Directed by Sarah Shin

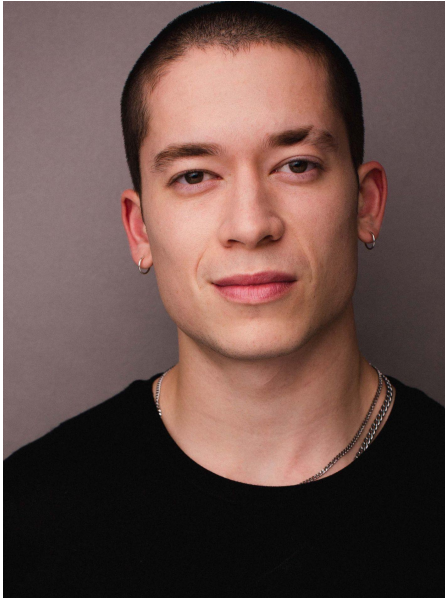
Dramaturgy by Otis Ramsey-Zöe

Stage managed by Caren Celine Morris

### **Cast**

Lynn Kim Đỗ	Actor 1
Amy Hart Nguyễn	Actor 2
Trieu Tran*	Actor 3
Jupiter Lê	Actor 4
Julian Manjerico	Stage Directions

*\*Actors' Actor Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers*



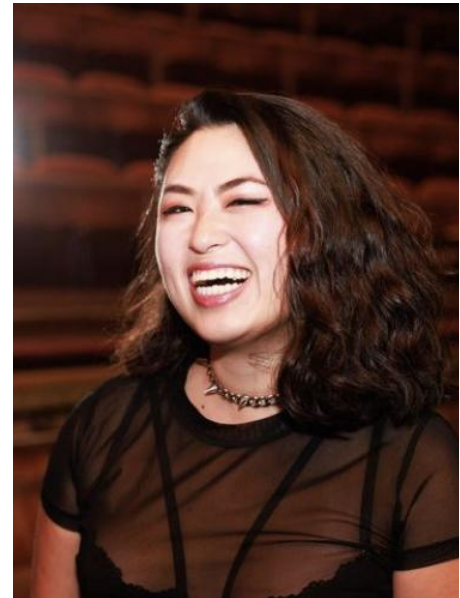
### **Quentin Nguyen-duy (Playwright)**

Quentin Nguyen-duy is a mixed Việt-American playwright, actor, and screenwriter hailing from the farmlands of Southern Oregon. His play AMPUTEES was first produced as part of the Boston University 2019 Fringe, CapeCod, and ArtsEmerson festivals, as well as in 2021 by Sanguine Theatre Company. He recently served as a staff writer on the digital operatic series DESERT IN, which was a finalist for the 2022 Noteworthy Project. Currently, he is one of the first inaugural fellows for Chisa Hutchinson's Signpost Fellowship for playwrights of color. He holds a high school degree from Interlochen Arts Academy, and studied creative writing for one year at Oberlin College before transferring and graduating with a BFA in Theatre Arts from Boston University.

His work is committed to telling the stories of those who live in the in-between spaces, and by doing so, contextualizing the narrative of outsiders like himself. He'd like to give a big shout out to his teachers Kristin Leahey, Kirstin Greenidge, and his mentor chris peña.

### **Sarah Shin (Director)**

Sarah Shin (she/her/hers) is a Schwenksville-raised, Boston-trained, Brooklyn-based, Queer Korean American director and theatre artist. Recent Directing: The Chinese Lady (Central Square Theater, Boston Globe Top 10 of 2022 Pick), The Sitayana (The Tank/Waves of Love), Associate Credits: The Wanderers (Roundabout Theatre Company), Much Ado About Nothing (Shakespeare & Company), The (Diana) Oh Family Concert (Zanni Productions/PBS All Arts), BFA Theatre Arts Boston University  
[www.sarah-shin.com](http://www.sarah-shin.com) IG: @shinnysarah





**Otis Ramsey-Zöe (Dramaturge)**

Otis Cortez Ramsey-Zöe (he/him/love) is a care worker, dramaturg, director, Literary Manager at Arena Stage, and Lecturer in Dramaturgy at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. He has developed new works at such institutions as South Coast Rep, Playwrights Center, Kennedy Center, National New Play Network, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and Sundance Institute. He has held posts at Northeastern University, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Maryland, and Howard University.

**Caren Celine Morris (Production Stage Manager)**

Caren Celine Morris (she/her/hers) is a multidisciplinary theatre artist from The Bronx. She aims to promote inclusion, diversity, and accessibility in all of her projects. Caren has worked on projects with The Tank, The Shed, Ping Chong & Company, HERE Arts Center, Audible @ Minetta Lane Theatre, NYC Civic Engagement Commission, The Public, and The Bushwick Starr.





**Lynn Kim Đỗ (Actor 1)**

Lynn Kim Do (she/her) is a Vietnamese-American actor, whose talent and multifaceted pursuits in many creative outlets have made waves in the entertainment industry. With versatility in both comedy and drama, she has captivated audiences in New York and LA. From her notable role on CBS's "FBI: Most Wanted" to her memorable performance in the Freeform pilot "AZNBBGRL" and the thrilling TV movie "Revenge Best Served Chilled," she effortlessly embodies characters and brings them to life. Her roots are grounded in the Vietnamese immigrant experience, which makes her journey a testament to the strength and cultural richness that fuels her drive for success.

**Amy Hart Nguyễn (Actor 2)**

Amy Hart Nguyễn (she/her) is a Vietnamese/Chinese Canadian actor who trained in NYC at HB Studio and Stella Adler. Her work was recently featured at the Frieze LA Film Award in a short written and directed by Milky Tran. She also studied jazz piano at Vanier College in Montreal and can juggle conversations in English, French and Vietnamese. Apart from her serious acting studies, Amy practices the art of tarot reading and telling poop jokes to strangers.







**Trieu Tran (Actor 3)**

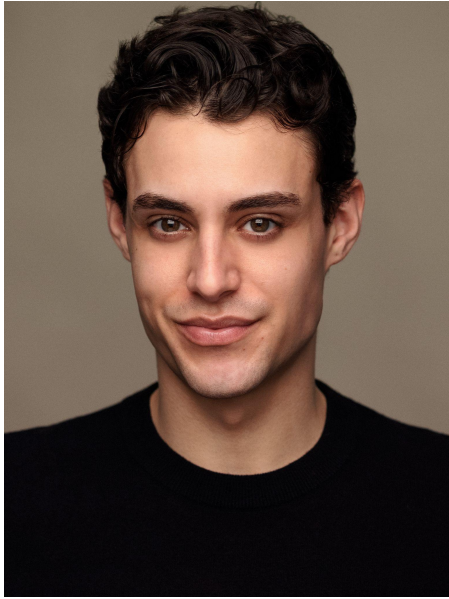
(he/him) Alan Strang, Equus (LADCC Nomination) with George Takei @EWP; title role in Oedipus The King (Portland), The Legacy Codes (Dean Goodman Award) with TheatreWorks, The Chinese Lady (Artists At Play/Greenway Court Theatre). Other stage favorites: Rashomon, As You Like It, Merchant of Venice, Henry IV Part 1 (Hotspur), Richard III (Gloucester). Film: Tropic Thunder, Trade of Innocents, Desolate, How High, Hancock, Desperation, Last Call. TV: Hulu's Monsterland. Netflix's Altered Carbon, HBO's The Newsroom; Intruders, Men At Work, Quickdraw, Malcolm in the Middle. Uncle Ho To Uncle Sam is his solo play co-written with Robert Egan. Uncle Ho to Uncle Sam was developed at Ojai Playwrights Conference and premiered at Seattle ACT in 2012 (Seattle Times Footlight Award/Gypsy Rose Nomination). Additional runs at The Kirk

Douglas Theatre, Shakespeare Orange County, PlayMakers Rep.

**Jupiter Lê (Actor 4)**

JUPITER LÊ (he/him) is a queer transmasculine Vietnamese-American theatre-maker, a child of immigrants born and raised on the lands of the Massachusetts people, known as Boston, MA. He studied Theatre and Cultural Anthropology at Northeastern University. Recent credits: 'SWAN' (Moonbox Productions), 'IN THE CAMPS: A REFUGEE MUSICAL' (reading w/ HowIRound Theatre Commons), 'ISABEL (reading w/ NAATCO & Long Wharf Theatre), 'Interstate' (East West Players).





**Julian Manjerico (Stage Directions)**

Data in the Off-Broadway premiere of Khan!!! The Musical, Beppo the Clown in A Man Called Otto, Micah in Cuck, Cuck, Bull directed by Spencer Whale. Training: BFA Acting Boston University (Bette Davis Acting Award)

# The Founders



## **Carolina Đỗ (Co-Founder/Producing Artistic Leader)**

Carolina Đỗ is a multidimensional artist, creative force, and proud daughter of Vietnamese freedom fighters and refugees. Her work is grounded in storytelling as a tool in the fight for liberation and centers around generational healing, diasporic longings, and collective storytelling. As a playwright, Carolina is a MacDowell Fellow, developing a project with Soho Rep's Writer-Director Lab, and a member of the Orchard Project's Greenhouse Lab. Carolina was a 2021 JACK Resident Artist and her plays have been finalists for the Leah Ryan Fund, BRICLab, and semifinalists for the O'Neill, Princess Grace, and other places that have slipped her memory. Acting credits include:

[BROADWAY] *Linda Vista*, *Grand Horizons*. [NY THEATER] PlayCo: *Is It Supposed To Last?*; Adjusted Realists: *The Refugees*; Yangtze Rep: *Stacey In The States*, *410[Gone]*; The 24 Hour Plays [REGIONAL] Everyman Theatre: *Dinner and Cake* (world premiere) [TV] *The Blacklist*, *Law and Order: SVU*, *Blue Bloods*, *FBI: Most Wanted*. Films have screened at SXSW, OutFest, and Austin Film Fest. Community Engagement Manager at PlayCo and self-proclaimed Creative Director at Mai House Studio. She was a founding member of Asians4Abolition. BFA Brooklyn College | [www.carolinado.com](http://www.carolinado.com) | @carolinakaydo

**David Lee Huynh (Co-Founder/Producing Artistic Leader)**

David Lee Huynh (he/him) is an actor, writer, and one of the co-founders of The Sống Collective. He has over a dozen Off-Broadway credits and has worked regionally across the United States. Internationally, he has worked with the Moscow Art Theatre, will go to Prague Shakespeare in 2024, and will take a show to the UK in 2025. He spoke on institutional racism within the industry through a TEDx Talk entitled “Asian Enough?” He is a Project YZ Residency Artist and Playwright-in-Residence at Ozark Living Newspaper. Film: *Solitary*, *Children of the Dust*, *Roll With It*. TV: *Dungeons and Dragons: Encounter Party*, *Blue Bloods*, *FBI* MFA: University of Houston Professional Actor Training Program | [www.davidleehuynh.com](http://www.davidleehuynh.com) | @huynhsome  
"Minh sẽ kể cho nhau một câu chuyện về chúng ta."







**Jonathan Castanien**  
**(Co-Founder/Producing Artistic Leader)**

Jonathan Castanien (he/him) is a stage manager, producer, and co-founder of The Sóng Collective. He has stage managed at companies including Signature, The Atlantic Theater Company, New York Theatre Workshop, Manhattan Theatre Club, BAM, Artists at Play, the Latino Theater Company, *The Lion King* national tour, and *Life of Pi* on Broadway. Independently, he has produced video content, live streams, and digital events for clients, developmental play readings, and “Inflections,” a collection of five short digital plays celebrating Asian identity in the United States which was live streamed on Howlround. He is a 2018 alumnus of artEquity’s National Facilitator Training and he was featured in American Theatre Magazine’s “Role Call: People to Watch” December 2018 list. He has been a guest speaker at the Yale School of Drama, Fordham University, and the University of Arizona. Jonathan holds a BA in Theatre Design and Production from CSU Fullerton. [www.jonathancastanien.com](http://www.jonathancastanien.com)

## Collective Collaborators

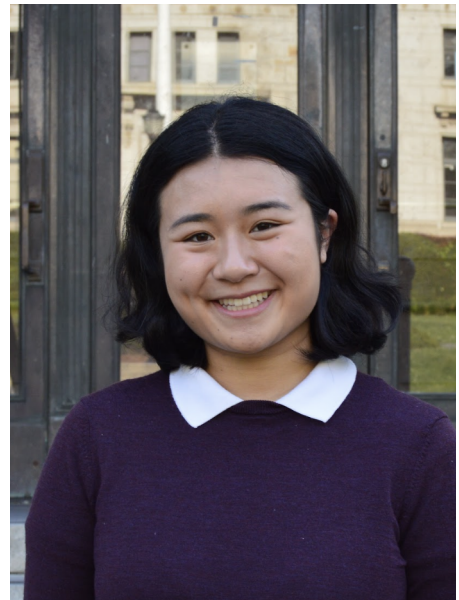


### **Jessica Luu Pelletier (Casting Director)**

Jessica Luu Pelletier (she/her) is a Queer mixed Vietnamese-American multi-hyphenate and S੓ng Collective usual suspect, proudly holding the title of casting director for this series. Born in Hà Nội, Việt Nam, raised in Guam, and now based in Brooklyn, NY, she brings a breadth of multicultural lived experience to her work and believes no story or person is too intersectional, nuanced, or niche, nor should it ever be made to feel as such. @jessicaluupelletier

### **Lauren Chang (Producing Intern)**

Lauren (she/her) is a mixed Vietnamese/Taiwanese American stage manager currently studying Theatre & Performance Studies and Public Health at UC Berkeley. She is a Beyond the Stage Door 2023 Cohort Member, where she found out about the S੓ng Collective and is so thrilled to be able to intern with them and help create Vietnamese-American theatre! When she's not working on shows, she's hanging out with her cat, or combining her two interests by working on public health communications. Recent credits include: Vietgone 2: Poor Yella Rednecks (A.C.T.), Paradise Blue (Aurora Theatre Company), In the Red and Brown Water (Zellerbach Playhouse)



## **Special Thanks**

Many thanks to the people who made this lab, and many of our other projects, possible.

### DONORS

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Stitch and Love Bug!  
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