



# EUREKA DAY

BY JONATHAN SPECTOR  
DIRECTED BY JANUARY LAVOY

OCTOBER 21, 2020

Originally commissioned and produced by Aurora Theatre Company  
(Tom Ross, Artistic Director; Julie Saltzman Kellner, Managing Director),  
Berkeley, CA

*EUREKA DAY* is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING ONLINE  
WITH THE HASHTAG *#toDowntownDialogues*

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**CAST**

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**DON** ..... Brian Kurlander \*  
**SUZANNE** ..... Courtney Patterson \*  
**MEIKO** ..... Kimiye Corwin \*  
**ELI** ..... Andrew Benator \*  
**CARAINA** ..... Candy McLellan \*  
**STAGE DIRECTIONS** ..... Thercia Lang

\* *Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, Theatrical Outfit, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

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**CREATIVE TEAM**

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**PLAYWRIGHT** ..... Jonathan Spector  
**DIRECTOR** ..... January LaVoy  
**DOWNTOWN DIALOGUES HOST** ..... Gail O'Neill  
**SOUND DESIGNER** ..... Rashaad Pierre  
**SOUND PRODUCER** ..... Multiband Studios  
**PRODUCTION SLIDE DESIGNER** ..... Kate Ducey  
**STAGE MANAGER** ..... Courtney Greever-Fries\*

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**STAFF**

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**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**  
Matt Torney

**MANAGING DIRECTOR**  
Gretchen E Butler

**GENERAL MANAGER**  
Rochelle Shinn

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
Courtney Greever-Fries

**APPRENTICE COMPANY**

Caroline Cook

**DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**  
Tess Malis Kincaid

**BOX OFFICE ASSOCIATE**  
Abigail Dawkins

Thercia Lang  
Jessica McKeown  
Jules Tollett

**MARKETING DIRECTOR**  
Ryan Oliveti

**INTERN**  
Nicole Hart

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**W**elcome to the third 'episode' of Downtown Dialogues, Theatrical Outfit's series of digital readings and conversations.

When developing ideas for digital programming, we asked ourselves a simple question: how do we honor our mission to "start the conversations that matter" in a time when we can't gather together? Our answer was to produce digital readings of excellent plays that resonate deeply with the current moment, have fascinating stories and compelling characters, and are performed by some of Atlanta's top theatre artists. To deepen the conversation around the plays, we are pairing each of the readings with a live video podcast hosted by Gail O'Neill in which expert guests will dig into the big questions behind the play and what they might mean for society, as well as addressing questions from you, the audience.

Tonight's reading is the Atlanta premiere of *Eureka Day* by Jonathan Spector, which has been a huge hit with audiences in the Bay Area, New York, DC, and many other cities around the country. It's set in a classroom at the ultra liberal Eureka Day School in Berkley, California, and explores what happens when the parent-governors have to deal with a mumps outbreak and find they have very different views on vaccines and the science behind them. The biting satire that follows will likely feel very familiar to all of us in the current political atmosphere and will provide an exciting jumping off point for our expert panel.

We have an exceptional artistic team for the reading, led by director January LaVoy who is a professor of acting at Emory. She has brought together a cast full of TO favorites, including Courtney Patterson, Candy McLellan, Brian Kurlander, Andrew Benator, and Kimiye Corwin. For the panel, Gail will be joined by Jonathan, January, and two wonderful guests: Dr. Saad Omer, the inaugural director of the Yale Institute for Global Health; and Hank Kimmel, an Atlanta based Mediator and Playwright.

We are thrilled to introduce Atlanta audiences to this phenomenal play!

*Matt Torney & Gretchen Butler*

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## PLAY SETTING

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*The Eureka Day School, Berkeley, California. September, 2017.*

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## SYNOPSIS

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At Eureka Day Charter School in Berkeley, all decisions are made by consensus and diversity of opinion is valued. But when a mumps outbreak hits the school, the board of parent-directors find themselves confronting one of the central questions of our time: how do you find consensus when you can't agree on the facts? This achingly hilarious comedy of manners shows just how thorny conversations about vaccination can be.

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## HISTORY OF EUREKA DAY

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- Jonathan Spector, based in Oakland, California, is also the Co-Artistic Director of the Berkeley-based Just Theater
- Jonathan Spector's other plays include *This Much I Know* (Berkeley Rep) and *Good. Better. Best. Bested.* (Custom Made Theatre). He has also developed work with Roundabout Theatre Company, South Coast Rep, and San Francisco Playhouse.
- *EUREKA DAY* premiered at Aurora Theater in Berkeley, and received all of the SF Bay Area's new play awards: Glickman Award, Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, Theatre Bay Area Award & Rella Lossy Award.
- It then had a sold out run in New York with Colt Coeur, where it was a New York Times and Time Out New York "Critics' Pick"
- *EUREKA DAY* has also seen major productions in Washington, DC and Philadelphia.



**ANDREW BENATOR** \* (*Eli*) was most recently seen at Theatrical Outfit in last season's *Indecent*, and prior to that, *The Pitmen Painters*. Recent Atlanta credits include *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Crossing Delancey*, *Troubadour*, *Disgraced*, and *A Christmas Carol* at Alliance Theatre; and *Between Riverside and Crazy* at True Colors Theatre. In

addition to Atlanta theaters, Andrew has worked off-Broadway as well as in regional theaters in San Francisco, San Jose, Hartford, Sacramento, and Pittsburgh. Film and TV work includes *The Founder*, *Game Night*, *Million Dollar Arm*, "Amazing Stories," "The Gifted," "Stranger Things," "Being Mary Jane," and "House of Payne."



**KIMIYE CORWIN** \* (*Meiko*) is an actor/dancer/choreographer/teacher who is living in Connecticut. Originally a trained dancer (Juilliard, BFA), Kimiye moved into acting after dancing professionally for five years with the Jose Limon Dance Company. She studied at The Actors Center and at Brown/Trinity

(MFA). Kimiye has had the pleasure of performing in NYC (Red Bull Theater, La MaMa, Ars Nova, Ripe Time, National Asian American Theatre Company, NYTW Next Door, Ma-Yi) and regionally (Syracuse Stage, Actors Theater of Louisville, Studio Theatre in D.C., Hartford Stage, TheatreWorks Palo Alto, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Guthrie, McCarter, Two River Theater). Kimiye's film and tv credits include "One Life to Live," "Blacklist," "The Family," "The Michael J. Fox Show," and *Five Dances* (feature length film directed by Alan Brown). She has done movement consulting and choreography for theater (Dallas Theater Center, Guthrie, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, National Asian American Theatre Company). She is currently on the movement faculty at Stella Adler Studio/NYU.



**BRIAN KURLANDER** \* (*Don*) is a Georgia and New York based Actor/Teacher and sometime Writer. Brian's work in theatre extends from New York City to Los Angeles, as well as with most of the Atlanta's professional theatre companies. Brian has worked steadily in Georgia's rapidly evolving film and television industry in films like *The Good*

*Lie* with Academy Award winner Reese Witherspoon, *Hot Summer Nights* with Academy Award Nominee Timothee Chalamet, or playing

\* Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, Theatrical Outfit, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Tupak Shakur's high school teacher in the bio pic, *All Eyez Me* and the soon to be released WWII drama *Sehen/du*. Brian has also guest starred on hit shows like "House of Cards" and "Cobra Kai," on Netflix, "STAR" on the Fox Network, "Queen Sugar" on OWN, "The Inspectors" on CBS to name a few. An award-winning playwright, Brian co-authored *MOXIE* which was the recipient of the 2016 Suzi Bass - Gene-Gabriel Moore Award as well as the Atlanta Broadway World Award for Best Play of 2016. Brian is celebrating 22 years of marriage to his beautiful bride Carrie. They have two exceptional (adult) children. Follow Brian on Instagram @bkurlander or Twitter @kurlanderbrian.



**CANDY MCLELLAN** \* (*Carina*) graduated from the University of West Georgia and is also a graduate of the 2016-17 acting apprentice company at Aurora Theatre. Her professional credits include: *In The Heights*, *Disney's The Hunchback of Notredame* (Co-Production w/ Theatrical Outfit); *Christmas Canteen*, *3 Billy Goats Gruff*, *Sweep*, *Cinderella the Remix*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Beat Bugs* and *Men With Money* (Aurora Theatre); *110 in the Shade* (Theatrical Outfit); *Black Nerd* (Dad's Garage); *Aida*, *Oliver!* (Atlanta Lyric); *An Octoroon*, *Head Over Heels* (Actor's Express); *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (Horizon Theatre); *Caroline, or Change* (West Coast Black Theatre Troupe in Florida). Before the pandemic, she was cast in *Cotton Patch Gospel* at Theatrical Outfit. She is also a part time teaching artist at the Alliance Theatre. Follow her IG: @candymclove



**COURTNEY PATTERSON** \* (*Suzanne*) is an Atlanta native who has been working as an actor on stage, screen, and behind the microphone for over two decades. She is anxious to return to theatre, her first love. Courtney is the mother of two wonderful little weirdos and the wife of a brilliant sommelier. There's also a cat and some fish in the mix. Courtney couldn't be happier with her crazy artistic lifestyle and is keenly aware that having good wine always within reach is most likely the reason for her family's success.

**JONATHAN SPECTOR** (*Playwright*) is a playwright and theatre-maker based in Oakland, California. His play *Eureka Day* premiered at Aurora Theater in Berkeley, and received all of the SF Bay Area's new play awards: Glickman Award, Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, Theatre Bay Area Award & Rella Lossy Award. It then had a sold out run in New York with Colt Coeur, where it was a New York Times and Time Out New York "Critics' Pick", and was later produced at Mosaic Theater (Washington, DC), InterAct Theater (Philadelphia) and Spreckles Theater (Sonoma). Other plays include *This Much I Know* (PlayPenn, New Harmony, Ground Floor at Berkeley Rep) *Good. Better. Best. Bested.* (Custom Made Theatre, Bay Area Playwrights Festival), *What Comes Next* (Portland Stage's Little Festival of the Unexpected), *Siesta Key* (Bay Area Playwrights Festival) and *In From The Cold* (Just Theater, Aurora Theatre's Global Age Prize). He has also developed work with Roundabout Theatre Company, South Coast Rep, Mugwumpin, San Francisco Playhouse, Crowded Fire, and Theatre of NOTE. Jonathan is the recipient of South Coast Rep's Elizabeth George Commission, has been a MacDowell Colony Fellow, a Resident Playwright at Playwrights Foundation, and is currently a Core Writer at The Playwrights Center in Minneapolis. He is also the Co-Artistic Director of the Berkeley-based Just Theater, where he's produced the Bay Area premieres of many award-winning shows including Jackie Sibblies Drury's *We Are Proud to Present...*, Anne Washburn's *I Have Loved Strangers*, and Rob Handel's *A Maze*. Through Just Theater's New Play Lab, he developed over 40 original full length plays including Aaron Loeb's *Ideation*, Christopher Chen's *Home Invasion*, and Lauren Gunderson's *Toil and Trouble*. He was previously the Associate Artistic Director of the Bay Area Playwrights Festival/Playwrights Foundation, where he shepherded the development of over eighty new plays by some of country's leading playwrights including Annie Baker, Samuel D. Hunter, Marcus Gardley, and Sheila Callaghan.

**JANUARY LAVOY** (*Director*) is an Atlanta-based theatre, television, and voice actress, as well as a director. She made her Broadway debut in Lucy Prebble's *ENRON* in 2010, and has appeared Off-Broadway in *Wings* (Second Stage), *Coraline* (MCC), *Measure for Measure* (TFANA), *Mrs. Murray's Menagerie* (Ars Nova, Lucille Lortel Nomination) *Two Trains Running*, *Home*, *Funnyhouse of a Negro*, and *Wakey, Wakey* (Signature Theatre). For her work in *Funnyhouse*, she was deemed one of two "Actresses to Watch" by Hilton Als in The New Yorker magazine. Selected regional theatre credits include: Mattie Campbell in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Mark Taper Forum, directed by Phylicia Rashad), Kate in

*Good People* (Pittsburgh Public Theatre), Isabella in *Measure for Measure* (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey), Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Dawn in *Lobby Hero*, and Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* (Denver Center Theatre Company) and the world premiere of *Native Guard* by United States Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner Natasha Trethewey (Alliance Theatre), which was also recorded by LA Theatreworks in 2018. She is a 2010 alumna of the Sundance Theatre Lab. She has been seen on television in “Blue Bloods”, “NOS4A2”, “Elementary”, and “Law & Order” (classic, CI and SVU), and in 2007 she created the role of Noelle Ortiz-Stubbs on “One Life to Live”, which she played until 2011. Her voiceover work includes many national commercial campaigns and nearly 300 audiobooks. In 2013, she was named Audiobook Narrator of the Year by Publishers’ Weekly. She has been nominated for 18 Audie Awards, receiving 7, and has garnered over 30 Audiofile Magazine’s Earphones Awards. In the spring of 2019, she was honored with Audiofile’s Lifetime Achievement Award, the Golden Voice. January is a full-time faculty member at Emory University, teaching acting and scene study in the College of Arts and Sciences, and will be returning to Theatrical Outfit in Anna Devere Smith’s *Fires in the Mirror* this spring.

**GAIL O’NEILL** (*Downtown Dialogues Host*) is a writer for ArtsATL.org, where she covers arts and culture in Atlanta. She is the host and co-producer of Collective Knowledge— a weekly series of conversations with artists, entrepreneurs and thought-leaders— which can be viewed on YouTube, Facebook and The A Network. Most recognizable for her work in fashion, Gail spent 10 years circling the globe as a model before joining CBS News in New York City as a features reporter. After relocating to Atlanta in 2000, she hosted a travel show for CNN, and subsequently hosted several series and specials for HGTV— including *Mission: Organization*, *Christmas at the White House* and *Behind the Design of HGTV’s Dream Home*.

**COURTNEY GREEVER-FRIES** \* (*Production Manager & Stage Manager*) has spent the last decade working in various production roles in and around Atlanta. A proud graduate of Emory University, she came to Atlanta for school and fell in love with this city. Her work as a stage manager, sound designer, and props master has been seen at Dad’s Garage, Actor’s Express, Georgia Aquarium, Georgia Ensemble, Theater Emory, and Synchronicity to name a few, but she is happy to have found a home at Theatrical Outfit. A homebody at heart, when not working, she prefers being on her couch with a glass of wine, her husband Jonathan, and her dogs.



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