



MICHAEL J. BOBBITT  
artistic director

MOSESIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – WEDNESDAY, 11/4/20**

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NEW REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS

# Showstopper Virtual Play Series

**[WATERTOWN, MA]** New Repertory Theatre has commissioned two short plays to be performed live and virtually as part of the first installment of the new Showstopper Virtual Play Series, an evening of live theatre with a two-play in one-night package from the comfort and safety of your home. The Showstopper Virtual Play Series features *[keyp-ing]*, written by Miranda ADEkoje, directed by Dawn M. Simmons, and *A Very Herrera Holiday*, written by Alexis Scheer, directed by Sarah Shin. Tickets are \$30, and will be available for sale on November 4. More information about the Showstopper Virtual Play Series can be found at <https://www.newrep.org/productions/showstopper-virtual-plays>.

The Showstopper Virtual Play Series will run from **November 21 – December 13 2020**, with performances on Thursdays through Sundays. The week of Thanksgiving will only have performances Friday-Sunday. Each performance will run approximately 75 minutes including both plays and an intermission. Tickets are \$30 for the two-play package.

## Talk About Dates:

Friday Nov 27 after 7pm performance  
Sunday Nov 29 after 4pm performances  
Friday Dec 4 after 7pm performance  
Sunday Dec 6 after 4pm performance  
Thursday Dec 10 after 7pm performance  
Saturday Dec 12 after 7pm performance

“We are so thrilled to commission and produce two fantastic and original plays written and directed by female BIPOC playwrights and directors,” shares New Rep Artistic Director, Michael J. Bobbitt. “We are saddened not to see our audiences’ smiling faces in the MCA every day, but we have been working hard to bring you a night of theatre unlike any other. The Showstopper Virtual Play Series give us an opportunity to safely interact with our community and artists, while



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giving you a world premiere of unique theatre to watch right from your home, and an experience that encapsulates the magic of theatre.”

### **Accessibility**

Captions and pre-show audio description will be available for all performances. More information on accessibility can be viewed at <https://www.newrep.org/productions/showstopper-virtual-plays>.

### **About the Showstopper Virtual Play Series**

Join New Repertory Theatre from your favorite device for our new Showstopper Virtual Play Series! Featuring the world premieres from two phenomenal female playwrights of color, this series gives you two interactive live performances for just \$30. From the comfort of your home and with optional audience participation, the Showstopper Virtual Play Series is live theatre at its pandemic best.

#### **First Play: *A Very Herrera Holiday***

Lifestyle blogger Emma Herrera is live on Zoom to walk you through her favorite seasonal drinks and crafts, and perhaps let some relationship frustrations slip—after all, who isn't looking for a little space from their spouse these days? But there's a lot of rum in that coquito, and something's weird about the homemade wrapping paper... *A Very Herrera Holiday* is a darkly comedic look at an influencer who may be sharing more than festive fun.

#### **Second Play: *[keyp-ing]***

*Caping: Blindly defending someone no matter how wrong they are.*

Monica Jenae is a freelance commercial producer. In a moment of intense frustration, she does an Instagram live posting, hoping her baby will stay asleep as she waits for her black, male film crew to return from a COVID rapid testing site in the suburbs. As she bleeds her story out and the internet's comments pour in, the gnarled, twisted strands of racism, privilege and inequity in the noose of the global pandemic tighten, giving her followers a front row seat to the suffocating effects of white supremacy.

### **About New Repertory Theatre**

Founded in 1984, New Rep is an award-winning professional theater located on the historic Arsenal on the Charles campus, a vibrant cultural hub in Watertown, Massachusetts featuring ample free parking and restaurant dining.

In residence at the Mosesian Center for the Arts, New Rep stages contemporary and classic plays and musicals, including world premieres, that awaken the heart, challenge the mind, and expand the human spirit. We mount productions in two fully accessible performance spaces: the state-of-the-art 340-seat MainStage Theater and the intimate 90-seat BlackBox Theater, which provide excellent views from every seat.



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New Rep embraces theatre as the basis for enduring connections with our community. Through entertaining, innovative, and thought-provoking live theatre performed at the highest standards of excellence, we seek to spark community conversations about the crucial issues of the day. Our Post-Show Talk-Abouts provide opportunities for audiences of all ages and backgrounds to explore a play's themes with esteemed experts and seasoned dramaturgs.

New Rep has long been an active advocate for the arts and a major voice in the national dialogue defining the role of theater in our culture. Under the bold new leadership of Artistic Director Michael J. Bobbitt, New Rep is now at the vanguard of a momentous drive to develop anti-racist theater practices in the Greater Boston community. We aim to create an authentic sense of belonging for artists and audiences alike.

### **New Rep's Mission**

New Repertory Theatre produces plays that speak powerfully to the vital ideas of our time.

### **Artistic Bios**

**MIRANDA AUSTEN ADEKOJE** (Playwright of *Keyp-ing, she/her/hers*) is thrilled to be working with Michael Bobbitt and the New Rep team as a writer for the first time. Mrs. ADEkoje attended Brown University where she graduated with a B.A. in literature and cultures in English, after which she trained in London at the Rose Bruford college for Drama and received a Master's degree with Distinction in Theatre Practices. Her plays include *I Am This Place* (Revolutionary Spaces), *Shelter of Last Resort* (Front Porch Arts Collective Summer reading series, The Huntington Theatre Breaking Ground Reading Series, Company One XX PlayLab), *36 Days* (Apollinaire Theatre New Play Night reading, Bob Jolly Fellowship Reading Series, Emerson College Student Workshop), *The Strongest Shape* (Paines Plough Future Perfect Finalist), *Reply Please*, *Requests and Sugar Moth*. ADEkoje is an award-winning actress whose credits include *Shelia in Lost Tempo* (Boston Playwright's Theatre), *Mrs. Mueller in Doubt* (Stoneham Theatre) Valerie in the world premier of Lydia Diamond's *Smart People* for which she won an IRNE or best supporting actress in a large Production (The Huntington Theatre), Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet* and Silvia in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Actors' Shakespeare Project), Shylock in *Merchant of Venus* (Zero Point Theater), *Susan in Race* (New Repertory Theatre), and Oya/Shaula Iyun in *The Brother/Sister Plays* (IRNE Award for Best Ensemble) and Selector in *How We Got On* (Elliot Norton Award nomination for Best Ensemble) at Company One.

**DAWN M. SIMMONS** (Director of *Keyp-ing, she/her/hers*) - Dawn is thrilled to be making her New Repertory Theatre debut. Recent credits include: The Nora Theater/WAM Theatre, (*Pipeline*), Lyric Stage Company, (*The Wiz, Warrior Class* and *Saturday Night Sunday Morning*), Hibernian Hall, (*With Glittering Eyes*) Actors' Shakespeare Project (*Macbeth*), The Front Porch Arts Collective/Greater Boston Stage Company (*The Three Musketeers*), Greater



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Boston Stage Company (*The Irish and How They Got That Way*), SpeakEasy Stage Company (*Just Cause (The Boston Project)*, *Men On Boats*), Bad Habit Productions (*The Real Inspector Hound*), Boston Public Works (*Hard and Fast: A Love Story*), New Exhibition Room (*Smile*), Fresh Ink Theatre (*The Embryos*). Dawn is also the Artistic Director of The Front Porch Arts Collective Online: [www.frontporcharts.org](http://www.frontporcharts.org) and Executive Director of StageSource Online: [www.stagesource.org](http://www.stagesource.org)

**ALEXIS SCHEER** (Playwright of *A Very Herrera Holiday*, *she/her/hers*) plays include *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (WP Theater/Second Stage, NYT Critic's Pick, Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award, Kilroy's List, LTC Carnival of New Latinx Work, Relentless Award semifinalist); *Laughs in Spanish* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Kennedy Center's Harold & Mimi Steinberg National Student Playwriting Award, NNPN Showcase), *Christina* (Roe Green Award), and *The Sensational* (Actors' Theatre of Louisville). Her work has been developed at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, McCarter Theatre Center, Cleveland Playhouse, San Diego REP, and others. Currently commissioned by Manhattan Theatre Club, Second Stage, and Northern Stage. BFA: The Boston Conservatory. MFA: Boston University. [www.alexisscheer.com](http://www.alexisscheer.com) she/her

**SARAH CHIN** (Director of *A Very Herrera Holiday*, *she/her/hers*) Sarah is a Korean American actor/director/producer. Recent directing credits include *The First Pineapple and Other Folktales*, (Central Square Theater), *Nothing Rhymes with Juneteenth* (Free Soil Arts Collective), *Amputees* (Boston University), and *Asiamnesia* (Brandeis University). Assistant Credits include *My H8 Letter 2 the Gr8 American Theatre* (Assistant Director, Public Theater, Ma-Yi Theatre/AYE DEFY), *Endlings* (Assistant Director, NYTW), *Moby Dick* (Choreography Assistant, American Repertory Theater). She is the Co-Founding Artistic Producer of Asian American Theatre Artists of Boston (AATAB). Sarah is also a proud Board Member of StageSource, and a Steering Committee Member of API Arts Network. BFA Theatre Arts, Boston University (@sarsi\_bu). [sarah-shin.com](http://sarah-shin.com) @shinnysarah

**AMANDA FIGUEROA** (Emma Herrera in *A Very Herrera Holiday*, *she/her/hers*) makes her New Repertory Theatre debut with this production of *A Very Herrera Holiday*. Recent recredits include *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (Amazon Prime Video), *Dead House* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre), *The Tragic Ecstasy of Girlhood* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre). Figueroa earned a BFA in Acting (full tuition talent-based scholarship) from Boston University. She is from New York and is a first generation actor whose mother was born in Dominican Republic and whose father was born in Puerto Rico. She is grateful to be working with friendly familiar faces and doing so with her first one woman play!

All creative bios are available at

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