

2NDSTAGE



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024 SEASON

OVERVIEW

Second Stage's 45th Anniversary season was a momentous one, marking not only 12 Tony nominations and 3 wins but also the farewell of its visionary Founder and Artistic Director, Carole Rothman. Carole's leadership carried the theater through the challenges of the pandemic and beyond, and her contributions to American theater were celebrated throughout the year.



Kevin Brockman,
Co-Chair



Terry Lindsay
Co-Chair

As always, Second Stage stands firm in its mission to champion living American playwrights. Bennett Leak, who has been with us since 2019, stepped in as Interim Artistic Director and curated the exciting 2024-2025 season. After an extensive search, Second Stage was delighted to welcome Evan Cabnet as our new Artistic Director on September 1, 2024. Known for nurturing new voices and delivering bold productions at LCT3, Evan brings fresh leadership and vision to the organization and will program the 2025-2026 season.

Highlights of the 2023-2024 season included:

- Producing Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *APPROPRIATE*, which clinched the 2024 Tony Award for Best Revival and enjoyed a successful run at the Hayes Theater before transferring to the Belasco Theater.
- Premiering a new work by Paula Vogel, *MOTHER PLAY*, at the Hayes Theater, starring Jessica Lange, Jim Parsons, and Celia Keenan-Bolger.
- Bringing two new plays to the Tony Kiser Theater, *SPAIN*, by Jen Silverman, and *BREAKING THE STORY*, by Alexis Scheer.
- Introducing audiences to the boldest new voices in theater through the sold-out Judith Champion New Voices Reading Series and the captivating Nancy Denovan Musical Reading.
- Building on our meaningful partnerships with Youth Justice Network, Broadway Advocacy Coalition, Housing Works, and more, we proudly hosted our second Fair Chance Job Fair—welcoming new audiences to the theater and creating pathways for future opportunities.

As we reflect on the 2023-24 season, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our vibrant community. A heartfelt thank you to our Board of Trustees, artists, supporters, school and nonprofit partners, and our incredible staff for making all of this possible.



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MISSION STATEMENT

At Second Stage, we create and champion plays and musicals solely from living American writers. On our mainstage Broadway theater, the Hayes, and in our two Off Broadway theaters over the past 44 years, we have developed and presented over 200 daring and provocative theatrical experiences by working with countless artists who have contributed their talents to our award-winning productions. As the only Broadway company exclusively devoted to living American writers, Second Stage is dedicated to introducing the world to bold and diverse voices of American creativity.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the land on which Second Stage Theater stands — the original homeland of the Munsee Lenape and Wappinger Lenape people — and honor and pay our respects to the many diverse indigenous peoples still connected to this land.

MAIN STAGE PRODUCTIONS



Michael Esper, Corey Stoll, and Sarah Paulson in APPROPRIATE. Photo by Joan Marcus.

APPROPRIATE

BY **BRANDEN JACOB-JENKINS**

DIRECTED BY **LILA NEUGEBAUER**

CAST: Graham Campbell, Lincoln Cohen, Michael Esper, Elle Fanning, Natalie Gold, Alyssa Emily Marvin, Sarah Paulson, Everett Sobers, Corey Stoll

UNDERSTUDIES: Maxim Chlumecky, Michael Crane, Mia Sinclair Jenness, Danielle Skraastad, Alex Mickiewicz

SCENIC DESIGN:
dots

COSTUME DESIGN:
Dede Ayite

LIGHTING DESIGN:
Jane Cox

CO-SOUND DESIGN:
Bray Poor, Will Pickens

AUDIENCE: 58,494

AWARDS

DRAMA DESK:

Outstanding Lighting Design of A Play — **Jane Cox**;
Outstanding Lead Performer in a Play — **Sarah Paulson**;
Outstanding Revival of a Play

DRAMA LEAGUE:

Outstanding Revival of a Play;
Distinguished Performance — **Sarah Paulson**

OUTER CRITICS CIRCLE:

Outstanding Revival of a Play

TONY AWARD:

Best Lighting Design of a Play — **Jane Cox**;
Best Revival of a Play;
Best Actress in a Play — **Sarah Paulson**



Marin Ireland and Andrew Burnap in SPAIN. Photo by Matthew Murphy.

SPAIN

BY **JEN SILVERMAN**
DIRECTED BY **TYNE RAFAELI**

CAST: Andrew Burnap, Marin Ireland,
Zachary James, Erik Lochtefeld,
Danny Wolohan

SCENIC DESIGN:
Dane Laffrey

COSTUME DESIGN:
Alejo Vietti

LIGHTING DESIGN:
Jen Chriever

**ORIGINAL MUSIC
AND SOUND DESIGN:**
Daniel Kluger

AUDIENCE: 11,362



Zachary James in SPAIN. Photo by Matthew Murphy.



Jim Parsons, Jessica Lange, and Celia Keenan-Bolger in MOTHER PLAY. Photo by Joan Marcus.

MOTHER PLAY

BY **PAULA VOGEL**

DIRECTED BY **TINA LANDAU**

CAST: Celia Keenan-Bolger, Jessica Lange, Jim Parsons

UNDERSTUDIES: Jillian Geurts, Tasha Lawrence, Zachary Prince

SCENIC DESIGN:

David Zinn

SOUND DESIGN:

Jill BC Du Boff

COSTUME DESIGN:

Toni-Leslie James

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHER:

Christopher Gattelli

LIGHTING DESIGN:

Jen Schriever

AUDIENCE: 48,105

AWARDS

DRAMA DESK:

Outstanding Lead Performer in a Play — **Jessica Lange**;
Outstanding Featured Performer in a Play — **Celia Keenan-Bolger**

OUTER CRITICS CIRCLE:

Outstanding Lead Performer in a Broadway Play — **Jessica Lange**



Maggie Siff, Geneva Carr, Gabrielle Policano, Julie Halston, and Tala Ashe in BREAKING THE STORY. Photo by Joan Marcus.

BREAKING THE STORY

BY **ALEXIS SCHEER**

DIRECTED BY **JO BONNEY**

CAST: Tala Ashe, Geneva Carr, Julie Halston, Louis Ozawa, Gabrielle Policano, Matthew Saldívar, Maggie Siff

SCENIC DESIGN:
Myung Hee Cho

COSTUME DESIGN:
Emilio Sosa

LIGHTING DESIGN:
Jeff Croiter

SOUND DESIGN:
Darron L. West

PROJECTION DESIGN:
Elaine J. McCarthy

HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN:
J. Jared Janas

CHOREOGRAPHY:
Kelly Devine

VOCAL COACHING:
Liz Hayes

ORIGINAL MUSIC:
Dan Ryan

AUDIENCE: 11,849



Matthew Saldívar and Maggie Siff in BREAKING THE STORY. Photo by Joan Marcus.

THE NEXT STAGE FESTIVAL



Carmen M. Herlihy, and April Matthis in THE APIARY. Photo by Joan Marcus.

2024 FESTIVAL PRODUCTION

THE APIARY

BY KATE DOUGLAS

DIRECTED BY KATE WHORISKEY

CAST: Stephanie Crousillat, Carmen M. Herlihy, April Matthis, Taylor Schilling, Nimene Wureh

SCENIC DESIGN:
Walt Spangler

SOUND DESIGN:
Christopher Darbassie

COSTUME DESIGN:
Jennifer Moeller

ORIGINAL MUSIC:
Grace McLean

LIGHTING DESIGN:
Amith Chandrashaker

AUDIENCE: 7,685



Nimene Wureh in THE APIARY. Photo by Joan Marcus.

THE JUDITH CHAMPION READING SERIES IS FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE JUDITH CHAMPION CHARITABLE FUND AND MEL LITOFF.

Judith Champion was introduced to music and theater by her parents, and this led to a love of the arts becoming central to her life. “Support what is most important to you,” she believed, “and one thing that is important to me is to nurture new playwriting talent so that Theater flourishes for future generations.”



**ON THE EVOLUTIONARY
FUNCTION OF SHAME**
BY D.A. MINDELL DIRECTED BY JESS MCLEOD
FEBRUARY 26, 2024



THE GOOD GUYS
BY SARAH MANTELL
DIRECTED BY MEI ANN TE
MARCH 4, 2024



TIGER BEAT
BY KAELA MEI-SHING GARVIN
DIRECTED BY ANNIE TIPPE
MARCH 11, 2024

THE NANCY DENOVAN MUSICAL READING IS FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM CHRISTOPHER AND DAVID R. MURRAY.

David’s late mother, Nancy Denovan Murray, was a multidisciplinary artist: a singer, filmmaker, and painter. She believed in the power of the arts to make sense of our present and positively influence our future.



EIGHTY-SIXED

BOOK BY JEREMY J. KING MUSIC & LYRICS BY SAM SALMOND
BASED ON THE NOVEL BY DAVID B. FEINBERG DIRECTED BY KEVIN NEWBURY
JANUARY 16, 2024

CAROLE ROTHMAN: A DRIVING FORCE IN

1979

Second Stage is founded by Carole Rothman and Robyn Goodman



1984

Second Stage leases its first home, the 108-seat McGinn/Cazale Theater, at Broadway and 76th Street.

1999

Second Stage leases and renovates a bank on 43rd Street and 8th Avenue, turning it into the then state-of-the-art 296-seat Tony Kiser Theater, designed by renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas. The first season in the new space opened with Stephen Sondheim's *Saturday Night*.



2015

Second Stage purchases the historic Helen Hayes Theater on Broadway, making Second Stage one of 4 non-profit theaters on Broadway. The following year, renovations began on the Hayes Theater, under the guidance of Architect, David Rockwell.

AMERICAN THEATER

"BROADWAY NEEDS A SPACE THAT WILL SHOWCASE THE RICH DIVERSITY OF VOICES THAT MAKE UP THE AMERICAN THEATER. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW THIS NEW SPACE SHIFTS THE CREATIVE CONVERSATION ON BROADWAY, INTRODUCING A RANGE OF ARTISTS WHO PREVIOUSLY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED THERE." —LYNN NOTTAGE

2018



The Hayes Theater re-opens with *Lobby Hero* by Kenneth Lonergan, starring Chis Evans and Michael Cera.



2024

Carole Rothman announces her departure from Second Stage. Her final season garnered 12 Tony Nominations, and 3 Tony wins. *Appropriate* by Brendan Jacobs-Jenkins won for Best Revival, Sarah Paulson won for Best Actress and Jane Cox won for Best Lighting Design. *Mother Play*, by Paula Vogel garnered 4 Tony Nominations, including Best Play.

After 24 years of leasing the Kiser Theater, Second Stage has announced that it will be moving to the Pershing Square Center and leasing space from Signature Theater, beginning in January 2025. Many of our most beloved productions had their start at the Kiser Theater, including *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Next to Normal*, *25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee*, and *Between Riverside and Crazy*. We thank the thousands of artists, theater professionals and creative teams who had entered the Kiser over the past 24 years.



NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT

Second Stage's New Play Development programs — including commissions, readings, and workshops — create a pipeline of bold and engaging plays for our stages. As a writer-focused theater, we provide a supportive environment where all artists can do their best work, and we nurture the careers of artists over time.

READINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Readings and workshops are a critical part of the play development process. When writers can hear their words spoken aloud by actors, it can be a significant turning point in their writing process and lead to important revisions. We hosted 11 developmental readings in 2023–24. We also hosted the Lark Playwrights Mentorship program.

FY24 READINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Mother Play – September 2023

Heaven is Full (Keenan ScoZ II) Reading – September 2023

Breaking The Story Reading – October 2023

The Apiary – October/November 2023

Mother Play – November 2022

Breaking the Story Workshop – March 2024

Breaking the Story Reading – March 2024

Rockville (Steven Levenson) – April 2024

Lunar Eclipse Reading – July 2024

Cult of Love – September 2024

On The Evolutionary Function of Shame – October 2024

ACTIVE COMMISSIONS

New York State Council on the Arts Commission — Jahna Ferron-Smith

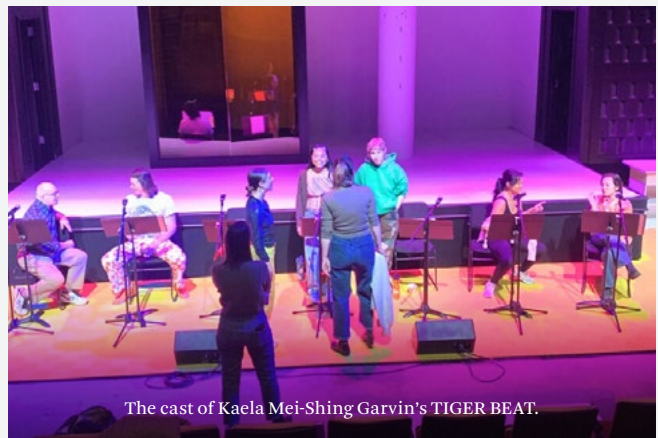
Second Stage Commissions — Ross Golan, Danielle Stagger

Kenyon Playwrights Conference Commission — Lauren Yee

Peter Jay Sharp FoundaMon Commission — Danny Tejera



The cast and playwright (center, in mask) of D.A. Mindell's *ON THE EVOLUTIONARY FUNCTION OF SHAME*.



The cast of Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin's *TIGER BEAT*.



Tom Nelis, Julian Rozell, Marc Kudisch, and Robin de Jesus in a reading of Sarah Mantell's *THE GOOD GUY*.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

FAIR CHANCE JOB FAIR

Second Stage hosted our third annual Fair Chance Job Fair focusing on people returning to the workforce and citizens who have been impacted by the justice system. This event connects job seekers with job opportunities and other career resources such as resume writing and interview preparation skills. Second Stage invited our fellow Broadway non-profit theaters to participate in the event, and we partnered with the Youth Justice Network, Housing Works, and other groups focused on employment services for returning citizens to engage hotels, restaurants, and other businesses in Times Square that have a commitment to Fair Chance hiring.

STUDENT MATINEES

We offer Free Student Matinees for NYC students from Title One Schools. We now serve schools in all 5 boroughs. After attending a matinee performance, students participate in a discussion with the cast and creative team facilitated by 2ST's artistic staff. In addition to special matinee performances just for schools, we also provide access to our regular matinees for student groups that cannot make it to the scheduled Free Student Matinee, further increasing the reach of the program. The majority of participating students come from underserved backgrounds, and for many this marks their first exposure to professional theater.



Fair Chance Job Fair. Photo by Nyzia Newman.



Fair Chance Job Fair. Photo by Nyzia Newman.



APPROPRIATE student matinee. Photo by Nyzia Newman.



MOTHER PLAY student matinee. Photo by Nyzia Newman.



APPROPRIATE talkback event.



Student group arrives for a matinee of MOTHER PLAY.



Student group meets with Second Stage staff.

GROUPS AND COMMUNITY TALKBACKS

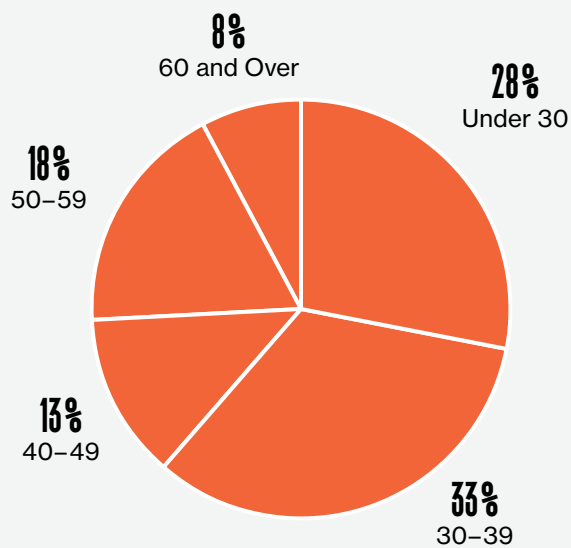
Second Stage Theater is committed to expanding its reach and impact through community outreach programs that bring new audiences to our theaters. This year we were able to host La Guardia Community College, Fordham U, Lehman Coll, William Paterson U., CUNY School of Labor & Urban Studies; Friends of Transmitter Park, Black Parents @ Lycée; palliative care communities at Mt. Sinai and Columbia; Honor Roll and League of Professional Theatre Women, Nontraditional Employment for Women; PFLAG, GLSEN, and GLAAD. These groups each attended a performance at Second Stage, followed by a talk back with actors, the creative team, and relevant experts.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORMATION TEAM

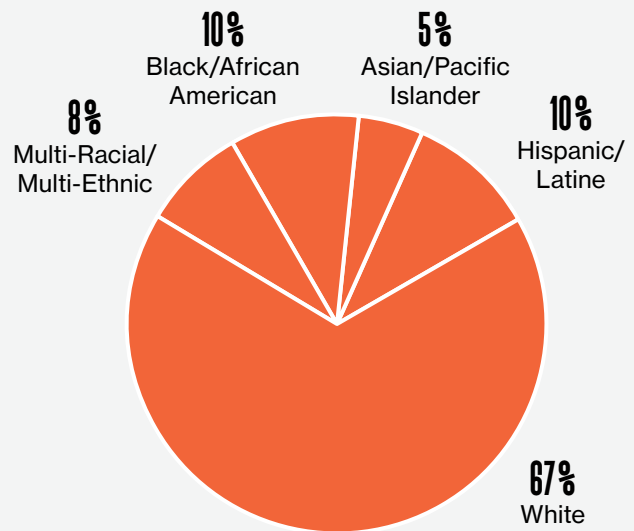
In 2021, Second Stage established a Transformation Team that works to make our organization equitable, diverse, inclusive, and anti-racist. The Transformation Team is a group of employees and Trustees who represent a range of social identities, departments, and levels of organizational seniority. In FY24, the Team focused on a number of key initiatives and activities aligned with 2ST's EDIA/R Strategic Plan, for example: implementing HR/EDI presentations at First Rehearsals and first day of Tech; recognizing cultural celebrations like Lunar New Year and Black History Month; incorporating employee feedback in manager performance evaluations; and ensuring candidate pool diversity and EDI-related interview questions in all recruitment processes.

STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE



ETHNICITY



Self reporting survey of the staff, Sept 2024.

GALA

The annual Gala is our major fundraising event of the year and supports our artistic programming. Funds raised help us develop a pipeline of new playwrights and develops new work from commissioning and readings all the way to Broadway.

November 6, 2023 at Cipriani Wall Street

HONOREE

Sarah Paulson

HONORARY CHAIRS

Annaleigh Ashford, Jesse Tyler Ferguson,
and Anna Deavere Smith

CO-CHAIRS

Kevin Brockman and Dan Berendsen
Terry and Bob Lindsay

HOST

Danny Burstein

PERFORMANCES BY

Kate Baldwin
Leana Rae Concepcion
Alan H. Green
Lisa Howard
Celia Keenan-Bolger
Derek Klena
Lindsay Mendez
Betsy Wolfe
The Broadway Sinfonietta



Carole Rothman and Robyn Goodman



Danny Burstein



Kate Baldwin



Larissa FastHorse



Derek Klena and Lindsay Mendez



Micaela Diamond



Kevin Brockman, Sarah Paulson, and Terry Lindsay.



Tig Notaro



Tommy Sadoski



ALL-STAR BOWLING CLASSIC

Thank you to our sponsors and co-chairs for a wonderful evening. The All-Star Bowling Classic pairs Broadway stars and other theater professionals with supporters for a night of Bowling, prizes and fun.

May 6, 2024 at Bowlero Times Square

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Select Equity

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Second Stage is a 501(c)3 organization which relies on contributions and support from Individuals, Foundations, Corporations and Government Agencies. The ongoing support and generosity of our donors allows us to fulfill our mission of championing the work of living American playwrights.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Our Champions are the heartbeat of our theater. They support our artistic programs and initiatives. As a thank you, we offer a number of events which provide opportunities to interact with artists, playwrights and other theater professions.

From a Season Kick-off Event, to Champs lunches, evenings and backstage tours our Champs had a front row seat to our season. We also hosted a London Theater Trip this season, where we saw some wonderful productions and went behind the scenes with industry leaders.

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\$50,000 AND ABOVE

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Candace Weir

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\$50,000+

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\$10,000-\$24,999

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The Tobin Theatre Arts Fund

\$5,000-\$9,999

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\$2,500-\$4,999

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Second Stage Theater's programs are made possible by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.



Second Stage Theater appreciates the extraordinary support of the Paycheck Protection Program and the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program of the U.S. Small Business Administration.



2NDSTAGE

1501 BROADWAY, SUITE 518, NEW YORK, NY 10036
P. (212) 787-8302 2ST.COM