

## A MESSAGE FROM INCLUSIVE THEATER OF WNY (ITOWNY)

Inclusive Theater of WNY (ITOWNY) was founded on the principle of providing a welcoming and secure environment where individuals of all abilities and backgrounds can cultivate their artistic talents and deepen their understanding of the arts. We are driven by the belief that collaborative artistic endeavors among diverse people foster greater empathy and contribute to a more harmonious world. Celebrating diversity, we strive to reflect the rich tapestry of the world in which we live.

As we mark our tenth anniversary, our dedication to making a significant impact on inclusion and the arts has never been stronger. This year's Festival of Short Plays theme, "Silver Linings," is a reminder that even in the darkest of times you can find the light; there is always room for growth, understanding, and the potential for positive change. We invite you to experience these powerful stories, which, we hope, will inspire empathy, spark conversation, and contribute to a broader awareness of the issues that impact every single one of us.

The plays presented in this year's Festival confront genuine challenges faced by individuals, while also celebrating the enduring strength of the human spirit. Even when "Silver Linings" are hard to see, these works reveal that self-discovery and growth inevitably lead to hope. The resilience of human beings is truly inspiring.

The ITOWNY cast and crew embarked upon their Festival journeys as individuals from diverse backgrounds and with varied experience levels and have transformed into a collaborative team. They consistently uplift and support each other, simultaneously discovering their individual artistic voices and building deep, enduring connections.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to everyone – actors, participants, volunteers, and supporters – who are contributing to meaningful change in Western New York and beyond. We are particularly thankful for our partnership with Mark Tramont and St. Mary's High School in Lancaster, and we're eager for the future. And to our families and friends, your unwavering support makes our work possible. Thank you. We hope you enjoy the show.

With much love and gratitude,

Aimee, Dallas, Emrald, JR, Lexie, Ryan & Shanda  
Directors, *2025 Festival of Shorts - Silver Linings*

ART BY ALAN DEACON



## INCLUSIVE THEATER OF WNY

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE

## 2025 *Festival of Short Plays*

April 4, 5, 6 & 11, 12, 13, 2025

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL,  
142 LAVERACK, LANCASTER, NY

SHOWTIMES:

FRIDAY'S & SATURDAY'S, 7:30PM

SUNDAY'S 2PM

TICKETS: \$15/GENERAL; \$10/SENIOR, STUDENTS

For More Information



[www.inclusivetheaterofwny.com](http://www.inclusivetheaterofwny.com)

## ACT I

### Magpie

Written by Katrina Leuzinger Owens  
Directed by Ryan Adam Norton & JR Ozoria  
Performances by Lexie Hoeglmeier & Cat Kwiatkowski

### Survivor 147: Endodontu

Written by Lexie Hoeglmeier  
Directed by Aimee Levesque & JR Ozoria  
Performances by Eric Miller, Stacy Kowal, Emmanuel Stephens & Jessica Levesque

### War and Its Vets<sup>^</sup>

Written by Ryan Adam Norton  
Directed by Ryan Adam Norton & JR Ozoria  
Performances by Lexie Hoeglmeier & Zachary Kushner

### Wands Have More Fun

Written by Allison Fradkin  
Directed by Lexie Hoeglmeier  
Performances by Shanda Gardner, Penny Baldwin & Stacy Kowal

### Tapes

Written by Madison Sedlor  
Directed by Emerald Ja'Ceil & Dallas Taylor  
Performances by Robert Janusz, Katrina Leuzinger Owens, Lexie Hoeglmeier, Stacy Kowal, Penny Baldwin, Bill Baldwin, Emmanuel Stephens, Shanda Gardner

*There will be a 10-minute intermission.*



Theatre renovations generously supported  
through a grant award from Erie County.  
Sponsored by:  
**Frank J. Todaro**  
Erie County Legislator

## ACT II

### By the Water's Edge

Written by Michael Fanelli  
Directed by Aimee Levesque & JR Ozoria  
Performances by Eric Miller, Donna Manquen & Jonathan Davis

### 10 Minutes\*

Written and Directed by Shanda Gardner  
Performances by Lexie Hoeglmeier & Jessica Levesque

### Listen While You Work

Written by Linda S. Gunther  
Directed by Aimee Levesque, Lexie Hoeglmeier & JR Ozoria  
Performances by Donna Manquen, Stacy Kowal, Bill Baldwin, Cat Kwiatkowski, Akshat Sharma & Zachary Kushner

### It Just Is

Written by Dallas Taylor  
Directed by Emerald Ja'Ceil & Dallas Taylor  
Performances by Heather Benson & Zachary Kushner

### Watch Out

Written by DonnaMarie Vaughan  
Directed by Shanda Gardner  
Performance by Penny Baldwin

### Stage Management

JR Ozoria & Bill Baldwin

### Lights & Sound

Dallas Taylor

\*Includes discussion of Sexual Assault

^Includes discussion of Suicidal Ideation

If you or someone you know are experiencing a mental health crisis, or have experienced sexual violence, please contact Crisis Services of WNY at (716) 834-3131.



INCLUSIVE THEATER OF WNY  
Diversity Inclusion Respect