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URBANITE THEATRE s a r a s o t a

BACKWARDS FORWARDS XXA

By Jacqueline Goldfinger World Premiere

March 24 - April 23, 2023

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BACKWARDS FORWARDS BACK by Jacqueline Goldfinger

Backwards Forward Back is produced at Urbanite Theatre as part of a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere.

Other partner theaters are Unicorn Theatre, Kansas City, Missouri and Centenary Stage Company, Hackettstown, New Jersey.

For more information, please visit <u>nnpn.org</u>.

ROLLING WORLD PREMIERE National New Play Network



BACKWARDS FORWARDS BACK by Jacqueline Goldfinger

Backwards Forwards Back is produced in Honor Of...

Private Bob Bower, Army

Patrick Flynn

William Hogerhuis SR, Navy WW2

LTC William E. Irish, USAR Quartermaster Corp Sp5 (E5) William B. Irish, Army - 32nd Air Defense Artillery

Howard Pardue, Sr., Cryptographer Howard Pardue, Jr. Colonel Jonathan Pettibone, Army Chief Master Sergeant Charles Rennick, Sr. Captain Charles Rennick, Jr. AWF1 Charles C. Rennick AWV1 Haley D. Rennick AIC Verna Rennick 2/17 FA Bravo Battery Bulldogs 2 ID: "Second to None" 95 th Infantry Division, The Iron Men of Metz Master Chief Frederick Drury, Navy Lieut. Lauren Fisher, USN, Nurse Corps Aircrewman Second Class Petty Officer Duane Fisher, USN



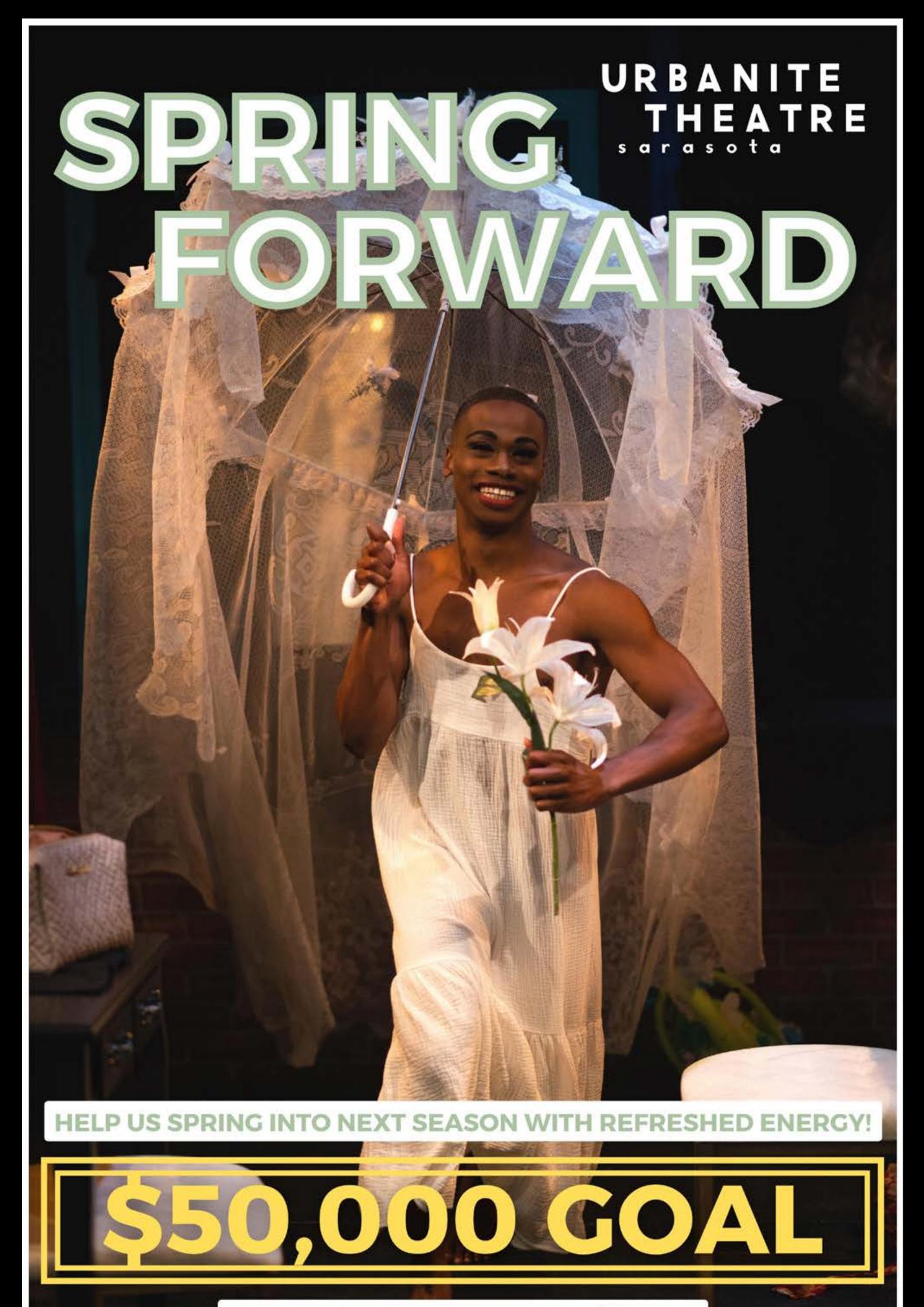
BACKWARDS BACK by Jacqueline Goldfinger

Please note

Today's performance will include the usage of:

safe theatrical haze, loud noises, flashing lights, depictions of violence, sirens and fire alarm sound effects.

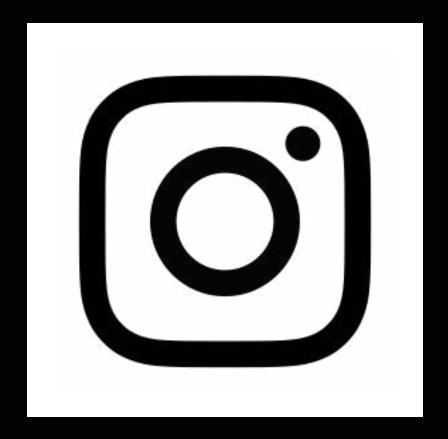
In the rare event of a real emergency, the performance will be halted and an announcement will be made.



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QURBANITETHEATRE





Administrative Team

Co-Artistic Director Brendan Ragan

Co-Artistic Director Summer Wallace

Director of Advancement Travis Ray

Communications Manager Laura Chambers

Patron Services Manager Candice Rodriguez

BACKWARDS BACK by Jacqueline Goldfinger

Cast

The Soldier L. James*

*Member of Actors' Equity Association



Creative Team

Playwright Jacqueline Goldfinger Director/Co-Artistic Director

Brendan Ragan

Co-Artistic Director Summer Wallace Production Stage Manager & Props Designer Tori Heikenfeld Technical Supervisor & Projection Designer Alex Pinchin Scenic Designer Jeff Weber

BACKWARDS EORMARDS by Jacqueline Goldfinger

Creative Team

Lighting Designer Lyndell McDonald Sound Designer Sean Ragan

Master Carpenter Eugene Alcorn Costume Designer Kristy Iris Scenic Painter Karle Murdock Consultant Kendra Simpkins Health & Safety Officer Laura Chambers

Brendan Ragan

Director/Co-Artistic Director

Brendan Ragan is a theatermaker with more than 20 years of experience in the industry. At Urbanite Theatre, Brendan has developed and implemented the company's artistic and administrative visions since inception in 2014, curating seasonal planning, leading casting efforts, guiding creative teams, and serving as a cultural ambassador in the Sarasota community. Brendan is deeply grateful to be able to tell thrilling, important stories in a community that so highly regards the performing arts. Select Urbanite highlights include: Sender, The Smuggler, Lungs, The Drowning Girls, Safe House, The Burdens and Incognito. Love to Z. www.brendanragan.com

Summer Dawn Wallace

Co-Artistic Director

Summer Wallace is an award-winning actor, director, producer and teaching artist. Directing credits at Urbanite include the regional premieres of Scorch, Northside Hollow (Winner 2018) Handy Award for Best Direction of a Play), Dry Land, Sam & Lizzie (reading), and Athena. She is the producing director for Urbanite's Modern Works Festivals. Regional credits include: Asolo Repertory Theatre, Mad Cow Theatre, Dog Day's Theatre, 1st Stage, Vashon Repertory Theatre, Cumberland County Playhouse, Stage Door Theatre, Lagniappe Theatre, Theatre Lab, Players Theatre, FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training, New College of Florida and the list goes on. Summer is also Producing Director of Two Chicks Production. She is a proud member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA. <u>summerdawnwallace.com</u>



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Travis Ray

Director of Advancement

Travis Ray earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Performance from Alabama State University and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Management/Arts Administration from the University of Alabama. Travis has worked for the Alliance Theatre, Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts, the King Tut Exhibit, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, the Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Tyler Perry Studios and Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. Travis is a member of Actors' Equity Association, Theatre Communications Group, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He recently taught Acting 1 at New College of Florida and he owns a handcrafted bow tie and accessories brand called Dapper Bowtique.

Laura Chambers

Communications Manager

Laura Chambers is thrilled to be joining the Urbanite Theatre for her first season as the Communications Manager. Originally from Sarasota, FL, she spent the last several years living in New York City where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Arts Management and Marketing from The New School. Upon returning to Sarasota, she worked as the Marketing Coordinator for Sarasota Contemporary Dance (SCD) during their 16th & 17th Seasons. Additionally, Laura is a choreographer and freelance movement artist, and recently presented her work for SCD's In-Studio Performance In the Round and SCD's production of Voices - Rising Choreographers at the Cook Theatre.

Candice Rodriguez

Patron Services Manager

Candice Rodriguez is the Patron Services Manager at Urbanite Theatre. Specializing in hospitality management, she uses that experience to create a personalized experience for all. After relocating from New York to Sarasota, Candice decided to continue working within the arts and culture community. Throughout her career, she has worked at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, Historic Spanish Point, local non-profits and as a dance fitness instructor. When she's not at the theatre, Candice loves spending time outdoors or with her dog.



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Jacqueline Goldfinger

Playwright

Jacqueline Goldfinger (she/they) is a playwright, poet, and librettist. She won the Yale Drama Prize, Smith Prize, Generations Award, Barrymore Award, and Opera America Discovery Award (with Composer Melissa Dunphy). Her theatrical works have been produced at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, BBC 3 Radio (UK), Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Voces8 (UK), Gate Theatre (New Zealand), Oberlin Opera, St. Martin in the Fields (UK), Decameron Opera Coalition, and others. Her work has been supported by YADDO, National Endowment for the Arts, Millay Colony, The Orchard Project, Drama League, among others. For more information: www.jacquelinegoldfinger.com Instagram and Facebook: jacquelinegoldfinger

The Playwright would like to thank

Heather Beasley Lawrence James Mikaela Kafka Cynthia Levin Brendan Ragan Rebecca Remaly Catherine Rust Kendra Simpkins Summer Wallace Carl Wallnau Stephen Weitz Christopher Young Operation Warrior Resolution the Sloan Foundation and the National New Play Network.

L. James

The Soldier

L. James is thrilled to be back at the Urbanite Theatre. James is a U.S Army Veteran and a graduate of the MFA program at FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Selected theatre credits include *The Agitators* (freeFall Theatre Company), *Sender* (Urbanite Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing and Art* (Shakespeare & Co), *Sweat* (Asolo Repetory Theatre). Television credits

include FBI and Law & Order. Film Credits include Last Call and Zombie Wedding.

"To and for you, Patrick Flynn".

- L. James

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LOCALIQ





Tori Heikenfeld

Production Stage Manager & Props Designer Tori Heikenfeld is thrilled to be on the Urbanite team for her second season, after stage managing At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen, The Smuggler, A Skeptic and a Bruja and Athena last season. Previous Stage Management credits include My Lord What a Night at Florida Studio Theatre, as well as productions with Arden Theatre Company, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Baltimore Center Stage, Theatre Aspen, and Portland Stage Company. She holds a BA in Theatre Production/Design and Public Relations from Susquehanna University. Many thanks to Kevin, Chloe and the family for their unwavering love and support.

Alex Pinchin

Technical Supervisor & **Projection Designer** Alex Pinchin is continuing his work with Urbanite Theatre in his 2nd year with the company as a member of the staff, now as Technical Supervisor. Alex is a Sarasota native, having graduated from Booker High School's Technical Theatre program before going on to earn his Bachelor of Arts in Digital Arts and Sciences with a minor in Light Design from the University of Florida. He has been working in theatre for over 15 years and can also be found designing for the Asolo Conservatory. His most recent works include An Inspector Calls at the Asolo Conservatory (Sound Design) and Birds of North America here at Urbanite (Light Design).

Jeff Weber

Scenic Designer

Jeffrey Weber, Scenic Designer, makes a return to Urbanite with his design for Backwards Forwards Back. A New York native with a fine arts background, he received his master's degree in scenic design from the University of Nebraska. Now a Florida resident, Jeff works nationally with theatre companies including Majestic Repertory Theatre in Las Vegas, the FSU Asolo Conservatory, Urbanite Theatre, freeFall Theatre, Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, Horizon Theatre Company, and the Springer Opera House to name a few. Jeff is a proud member of USA 829 as a Scenic Designer, and enjoys working collaboratively to bring an artistic vision to reality on the stage.



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Thursday, March 23, 2023, 7:30 pm: Celebration

First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota with Christina Adams, violin; Robert Smith, trumpet, Ann Stephenson-Moe, piano Music by Mendelssohn, Gershwin, Bloch and more is featured in this concert which celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Founding of the State of



Tickets: \$35. Order online at chamberorchestrasarasota.org

Lyndell McDonald

Lighting Designer

Lyndell T. McDonald currently serves as Assistant Professor and Technical Director for Dance at The University of Alabama. He is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) local 78 stage union. One of his most recent projects was Scenic Director and Scenic Designer for The World Games 2022 opening and closing ceremonies in Birmingham, AL. His lighting design credits include: The Color Purple, LaRonde, The Grapes of Wrath, The Piano Lesson and Romeo and Juliet to name a few. Lyndell also owns an event lighting and production company, 2L7, LLC. The company manages and designs lighting and decor for special events including formal galas, fundraisers and weddings.

Sean Ragan

Sound Designer

Sean is a music producer and sound designer from Denver, Colorado. His work ranges from studio albums, theatre scores, film trailers and live music. Past Urbanite Theatre sound design and scoring credits include The Smuggler, Breadcrumbs, The Drowning Girls, The Feast and Safe House. He also served as sound designer and audio engineer for Urbanite's radio play Conceal & Carry.

Eugene Alcorn

Master Carpenter

Gene Alcorn served as master carpenter for the last two seasons at Urbanite Theatre. Credits include In a Word, The Niceties, Thanksgiving Play, Sender, The Feast, Safe House, At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen, The Smuggler and Athena. Gene is also a performing Magician and builds magic for other magicians all over the world. His skills are somewhat unique yet combined are an asset to Urbanite Theatre.

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Kristy Iris

Costume Designer

Kristy Iris, MFA, BFA, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU and studied directing with Anne Bogart at Columbia University. Kristy started her career designing costumes, sets and lighting in NYC's Off Broadway theaters and has been funded by NEA grants. She most recently designed costumes for Moving Ethos's production of Girl Woman and Jess Pope's La Petite Peen at the Historic Asolo. When she isn't creating "make believe worlds for make believe people", she collaborates with conscious creatives to connect home and soul through her process Fizome. She dedicates her work on Backwards Forwards Back to her father William Irish who served in the Army and her mother Linda, who was home with her as an infant. kristyiris.com

Karle Murdock

Scenic Painter

Karle H. Murdock has been designing, performing, painting, sewing & sculpting for local theaters since graduating from Ringling. She's performed with The United Stage improv troupe and played Blanche DuBois in the old Manatee Players production of Streetcar opening the same night that her design for Merrily We Roll Along debuted at the old Players Theatre in 1998. An eclectic creator, working in every theater in town, remembering the Golden Apple where she learned to love classic musicals, the Sarasota Opera where she learned to understand classic Opera, the Asolo where she was permitted to build exquisite props. In her spare time, creating fine art. Her artwork can be viewed at www.KarleKarle.com.

Kendra Simpkins

Consultant

Kendra served in the U.S. Army, is a graduate of Columbia University's social work program, and is Founder of **Operation Warrior Resolution (OWR).** She's a subject matter expert in combatrelated trauma, PTSD, neuroscience, military and veteran transition. OWR was established out of her own struggle to receive adequate care through the Veterans Affairs, and she knew something had to be done to get veterans the care that they need. OWR is a local nonprofit that provides innovative, holistic mental health care to veterans and their family members suffering from PTSD. Kendra was voted Sarasota's Veteran of the Year in 2019, and The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce selected OWR as one of the Best Female Owned Businesses in 2022.



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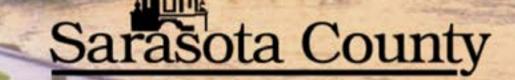
family members struggling with post-traumatic stress, anxiety and other related mental health challenges.

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About NNPN

National New Play Network is an alliance of professional theaters that collaborate in innovative ways to develop, produce, and extend the life of new plays. NNPN envisions a robust, equitable, and inclusive new play ecology that reflects a broad range of aesthetics, and strives to pioneer, implement, and disseminate ideas and programs that revolutionize the way theaters and audiences encounter new work. Since its founding in 1998, National New Play Network has grown into a vital force for new work in the American theater, serving over 130 Member Theaters as well as artists and audiences around the world. NNPN's National Showcase of New Plays, initially presented in 2002, was the Network's first program aimed at creating a new play pipeline that spanned the US. In 2004, NNPN launched the pilot of what has become its paradigm-shifting Rolling World Premiere program. As NNPN's membership, funding, and programmatic offerings have grown, innovations including season-long Residencies within Member Theaters for rising administrative leaders, two annual Commissions, and a dedicated fund for theater-makers working to develop new plays across institutions emerged. The New Play Exchange®, launched in 2015, is the world's largest online library of scripts by living writers, and features unprecedented opportunities for direct connection among playwrights, readers, and producers. NNPN's current Strategic Plan centers its commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The Network's dedication to new plays remains the center of its work, but the future NNPN envisions is one that is robust, inclusive, and equitable for all theater-makers and audience members.

BACKWARDS FORWARDS BACK is made possible in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues



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