



Mirror
Stage
presents

Expand Upon: **INCOME INEQUALITY**

Simply staged readings with a moderated discussion after every performance

Two world premiere plays:

The EPPIC Differential
by Mary E. Brown

and

Deep Veins
by Nelle Tankus



mirrorstage.org



Saturday, October 15, 2022, 7:30pm, PDT

Sunday, October 16, 2022, 2:00pm, PDT

Saturday, October 22, 2022, 7:30pm, PDT

Sunday, October 23, 2022, 2:00pm, PDT

Program Notes

According to research conducted by Bankrate.com, approximately 70 Million working Americans report having an additional job or side hustle. Though some are working extra hours to boost their savings or get out of debt, most work the additional hours for basic living expenses. The most popular side hustles continue to be food delivery and ridesharing for companies like Uber, the company worth \$52.74B where a driver can make approximately \$15 an hour including tips. There are other options—such as donating your body to scientific studies. Activities like plasma donation are popular in lower-income communities where individuals are looking to supplement their income. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these low-income populations increased as more and more people lost their jobs. Daily living expenses continued to rise, but thanks to the government’s swift action on housing, most Americans did not lose their homes.

Washington State has approximately 1,966 low-income housing options. As the need for low-income housing increases, we have fewer and fewer options to house those in need. One group at high risk is the low-income elderly community. Of individuals 65 and older, 7.5% live in poverty. With few opportunities to work due to age discrimination, as well as disruption with government aide such as social security or disability, that number continues to grow. With inflation on the rise and the economy headed towards recession, the 2020 housing and pay referendums ending income inequality are becoming a larger topic of conversation as the “haves” continue to build their wealth and resources, while the “have nots” continue to struggle.

—Marquicia Dominguez, director and dramaturg
Associate Artistic Director, Mirror Stage



Roz Cornejo



Hazel Rose Gibson



Andrew Litzky



Alex Lee Reed

The EPPIC Differential

by Mary E. Brown

(in order of appearance)

Andrew Litzky *Ed*

Steven Sterne *Cameron*

Roz Cornejo *Leto*

Matty Sythandone *Aasim*

Alex Lee Reed *Nem*

Anubhuti Sood *Joy*

Hazel Rose Gibson *Nakia*

Direction and Dramaturgy by Marquicia Dominguez

There will be a ten-minute intermission following *The EPPIC Differential*



No stranger to the “Wealth Gap,” Mary E. Brown (she/her) was honored to be asked to participate as a playwright in Mirror Stage’s Expand Upon series this year. The first of her written plays that were semi-publicly performed occurred at the tender age of ten, and while Mary has spent her most recent years creating scripts for children, she appreciates the challenge of writing plays for, and performed by “grown ups.” In addition to being a teacher, she is an active participant in various disciplines within the Seattle theater community. Mary dedicates this script to the loving memory of her brother, Ed.



Anubhuti Sood



Steven Sterne



Matty Sythandone

Deep Veins **by Nelle Tankus**

(in order of appearance)

Hazel Rose Gibson..... *Sweetheart*
 Roz Cornejo..... *Reena*
 Alex Lee Reed..... *Sidewinder*
 Matty Sythandone..... *Dr. Beautiful*
 Anubhuti Sood..... *Del*
 Steven Sterne..... *Sternum*
 Andrew Litzky..... *Collarbone*

Direction and Dramaturgy by Marquicia Dominguez

A discussion with the artists and audience immediately follows *Deep Veins*



Nelle Tankus (she/her) is a white Jewish & Romani trans woman playwright. Her full-length work has been seen in Seattle at 12th Avenue Arts (*The Untitled Play About Art School*, dir. L. Nicol Cabe), with The Umbrella Project (*Slack Water*, dir. QuiQui Dominguez), and in New York City at IRT Theatre (*Hunting*, dir. Tristan Powell). Her shorter plays have been seen at Mo-Wave, The Pocket Theater, Volunteer Park, The Erickson Theater, Seattle Town Hall, and have been presented in association with MAP Theatre, ACT's 1-Minute Play Festival, Fantastic Z. Theatre Company, Annex Theatre's Spin the Bottle, and Forward Flux. Most recently, she was part of the 2021 María Irene Fornés Playwrights Workshop cohort. She is based in Seattle.

Mirror Stage Personnel

Board of Directors

Angie Bolton, Director
Elizabeth Calhoun, Secretary
Suzanne M. Cohen, President
Celeste Mari Williams, Director

Staff

Suzanne M. Cohen, Managing Artistic Director
Marquicia Dominguez, Associate Artistic Director
Tycarius Cummings, Media Arts Manager
Kiley Riffell, Marketing & PR Manager
Alexandra Cotutiu, External Relations Assistant
Amanda Kristine Burks, Social Media Specialist
Mary Beth Herold, Bookkeeper

Actor Bios

Roz Cornejo: Roz (she/her) is a local actor/writer based in Seattle. She is a University of California, Santa Barbara graduate with a BFA in Acting and a BA in History. Her recent works include her play *Echo* premiered by Red Bull Theater, her original solo *In the Crosshairs* with Macha Theatre Works, performances with Living Voices, A.D. with SCT's *The Watsons go to Birmingham-1963*, and *The Cake* with As If Theatre. This is Roz's first project with Mirror Stage.

Hazel Rose Gibson: Hazel (she/her) is delighted to be performing with Mirror Stage again and making this production part of her 2022 comeback! Having spent all of 2021 back in her home state of CO, her return to the Seattle acting scene has included *Pipeline* with SPT and OR, with Theatre 22. Previous Seattle credits include *Faeriestruk*

Actors Bios, continued

(Annex Theatre), *American Junkie* (Book-It Rep), *The Good Woman of Setzuan* (ACTLab), *A New Hope in the Park* (Hello Earth Productions), and *A Civil War Christmas* (Taproot Theatre). hazelrosegibson.com | IG: notorious_hrg Hazel previously played Ryan in *Hand*, and Allison in *Untitled Play About Homelessness* as part of Expand Upon: HOMELESSNESS in 2019. Hazel was Mirror Stage's Program Associate from 2020-2021.

Andrew Litzky: Andrew (he/him) happily returns to Mirror Stage. He is a disabled person, living with the degenerative neurological syndrome Charcot-Marie-Tooth, CMT, similar to Muscular Dystrophy. As Co-Founder of theater simple, Andrew has appeared in 50+ local productions and international tours. Regional credits with Berkeley Repertory and the Spoleto Festival; locally with Sound Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare, Strawberry Theatre, Book-It, Seattle Public, Seattle University and Taproot; internationally in Canada, Australia, Singapore and in 2019 as US State Dept artists in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. He is grateful to his co-conspirator in life and art, Llysa. Andrew previously played Dr. Driscoll, et all in *Honky* in 2014.

Alex Lee Reed: Alex (he/they) is a Chicago-based writer, director, playwright, performer, teacher, mentor, coach and professional friend. As a Black, Queer, Trans, extroverted-introvert, a Capricorn and a rebel, Alex has dedicated their life and practice to an unapologetic quest for truth, adventure, discovery, and joy rooted in the values of community, collaboration, empathy, equity, and justice. A fierce advocate for historically under-invited communities, and particularly QTBIPOC Youth, Alex has worked with and learned from young people across the country including at Flint Youth Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, The 5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle Rep, and Steppenwolf Theatre. This is Alex's first project with Mirror Stage.

Actors Bios, continued

Anubhuti Sood: Anubhuti (she/her) is thrilled to be working with Mirror Stage for the first time! Her debut role as Girl in Valentin Krasnogorov's *Let's Have Sex!* introduced her to the world of theatre and remains her favorite onstage credit. When not in rehearsals, Anubhuti is an avid reader and painter. She is grateful to her friends and family for their continued love and support, and to her day job that lets her dabble in all that she is most passionate about.

Steven Sterne: Steven (he/him) is an actor, director, and teaching artist, working for the first time with Mirror Stage, and delighted to be doing so. He has worked with Washington Ensemble Theater, The 14/48 Projects, Parley, Penguin Productions, Seattle Jewish Theater, 12th Night Productions, The Horse In Motion, Ghost Light Theatricals, Annex Theater, Live Girls! Theater, and others. Steven loves to help in developing new work.

Matty Sythandone: Matty (he/him) is a multi-hyphenated artist and graduate of Cornish College of the Arts. He currently works with Seattle Rep as Audience Services Assistant Manager. Through teaching, directing and performing in youth theatre, he hopes to change the world. He is thrilled to be making his virtual Mirror Stage debut! Love to Jarrett, and my family for always supporting me. Select credits include: Pageantry (Taproot Theatre Christmas Tour) Allies from Outer Space and The Social Network (Taproot Theatre Road Company), and The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane (Seattle Children's Theatre). Matty was previously a podcast guest on the Mirror Stage podcast, episode #10 in May 2021.

Special Thanks

Dr. S. Charusheela, Phinney Neighborhood Association, and Lee Yang

Actions You Can Take

- **Find and contact your Representatives:**
 - <https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/>
- **Email your Washington State Legislators:**
 - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/MemberEmail/>
- **Send bill comments regarding specific bills:**
 - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary>
 - Go to <http://search.leg.wa.gov/search.aspx#document>, use search term “poverty” to identify recently passed legislation and bills currently under consideration
- **Become better informed:**
 - **Inequality for All**
 - <https://youtu.be/zvAFPHLFMa0>
 - A 7-part documentary film series directed by Jacob Kornbluth and narrated by American economist, author and professor Robert Reich. Based on Reich’s 2010 book *Aftershock: The Next Economy and America’s Future*, the film examines widening income inequality in the United States.
 - **Ted Talks on Income Inequality Video Playlist**
 - <https://www.ted.com/talks?sort=newest&q=income+inequality+>
 - Hundreds of lecturers, including from 2007-2022 talking on income inequality and how to address it on a global scale.
 - **Economic Opportunity Institute (EOI)**
 - <https://www.opportunityinstitute.org/>
 - The EOI is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit public-policy center using research, education and advocacy to encourage public debate and advance new policy ideas that help build an economy that works – for everyone.
 - **The West Coast Poverty Center at University of Washington**
 - <https://depts.washington.edu/wcpc/home>
 - The West Coast Poverty Center at UW works to bridge the gaps between anti-poverty research, practice, and policy by connecting scholars, policymakers and practitioners; facilitating important social policy research; magnifying the reach of new knowledge; and fostering the next generation of anti-poverty scholars. Learn more about how poverty is effecting all of us through research studies and open to the public seminar series.

Mirror Stage seeks enthusiastic, responsible, collaborative advocates to join the board of directors.

Ideal candidates are positive, detail-oriented, and tech-savvy, with the time and commitment to make a difference

We are committed to embracing the full range of human experience at all levels: in our programs, in our audience, on our staff, and within our leadership. Mirror Stage is especially seeking to expand our Latinx, Indigenous/First Nations, and Asian/Pacific Islander community connections, as well as increase trans*, non-binary, and differently-abled representation on the board. Priority skills sought include Community outreach, Resource development, and Finance.

Board Member Responsibilities:

- Setting policy
- Supervising and evaluating operations in a financially, ethically and artistically sound manner
- Representing Mirror Stage in the community and building enthusiasm for Mirror Stage programs
- Promoting attendance at Mirror Stage productions, programs and events
- Recruiting new board members, advisors and supporters
- Identifying, cultivating, soliciting and/or stewarding the relationships and resources needed—financial, personnel and other—to produce high-quality professional theatre productions

****Experience working in the arts, social justice, or nonprofits a plus, but not required.****

This is a working board, with each board member expected to play an active role. The board culture is fairly informal and collegial. Mirror Stage offers clearly defined expectations, a promise of no breakfast meetings, and a lot of fun with some terrific people.

If you think you'd make a good candidate, we'd love to hear from you.

Candidates from historically excluded backgrounds and communities are encouraged to apply.

More information at <http://mirrorstage.org/support/board>

Mirror Stage gratefully acknowledges the support of 4Culture, ArtsWA, the City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, the EPS Fund, Humanties Washington, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Posner-Wallace Foundation, and individual donors and patrons like you.

Mission:

Mirror Stage uses the power of creative storytelling to challenge assumptions, bias and prejudice, increasing equity and inclusion, while encouraging more thoughtful reflection on today's issues.

Vision:

Mirror Stage reflects the diversity of our community in high-quality, professional programs and events that play it smart without playing it safe. We nurture unique artistic voices while providing opportunities for newly-emerging artists to work alongside more seasoned professionals. With the goal of increasing empathy and social justice, Mirror Stage uses creative storytelling and theatre to connect people more deeply to perspectives and experiences other than their own while amplifying historically excluded stories, voices, and faces—to bring us to a place of common understanding. Mirror Stage gets people talking, as well as thinking.

Values:

- **Challenge:** We focus on thought-provoking, relevant, progressive, risky, and inspiring work—encouraging people to examine their responses more intentionally.
- **Integrity:** We practice the highest standards of excellence and ethics in all interactions. We are committed to embracing the full range of human experience at all levels: in our programs, in our audience, on our staff, and within our leadership.
- **Partnership:** We collaborate with artists, audience and community members to find the best path forward and create positive change.
- **Respect:** We cultivate and nurture an atmosphere of respect and inclusivity, welcoming differing strengths, skill sets, cultures, and abilities.