



Mirror Stage Presents

Expand Upon: Health Care

Simply staged readings of two newly-commissioned one-act plays by drew david combs and D.A. Navoti

Directed by Kyleigh Archer



Saturday, October 21, 2023, 7:30pm

Sunday, October 22, 2023, 2:00pm

at 18th & Union arts space

MirrorStage.org



Note from the Managing Artistic Director



Suzanne M. Cohen

Welcome to our 8th round of **Expand Upon**, where we use the power of story to explore the very timely issue of health care, and the far-reaching impact on the lives of us all. I'm thrilled to welcome you to the debut of two new plays by local playwrights Drew David Combs and D.A. Navoti, each bringing a unique perspective to the complexities of health care. We're also excited to have the talented Kyleigh Archer join us as director for the first time.

Mirror Stage uses creative storytelling to increase awareness and understanding of the complexity of contemporary issues, and **Expand Upon** is one of my favorite Mirror Stage programs. As I see it, there are no simple answers and no single "right" way to engage with complicated issues such as health care. By commissioning two playwrights to respond to the same issue, we get two very different takes on the subject, which in turn initiates dynamic conversations. The discussions are important because 50 people can see the same performance and have 50 different perspectives, due to the lived experience brought into the room. **Expand Upon** engages local artists in developing meaningful artistic responses to important issues, in partnership with the community at large. Mirror Stage gets people talking as well as thinking.

I have not only had to navigate the challenges and confusion of the health care system myself, but also seen its impact on those I love. Today's stories are particularly layered, poignant, and meaningful to me—and I hope for you, too. Enjoy these new plays, and stay for the post-show discussion with our artists and audience—encouraging questions, sparking reflection, and expanding your perspective. You're an important part of the conversation and we look forward to hearing what health care means to you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Suzanne".

Content Note

The following performances contain:

- *A brief mention of:* alcohol use, access to vaccine distribution, kidnapping, death and/or dying of adult and children
- *Depiction of:* Alzheimer's and dementia, family trauma

Director's Note

Mirror Stage has truly expanded into this project with new talent, new works, and a topic that everyone has on their mind after the last few years: health care. Having a global experience like we all shared, really showed us the public nature of health and its effects on an individual level.



Kyleigh Archer

Navoti's play, *Care: A Fantasia on Excellence*, beautifully captures the emotional undercurrents that compel the public to prioritize individual well-being over collective ideals. Are the measures of excellence, such as power, esteem, and wealth, not ultimately meant to serve individuals? What motivates those who sit in decision-making meetings to shape public policies?

Combs' play, *Mutiny in the House of Hadassah*, poignantly explores the personal choices we must make for our loved ones, often at a considerable financial and emotional cost. Many individuals find themselves turning to their community for support, seeking care for the betterment of their families.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Suzanne for her commitment to justice through the medium of art. I also want to express my appreciation to Quiqui and Megan for their invaluable support in bringing these projects to fruition, as well as to the talented actors, some of whom are past Expand Upon playwrights themselves, for breathing life into these compelling narratives.

Lastly, I want to thank each one of you for your time and support. I hope you will carry these stories with you as they continue to evolve, and I encourage you to delve deeper into these important themes. Your involvement and engagement are essential as we further explore these critical topics.

Kyleigh Archer is a director, playwright, designer, and theater teaching artist. With a B.F.A in Theatre, in both acting and technical theatre; they have spent the last decade working with school districts and non-profits to bring the joys of theater, story telling, and improv to students. They are currently the Youth Project Director and Designer at [Seattle Opera](#), and a teaching artist at [Seattle Children's Theatre](#) and [Seattle Theater Group](#). At risk youth and carbon-reduced design are top priorities in Archer's art on stage.

Mutiny in the House of Hadassah

by drew david combs

(in order of appearance)

Drew HobsonMichael
Matthew Sythandone..... Jaron
Sien MéndezJudith
Hannah SaitoMiriam
Amontaine AuroreHannah

Directed by Kyleigh Archer

Dramaturgy by Marquicia Dominguez

There will be a 10-minute intermission following
Mutiny in the House of Hadassah



drew david combs (he/they) is a playwright and actor based in Seattle. He has been a proud member of Parley Writing Group since 2017, and with them has staged five world premiere readings of his scripts. Favorite onstage credits include *John Baxter is a Switch Hitter*, *Lysistrata*, *Stu for Silverton* (Intiman), *Boy* (Fantastic.Z), and most recently *Love Letters* (Theater of Possibility). Special thanks to EP and Parley for their support!

Care: A Fantasia on Excellence

by D.A. Navoti

(in order of appearance)

Hannah Saito County Health Director
Amontaine Aurore US Senator
Drew Hobson CEO of Impentum Biotech
Sien MéndezProject Manager
Matthew Sythandone Deputy Director of HHS

Directed by Kyleigh Archer

Dramaturgy by Marquicia Dominguez

There will be a moderated discussion immediately following ***Care: A Fantasia on Excellence***



D.A. Navoti (he/him) is a multidisciplinary storyteller, composer, and writer of the Gila River Indian Community. The author of essays and stories, his artistic work spans three “landscapes”— written, musical, and visual—a hybrid form that explores what it means to be Indigenous in the 21st century. Recipient of the 2022 Artist Trust Fellowship, D.A. also served as the 2022-23 Native-Artist-in-Residence at Seattle Rep. Learn more at www.danavoti.com

Mirror Stage Personnel

Angie Bolton, Board Member

Elizabeth Calhoun, Board Secretary

Megan Carleton, Production Manager

Suzanne M. Cohen, Managing Artistic Director

Alexandra Cotutiu, External Relations Assistant

Tycarius Cummings, Media Arts Manager

Marquicia Dominguez, Associate Artistic Director

Celeste Mari Williams, Board Member

Jacquelyn S. Rardin, Mighty House Media:
Strategic Marketing & Communications

Carla Slabaugh, 501 Commons:
Bookkeeping

Actor Bios



Amontaine Aurore (she/her) is a playwright, actor, director, performance artist, and storyteller. Her plays have been produced in Seattle, New York, and abroad. Her short play, *Memory Bus*, was presented in the **Expand Upon** series on gun control in 2020, and she is honored and excited to be working with Mirror Stage again. This is Amontaine's second project with Mirror Stage.



Drew Hobson (he/him) is a local BIPOC actor born and raised in Seattle. He received his BA in Theatre Arts from Western Washington University. Drew is also a voice-over artist, DJ, teacher, playwright, screenwriter, motivational speaker and karaoke host. He has performed on stages all around and outside of Seattle, and can be seen on TV guest starring on the shows GRIMM, The Librarians, and Z Nation. In voice-over, Drew can be heard in many radio and internet commercials, as well as multiple video games like State of Decay, and in the Marvel Move exercise app. He is currently teaching Beginning Voice Over and 'Embrace The Stage – Confidence Building and Sustaining for Aspiring Actors & Artists'. This is Drew's first project with Mirror Stage.



Sien Méndez (they/them) is a Seattle-based artist originally from Houston, Texas. They graduated with a BFA in Theatre: Original Works from Cornish College of the Arts in 2019 and are currently pursuing their master's degree in Art Therapy and Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Antioch University Seattle. Sien has been seen as an actor at Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Public Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Copious Love, and others. When not working on their grad school work, participating begrudgingly in capitalism, or making art, they volunteer with local farmworker justice mutual aid, WashMasks. They were a playwright for Mirror Stage's **Expand Upon: Gun Control** series in 2020 with their play *In My Good Christian Neighborhood* and are so excited to return to **Expand Upon** as an actor! This is Sien's second project with Mirror Stage, in addition to serving on staff as the External Relations Assistant before starting graduate school.



Hannah Saito is thrilled to be a part of her first Mirror Stage production! A recent University of Washington grad with a triple major in Drama, English, and Anthropology, she was last seen onstage in *The Wolves* (UW Drama), *12 Ophelias* (UW UTS), and *Bodies of Water* (UW Drama). When not acting, Hannah can be found playing Dungeons and Dragons with her friends or singing show tunes in her kitchen. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support, and the people at Mirror Stage for their invitation to play in the sandbox.



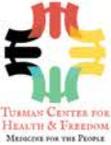
Matthew "Matty" Sythandone (he/him) Is a native Seattleite and graduate of Cornish College of the Arts. He holds a BFA in Theatre with an emphasis in Musical Theater, and is represented by Big Fish NW Talent. When he is not performing on stage or screen you can catch him running the Audience Services Department at Seattle Rep. Matty is thrilled to be back with Mirror Stage, live and IN-PERSON for his second year of **Expand Upon**. Select credits include: *Pageantry* (Taproot Theatre Christmas Tour) *Allies from Outer Space* and *The Social Network* (Taproot Theatre Road Company) *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (Seattle Children's Theatre)

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/billssummary>
 - Go to <http://search.leg.wa.gov/search.aspx#document>, use search term “Health” to identify recently passed legislation and bills currently under consideration

Local Resources

- **Tubman Center for Health & Freedom**



Tubman Center for Health and Freedom is a community organization committed to the principles of healing and people’s liberation from systems that make us unwell. They work to advance health justice, culturally appropriate care, and integrative medicine. They are designing an innovative community health clinic that specializes in meeting the needs of marginalized communities in Seattle’s Puget Sound region. Named after the heroine Harriet Tubman, who concentrated on both freeing people from systems of oppression that threatened their health as well as providing clinical care for patients as a Nurse in the Union army. They follow this same methodology of addressing health and wellness from both systemic and clinical approaches.

- **Sea Mar**



Sea Mar Community Health Centers, founded in 1978, is a community-based organization committed to providing quality, comprehensive health, human, housing, educational, and cultural services to diverse communities, specializing in service to Latinos in Washington state. Sea Mar proudly serves all persons without regard to race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, or sexual orientation, and regardless of ability to pay for services. Sea Mar's network of services includes more than 90 medical, dental, and behavioral health clinics and a wide variety of nutritional, social, and educational services.

- **International Community Health Services (ICHS)**



Deeply rooted in the Asian Pacific Islander community, ICHS provides culturally and linguistically appropriate health and wellness services and promotes health equity for all. ICHS, guarantees affordable health care in a language you can understand. Whatever your age, they’ve got you covered with a full range of primary medical, vision, dental, behavioral health, WIC and nutrition services — from well child check-ups to senior health and wellness programs. ICHS has onsite pharmacies and laboratories, and also offers Chinese traditional medicine at their International District clinic.

Mirror Stage Podcast
presents



WonderFall



QuiQui
Dominguez



Ty
Cummings



November 2023

NOVEMBER 6:

A Conversation with Nutritionist Michelle Babb

NOVEMBER 20:

Ty & QuiQui Take on Nutrition

Scan the QR code to
listen & stay connected!



Special Thanks

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 story and art to challenge assumptions, bias and prejudice, increasing equity and inclusion, while encouraging more thoughtful reflection on today's issues.

Vision

Mirror Stage believes the power of story holds the key to bringing people together in imagining and embodying a better future. We nurture unique artistic voices through multidisciplinary arts programs and events that play it smart without playing it safe. With the goal of increasing empathy and social justice, Mirror Stage connects people more deeply to perspectives and experiences other than their own, while amplifying historically excluded stories, voices, and faces—bringing 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.



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 Latine, 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 Responsibilities include:

- 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 multidisciplinary arts programming.

****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 mirrorstage.org/support/board

Coming next...

Save these dates and watch for upcoming announcements at MirrorStage.org:

Stories of... Spring

April 20, 2024

Celebrate the arrival of spring with Mirror Stage! Come raise a glass, savor tasty treats, play a few games, maybe win a prize or two, all while enjoy some Stories of Spring with Mirror Stage!

Inspired by...

June 22 & 23, 2024

Join us for Mirror Stage's newest series! A creative collaboration between playwrights and Mirror Stage Podcast guests to create six new 10-minute plays, culminating in a weekend festival of staged reading performances.

Planning is also underway for a new Storytelling through Song and Dance Festival for August 2024. More information coming soon!

Stay connected by following Mirror Stage on Facebook and Instagram, or subscribe to our eNews.

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Make a donation in support of this and future programming. Mirror Stage is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and all donations are tax-deductible. Or go to mirrorstage.org/donate/



Join the team and contribute your time and talent by volunteering. Or go to mirrorstage.org/support/volunteer/

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Mirror Stage Gets People Talking