

Department Newsletter

December 14, 2022

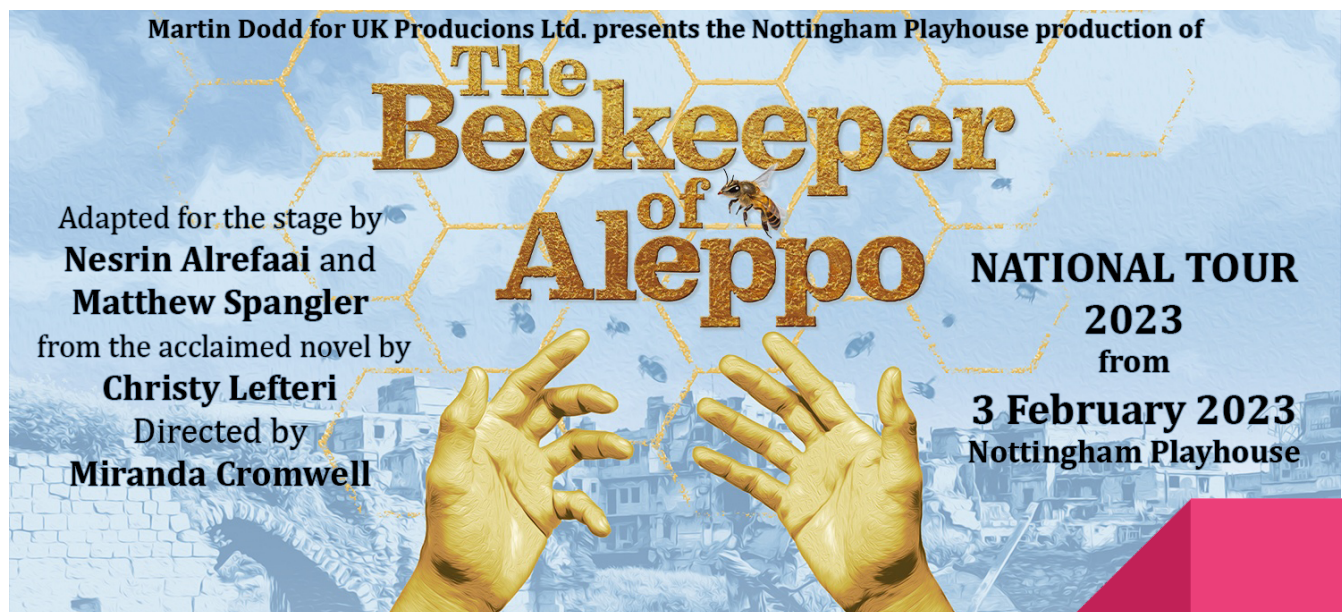
Fall Semester Wrap-up

We're excited to share the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) accomplishments of our Radio, Television, Film, and Theatre Arts faculty, staff, and alumni. We had a very busy fall!

Here are some of the RSCA accomplishments from the last few months!

Dr. Matthew Spangler

Film and Theatre Interim Department Chair Dr. Matthew Spangler's adaptation of "The Beekeeper of Aleppo" will open at the [Nottingham Playhouse](#) in England on February 3, 2023. The script, cowritten with British/Syrian playwright Nesrin Alrefaai, and based on the novel by Christy Lefteri, tells the story of two refugees from Syria who undertake a journey to the U.K. It will be directed by Miranda Cromwell, whose production of "Death of a Salesman" recently opened on Broadway. After the Nottingham run, the production is scheduled for a U.K. tour.



Dr. Philippa Kelly

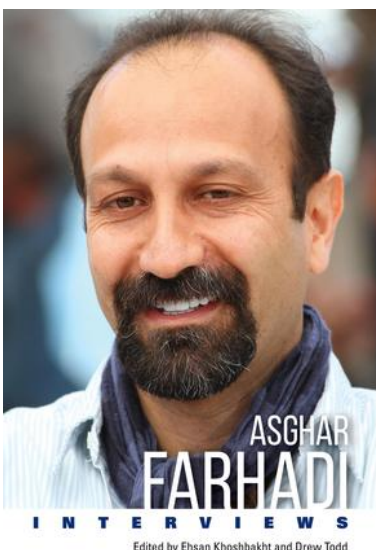


Theatre Arts Lecturer Dr. Philippa Kelly served as the dramaturg for *The Choice: Seven Plays about Roe Versus Wade* at [Remote Theatre](#). About *The Choice* (by Giovanni Rodriguez, Co- Founder and Artistic Director of Remote Theatre): “On January 6, 2022, Remote Theater took a turn in its programming by staging an anthology of original plays to explore the many dimensions of a topic that has divided Americans: the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol. The success of that anthology – entitled *Insurrection* – got us thinking. What issue might we explore next? It came to us suddenly, and we began the process of developing *The Choice*, an artistic response to the US Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs*, which we were betting would overturn *Roe v. Wade*. With twice as many playwrights as in *Insurrection* – and with a 30+ member cast and crew – *The Choice* faced a number of fresh challenges. But through those challenges, we have renewed our commitment to this new form of political theater that we believe might ultimately provide a forum for citizens everywhere to comment and reflect on the values that bind us, rather than on the issues that divide us.” You can see videos on demand [here](#).

THE CHOICE

Seven plays about the rise and fall of ROE V WADE

Dr. Drew Todd



Radio-Television-Film Lecturer Dr. Drew Todd and Ehsan Khoshbakht have a new book published by the [University Press of Mississippi](#) entitled **Asghar Farhadi: Interviews**. This dynamic text contains a collection of interviews with Ashar Farhadi, a celebrated international filmmaker. Farhadi’s film credits include *A Hero*, *A Separation*, and *Dancing in the Dust*, and he has become Iran’s most prominent director and one of the great dramatist filmmakers of his generation! The book is available on [Amazon](#) in hardcover, paperback, and for the Kindle.

Nancy Carlin

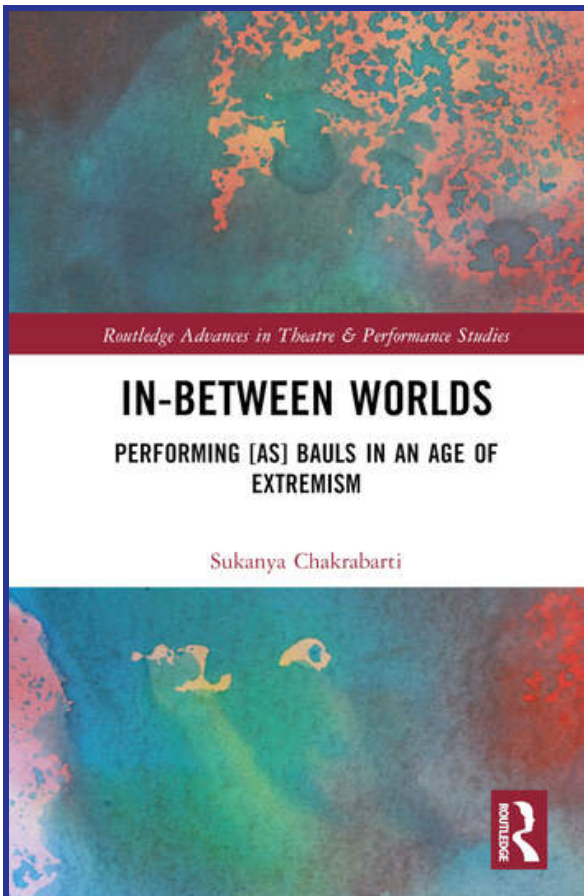
Theatre Arts Lecturer Nancy Carlin

directed a production of CLUE, a recent script adapted by Sandy Rustin from the screenplay of the movie by Jonathan Lynn based on the popular and classic Parker Brothers board game of the same name. It opened on November 1 and ran through November 20 with [Center REP](#) at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek. See [here](#) for her informative and insightful interview with CBS Bay Area News.

(Photo Credit: Kevin Berne)



Dr. Sukanya Chakrabarti



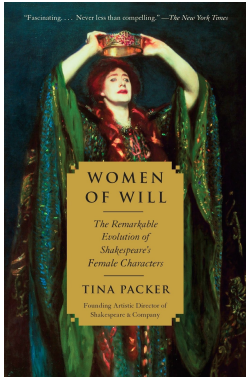
Theatre Arts Associate Professor Dr. Sukanya Chakrabarti

presented a paper titled "In-Between Borderlines: Exploring Spaces of "Revolutionary Love" within the Baul-Fakir world in Bangladesh" at the [Annual Conference on South Asia](#) at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in October 2022.

Additionally, she presented another paper, "The Performance of City Walks: Walking as a mode of navigating contested spaces and probing the rights to a city" at the [American Society for Theatre Research](#) (ASTR) in November 2022.

Her research monograph, *In-Between Worlds: Performing [as] Bauls in an Age of Extremism*, published by [Routledge](#), is now ready for pre-orders.

Sarah Kate Anderson



Theatre Arts Lecturer **Sarah Kate Anderson** led the *Woman of Will* Workshop with Tina Packer. Based on the research by Tina Packer outlined in her book *Women of Will: Following the Feminine in Shakespeare's Plays*, the "Women of Will Workshop" ran September 2-4 at Shakespeare &

Company in Lenox, MA, supported by DLT Kimberly White and Text Junior Faculty member Sarah Kate Anderson. Participants with diverse gender identities bring text from a women character in Shakespeare's plays. The speeches are investigated chronologically through the lens of Tina's Five Act structure that outlines the journey of Shakespeare's growth as a writer of women. By channeling the women, our participants, with varied backgrounds and experiences, learn from embodied research to further their acting training. (Photo Credit: *Shakespeare & Company Center for Actor training*)

Nick Martinez and Barnaby Dallas

Funded by an Artistic Excellence Programming Grant, **KSJS General Manager and Spartan Films Director, Nick Martinez, and Director of Production for Film and Theatre, Barnaby Dallas** produced "Nisei," a short film by Darren Haruo Rae based on the highly decorated 442nd regimental combat team (also known as the Purple Heart Battalion), a Japanese-Hawaiian-American unit who served in World War II. Talented Radio-Television-Film students enrolled in RTVF 135 to work on the project with Spartan Film Studios over the summer. The film was co-produced by Roann Films and shot at the Japanese American History Museum in San Jose, SJSU's University Theatre, and in Petaluma where students worked with authentic WWII tanks, uniforms, and weapons. The film will be released in early 2023. See the [article](#) in SJSU News Center.



Teresa Veramendi

Theatre Arts Lecturer Teresa Veramendi will direct ***When She Became Me***: Staged Reading and Reproductive Justice Fundraiser. ***When She Became Me*** is a pro-choice documentary play comprised of real stories from people who had abortions before and after Roe v. Wade, written by [Elizabeth Horab](#) (she/they), whose mother worked at the only abortion clinic in North Dakota in the 1990s. First produced at the MN Fringe Festival in 2016, the script has been updated for 2022-2023 with new interviews responding to the overturning of Roe. These staged readings will be directed by playwright and SJSU instructor Teresa Veramendi. Robyn Ginsburg Braverman is Assistant Director and Co-Producer. The free staged readings will fundraise donations for Access Reproductive Justice, a nonprofit that combines direct services, community education, and policy advocacy to promote real reproductive options and access to quality health care for people in California. All participants will be volunteers, including the playwright, director, and actors. Their 2023 performance dates are Friday, January 13, Saturday, January 14, and Friday, January 20.

(Photography by Scott Strohmeier; Edited by Elizabeth Horab)



What happens to a **DREAM** deferred?

AWQ presents a reading of scenes from the ever-relevant Broadway *Raisin in the Sun*, followed by an embodied talkback where we will unpack the major themes of the play and how they speak to our world today.

A Raisin in the SUN



AWQ
ARTS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

Co-Directed by AWQ and SJSU Theatre Director and Lecturer Teresa Veramendi, with Viera Whye, Artistic Director of the Tabia African American Theatre Ensemble

Sunday, November 13th

The non-profit AWQ produced an event with Teresa Veramendi directing a staged reading of selected scenes from ***A Raisin in the Sun*** by Lorraine Hansberry, followed by an embodied talkback facilitated by Veramendi using Theatre of the Oppressed techniques. The embodied talkback was an interactive dialogue between audience members and artists on the topics elevated by ***A Raisin in the Sun***, including racism, heritage, and fair housing. Through interactive play, audience members were empowered to reflect back their feelings about the story, now over 60 years old, and how it informs their perspective in 2022. This was an opportunity for community members to come together to digest the past and present, as well as to dream up new possibilities for the future in a creative and generative format. You can read the Mercury News Article [here](#). *(Flier created by Folake Phillips)*

Alumni in the Spotlight

RTVF and TA alumni are working all over the world!



Ashley (Soria) Dougan (Theatre Arts) is now the Director of Sales for a mid scale hotel in Reno, Nevada. Ashley says: "I use the skills I learned as a stage manager everyday in my hotel sales career. My client is the director, my hotel team are my tech crew/actors, and when the guests arrive—it's showtime! I've learned how to be organized and collaborate with lots of different kinds of people. Most importantly, I know how to find creative solutions to produce the best event!"

Danielle Inoue (Theatre Arts - emphasis in Stage Management)

also has a minor in Public Relations and worked on a couple different shows after college such as "Bonnie and Clyde" and "Rocky Horror Picture Show." She now works at Apple as an Administrative Assistant for a software engineering team that works with different forms of media. Danielle says, "I love this position because it definitely scratches some of my favorite parts back when I was a stage manager like calendar management, delegating duties, and my love for helping out those around me. Even though I am not currently working in theatre at this moment, I really love what I do and I don't think I would have gotten here if it wasn't for my experience at SJSU. The skills I have been taught through the Theatre Arts major and The Department of Film and Theatre are extremely versatile and the staff has always been super supportive in helping me find my passion. I really believe the has shaped me into the person I am now and I'm super happy for my time there." 😊



Lee Brooks (Theatre Arts) currently lives in Sunnyvale, California and works as the Director of Private Markets at Morgan Stanley. Lee says that his time at SJSU "was a great experience; I learned a lot, and had the honor to learn under the tutelage of incredible professors."

Alumni in the Spotlight (cont.)

RTVF and TA alumni are working all over the world!

Nicole Verholtz (Theatre Arts), teaches Film Studies, Art History, and Cell Phone Photography at Victor Valley College in Victorville, CA.

Marissa Kayleigh Stough recently graduated with her M.Ed and teaching credential from Alder Graduate School of Education. She is now teaching Universal Transitional Kindergarten in Manteca, CA



D.J. Fernandez (Theatre Arts) has been doing stage work/readings around the Bay Area and Santa Cruz for a few years now. Currently, D.J. is working on Tabard Theatre Company's winter show, "A Child's Christmas in Wales" that opened on December 9 and runs through Christmas Eve. The photo is from last year when he was in a show called "Swift Justice" at Tabard Theatre Company. *(Photo: D.J. Fernandez and Matt Regan in Swift Justice)*

Dr. Pamela Lindsay (Theatre Arts) is the co-founder/Director of Research and Development for the College of Adaptive Arts and for the National Council on Special Adult Education and Lifelong Learning. Author of copyrighted, motivational teaching, and training models for adult learners of all abilities. Examples of work and achievements: California State Senate and Assembly awards and recognition for work in special higher education, State Regional Service Above Self award, University of Phoenix John Sperling Alumni Achievement award, local and national media pieces including feature in Bay Area Women and 2022 CNN Heroes recognition of the work of the College of Adaptive Arts. Featured on global podcast "The Give Back Economy." Alumna of Women Leaders for the World, the Royal National Theatre Summer Programme London, Piero Dusa Studio L.A., Santa Monica Playhouse, TABIA/SJMAG, Director of Best Local Series-CreaTV SJ, Founding Director of Angels On Stage theatre program for children of all differing abilities. International research presentation and publication on topics such as higher online education and the doctoral learner, and motivational instruction for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *(Photo: Pamela Lindsay, 3rd from the right).*

