

# MONTHLY STORYTELLING *on Zoom!*



(Featured image: Maria Arango's painting, *Magic City*. Available from [Fine Art America](#).)

***Monday, April 12, 2021: Online!***

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**Monthly Storytelling Series**





## ABOUT THE STORYTELLING SERIES

Our monthly storytelling series is all about community engagement. We believe that stories impact change, that we better our world by coming together to learn about our shared and unique experiences. While we may be forced physically apart for some time to come, we are very much together in spirit.

As you can imagine, many of our artists and theatres are struggling right now. If you are in a position to help, please consider “tipping” our presenting artists and others you may know through their **Venmo** accounts, along with donating to your favorite local theatres and arts organizations. So many of our colleagues are creating virtual programming, maintaining salaries and benefits with no earned revenue feasible for months. Please, help us help them open the doors on the other side of this!

### TONIGHT'S LINE-UP

#### COCKTAIL HOUR

*a short play by Katherine McDowell*

*directed by Leah Abrams*

*read by Gabrielle Traub and Alexander Settineri*

*Katherine's third short play inspired by COVID isolation.*

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#### NEW YORK AT THE DAWN OF THE APOCALYPSE

*(and another selection from his recent collection)*

*poetry written and read by Jason Abbate*

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#### THE TRIP REPORT: *Episode 1*

*a new web series created by Adam Strauss*

*A comedic psychedelic news show.*

*\* Q&A with available artists follows our presentation. \**

## TONIGHT'S ARTISTS

(in order of work being presented)

**Katherine McDowell** (playwright, *Cocktail Hour*) is fascinated by how people communicate. You'll find that evident in the plays she writes, the workshops she leads, and the performances she gives. Find out more about all the things she does here: <https://sites.google.com/view/klmd>. A proud member of Undiscovered Works, she is grateful to have such a joyful creative home. BFA NYU Tisch, MA RADA at King's College London.

**Gabrielle Traub** (HER, *Cocktail Hour*) is a classically trained singer, actress, and mover based in Jersey City. In her spare time, she manages social media for Undiscovered Works, is a stylist and wedding planner in training. Hobbies include dying her hair bright colors and vintage shopping.

**Alexander Settineri** (HIM, *Cocktail Hour*) is a Brooklyn-based actor & photographer. He is super excited to be apart of this series. Selected NY Credits: *The Untold Yippie Project* (Access Theatre), *Humiliation Play* (Artist Co-Op), *Zoo Animals* (NY Theatre Festival); Regional: *A Christmas Carol* (Hartford Stage), *Dracula* (Jenny Wiley Theatre), *Romeo & Juliet* (Capital Classics); Education: BFA The Hartt School.

**Leah Abrams** (director, *Cocktail Hour*) is so grateful to Katherine for letting her guide readings of her "COVID short play series" over this last year. Previous NY and SF directing credits include Mark Eisman's *Frost Free at Last* (Emerging Artists Theatre New Work Series) and *Sightlines* (the cell), Gino DiIorio's *Sam & Dede, or My Dinner with Andre the Giant* (59E59), Gina Gionfriddo's *Rapture, Blister, Burn* (SF), and Catherine Trieschman's *How the World Began* (SF, regional premiere).

**Jason Abbate** (poet) is a poet and songwriter. His work has appeared in multiple publications including *The American Journal of Poetry*, *Black Heart Magazine*, *Nanoism* and *Pif Magazine*. He is the author of *Welcome to Xooxville*. When death is less firmly in the air, he reads his work at various locations around NYC.

**Adam Strauss** (creator, *The Trip Report*) is a comedian, writer and performer based in NYC. *The New York Times* said his autobiographical monologue *The Mushroom Cure* "mines a great deal of laughter from disabling pain," *The Chicago Tribune* called it "arrestingly honest and howlingly funny" and gave it 3.5 (out of 4) stars, and *Time Out New York* called it "a true-life tour de force" and named it a Critics' Pick. Adam won the New York Fringe Festival's Overall Excellence Award for Solo Performance, The Eddy Award for Best Solo Show in San Francisco, and the Leffe Beer Craft Your Character Storytelling Competition. He's lost too many things to mention here. He can be conveniently stalked (or blocked) at @atomstrauss.

## HELP SUPPORT OUR COLLEAGUES

If you're able, please consider tipping our participating artists via their **Venmo** accounts:

- Alexander Settineri: **Venmo** @Alexander-Settineri
- Adam Strauss: **Venmo** @adam-strauss
- Gabrielle Traub: **Venmo** @GabbiT

## UNDISCOVERED WORKS NEEDS YOUR STORIES!

**Are you a creative artist looking for an opportunity to share new work? We'd love to consider including you in our monthly series! Please contact us at [leaha@undiscoveredworks.org](mailto:leaha@undiscoveredworks.org).**

Undiscovered Works is dedicated to supporting artists as they develop plays, music, monologues, comedy, and film. Our monthly storytelling series presents work in all stages of development, bringing together voices from across our community. Our ensemble-based Off and Off-Off Broadway productions bring to light the social issues of our times, all the while entertaining and inspiring dialogue.

## THIS MONTH'S NON-PROFIT PARTNER

### **Nia Witherspoon's workshop production of *Dark Girl Chronicles:* *Chronicle X (a pandemic reimaging)***

This month, your donations will help support Nia Witherspoon's workshop production of **Dark Girl Chronicles: Chronicle X (a pandemic reimaging)**, being presented as part of this year's Open Call series at The Shed, co-directed with Mei Ann Teo with original composition by Troy Anthony and production design by Tuce Yasak. *The Dark Girl Chronicles (DGC)* is a ritual-play cycle designed to crystallize in the collective memory the stories of Black women warriors against state violence. Part Yoruba or Bantu-Kongo sacred story, part communal ritual, and part documentary-manifesto, each piece in the cycle focuses on the interiority and necessary dignity of dark girls, dark landscapes, and dark knowledges so often excised from the public arena.

*CHRONICLE X: WINDOWS*, the first section in the cycle, refers to and is inspired by two major existing texts. The first is a creation story from the Odu Ifa, the corpus of sacred oral literature from the Yoruba people of Nigeria that, if written, would exceed 4,000 pages, about the three most powerful bits of stardust in the universe—Knowledge, Wisdom, and Understanding. The second are transcripts primarily drawn from the Facebook Live posting Diamond Reynolds made after her fiancé Philando Castile was shot by a police officer at a traffic stop. In *CHRONICLE X*, these stories crash into each other inside the structure of a Revival service, designed for healing and deliverance.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Dave Ampola, for designing our *Undiscovered Works* logo and banner.  
Vincent Gagliostro, for designing our *Mixology* logo and banner.

## *Our Next* MONTHLY STORYTELLING EVENT

Monday, May 10, 2021

@ 7:30 PM EDT *on ZOOM!*

We'll feature Jennifer Dean's short play, "Nine Lives" and other new work.  
Visit us at [undiscoveredworks.org/monthly-storytelling-series/](https://undiscoveredworks.org/monthly-storytelling-series/) for updates!



## *Our Next* MIXOLOGY

Sunday, June 27, 2021

@ 5:00 PM EDT *on ZOOM!*

## OUR RECENT NON-PROFIT PARTNERS



[The Jean Moyer Dark Fund  
for Black Women/Femmes  
+ TGNC Artists](#)



[Trauma and Resiliency  
Resources \(TRR\)](#)

## ENJOYING THE WORK? FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



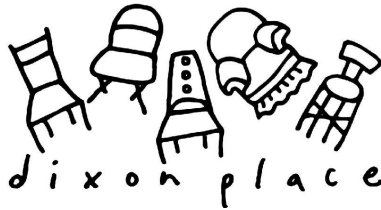
[undiscoveredworks.org](https://undiscoveredworks.org)



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While we are not able to gather together in person tonight, New York's arts community remains committed to being a source of support for all of us as we navigate a new reality we'd hoped we'd only ever know through novels and history books. We normally gather at Dixon Place's lounge, a staple of the downtown theatre scene for over three decades, where we remind you to stay hydrated and know that every dollar you spend at the lounge goes directly back into supporting the thousands of artists Dixon Place hosts every year. Well, it's more important than ever to stay hydrated and Dixon Place needs our support more than ever to open its doors to all of us as soon as it becomes safe to gather again. ***Please, if you're able, consider making a donation - perhaps the cost of that drink at:***

<https://shop.vendini.com/dixonplace/product-details/donation/054d-4ca95ace388c1932e38137522652>