

The Women and Theatre Program, in association with ATHE's 2019 Annual Conference,  
presents

## **Feminist Transitions and Transgender Feminisms**

### **Women and Theatre Program Preconference**

Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress  
Wednesday, August 7, 2019  
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM; 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

In conversation with the larger ATHE Conference theme of "Scene Changes: Performing, Teaching, and Working through the Transitions," this preconference event examines Feminist Transitions and Transgender Feminisms.

**8:00 AM – 8:15 AM**

#### **Registration**

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WTP membership and preconference registration can be purchased online at <https://www.womenandtheatreprogram.com/conference-membership> or at the preconference.

**8:15 AM – 9:30 AM**

#### ***Why is This Night Different?* Jane Chambers Student Playwriting Contest Winner**

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Aja Nisenson's *Why is This Night Different?* has been selected as the winner of the Jane Chambers Student Playwriting Contest for 2019 from a strong field of 28 submissions.

In *Why is This Night Different?*, it is the first night of Passover, and Haley is introducing her parents to her boyfriend, who is not only 20 years older, but also \$150,000 in debt. Things get even more complicated when Mom reveals a secret that shakes the established order, and forces the family to confront the past and move forward into the future. A bold and irreverent comedy about a mother's coming-of-age at 65.

**9:45 AM – 11:00 AM:**

#### ***Beyond Teaching and Research: Promoting, Expanding, and Managing Academic Work***

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Coordinated by WTP's graduate student representatives, Laura Baglureau and Grace Overbeke, this roundtable discussion addresses some of the less discussed aspects of an academic career.

Heather Nathans (Tufts University) will lend her perspective as an author navigating the process of promoting her book and also as an editor of the University of Iowa Press series *Theatre, History, and Culture*.

Annie Maxfield (Imagine PhD) will discuss how to manage alt-ac career exploration for PhDs.

Shoko Churchwell (Dawson-Toft Families and Children Practice) will discuss how to manage the stresses of an academic career.

**11:15 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Roundtable: Performing Transgender Feminisms**

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This roundtable discussion considers transgender feminism in performance.

Joshua Bastian Cole (Cornel University), whose preferred name is Cole, is an out trans man playwright, dramaturg, theatre historian, and cinema theorist. As an actor, Cole has played leading trans men in films which have toured festivals internationally.

Janet Werther's (The Graduate Center, CUNY) research focuses on theatres as spaces of intergenerational queer exchange, embodiment and identification in both closeted and contemporary queer performance, and dance and embodiment in musical theatre. Janet continues to teach dance to children and teens in Brooklyn, NY and maintains a performance practice with the Ballez Company.

Beth Marshall (Beth Marshall Presents) leads an independent theatre company based in Orlando, Florida, committed to producing theatre that challenges audiences, deeply explores the human condition, and offers high quality production values with a special focus on contemporary and newer works, original premieres, and socio-political dramas.

Lisa Sloan (Pride Center of Staten Island) recently produced a reading of Paul Lucas's *Trans Scripts Part I: The Women* to celebrate Trans Day of Visibility at the Pride Center of Staten Island.

**12:30 PM – 1:30 PM**

**Lunch**

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Lunch will be provided for attendees who register. Details TBA.

**1:45 PM – 3:00 PM**

**Roundtable: Contemporary Feminist Praxis**

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This roundtable session brings together three different scholar-artists who are engaged in contemporary feminist theatre praxis.

Jacqueline Russell's (University of Calgary) paper, "Radical Bodies: Feminist Clown Practice," explores the scene changes occurring presently in contemporary Canadian clown praxis.

Presenting an interactive workshop, "The Invisible Maze: Navigating Failure in Feminist Practice," Niki Tulk and Amanda Rose Villareal (University of Colorado Boulder) explore failure as a feminist aspect in the process of devised theatre making. Tulk and Villareal will condense research-as-practice failures and findings from their devised work.

**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Jane Chambers Anthology Event**

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Join the Women and Theatre Program to celebrate the recent publication of *Lesbian and Queer Plays from the Jane Chambers Prize*, coedited by Maya E. Roth and Jen-Scott Mobley. A

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collaboration between WTP and NoPassport Press, the volume features five recent winners of the Jane Chambers Prize for feminist playwriting.

Join us to toast this first volume, called "fearless and hot," by Madeleine George, and get a sneak preview of volume two, *Cross-Cultural Plays from the Jane Chambers Prize!*

