

The Theatre Bay Area Arts Leadership Residency, 2021-22 Cohort

- **Virginia Blanco** in residence at AlterTheater under Artistic Director Jeanette Harrison
- **Devin Cunningham** in residence at African-American Shakespeare Company under Founder and Executive Director Sherri Young
- **Daniel Duque-Estrada** in residence at Magic Theatre under Artistic Director San Sean José
- **Julius Rea** in residence at Lorraine Hansberry Theatre under Managing Director Stephanie Shoffner



VIRGINIA BLANCO is an actor and theater-maker. She is the founding Artistic Director of La Lengua Teatro en Español and an Artist in Residence at BRAVA! for Women in the Arts. Originally from Argentina, Virginia was also a founding member of Drakma Grupo Teatral. At AlterTheater, Virginia will be helming *Stories of Decolonization*, a festival of commissioned short plays in Spanish, Native Languages, and English as a co-production of La

Lengua and AlterTheater, scheduled for Fall 2022 at Brava Theater in San Francisco. *Stories of Decolonization* will consist of five plays that center the voices of Black, Indigenous, and Latinx playwrights.



DEVIN CUNNINGHAM is an actor, singer, and writer from Oakland, CA. Devin studied acting at PCPA, and has worked with African-American Shakespeare Company on multiple productions, most notably playing Leon in *Black Eagles*; Shaniqua in *Cinderella*; and all male roles in *The Trial* by Karani Marcia Leslie Johnson. Devin will be directing *Cinderella*, African-American Shakespeare Company's enormously popular annual Christmas show. Devin plans to incorporate aspects of Black folklore and storytelling to offer a fresh staging of this Bay Area classic.



As a professional actor, **DANIEL DUQUE-ESTRADA** has worked with The WP and PlayCo in New York, The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Dallas Theater Center, and Trinity Rep. Daniel is now back home in the Bay Area to work side-by-side with Artistic Director Sean San José at Magic Theatre, planning and producing work across the spectrum of new programming initiatives as a key part of the artistic and producing team. Daniel will also develop a piece as part of the New Performances Program, which will be titled *Mirna*, a film/live theatre hybrid performance about one woman's increasingly hallucinatory retracing of her path from the early years of Castro's Cuba to present-day San Francisco.



JULIUS REA is a Bay Area playwright, curator, performer, and co-founder of The Forum Collective, an arts organization that focuses on journalism theatre and gallery curation. He has worked with the Playwrights Foundation, Greenhouse Theatre Festival, Nomadic Press, Firehouse Art Collective, Golden Thread Productions, Crowded Fire Theatre, Adelines Lab, and PlayGround. In this residency, Julius

will produce several productions in Lorraine Hansberry Theatre's upcoming season, including *A Soulful Christmas*, directed by ShawnJ West with musical direction by Yvonne Combs. In addition to stepping into a producer role, Julius will also assist Managing Director Stephanie Shoffner in the development of the company's 2022-23 budget and organizational plan.

Virginia Blanco's headshot is by Virginia Blanco; Devin Cunningham's headshot is by Kristen Lara Gretchell; Daniel Duque-Estrada's headshot is by David Noles; Julius Rea's headshot is by Cheshire Isaacs. All photos used with permission. TBA's Arts Leadership Residency is made possible in part by the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts and Amazon.