

WEEKEND



SOUTH FLORIDA THEATER GROUPS

get creative to survive, honor heroic acts, 6G

Contributing to Florida International University's 100 Second Somethings for Simons' are, clockwise from left: retired English professor Rick Schwartz, Panther Tech's store manager Larry Mirak, theater major Shayda Muweli, and FIU Miami Beach Urban Studios executive director John Stuef.

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South Florida theater groups honoring I

BY CHRISTINE DOLEN
@christinedolen

It's mid-April, a month into isolating at home, and South Florida's theater artists and companies are busily engaged in virtual programming, classes and relief efforts. Here's a roundup of initiatives, some new, others ongoing.

FAU THEATRE LAB

Theatre Lab's Online Original Monologue Festival (#OOMF) in March was a hit, so now the Florida Atlantic University company is planning a slightly different April edition of its virtual effort to help the region's theater artists.

The first festival raised more than \$4,000 in direct-to-artist contributions and more than \$1,000 for the South Florida Theatre League's Relief Fund, which now totals more than \$7,000. The second iteration of #OOMF will also encourage contributions to the league's fund, but its primary purpose is to help those considered among behind-the-scenes theater heroes, such as stage managers, technicians, designers, administrators and box office workers.

The first deadline was April 15, when those wishing to be a beneficiary needed to apply via the company's Facebook page. Beneficiaries will be featured on Theatre Lab's Facebook page in the lead-up to the festival. Playwrights will then write pieces on the broad theme of heroes, and actors will perform the original stories, monologues or two-character, three-page scenes.

"We're looking for writers from Jupiter to the Keys, because we all work throughout the area," says Matt Scoble, Theatre Lab's producing artistic director.

Among the workshops offered, there will be a screen-writing session on the Facebook page at 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. April 16. Previous online workshops on elements of storytelling and crafting a monologue are still available



From left, Actors' Playhouse co-founder Dr. Lawrence E. Slein, co-founder and executive producing director Barbara Stern, artistic director David Arico, and Theater for Young Audiences director Earl Maulding have launched a writing competition and online classes.

on the page. Submissions of material to education director Jill Carr at carrij@fau.edu must be received no later than 10 a.m. April 20. The event will be livestreamed on Theatre Lab's Facebook page at 7:30 p.m. April 27, and those watching can make direct contributions to the featured heroes.

For more information, go to [facebook.com/theatrelabfau](https://www.facebook.com/theatrelabfau).

ACTORS' PLAYHOUSE

Actors' Playhouse at The Miracle Theatre in Coral Gables has launched a program titled, "Stories That Connect Us All."

The company is asking writers from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe counties to create pieces about this unprecedented moment in time, either as a monologue or a third-person story (no multi-character pieces will be accepted). Each piece should run under eight minutes.

Deadline for submissions is May 1. Writers and actors expect to perform the selected pieces at a public event in The Miracle's Falcony Theatre once it's safe to gather again.

For more information, go to

[actorsplayhouse.org](https://www.actorsplayhouse.org) and click on "Stories That Connect Us All."

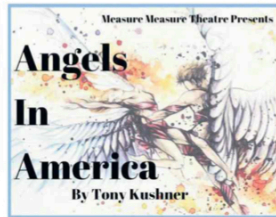
Also from Actors' Playhouse: Earl Maulding, director of the company's Theatre for Young Audiences, and actor/dancer Keynel Keyvaldo are teaching a series of virtual theater master classes. Subjects include musical theater, jazz dance, monologues, hip-hop and vocal performance. Students are grouped by age (7 to 12 and 13 to 18), and each Zoom class costs \$20. Individual classes are available at \$60 per hour.

For more information and registration, go to [actorsplayhouse.org](https://www.actorsplayhouse.org) and click on "Theatre Classes."

FIU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

The Department of Theatre at Florida International University has created a program titled, "40 Second Somethings for Seniors." And in this case, "seniors" doesn't refer to soon-to-be graduates but rather to senior citizens isolated in places such as nursing homes, independent and assisted living facilities, and Veterans Administration hospitals.

The department - with an assist from students Shadya Mousli,



'Angels in America' is Tony Kushner's moving examination of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s.

Glenda Umama, Dayron Leon and Ana Gorayeb - is seeking video submissions of about a minute each showcasing all sorts of talents, such as music, drama, juggling, comedy, magic or photography. These will then be woven together in a series of half-hour programs sent to the facilities that are home to seniors.

Associate Professor Phillip M. Church asks would-be participants to email him at 606condosomethings@gmail.com. They'll then receive a Google Drive link with a password to post their videos. He expects the first episode to go out about two weeks after the semester ends in late April.

MIAMI NEW DRAMA

Miami New Drama is continuing its free virtual master classes, dubbed MasterMIND, in both English and Spanish.

On April 16, director Javier Vidal will lead a Spanish-language workshop titled, "La firma del director" ("The Director's Signature"). The following week, Pablo Gershnik offers "Metaphors como posibilidad

de resiliencia" ("Metaphors as a Possibility of Resilience") in Spanish on April 20. David Schrader leads a workshop on the business of theater on April 22. And on April 24, playwright Rogelio Martinez will deliver a workshop on how to incorporate history into writing in a dynamic way.

All the above sessions are set for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, go to colonymb.org/post/mastermind-master-class-series. Previous master classes are also available on the site.

FLORIDA SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

Florida Shakespeare Theatre is offering a free online staged reading of the Bard's great comedy, "Much Ado About Nothing."

Set for 8 p.m. April 18 and directed by artistic director Colleen Stovall, the reading features Caitlin Duffey as Beatrice; Seth Trucks as Benedick; Nick Lamedica as Claudio; Susannah Eg as Hero; and Jordan Armstrong as Don John.

THEAT

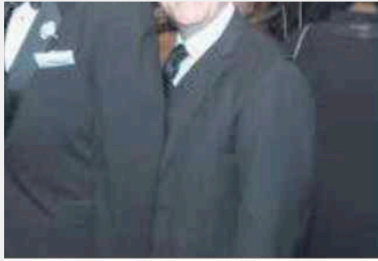


Photo courtesy of Alberto Romeu

nder Dr. Lawrence E. Stein; co-founder Barbara Stein; artistic director David Maudling and executive director Earl Maulding have launched online classes.

actorsplayhouse.org and click on “Stories That Connect Us All.”

Also from Actors’ Playhouse: Earl Maulding, director of the company’s Theatre for Young Audiences, and actor/dancer Reynel Reynaldo are teaching a series of virtual theater master classes. Subjects include musical theater, jazz dance, monologues, hip-hop and vocal performance.

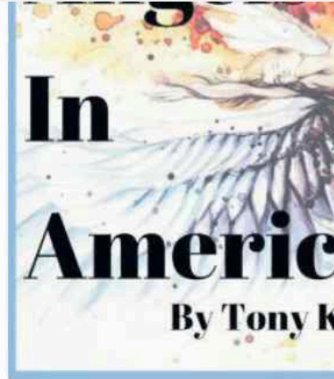
Students are grouped by age (7 to 12 and 13 to 18), and each Zoom class costs \$20. Individual classes are available at \$60 per hour.

For more information and registration, go to actorsplayhouse.org and click on “Theatre Classes.”

FIU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

The Department of Theatre at Florida International University has created a program titled, “60 Second Somethings for Seniors.” And in this case, “seniors” doesn’t refer to soon-to-be graduates but rather to senior citizens isolated in places such as nursing homes, independent and assisted living facilities, and Veterans Administration hospitals.

The department – with an assist from students Shadya Muvdi,



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Glenda Umana, Dayron Leon and Ana Gorayeb – is seeking video submissions of about a minute each showcasing all sorts of talents, such as music, drama, juggling, comedy, magic or photography. These will then be woven together in a series of half-hour programs sent to the facilities that are home to seniors.

Associate Professor Phillip M. Church asks would-be participants to email him at 60secondsomethings@gmail.com. They’ll then receive a Google Drive link with a password to post their videos. He expects the first episode to go out about two weeks after the semester ends in late April.

MIAMI NEW DRAMA

Miami New Drama is continuing its free virtual master classes, dubbed MasterMiND, in both English and Spanish.

On April 16, director Javier Vidal will lead a Spanish-language workshop titled, “La firma del director” (“The Director’s Signature”). The following week, Pablo Gershanik offers “Metaforas como posibilidad