

PEAR SLICES 2024

NEW CORE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FORMAT!

NEW WORKS. BAY AREA TALENT.
AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHTS.

May 17 - June 2

Feat. new short plays by

Paul Braverman, Cherielyn Ferguson,
Christine C. Hsu, Greg Lam, Sophia Naylor,
Bridgette Dutta Portman, and Teresa Veramendi



Pictured L-R:
Jenna Ruby Marvet & Vivienne Truong
in *Fertile Soil* by Bridgette Dutta Portman



Get 15% off concessions with our *Pear Patron Social Media Challenge!*

Here's what to do:

1. Before the show starts, share a show status update or photo (of the set, a theatre selfie, etc.) in a post or story on social media.
2. Tag us in the post: @thepeartheatre
3. Show your post to our hospitality rep and get 15% off concessions!

Don't forget to tag us!

 @thepeartheatre

 /peartheatre

PEAR SLICES 2024

(in order of appearance)

Accidental Immortal

by Sophia Naylor

Directed by
Arcadia Conrad

Featuring

Arohan Deshpande..... Charlie
Devansh Manchanda... U/S: Charlie
Jenna Ruby Marvet..... Death
Lizzie Izyumin..... Aubrey
Vanessa Alvarez..... Dana

Cleaning Up

by Christine C. Hsu

Directed by
Troy Johnson

Featuring

Bezachin Jifar..... Donny
Vivienne Truong..... Ruby

Fertile Soil

by Bridgette Dutta Portman

Directed by
Troy Johnson

Featuring

Jenna Ruby Marvet..... Leah
Lizzie Izyumin..... Iris
Vivienne Truong..... Susan

Brick House

by Paul Braverman

Directed by
Troy Johnson

Featuring

Arohan Deshpande..... Pig 3
Bezachin Jifar..... Pig 1
Devansh Manchanda... U/S: Pig 3
Jenna Ruby Marvet..... Siri
Lizzie Izyumin..... Pig 2
Vanessa Alvarez..... Fox

INTERMISSION

PEAR SLICES 2024

(cont. in order of appearance)

Juliet's Post Credits Scene

by Greg Lam

Directed by

Troy Johnson

Featuring

Arohan Deshpande..... First Watchman

Bezachin Jifar..... Horatio

Devansh Manchanda... U/S: First Watchman

Jenna Ruby Marvet..... Juliet

Vanessa Alvarez..... Page

Backyard

by Cherielyn Ferguson

Directed by

Arcadia Conrad

Featuring

Lizzie Izyumin..... Jill

Vanessa Alvarez..... Dana

Vivienne Truong..... Robin

I'm Not Her

by Teresa Veramendi

Directed by

Arcadia Conrad

Featuring

Jenna Ruby Marvet..... Passion Monster

The Tarot Reading

by Sophia Naylor

Directed by

Arcadia Conrad

Featuring

Arohan Deshpande..... The Devil

Bezachin Jifar..... Lover 2

Devansh Manchanda... U/S: The Devil

Lizzie Izyumin..... The Fool

Vanessa Alvarez..... The Empress

Vivienne Truong..... Lover 1

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Pear Slices

The Collected Plays

2024

Pear Slices **The Collected Plays 2024**

Original 10 minute plays from the Pear Playwright's Guild

Paul Braverman • Cherielyn Ferguson

Christine C. Hsu • Greg Lam • Sophia Naylor

Bridgette Dutta Portman • Teresa Veramendi



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an anthology feat. all
the new short plays
in *Pear Slices 2024!*



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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Paul Braverman (*Brick House*) is a Bay Area playwright and actor. His plays have received dozens of productions and readings in Bay Area venues, as well as nationally and internationally. Pear audiences may know Paul from the *Frankie Payne* trilogy, or from his 20+ plays from previous Slices productions. His short play *The Alpha Bindleman* was a finalist for the 2009 Heideman Award, and he's been a wild-card finalist at Short & Sweet in Sydney, Australia several times, most recently with *Stuck in the Middle* (The Hot Dog play). He and his wife Robyn co-produce The Pear Theatre's annual festival of new play readings, *Fresh Produce*, having presented over 30 play readings since 2014. Paul is a member of The Dramatists Guild of America and is a co-founding member of The Pear Theatre Playwright Guild.

Cherielyn Ferguson (*Backyard*) is pleased to be included in Pear Slices 2024. She's an East Bay playwright whose plays have been produced and read at PlayGround-SF, Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre, Pan Theatre, Shawnee Playhouse, Chameleon Theatre Circle, Adams State University, Monster Box Theatre, and at Australia's Gemco Players. This spring her work was featured at The Storefront Theatre and at the Lantern Theatre in Sheffield, UK. She's a member of the Dramatists Guild, Theatre Bay Area, Berkeley's Play Café, the Playwrights Center, the Pear Playwrights' Guild, The Playwrights' Center of San Francisco, and PlayGround-SF's 2023-24 writers pool. She is an alumna of the Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive.

Christine C. Hsu (*Cleaning Up*) is an playwright, essayist, poet, and short story writer based in San Francisco. She has been published by The Bold Italic, xoJane, KQED, ABC News Radio Online, Yellow Arrow Journal, Lunchbox Moments, Slipform Poetry Anthology, Mixed Mag, DropOut Literary Magazine, NonBinary Review, Nonwhite and Woman Anthology, Red Ogre Review, Soft Star Magazine, and Livina Press. Her plays have been performed by the Negro Ensemble Company, Crafton Hills College, Houston Community College - Stafford, Pear Theatre, Enterwine, The Playwrights' Center of San Francisco, Pan Theater, Gather by the Ghost Light's inaugural Off-Broad Street Short Play Festival, and the Community Bake-Off Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. The Writers Grotto of SF selected her as a Rooted & Written Fellow for Screenplay. Her play, FAITH, will be performed at the Short Plays Festival by the Black Theatre Troupe of Upstate New York in June of 2024. @HsuChristineC

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Greg Lam (*Juliet's Post Credits Scene*) is a playwright, screenwriter, podcaster and board game designer who lives in the Bay Area. His play *Chaplin and Keaton on the Set of Limelight* debuts at the Pear Theatre next month! Greg is the co-founder of the Asian-American Playwright Collective, a member of The Pulp Stage Writer's Room, Playground SF, and the administrator of The Pear Theatre's Playwright Guild. Greg writes, largely, full-length epics which combine grinding moral quandaries with science fiction, short plays that are comic romps, and one-minute plays which are incredibly depressing. For more about Greg, see <https://greglam.wixsite.com/home>.

Sophia Naylor's (*The Tarot Reading | Accidental Immortal*) plays include *For A Brighter Tomorrow*, *Frankenstein: Unbound*, *Blood and Dolly*, and *Boxed*. Her works have been produced and/or developed by the Pear Theatre, Broad Horizons, Women in SOLOdarity, PCSF, MN Fringe Festival, and Local Color. Sophia co-founded the murder mystery theater company The Clue Collective. She served as CEO for six years, as well as writing and customizing shows. She is a member of the Pear Playwrights Guild. Her work has also been published in numerous literary journals, including *Qu*, *Literature Today*, and *Fresh Words*. She earned an Honors Theater degree from Swarthmore College, specializing in playwriting, dramaturgy, acting, and Shakespeare. You can find her online at sfaylor.com.

Bridgette Dutta Portman (*Fertile Soil*) is a playwright, teacher, and novelist based in the San Francisco Bay Area. More than two dozen of her plays have been produced locally, nationally, and internationally. She is president of the Pear Theatre board of directors and a member of the Pear Playwrights' Guild, the 2022-23 PlayGround writers pool, and the Dramatists' Guild. She received the 2023 June Anne Baker Prize from PlayGround, and has been a finalist for the Bay Area Playwrights' Festival, the Theatre Bay Area TITAN award, the PlayPenn Conference, the Kentucky Women's Theatre Conference Prize for Women Writers, the New Dramatists playwrights' residency, and more. She holds a PhD in political science (UC Irvine, 2011) and an MFA in creative writing (Spalding University, 2018). She has taught playwriting and creative writing to a variety of age groups, and recently joined the faculty at UC Berkeley's College Writing Programs.

Teresa Veramendi (*I'm Not Her*) is a Basque-American multidisciplinary theatre artist, playwright, director, performer, and community facilitator who utilizes the arts as a tool to disrupt social injustices. She manifests her political interrogations of gender, ability, nationality, class, and climate change into visually poetic, documentary, and historical theatre projects that have been produced locally, nationally, and internationally. A recipient of the Norma Elia Cantú Creative Writing Award, Veramendi has lectured at St. Lawrence University and currently teaches at San Jose State University. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband and their two cats.

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Directors

Arcadia Conrad
Troy Johnson

Stage & Production Manager

Kelly Weber Barraza

Set Designer & Technical Director

Louis Stone-Collonge

Lighting Designer

Carsten Koester

Sound and Projection Designer

David L. Hobbs

Costume Designer

Pati Bristow

Intimacy Director

Bessie Zolno

Fight Choreography

Arturo Dirzo

SHOW RUNTIME

Approx. 100 minutes
with a 15 minute
intermission.



PEAR SLICES 2024

NEW CORE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FORMAT!

CAST

Vanessa Alvarez
Arohan Deshpande
Lizzie Izyumin
Devansh Manchanda
Jenna Ruby Marvet
Bezachin Jifar
Vivienne Truong

SPECIAL EVENTS

Monologue Festival

Saturday, May 25
(7:00 pm - 10:30 pm)

Youth Theatre One-Act Readings

Friday, May 31
(7:00 pm - 10:30 pm)

*Free admittance to special events
for all *Pear Slices 2024* attendees.

Special thanks to Intimacy Coordinatory
Bessie Zolno, Fight Choreographer Arturo
Dirzo, and Pati Bristow and Cupertino High
School for hosting rehearsals!

Pear Slices 2024 includes explicit descriptions of sex,
sexual assault, sexual abuse and features fire effects,
fog machine, emergency warning alert and
flashing/strobing lighting effects.

CAST



Vanessa Alvarez returns to the Pear after last being seen in the opening performance of this season's *Love Letters*, opposite her husband Bryan Moriarty. A Bay Area native, some of her past work includes Nurse in *Shakespeare in Love* and *Sunday in the Park with George*; Connie Gonzalez in *Roe*; Woman 2 in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; Sherry in *Distracted*; Betty in *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*; and Daniela in *In the Heights*. Mucho love to her family and friends for their continued support on and off stage.

Appearing in *Backyard* (Dana),
The Tarot Reading (The Empress), *Brick House*
(Fox), *Juliet's Post Credits Scene* (Page).



Arohan Deshpande is a graduating Cupertino High School senior who deeply enjoys acting and performance and is thrilled to be working with Pear in *Slices* for his first time this year. He began doing theater during his 7th grade and continued on to join Cupertino Actors Theater at CHS. He most notably played the roles of Jay Gatsby (*The Great Gatsby*) and Hamlet (*Hambiguity*) in adapted productions at his school. He participated in the Lenaea Theater Festival during his 11th and 12th grades, earning a Silver Award for Duo Scene and a Gold Award for Monologue. He would like to show some love to his family, Pear cast and crew, and especially his school's program director and Pear director Arcadia Conrad.

Appearing in *Accidentally Immortal* (Charlie),
Juliet's Post Credits Scene (First Watchman),
Brick House (Pig 3), *The Tarot Reading* (The Devil).



Lizzie Izyumin is so excited to be performing with The Pear Theatre for the first time! Since graduating from San Diego State University, Lizzie has been working as a theater and music educator around the Bay Area. Some of her favorite past roles include Woman in *The Long Christmas Ride Home* (SDSU) and The Baker's Wife in *Into The Woods* (West Valley College). She can't wait for everyone to see this show!

Appearing in *Brick House* (Pig 2), *Backyard* (Jill),
The Tarot Reading (The Fool), *Accidental*
Immortal (Aubrey), *Fertile Soil* (Iris).

CAST



Bezachin Jifar is happy to return to The Pear after having played Robby in *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea* & a variety of characters in *Pear Slices* last year. When he's not acting on stage, you can find his work over at www.thebezpage.com and you can also follow him on Instagram @Bezachin to catch his monthly Bez Covers where he captures his state of affairs for that month in the form of a magazine cover.

Appearing in *Brick House* (Pig 1), *Juliet's Post Credits Scene* (Horatio), *Cleaning Up* (Donny), *The Tarot Reading* (Lover 2).



Jenna Ruby Marvet is thrilled to be making her *Pear Slices* debut in this year's festival! You may have seen her on stages across the Bay Area, most recently performing with West Valley Light Opera, Foothill Theatre Arts, Tabard Theatre Company, and Milpitas Community Theatre. Offstage, Jenna finds joy in singing, running, and writing. By day, she works as a political consultant, contributing to campaigns across California. A special thanks to her support system – her family (Jodi, Larry, Claire, and Olive) and her friends – for their encouragement. Jenna extends her sincere appreciation to all Pear Theatre patrons, thank you for supporting the arts in our community!

Appearing in *Juliet's Post Credits Scene* (Juliet), *Backyard* (Leah), *I'm Not Her* (Passion Monster), *Brick House* (Siri), *Accidental Immortal* (Death).

CAST



Devansh Manchanda is acting in the *Pear Slices* for the first time this year but you may have seen him as part of productions for Cupertino Actors Theater. In the fall he played Blue Footed Boobie/Prometheus in *The Birds*. He also played Polonius in *Hambiguity* in the spring. Devansh has also participated a few short improv shows; in addition, he enjoys sci-fi stories and learning cool stuff about biology!

Understudying: *Accidentally Immortal* (Charlie), *Juliet's Post Credits Scene* (First Watchman), *Brick House* (Pig 3), *The Tarot Reading* (The Devil).



Vivienne Truong is so happy to be returning to The Pear for *Pear Slices*! She was last seen at The Pear in *Noises Off* as Poppy and Tim (Understudy Brooke). She recently understudied *Tiger Style!* at Theatreworks (Jennifer Chen/Mom Track) and *The Great Leap* at Center Rep (Connie). Previous credits include: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (San Jose Stage Company), *Tea Party* (One of Our Own Theatre), *Red Bike* (Center Rep), and *Vietgone* (City Lights Theatre Company). She also loves participating in staged readings such as: *The Motion* (Theatreworks), *The Headlands* and *The Great Leap* (Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene). After earning her BA in Theatre Arts from San Jose State University, she now works at Red Ladder Theatre Company, a social justice theatre company that works with under-served communities to nurture creativity and change through improvisational workshops. She is now also working as Casting Director for More Más Marami.

Appearing in *Fertile Soil* (Susan), *Cleaning Up* (Ruby), *Backyard* (Robin), *The Tarot Reading* (Lover 1).

PRODUCTION TEAM

Arcadia Conrad (Director) is elated to be directing for *Pear Slices!* Arcadia is a playwright and screenwriter, director, educator, performer and intimacy director who has worked in numerous theaters across the Bay Area as well as in film and television production. Most recent projects include Associate Producer on the short film "Hollow", writer/director of the new play *Hambiguity* for Cupertino Actors Theatre, and IC work for *The Game's Afoot* at CLTC. She remains gratefully the theatre program director at Cupertino Actors Theatre. Love to John, Luna and the Bear. IG: @theactualarcadia

Kelly Weber Barraza (Stage & Production Manager) - this is Kelly's 9th production of *Pear Slices!* She has been happily working at The Pear since 2014 and became their resident Stage Manager in 2020. Some of her favorite Pear productions include: *Noises Off*, *Fairfield*, *Eight Nights*, *What You Will*, *Uncle Vanya*, *August: Osage County*, and *Taking Steps*. Other favorite works are: *The Bridges of Madison County* (South Bay Musical Theatre), *Yellow Face* (Los Altos Stage Company), *Bright Star* (Palo Alto Players), *The Oskar Education Tour* (TheatreWorks), and working with "The Misfit of Magic", Ed Alonzo of "Saved By the Bell" fame. Kelly is always grateful for the love and support of her theatre widowed husband, Michael, and their fur babies: Sopaipilla, Houdini, and Baxter.

Louis Stone-Collonge (Set Designer and Technical Director) has been involved in local theatre on and off since 1979 when he would tag along with his father building sets with Montalvo Players in the Carriage House Theatre at Montalvo. He is founder of The Audacity Performing Arts Project serving Title 1 schools in the South Bay since 2012 with arts education and performing arts programming. In addition to working at Audacity and The Pear, Louis currently serves as technical theatre coach at Cupertino High School and technical theatre advisor at Stratford High School. He holds a degree in Religious Studies from San Jose State University, he has been sober for 12 years and we dare you to ask him about why he likes Michel Foucault or why he likes Gramsci's take on hegemony. Louis shares his chaotic and charmed existence with his beloved wife and life partner, Michelle, their daughter, Caitlin, and two ridiculous Italian Greyhounds.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Troy Johnson (Director) is excited to be co-directing again for this year's Pear Slices Festival along with Arcadia and working with our wonderful designers, intimacy coordinator, and stage manager. This is Troy's 16th time co-directing this perennial favorite of short new works and he thanks you all for supporting live theatre.

Carsten Koester (Lighting Designer) - Since first getting involved in producing theater in Brussels, Belgium a little over 20 years ago, Carsten has worked backstage in many capacities that involve climbing up ladders in dark corners with electric cables in hand – sound, lights, projections, and set building. After relocating to the Bay Area in 2015, Carsten has worked with Tabard Theatre, where he was resident lighting designer and technical director, and more recently with the Pear Theatre, Palo Alto Players, Silicon Valley Shakespeare, Sunnyvale Community Players, and City Lights. He is excited to return to Pear Theater for this production of Pear Slices.

David L. Hobbs (Sound Designer) previously contributed sound to the Pear's *Noises Off*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, *Taking Steps* (SF Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award recognized), *Northanger Abbey*, *Tribes* and multiple editions of *Pear Slices*. He shared a 2016 TBA Award for sound design of Stage 1's *Ragtime*. He has appeared onstage in the roles of Hamlet, Einstein and Salesman #1. "Hail, poetry, thou heav'n-born maid!"

Pati Bristow (Costume Designer) Here we are again SLICES! What great friends... What great fun... I hope you enjoy the costumes. With love, Pati B.

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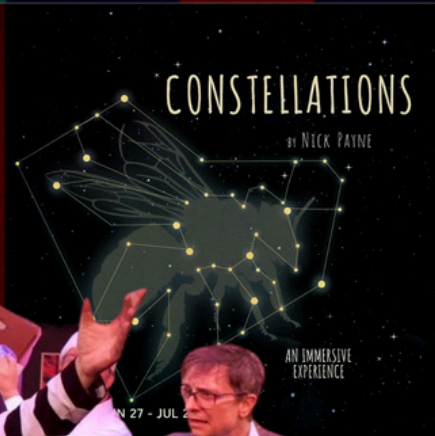
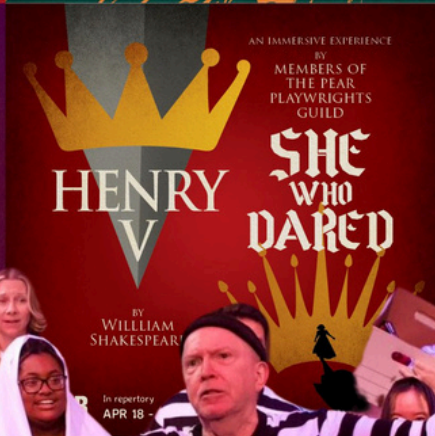
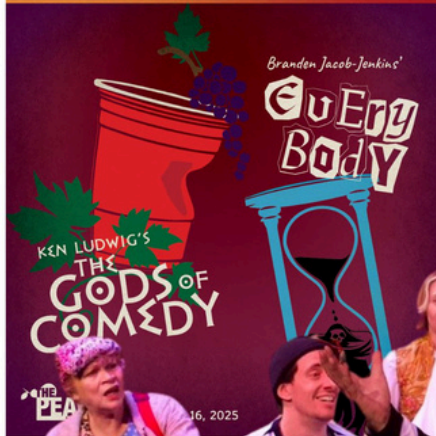
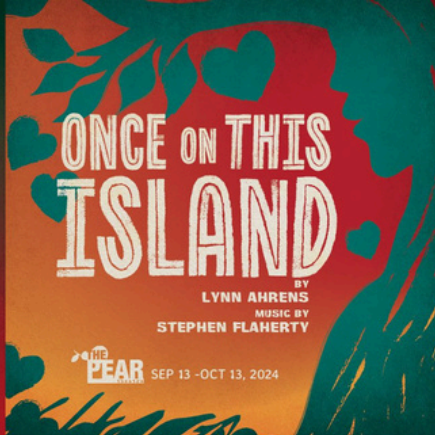


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