# NEW CITY PLAYERS

presents





Funding for this project is provided in part by the **Broward County Board of County Commissioners** as recommended by the **Broward Cultural Council**.

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This event is supported by **Funding Arts Broward**, supporting innovative local visual and performing arts in Broward County.

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# Presents at ISLAND CITY STAGE

Alex Joyel, Pryscila Cassiano Salinas, Arlette del Toro, Tyler Fitch, R. Kent Chambers-Wilson, Christopher Dreeson, & Fawad Siddiqui *in* 



#### by QUIARA ALEGRÍA HUDES

Director	Elizabeth Price
Stage Manager	Noel Barry
Assistant Stage Manager	Harold Petion
Scenic Design	K. April Soroko
Lighting Design	Desiraé Merritt
Costume Design	Casey Sacco
Sound Design	Ernesto Gonzalez
Dramaturg	Ilana Jael
Producing Artistic Director	Tim Davis

## A Note from the Director

Step One: Admitted we were powerless over (fill in the blank) and that our lives had become unmanageable.

Often, the very thing that is killing us, that is making us miserable, that is holding us back, is the one thing we deny we have a problem with. And so we try to manage, to cover, to rationalize, to use distractions and coping mechanisms until inevitably, the noise grows too loud and we somehow finally, blessedly, break and surrender. Then change becomes possible.

The redemption and hope we seek comes only through honest admission of our truth and acknowledgement of life's dissonance. We've got to face the thing and call it by its name. Each character in this play goes through this journey. Watch and witness.



Elizabeth Price *April 2022* 

Elliot Ortiz	Alex Joyel
Yazmin Ortiz	Pryscila Cassiano Salinas
Professor Aman/Ghost	Fawad Siddiqui
Odessa Ortiz a.k.a. Haikumom	Arlette del Toro
Orangutan	Tyler Fitch
Chutes & Ladders	R. Kent Chambers-Wilson
Fountainhead	Christopher Dreeson

#### TIME

2009. Six years after Elliot left for Iraq.

#### PLACE

Philadelphia, San Diego, Japan, & Puerto Rico.

There will be one 15 minute intermission. Flashing lights will be used.

We'd like to acknowledge that this production is taking place on the occupied indigenous lands of the Seminole, Taino, and Tequesta peoples. It's important that we acknowledge the history and ongoing colonization of where we are sitting right

now in South Florida and in our country. It's also important to acknowledge our own place in the story of colonization.

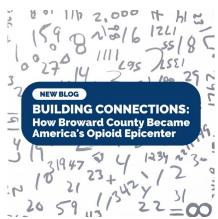
Water by the Spoonful is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.











"Each story is two stories: its absence and presence, its voice and its silence. What would the world be without this particular story? What is the world now, with this story? Write the ones that fill a void. The ones whose absence would mean a less complete world."

#### QUIARA ALEGRÍA HUDES





## Alex Joyel, Elliot

Alex is very excited that *Water by* the Spoonful will be his professional acting debut, South Florida theatre debut, and New City Players play debut. "From the bottom of

my heart I am honored to play this role surrounded by such a talented cast and crew. I also want to dedicate this performance to my Abuelo. Thank you for your overwhelming love and support in my life."



## Pryscila Cassiano Salinas, Yaz

Pryscila is a Brazilian-American actress with a B.A. in Theatre from Nova Southeastern University. She is a cast member of Just The Funny and The Dinner Detective. Other

credits include Conni in *Tony n Tina's Wedding*, Alina in the short film *Rise*, and Val in the, soon to be released, short film *The House Watches*. Pryscila would like to dedicate her performances to her parents, Jorge and Aley. I lead with all of you in my heart wherever I go.



## Fawad Siddiqui, Professor Aman/Ghost

Fawad is an active member of the SoFla acting community. A regular participant of the NCPLab over the past year, Fawad is thrilled to finally join NCP live onstage! Theater credits include: *The* 

Merchant of Venice (Quantum Theater, Pittsburgh), Urinetown (Mainstreet Playhouse, Miami Lakes), The Never-Ever Glades (Fantasy Theater Factory, Miami), and War Words at the Adrienne Arsht Center (City Theater, Miami). Film: The Men Who Stare at Goats, Sunlight, Jr., Chateau Vato. TV: Blue Bloods (CBS), New Amsterdam (NBC), The Blacklist (NBC), Ramy (Hulu), Bloodline (Netflix), and on the current season of FBI (CBS). Fawad was codirector/co-host/actor with the Front Yard Theatre Collective's monthly sketch/improv/variety show for five years (Olympia Theater, Miami) and performs with various local and national improv theater groups, including Halo Kitty and They Improv. He teaches a weekly improv drop-in at The Actory in Miami and co-hosts the weekly 'Get Your Nerd On' podcast at the Goblin's Heist comic shop in Hialeah. A UM graduate, he trained at The Second City, iO Theater and ActOne Studios (Chicago), the PIT and Magnet Theaters (New York), SAK Comedy Lab (Orlando) and with Laughing Gas Improv (Miami). His passion is portraying three-dimensional characters of diverse backgrounds and is thankful to be able to do so. Alhamdulillah.



Arlette del Toro, *Haikumom*Arlette has worked professionally as an actor in Washington, DC and Seattle, Washington. Locally, she has worked with ACT of Davie (*Deathtrap*), Island City

Stage (*Perfect Arrangement* and *Son*), Infinite Abyss (*The Gravedigger*), and New City Players (*Ambry* and *Falling*). Most recently she was seen as Izzy in One County Film's *Pompano Boy*, which featured much of the NCP family both on and off camera. She is so, so, so happy to be working on this beautiful show with such beautiful people.



Tyler Fitch, *Orangutan*Tyler is a Korean-American actor and this is his debut with New
City Players! Tyler is also a recent graduate from Muhlenberg College with degrees in both Theater

and Psychology! Favorite roles include: Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes* and the Narrator in *21 Chump Street*. Tyler would like to thank their parents for always supporting them, and for coming to every show! Lastly, Tyler would like to thank their boyfriend, Charlie for encouraging them to audition for this show!



Chutes & Ladders

Kent is very excited to work on his
first project at New City Players. Kent
has varied experience regarding the
ins and outs of theater – onstage

R. Kent Chambers-Wilson.

(actor), backstage (stage manager; sound design), and administrative (previous Board Chair, South FL Theater League; previous Festival Coordinator, Zoetic Stage Finstrom Festival of New Work; current Carbonell Awards judge). Thank you Elizabeth for giving me the chance to learn and grow. Thank you to the cast and crew for welcoming me into this talented group. And, of course, thank you to Steven for sharing your love and keeping me grounded.



# Christopher Dreeson, Fountainhead

Christopher is thrilled to make his debut with New City Players with such a fabulous cast, director, and production crew! He made

his South Florida professional debut in 2018 in the Carbonell-recommended one-man show Confessions of a Nightingale playing the role of Tennessee Williams. Other recent favorite roles include Herr Schultz (Cabaret). Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd (The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas). Commander Whitaker/Dr. Stone (A Few Good Men), Jack Lawson (Race), Mr. Paravicini (The Mousetrap), Ernst Janning (Judgment at Nuremberg), Twimble/Womper (How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying), Black Stache (Peter and the Starcatcher), Pirate King (Pirates of Penzance), and Brick (Cat on a Hot Tin Roof). Christopher is currently a faculty member at Miami Beach Senior High, music director at Kendall Presbyterian Church, a member of the jazz vocal quintet, The Decotones, and, most importantly, married for the past 36 years to the most wonderful woman in the world, Lynne: an extraordinary ballet teacher, ballroom dancer, and life partner!





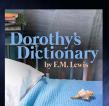


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# **Dramaturgical Connections**

Substance Use Disorder, or as it's more commonly understood, addiction, is a common and complex mental health condition that can be defined in its most basic sense as compulsive substance use that continues despite negative consequences. It is also characterized by the intense cravings sufferers feel for the substance in question, which can escalate to the point where fulfilling that craving feels almost as vital as fulfilling a basic need.

It's also the emerging consensus that addiction has less to do with the mere chemical properties of drugs and more to do with the intersection of the effects of those drugs with an individual's environment and psychology. Pre-existing mental health problems and histories of traumatic experiences have been strongly correlated with increasing an individual's risk of experiencing addiction—but so have social isolation and loneliness, to the extent that it's also been suggested that connection with a drug of choice is a kind of "bond" of necessity made when connection with other human beings feels like a practical or psychological impossibility.

Though stigma and misunderstanding can fuel the secrecy and despair that addiction thrives on, the flip side of the idea of isolation as addiction's handmaiden is not sobriety but connection as its opposite, with greater social support consistently having been found to be one of the greatest predictors of a successful recovery. And the stark rise in rates

of substance abuse observed during the widespread social isolation mandated by the recent pandemic, which drove the yearly number of American drug overdose fatalities higher than it has ever been, is just the latest evidence of this well-documented phenomenon.

So, when it comes to the question of "why this play now," I can think of few better answers than the scope and gravity of the current addiction crisis, both nation-wide and in our South Florida community. Thus, part of my work on this project has involved a series of blog posts viewable on NCP's website that further explore the dynamics and history of that crisis, working to connect the issues of addiction addressed in the play to their broader cultural and historical context and to the experiences of community members in the here and now. You can view these blogs by visiting newcityplayers.org/thebuild.

Through its nuanced and humanizing portrayal of characters clawing their way towards recovery, *Water By The Spoonful* invites us to grant those characters our empathy and understanding, which I in turn hope will encourage you to extend that empathy to anyone in our community who may be facing similar challenges and to extend that understanding into a greater willingness to continue to educate yourself about addiction and to advocate on their behalf.



Ilana Jael Dramaturg

# **Community Partnerships**

The following organizations contributed to our forum on addiction and recovery on March 28, our talkbacks after all matinee performances, and our forthcoming forum on May 23. Please explore the work of these organizations and consider supporting them.



- Anonymous syringe exchange
- Free Narcan distribution
- Anonymous HIV & HCV testing and treatment
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Linkage to medical and behavioral healthcare
- COVID vaccines

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# **Community Partnerships**



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# Do you know about 211?

New City Players supports 211, a free and confidential service that helps people across North America find the local resources they need 24/7.

211 is the most comprehensive source of information about local resources and services in the country. It's powered by people: thousands of caring, local experts are available to help, 24/7. Calls to 211 are confidential and can be anonymous.

The 211 network in the United States responds to more than 20 million requests for help every year. Most calls, web chats, and text messages are from people looking for help meeting basic needs like housing, food, transportation, and health care. 211 can be accessed by phone or computer, at 211.org. A toll-free call to 211 connects you to a community resource specialist in your area who can put you in touch with local organizations that provide critical services. You'll find information about:

- Supplemental food and nutrition programs
- Shelter and housing options and utilities assistance
- · Emergency information and disaster relief
- Employment and education opportunities
- Services for veterans

- Health care, vaccination and health epidemic information
- Addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs
- Reentry help for ex-offenders
- Support groups for individuals with mental illnesses or special needs
- A safe, confidential path out of physical and/or emotional
- Domestic abuse

Across the U.S. and Canada, 211 has made a difference during COVID-19. Whether it's providing reliable information about the pandemic, testing or vaccination sites, or helping people stay in their homes, put food on the table and pay bills – 211 has been a lifesaver for millions over the last 18 months. The 211 network made 27.8 million connections to critical services and help last year, up nearly 100% from 2019. And call specialists have fielded a 150% increase in connections to food programs. All of that is an indicator of how vital a strong 211 is to strong, resilient communities.

#### **Production Staff**

Director	Elizabeth Price
Director	Euzabeth Price
Stage Manager	Noel Barry
Asst. Stage Manager	Harold Petion
Scenic Designer	K. April Soroko
Lighting Designer	Desiraé Merritt
Costume Designer	Casey Sacco
Sound Designer	Ernesto Gonzalez
Fight Coordinator	Rachel Smoker Cox
Scenic Painter	John Shamburger
Set Construction Johnba	rry Green, Jacob Altman,
Joseph Eberspac	cher & Jordon Armstrong
Graphic Designer & Photographer	Ryan Arnst
Videographer	Cliff Burgess
Hospitality Manager	Megan DeGraaf
Box Office Manager	Dave Smith
Producing Artistic Director	Tim Davis

A very special "Thank You!" to the following individuals and organizations whose generous support has made this production of Water by the Spoonful possible!

MNM Theatre Company, Island City Stage, First
Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale, Florida Atlantic
University Theatre & Dance Department, Lynn University,
The New City Players Ensemble, Arreva, LLC, Preston
Bircher, Arlette del Toro, R. Kent Chambers-Wilson



#### Elizabeth Price, Director

Elizabeth is a professional director and actor based in South Florida. Her education is an MFA in Acting from Florida Atlantic University, BFA in Acting from Barry University, and BA

in English from Tulane University. She teaches acting at FAU and directing at Lynn University. She has directed for New City Players, Thinking Cap Theatre, City Theatre, Theatre Lab, Pigs Do Fly, FAU, Barry University, the 24-Hour Theatre Project, the One-Minute Play Festival, Arts Radio Network, and Los Alamos Little Theatre. The production of *Straight White Men* she directed received a Carbonell for Best Ensemble, and she has received two Silver Palm Awards for her acting. She also directs and acts in film and television.



#### Noel Barry, Stage Manager

Noel Barry is very happy to be stage managing her first production with New City Players. She earned her BA in Theatre Arts from Mars Hill University in Mars Hill, NC. She

also spent two years studying at Florida Atlantic University. Professionally, she has stage managed & done backstage work for Outré Theatre Company, Broward Stage Door, and The Crest Theatre in Delray. Some of her past productions include *Hedwig & the Angry Inch*, *Reservoir Dolls*, *American Idiot*, *Same Time*, *Next Year*, & *Into the Woods*. She has been the staging director for the annual musical productions at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale since 2010, working with both their middle & high school choirs. She would like to thank Elizabeth and New City Players for this opportunity, the cast & production team for all their hard work, & her friends & family for their love & support.



## K. April Soroko, Scenic Designer

Ms. Soroko has been a professional scenic and costume designer for over 20 years. She is currently the Associate Professor of Scenic Design and Associate Departmental Chair

at Florida Atlantic University where she has taught since 2016. Prior to her tenure at FAU, she was the Associate Professor of Scenic Design at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL from 2007-2016. Ms. Soroko is a member of USA Local 829 in both Scenery and Costumes and holds an MFA from the Yale School of Drama. Some of her notable credits are listed below-Off-Broadway: Scenery for Napoleon at New York Musical Festival; Costumes for *Mariage Blanc* at Playwrights Horizons. Regional: Scenery for Collected Stories, A Long Day's Journey Into Night and My Old Lady for Palm Beach Dramaworks, Scenery for The Tempest, King Lear and Much Ado About Nothing, Costumes for The Merchant of Venice, Twelfth Night, and A Midsummer Night's Dream at NC Shakes; Costumes for Manifest at Portland Stage; Costumes for The Cure at Troy at Yale Rep, Scenery for Pump Boys and Dinettes, Scenery and Costumes for Androcles and the Lion, The Last Romance, Talley's Folly, The Savannah Disputation, Race, The 39 Steps, Costumes for Native Gardens, The Fabulous Lipitones and Beehive: The 60s Musical at Florida Studio Theatre; Costumes for Man of La Mancha, Dracula, Driving Miss Daisy, Hedda Gabler, Gas Light, Mirandolina, Debunked and Suddenly Last Summer at Triad Stage. aprilsoroko.com



Harold Petion, Asst. Stage Mgr.
An FAU graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, Harold Petion is serving as the assistant stage manager for Water by the Spoonful. Being both an actor and tech, he

has been involved in several productions in different capacities, including being cast as Cleomenes/Shepherd in Evergreen Theatre Collective's production of William Shakespeare's XI and as Lloyd Fowler in the film *The Document: On The Run*, serving as stage manager for New City Players' production of *Lungs* by Duncan Macmillan and Theatre Lab's An Afternoon of Short Plays 2019, and directing *Carnality* by Mark Loewenstern for FAU's 2017 10 Minute Play Festival.



Desiraé Merritt, *Lighting Designer*Desiraé is a freelance lighting designer in
South Florida and a recent graduate of Florida
Atlantic University with a BFA in Theatre
Technology and Design. Some of her credits

include *Lungs* with New City Players, *The Illusion* with Florida Atlantic University, and *Ben Butler* with Boca Stage. She is proud to be an NCP ensemble member and would like to thank the generosity and support of everyone in the company.



# Ernesto Gonzalez, Sound Designer

Ernesto K. Gonzalez is a BFA Performance Graduate from Florida International University and a Puerto Rico native. As a company member of New City Players, he acts as

the Community Engagement Manager and Resident Sound Designer; as well as active board member. He is currently the Sound Engineer for the Maltz Jupiter Theatre, having worked in shows such as *I Hate Hamlet* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. He previously did the sound design for *Lungs*, *Falling*, *Macbeth*, and *A Raisin in the Sun*. He's very grateful to all his friends and family for the support and love he receives as he pushes forward on this path. Peace, love, & empathy.

Instagram: @nesto120



# Casey Sacco, Costume Designer

Casey is a local actor and resident costume designer for New City Players. Credits include: Wardrobe Supervisor for *School of Rock* (First National Tour), and Costume Designer

for Lungs (NCP), Armature (Island City Stage), and short films such as Sunny, Two Paths, and The Spot. Her work can also be seen in Island City Stage's next production: One in Two. Actor credits include: Hand To God (Gablestage); Curtains (The Wick); Matilda/Titanic/Tarzan/Shrek (Slowburn); Zanna, Don't!/Shorts Gone Wild (Island City Stage); Sister Act (MNM); and many more.

Website: caseysacco.com



#### Ilana Jael, Dramaturg

Ilana Jael earned her MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Sarah Lawrence College and a BA in Writing and Psychology from Florida Atlantic University's Wilkes Honors College,

where she also served as co-founder of student theatre troupe "Theatre in the Raw." After beginning her theatre journey as an actress, she now focuses mostly on playwriting and criticism, and her short plays have been produced in-person and virtually by New City Players, Theatre Lab, Bob Carter's Actor's Workshop and Repertory Company, and Femuscripts. She is also a current company member of New City Players where she writes regularly for The Build blog. You can check out her theatre criticism at **southfloridatheater.com**!





Rachel Smoker Cox, Fight Coordinator
Rachel Smoker Cox is a proud FSU theatre
graduate. She has worked with several
south Florida theatre companies as an actor,
director, or stage manager including Muse

Center for the Arts, Fort Lauderdale Children's theatre, and the City of Pembroke Pines. She is finishing her 9th year as the drama director at Westminster Academy. Rachel joined NCP during their first season and played the role of Nat in their production of *Rabbit Hole*. She is also a company member and has worked on many of NCP's productions including *True West*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Falling*. Rachel is currently pursuing additional stage combat certifications with the Society of American Fight Directors.



Tim Davis, *Producing Artistic Director*Tim is a theatre and film producer, director, and actor. He is a co-founder of New City
Players, and has produced 15 productions with the company since 2014, spearheading

the vision for works produced, community engagement, fundraising, marketing, and the building of an ensemble. He holds an M.A. in Theatre Studies, received the 2017 Silver Palm Award for Outstanding New Theatre Company, the 2020 Remy Service Award for service to the South Florida Theatre League, and the 2019 Carbonell Award for Best Actor for his acting in New City Players' production of *Falling*. Learn more about his theatre and film work at **timothymarkdavis.com**.



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# From the Producing Artistic Director

First things first. Thank you for being here. I wrote recently in a blog on The Build: "We consume things on our TVs at home. We experience live theatre. There is a distance and comfort when you stay at home and watch a show…We crave connection. We crave intimacy. We crave closeness. Those things are uncomfortable."

Tonight (or today for you wonderful matinee folks) you chose the theater. Which means you chose some discomfort... and I'm so thrilled that you did. This play has been in NCP's consciousness since the summer of 2019. It was our pandemic show, originally planned for May 2020. It's been a long time coming and, honestly, it's more relevant than ever.

I'm truly proud of the work our company has done in mounting this challenging production and connecting it to pressing issues that face our community. We've been pumping out a slew of information regarding substance use disorder, the opioid crisis, harm reduction, and more over on The Build blog. We hosted a forum on addiction and recovery right before rehearsals began and will be hosting another follow up forum on the same topic after the show closes on May 23. And we're hosting talkbacks around these issues and what we can do to help after every Saturday and Sunday matinee.

I want to especially thank our partners United Way of Broward, Care Resource, and FHE Health for providing panelists for our forums and talkbacks and life-saving information and resources throughout this process. I also want to thank the Broward County Cultural Division and our county commissioners for their commitment to the arts in Broward and Funding Arts Broward for their support of this particular production.

It takes a village to mount a successful play production and you, the audience, are the final and essential piece. If you enjoy our production please spread the word and please consider becoming a Front Row Member, our monthly membership where you can have access to original content, exclusive invites, and free tickets. Scan the QR code on the back of your playbill for more information.

Thank you for supporting live theatre. Thank you for supporting the many gifted local artists in your community. Enjoy the show!



Tim Davis

Producing Artistic Director





# Mark your calendar!



#### May 23 | 7-9pm @ Cyth & Co.

A free community conversation around our production of *Water by the Spoonful* and how we can impact our community for the better.

#### newcityplayers.org/forum



#### June 24 | 7-9p @ Cyth & Co.

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New City Players community engagement programming is sponsored by Cyth & Co.

cythco.com

# **About New City Players**

#### WHO WE ARE

New City Players is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, ensemble theatre company based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

#### **OUR MISSION**

To create community through transformative theatre.

#### **OUR VISION**

To help South Florida become a more thoughtful and empathetic community.

#### THE COMPANY

Producing Artistic Director	Tim Davis
Business & Hospitality Manager	Megan DeGraaf
Resident Director	Elizabeth Price
Company Manager	Krystal Valdes
Community Engagement Manager	Ernesto Gonzalez
Marketing Manager	Alex Joyel
Original Content Manager	Casey Sacco
Box Office Manager	Dave Smith
Photographer & Graphic Designer	Ryan Arnst

#### THE ENSEMBLE

Rachel Smoker Cox, Timothy Mark Davis\*, Michael Gioia, Ernesto Gonzalez\*, Ilana Jael, Alex Joyel, Denzel McCausland, Desiraé Merritt, Abby Nigro, Daryl Patrice, Harold Petion, Elizabeth Price\*, Jocelyn Richardson, Marlo Rodriguez, Casey Sacco\*, Krystal Millie Valdes\*

\*Member of the Artistic & Programming Committee

#### THE BOARD

Tim Davis (President), Megan DeGraaf (Secretary), Ernesto Gonzalez, Ilana Jael, Alex Joyel (Chair), Tracy Manning

Fill out a 5 minute survey for a chance to win a free 2022-23 NCP Season Pass!

(These surveys support our grant writing efforts!)



Scan the QR code or go to **newcityplayers.org/survey** 







Photographer. Videographer. Graphic designer. Drone operator. ryanarnst.com

# **Support NCP today!**

New City Players accounts for over 60% of its programming costs through generous giving. Your support is essential in fulfilling our vision of seeing the people in our community become more thoughtful and empathetic.

#### BECOME A FRONT ROW MEMBER

Visit **newcityplayers.org/frontrow** to learn more.

#### **BECOME A SPONSOR**

Contact Tim Davis at **tim@newcityplayers.org** to learn more.

#### MAKE A DONATION

Via online: newcityplayers.org/give, paypal: ncp@newcityplayers.org, venmo: @newcityplayers, or by choosing to support NCP when shopping at smile.amazon.com!

#### **BE AN ADVOCATE**

Forward emails, share social media posts, write your own posts on social media with pictures about your experience, tell someone about the show, or pass out an info card!

New City Players is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your donations are fully eligible for a tax deduction.



# Believe in our mission to create community through transformative theatre?

Join The Front Row and become a monthly member. Scan the QR code to learn more and sign up!



Or go to newcityplayers.org/frontrow