



Cercle Hermaphroditos
a world premiere play by
2019 Annual Parity Commission Winner
Shualee Cook

Zoom Reading
Thursday, March 4th at 3PM EST

In 1895 New York, trans man Ambrose Carlton finds a rare opportunity to beat the restrictively gendered system around him when he meets Laureline Reeves, founder of an underground social club for trans femmes known as the Cercle Hermaphroditos. Ambrose hopes to find a lady at the club he can legally marry, then play the roles expected of them in public while pursuing the life they want in private. But finding the proper match becomes more difficult than he expected, especially after the club is raided by police and the fragile safe place Laureline has created threatens to break apart for good. Based on true historical events.

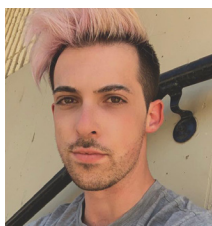
Shualee Cook (she/her) (Playwright) writes theatre as a way of asking questions and figuring out what she thinks of some of the world’s proposed answers. She is the winner of a 2019 Parity Commission, has been a fellow of the Confluence Regional Writers’ Project, and a resident playwright at Tesseract Theatre in Saint Louis and Stage Left Theatre in Chicago. Productions, readings and workshops include *And Certain Women* (Shakespeare Festival St. Louis), *Earworm* (Tesseract Theatre, Campfire Theatre Festival), *Cercle Hermaphroditos* (Stage Left Theatre Summer Reading, Queer Village Reading Series), *An Invitation Out* (Mustard Seed Theatre, Quantum Dragon Theatre, Benchmark Theatre Fever Dream Festival), *Sunset Artists of the American West* (2016 Chicago New Work Festival, About Face Theatre), and *Tempest In A Teapot* (R-S Theatrics, 2016 Idle Muse Athena Festival). She has been a finalist for the 2019 O’Neill National Playwrights Conference, the 2016 Jane Chambers Award, the 2016 David Calicchio Award, and a two-time finalist for the Goodman Theatre Playwrights Unit.



Ludovica Villar-Hauser (she/her) (Director, Artistic Director) Ludovica’s directorial accomplishments include the New York premiere of Otho Eskin’s *Duet*, the world premiere of Teresa Lotz’s *She Calls Me Firefly*, the Off-Broadway world premiere and West End premiere of Gregory Murphy’s *The Countess* (634 Off-Broadway performances), Philip Ridley’s *Leaves of Glass*, and Laura Pedersen’s *For Heaven’s Sake!*, among many other critically-acclaimed productions. Ludovica was the youngest woman ever to simultaneously produce and direct in London’s West End. In the New York theatre industry, she was also one of the few women to own and operate her own theatre — The Greenwich Street Theatre, which she ran for 17 years. She served on the Board of the League of Professional Theatre Women from 2009-2018 and is currently the Producer of its Oral History Project at NYPL for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center.

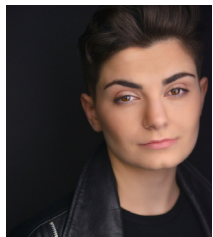
THE CAST

Jordan Ho (xe/she) (Plum Gardner) is a Brooklyn based theatre artist. Credits include: Angel in *RENT* (Secret Theatre), *Blood Fountain* (The High Line), *STONE* (Corkscrew), *Defiant*, *Majestic*, and *Beautiful* (Dixon Place), *Salt Kid Watches Brooklyn Burn* (Joe’s Pub). In-house ingénue with @mondaysintheclub. Find more about xem: mxjordanho.com; @mxbelt #mxho



Kevin Kantor (they/them) (Jennie June) Selected Credits: *Things I Know To Be True* (Milwaukee Repertory Theatre – American Premiere); *Macbeth* (Actors Theatre of Louisville, dir. Les Waters) *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company); *The Many Deaths of Nathan Stubblefield* (Humana Festival of New American Plays); *Othello*, *Twelfth Night*, *Sense and Sensibility* (Island Shakespeare Festival); *And Humbaba Came From His Strong House of Cedar* by Jen Silverman (Iowa New Play Festival). Kevin’s debut full-length collection of poetry *Please Come Off-Book* is now available with Button Poetry @Kevin_Kantor

Stevie Love (they/them) (Laureline Reeves) resides in Chicago! Recent credits: Nonnie in *Poseidon!* (HIAH), Annie/Shelly in *Evil Dead the Musical* (Black Button Eyes) [Joseph Jefferson Award Nod], Helen in Dan Savage's *MIRACLE!* (JEFF and Broadway World Award nods). Other credits: Disney Cruise Line, Steppenwolf Garage, Northlight Theatre, Hippodrome Baltimore, Hell in a Handbag, Pride Films, Red Tape, The New Colony.



JJ Maley (they/them) (Ambrose Carlton) is a producer, actor, writer, director, and consultant. Their recent performing credits include Max (*Love is Love is Love*, Audio/Visual Album), Pete (*The Sperm Play*, Hudson Guild Theater), and Jackie (*Barbies*, Columbia MFA Program). They have received two Tony Nominations for *Indecent* and *What the Constitution Means to Me*. For more information visit jjmaley.com.

Scott Martineck (he/him) (Officer Clark / Gentleman) can be seen in the third season of HBO's *Divorce*, and the film *Boy Meets Girl* (2014). He lives in Brooklyn with his partner. They hope to one day have a cat.



Jonathon Ryan (he/him) (Bertram Templeton) is an NYC-based performer. He was in the Original Off Broadway cast of *FILL FILL FILL FILL FILL FILL FILL FILL* by Steph Del Rosso, published by Dramatists Play Service Inc. He has worked with both internationally-acclaimed and up-and-coming playwrights and directors creating innovative stories and styles of Theatre. Visit www.jonathonryan.net for more information.

Abraham Shaw (he/him) (Officer Leahy / Gentleman) Some Abraham's recent credits include the streamed productions of *Echoes* (The Rev Theatre Company) & *Forgottonia* (Fly North Theatricals). He is the first African American to win 1st Place in the St. Louis Chapter's National Society of Arts and Letters' Drama Competition. He was awarded Second Place in Drama at the national level in Washington D.C. www.abrahamshaw.com



Ianne Fields Stewart (she/her, they/them) (Phyllis Angevine) is a black, queer, lesbian, and nonbinary transfeminine New York-based storyteller working at the intersection of theatre and activism. As a performer, Ianne has worked consistently in productions at NYC venues such as: Joe's Pub, Dixon Place, La Mama, and many more. Film/TV Credits include: *Dash & Lily*, *The Bold Type*, 3-Time Emmy Nominated *The Feels* and *Pose*.

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Bailey Macejak (she/her) (Stage Directions) is a multidisciplinary artist with a focus in theater, currently located in Brooklyn, NY. Her original one-act play *Taught to Fear Blood* was featured at NYWinterfest 2020, and she is soon to be featured in the upcoming Remember Festival with her solo piece, *The Self, Destroyed*. BFA from The New School for Drama. IG: @baileytheconformist



THE CREATIVE TEAM



Jennifer Kranz (she/her) (Company Dramaturg, Producing Artistic Director) An Emmy and Tony award-nominated producer, Jennifer Kranz has spent two decades in production and marketing in entertainment. She was a senior executive at AMC Networks and has held tenures at Cablevision, Time Warner, Lifetime Television, and NBC Universal, where she worked on Top 5 TV businesses such as USA Network, Sci Fi Channel, Lifetime, and Lifetime Movie Network. Along with the work she does proudly for Parity, Jennifer is also Director of Creative Development for Rosalind Productions, a commercial theatrical producing company. She continues to act as a senior-level consultant to the media industry. In addition, Jennifer has been a co-producer on Broadway, earning a Tony nomination and Drama Desk Award for the *The Prom*.

Jennifer has a Masters degree from New York University. She is a voting member of the TV Academy of Arts and Sciences and a board member of NY-based influencer theater company Page 73.

Judith Binus (she/her) (Assistant Director) Director: *Numb is a Freezing Point*, *Red Emma* (Readings); Assistant Director: *She Calls Me Firefly* (SoHo Playhouse, NPTC), *For Heaven's Sake!*, *The Brightness of Heaven!* (Cherry Lane Theatre), *This Will All Be Yours* (MITF), *Final Analysis* (Signature Theatre). Stage Manager (Highlights) Broadway: *A Doll's House*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *A Broadway Musical*, *Hello, Dolly!*; National: *Deathtrap*, *City of Angels*, *Annie*; Opera: Dallas Civic Opera; Dance: Joffrey. Lighting Designer: *The Trojan Women*, *The Lower Depths*, Joffrey II Ballet. Assistant Lighting Designer to Thomas Skelton, Ken Billington, John Gleason, Gil Wechsler. Board member: League of Professional Theatre Women. Founder: Women Count Research Project.



Andreea Mincic (she/her) (Set/Backgrounds & Props Designer) is a visual artist who works as a set and costume designer. Originally from Romania, she settled in New York City where she made friends with other artists. Some of her favorite collaborators are: 31Down, The Builders Association, Big Dance Theatre, Hoi Polloi, Jim Findlay, Radiohole, Mallory Catlett, Susan Marshall, Banana Bag & Bodice, Half Straddle.

Theo Campbell (they/them) (Costume Designer) is a Brooklyn-based costume designer and milliner. Recent design credits include *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* at Crossroads Theatre Company, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* at Hunter College, and *Love: Opera Style* at Westminster Choir College.

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Priscilla Villanueva (she/her, they/them) (Production Manager) is a Brooklyn based Artist. Their recent credits include Theatre for the New City, The Kraine Theatre, Bushwick Starr, Pipeline Theatre Company & Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre. Peace & Love

Casting: Jamibeth Margolis, CSA

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Tickets to the reading are free, with a suggested donation of \$10 if you are in a position to give. Donate at <http://bit.ly/parity-donate>

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