

THE EAGLET

The Episcopal Actors' Guild | Est. 1923 | For All Faiths and None

*Leave it
to EAG...*

**Guild members on stage
at home and abroad**

**Join us for the Annual
Meeting on 9/12**

And much, much more



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MORE AT WWW.ACTORSGUILD.ORG

Little Column

AROUND THE CORNER



The shutdown due to the pandemic mandated certain changes to the way EAG does business. Anyone who has attended one of our excellent programs or support groups on Zoom can attest to that. But what you may not know is that it also caused us to reevaluate how we bring our Annual Membership Meeting to you.

For as long as anyone can remember, we gathered in person (in June) for our Annual Meeting. It was a festive occasion filled with good spirits and fellowship. For the last couple of years pre-pandemic, we met at our headquarters, the Little Church.

When we were forced to close in March 2020, we knew there was no way that the Guild would reopen by June, so we pushed the meeting until September that year. And when it was still unsafe to meet in person, we moved the whole thing to Zoom. When 2021 rolled around, there were still many uncertainties, so we chose to keep it remote, and in September, for another year.

After two years, we noticed some encouraging trends. First and most important, more people attended. *In fact we doubled the attendance.* Many

Guild members, for whom it was too far to travel, were able to attend. Members checked in from California and Texas and DC. We also found it more accessible for those in NYC who are homebound.

Second, members urged us to please keep a September date because travel plans had prevented them from joining us in June.

Third, and most surprising, was that the spirit of love and fellowship, which is an integral part of the Guild, was not lost when holding this important event online. People joined to chat and have a drink together at our virtual happy hour, after the meeting. And almost everyone dressed as if we were all together, in person.

Although we felt it would be safe to meet in person this year, the EAG Council noted all the good that had come out of the pandemic changes and decided to keep it virtual and in September.

I hope you will join us on Monday, September 12th at 5:00 PM ET for the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting. You can join us from Zoom or call in from your telephone. It is sure to be a amazing time!

Until then,

Karen Lehman Foster
Executive Director
karen@actorsguild.org



The Episcopal Actors' Guild of America

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Dispatches from THE EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL



Hello EAG friends and family! We are writing to you from beautiful Scotland where our company, Resolve Productions, is currently presenting *Marrow* by Brian Quirk. As you may know, *Marrow* was a recipient of the EAG Open Stage grant in 2019. It was a career-altering experience for us that allowed playwright Brian Quirk the opportunity to workshop his script for the company to test new staging ideas. The experience also folded us into the beautiful and loving community that is the Episcopal Actors' Guild.

Two years later we now find ourselves at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, performing *Marrow* at the largest art festival in the world. You will be happy to know that the work is receiving rave reviews, with critics proclaiming it to be "Devastatingly beautiful... within the top 1% of theater." The show continues to shine, garnering new fans and accolades every day. *Marrow* will be performed at Assembly Rooms (Front Room), through the end of August. You can learn more about the show and the company at www.marrowtheplay.com.

– Craig MacArthur Dolezel



I'm performing my autobiographical, one-woman classical piano music-story show, *Velvet Determination*, directed by Peter Michael Marino, at the Edinburgh Fringe. It's gigantic! It's like there is a city-wide party going on. So many people and shows, everywhere! Every wall, lamp post, storefront window is decorated with large and small posters of all of the shows. It is so joyous!

When one walks the Royal Mile, there are street performers entertaining and performers passing out fliers, some in funny costumes, talking to people. I have to do it, too, for one to two hours every day. Then I run my show in my apartment (I brought a folding piano that I place on my bed to practice the piano-playing parts) and then perform it for my audience. Then social media: tweeting, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook. AND see three to four other shows every day. And I got an EXCELLENT SHOW review.

Every day is full and rich. Performing, meeting new people, seeing shows, being part of the EdFringe party. So glad I came!!

– Cynthia Shaw

Recipients of OPEN STAGE & THE BARBOUR AWARD



EAG's Open Stage grant welcomed The Skeleton Rep's *The Inconvenient Miracle: A Mysterious Birth Musical* to EAG this August. (l to r) Nicola Barrett, Bella Anaya, Samantha Streich, Cecilia Vanti, Deijah Faulkner, Karen Joy, and Morgan Misk. (Photo: Ahron R. Foster)



EAG welcomed Playwrights Gallery to the Guild Hall stage in June for the Barbour Playwrights Award. Pictured is our 2022 Barbour Award winner Jon Krupp (center) with the cast and director of his winning play *Kilonova*.

Goings-On at GUILD HALL

EAG Stages Its 8th Annual *Small Plates*, an Evening of Short-Play Readings | Mervyn Kaufman

Curated by Betsy Ross, repeating a volunteer assignment she'd undertaken four years earlier, this year's event—on July 21st—presented staged readings of four one-acts penned by EAG-member playwrights. In her welcoming comments, Betsy thanked Leodis Smith for serving as her stage manager, Lydia Kalmen as her cast coordinator, and Rebecca Lovett, EAG's assistant director, for guiding her through the preparation and rehearsal challenges. Betsy later concluded that "there is so much play-writing talent among our membership that we could easily have had two or three *Small Plates*!"

For the past two pandemic years, this event had been staged remotely in a Zoom/Webinar format, thanks to former curator Omar M'sai. But the 2022 "Small Plates" was planned as a live presentation at EAG headquarters in Guild Hall. On performance day, however, it was moved downstairs, to the church sanctuary, which could potentially hold a larger audience. Here are the selected plays plus the program notes:

Brown-Skinned 'BUT Cute??' by Helena-Joyce Wright and directed by Susan Watson-Turner. The cast included the author herself plus C. Kelly Wright, Joseph DiSalle, Michele Baldwin, Traci McCracken, and Jose Sonera. The program noted that "with unflinching honesty, wit and wisdom, the lead character solves the entire racial color conundrum, and—given half a chance—she'll solve all the other problems too!"

Night Train to Attica by Mervyn Kaufman, directed by Elowyn Castle. In the cast: Carolyn M. Carothers, Mike Roche, Jeff Burchfield, and Chris Chinn. The scene: a rickety train to upstate New York, where a career librarian plans to finally meet and marry her pen-pal, an Attica prison inmate. The young woman's fellow passengers include two men who, each in his own way, nudge her to consider changing her mind.

The Mice Will Play by JoAnn Yeoman Tongret, directed by Kathleen Conry. The cast featured Mike Timoney, Richard A. Leigh, and Melinda Tanner. As noted in the program, the play suggests what can happen when "an ineffectual thief meets a useless house-sitter—they share a bucket of beer, a pizza and a deck of tarot cards!"

Where Are Bert and Ernie When You Really Need Them? Written and directed by Thomas A. Cahill, it featured Tarantino Smith, Jim Walsh, and Chris Chinn. From the program notes: "It's a long way from Bedford Falls, but with a little single-malt Scotch and a good winter coat, angels can be found on the Staten Island Ferry at Christmas."

The evening earned top reviews from fellow EAG members and guests, one of whom opined, "Not a lemon in the bunch!" Thus the tradition of *Small Plates* lives on!



Playwright JoAnn Yeoman Tongret (left) poses with husband Alan Tongret (middle) and director Kathleen Conry (right) before this summer's annual production of *Small Plates: A Full Night of Short Plays*.



Volunteer Days are back again! EAG members donated their time to help mail out this year's election ballots. (l to r) Michael McGrath, Robert Hampton (and Blue), Lydia Kalmen, Betsy Ross, Ken Boyd, and Maggie Goodman.



Jane Seaman sings *Hi-Ho, The Glamorous Life* at a benefit concert for EAG. The concert was directed by Sara Louise Lazarus and also featured accompanist Lawrence Yurman and Jane's students TracyLynn Conner, Rebecca Reres, and Max Tartaglia.

Summer is over. I don't even know what that means anymore. Winter, spring, and summer have passed, as if they never existed for me... now I wait for the fall. Interesting term: the FALL! My life, like many of yours, has been a roller-coaster ride throughout this pandemic. We did not see a lot of this coming, but here we are—still here. Still with hope—I hope? I HOPE you have all remained strong and resilient and compassionate and have held on—with tight fists—to your humanity! So I would like to go **BACK TO BASICS!** And recommend the DEI Committee's very **first DIY WITH DEI** from April 2021...with **hope** that we all remember **who** we are and **where** we came from.

 READ: [White Fragility](#) by Dr. Robin Diangelo

 WATCH: ["Let's Get to the Root of Racial Injustice."](#), a TEDx Talk by Megan Ming Francis

 LEARN: ["Justice in June"](#) created by two very young women after George Floyd's murder, this website is geared toward better understanding and becoming an ally with the Black community. It also offers free self-learning and self-discipline courses that only take ten to forty-five minutes a day.

We would also like to remind you that [EAG ❤️ BLM](#) the PSA is available with closed captioning. So please inform your friends who are hearing-impaired that that option is available on YouTube, and continue to like, support, and share the PSA!

If you would like more information on the DEI Committee, please contact Chair Chris Chinn at chrischinn2020@gmail.com.

Two on the Aisle | Jerry Vermilye

One long-ago winter, I heard that New York City Opera was engaging “supers” (non-singing extras) for an upcoming season. To an opera buff, that sounded like fun, so I applied and was soon committed to every performance of seven operas. *Don Rodrigo* starred pre-fame Placido Domingo, whose coronation scene challenged me to maintain a painful kneeling position. My solution: strapped-on pillows under my floor-length costume. And then there was the night in *Carmen* when our guards captain forgot his French and emitted the command “Left face!” As a soldier with my back to the audience, I could afford to smile.

In *Abduction from the Seraglio*, I fingered a dummy mandolin to “accompany” Beverly Sills, who (after deftly stowing her gum offstage) sailed effortlessly through a high-flying aria. For *Der Rosenkavalier’s* spectacular rose-presentation scene, I was among six courtiers dressing the set. Our entrance, down a giant staircase, so obsessed our German director that he insisted on drilling us in precision stair-walking each night before the Act 2 curtain.

Subsequently, NYCO elevated their supers to professional status, signing a select few to season contracts and listing them in the programs as “character mimes.”

I realize that, while I've written about specific archival items and also described larger collections, I've never tried to present the ‘Archive’ as a whole. It's challenging, because ‘Archive’ encompasses so many different types of objects. Probably our largest type is printed materials, but within this grouping we have books (thank you, Maeve McGuire, who has focused us on a reference collection), correspondence (thank you, Kate Gaudio, who compiled about twelve binders specific to EAG presidents, wardens, executive secretaries, etc., and maybe twenty others related to the Guild, Little Church, sister organizations, and general showbiz). But printed materials encompass so much more—posters, magazines, brochures, broadsheets, newspapers, scrapbooks, benefit programs, meeting minutes, financial statements, Memorial addresses—again, with a big “etc.” Then there are photos (thank you, Allan Smith, who compiled more than twenty binders of photos, mostly EAG) including a 3' by 3' photo of Maude Adams as Peter Pan, hundreds of actors' postcards (some signed, others not), large publicity photos, again with a big “etc.” We have physical objects from furniture (Richard Mansfield's desk—his wife was a founding mother—the Joseph Jefferson breakfront, George Holland's secretary, Kate Claxton's full-length mirror) to props, a puppet, medals, pieces of Jefferson's Rip Van Winkle costume, even a lock of his hair. Again—etc. Then there are records, CDs of the Guild's 1940s radio-show, tapes (we very much need help reviewing reel-to-reel tapes if anyone has a recorder and interest in one of the remaining “mystery boxes”), and theater-goer, EAG, and Actors' Church Alliance scrapbooks. I think I've given a glimpse of how broad ‘Archive’ is and how extensive our collections are. If any of this interests you, feel free to join us at the monthly Archives Committee meetings on the third Saturday of the month at noon. For more information: ericstamm@aol.com.

Beyond the Fourth Wall | Mervyn Kaufman

It amazes me—that, even after surviving the Covid-induced theater drought, Broadway audiences must still be nudged to keep their masks on and also silence and stash their cellphones. I mean why would buyers of pricey tickets need to be reminded repeatedly to keep those potentially distracting instruments mute and out of sight? I shake my head as I scan a theater audience and still see phone lights flickering, even as stage lights come on and a performance is about to begin.

What must it be like—to be onstage, aware of those lights and of the distraction they create? Not long ago, no less a personage than Patti LuPone reportedly snatched a phone from an audience member while doing *Shows for Days* at a Lincoln Center theater. And then Tony Award nominee Joshua Henry took a similar action while performing in an off-Broadway musical, *The Wrong Man*.

As *Playbill* noted, Mr. Henry “was singing while an audience member in the first row was using a phone. In mid-performance and without halting the action, the actor reached down and grabbed the phone.” Then, according to a *Times* reporter on the scene, “The actor took the phone and threw it under the seats.” Result: The audience applauded. What a way to stop the show!

Turnley's Turns...EAG Members Appear on Stage and Screen | Rebecca Lovett

JUNE 2022...

On June 4, **Teri Black** and **Susan Richard** appeared in a revival of Break A Leg Productions' staged reading of *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* at The Unity Center.

Out of the Box Theatre Company's June production of five one-act plays by Tennessee Williams, at Bernie Wohl Center, *Five by Tenn*, featured **Marilyn Duryea** in *The Lady of Larkspur Lotion* and **Jeff Burchfield** in *Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen*.

The Laurie Beechman Theatre in Times Square celebrated Pride Month with **Antonia Kasper's True Confessions of the Straight Man**—a retro 90's farce with music—June 9, 24, and 30.

The Little Church's June 10 production of Noye's *Fludde*, a church opera by Benjamin Britten based on a medieval mystery play, starred **Stacey Robinson** as The Voice of God, with **Richard Arthur Olson** and **Betty Howe** reading stage directions and **Claudia Dumschat** conducting.

Jo Yang appeared in the June 20 reading of **Cindy Cooper's** new play *Stones of Tiananmen* as a part of the Vaclav Havel Library Foundation's Rehearsal for Truth Theatre Festival

Xavier Theatre Company brought a reading of **Reynaldo Piniella's** new play *Son of an Unknown Father* to Guild Hall on June 25.

JULY 2022...

J. Dolan Byrnes appeared in the New York Premiere of the Broadway World Award-winning play *A Black and White Cookie*, presented at The Tank Theater July 9-24.

Ann P. Meredith was chosen to participate in *The Rainbow Connection*, a two-week theatre project in Cherry Grove on Fire Island July 18-30 with performance on July 29-30.

After a terrific benefit performance at Guild Hall on June 13, **Jane Seaman** brought her new cabaret show, *Jane Seaman Sings "Hi-Ho, The Glamourous Life"* to The Laurie Beechman Theatre on July 28.

Richard Thomas stars as Atticus in the National Tour of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Peter Von Berg caught the show in Philadelphia in July and said, "He was tremendous!"

AUGUST 2022...

Mary Goggin (*Runaway Princess*), **Joan Kane** (*Almost 13*, director **Bruce Al! Kraemer**), **Cynthia Shaw** (*Velvet Determination*), and **Craig Dolezel** (*Marrow*, directed by **Melissa Firlit**) all took solo shows to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August after performing at 59E59 in NYC as a part of the "East to Edinburgh Series."

SEPTEMBER 2022...

Amy Losi will be appearing in her play *Verse DiVerse* as part of Theater for the New City's Dream Up Festival, September 10 - 16.

Eric Kuzmuk stars as Anton Chekhov in *Dear Anton! Dear Olga!* at Theatre 71 on September 10 and 11.

JOB NOTICES...

Dakota Blue Productions is seeking a PAID front-of-house/box office assistant for her sketch comedy show at Guild Hall on Saturday Night, September 24th, 8pm. Needed: 7:30-8:30pm. Must be familiar with EventBrite Check-in. Compensation negotiable. If you are interested and definitely available, please contact **Monique Roussel** at dakotablueproductions@gmail.com for details.

Swordfish Productions Pictures & Theatricals is seeking submissions from diverse and inclusive cast and crew for the live theatre performance titled *SPECIAL* in 2023. *SPECIAL* is an award-winning stage play about healing from sexual harassment, rape, and sexual assault. Survivors are encouraged to submit. Please email to specialfilm@gmail.com a one-page list with full contact information (NYC street address, zip, email, cellphone number, and website) plus one headshot/resume for actors, or work experience for crew, and a reference.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES...

Interested in becoming a yoga teacher? Our current and former Yoga Monday instructors **Rebecca Ambrose** and **April Evans** will be co-leading a 200-hour yoga teacher-training October 16 to February 12. Reach out to rebecca@thecorner yogastudio.com for more details.

Patricia Angelin will be teaching an Alba Technique Weekend Intensive October 8 - 9. For more information, please visit www.albatechnique.com/intensives.

The Triangle Theatre invites actors of all levels to join the Fall 2022 Acting Class with **Mari Lyn Henry**. Classes will meet on Saturdays September 10 - October 29, at noon. The fee for 8 sessions is \$150 and must be paid in advance. For more information or to register email Erlina Brent at triangletheatre316@gmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS...

Abingdon Theatre Company has announced **Reynaldo Piniella** as one of their new Artists-in-Residence for their upcoming 30th season beginning in the fall. Reynaldo has also been named one of New Victory Theater's LabWorks Artists for 2022-23—a cohort of BIPOC artists, including LGBTQIA+—that is leading the charge in creating original works for young audiences.

Brian Glover was selected to be a participant in New York Theatre Workshop's Summer 2022 Mind the Gap, Intergenerational Workshop. The readings of the resulting work-in-progress plays took place August 15.

COMING SOON TO EAG

Click on the name of the event below to purchase tickets/register/RSPV.

More info at actorsguild.org/calendar

reservations@actorsguild.org

212-685-2927

EAG's Annual Membership Meeting

Monday, September 12 at 5:00pm ET on Zoom

FREE. Open to EAG Members. RSVP required: ticketstripe.com/eag-annual-meeting-2022

It's that time of year again! EAG's Annual Membership Meeting is a place where Guild members can be informed of the good work we have accomplished together, in the past year, and what's in store for the year ahead. Plus, the results of the 2022 Council Elections will be announced! (And don't forget to enter the 50/50 raffle at actorsguild.org/store/p18/raffle-ticket-2022.)

Artist Afternoon

Grantwriting for Indie Artists and Small Theatre Companies with Randi Berry

Wednesday, September 21 at 4:30pm ET on Zoom

FREE. Space is limited. Registration is required: ticketstripe.com/eag-aa-grantwriting

Have a nuts-and-bolts conversation with Randi Berry, co-founder and executive director of IndieSpace/Indie Theater Fund, on all things grants and funding. We will focus on applications and funder meetings, opportunities for individual artists and small companies and other tips and tricks/dos and don'ts. Bring your questions and be prepared to discuss obstacles you've faced seeking financial support for your work, as this will be a conversational hour and a half and not a lecture.

Artist Afternoon

Truth and Storytelling Through Song with Jennifer Fouché

Wednesday, October 12 at 2:00pm ET in Guild Hall

FREE. Space is limited. Registration is required: ticketstripe.com/eag-aa-truth-song

In this two-hour workshop with Broadway actress and EAG Council Member **Jennifer Fouché**, students will focus on truth and groundedness in their singing and review some vocal techniques as a means of achieving effective storytelling through song.

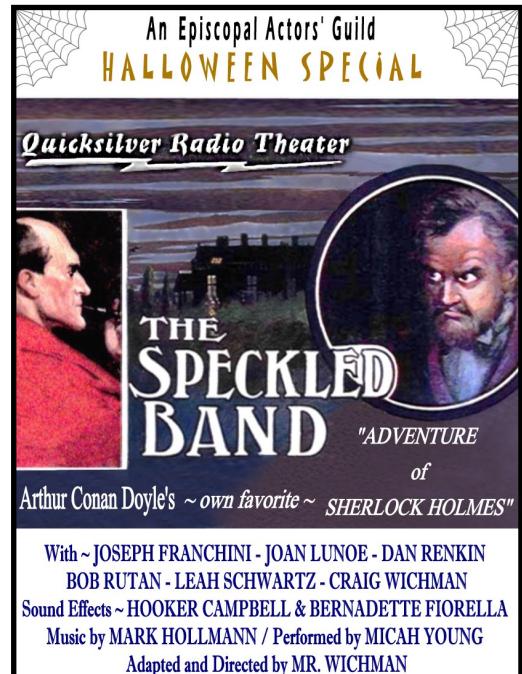
Quicksilver Radio Theater presents

The Speckled Band: An Adventure of Sherlock Holmes

Monday, October 17 at 7:00pm ET in Guild Hall

Pay-What-You-Will Tickets at ticketstripe.com/eag-speckled-band

Quicksilver Radio Theater is proud to return again to Guild Hall in their award-winning Sherlock Holmes production, from the story which was a favorite of its original author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The Great Detective and The Good Doctor are pitted against a psychotic villain in a race against time to stop the bizarre murders in an eerie country manor. With **Joseph Franchini, Joan Lunoe, Dan Renkin, Bob Rutan, Leah Schwartz, and Craig Wichman**. Sound Effects: **Hooker Campbell and Bernadette Fiorella**. Music by **Mark Hollmann**, Performed by **Micah Young**. Adapted and Directed by **Mr. Wichman**.



Open House New York

Celebration of Song: Welcome Back, New York!

Sunday, October 23 at 1:30pm ET in the Little Church

FREE and Open to the Public. No RSVP Needed.

OHNY Weekend provides public access to hundreds of places that define our city's past, present, and future. As part of this special weekend, the Church of the Transfiguration and EAG are teaming up for a special afternoon concert featuring New York songs from the 1800s to today, including some songs about the Little Church.

EAG's Annual Memorial Service

Sunday, November 13 | 3:00pm ET in the Little Church

FREE and Open to the Public. No RSVP Needed.

This event will be live-streamed by the Little Church on YouTube.

Since 1925, members of NYC's performing arts community have gathered together to honor and celebrate those colleagues we have lost in the previous year. This heartfelt event will include music by Claudia Dumschat and the Church of the Transfiguration Choir of Men and Boys and Girls, personal reflection, a reading of the names, and a call for one final standing ovation. The traditional Evensong service will be led by Father John David van Dooren. In lieu of a traditional collection, **please consider making a donation to EAG's Children's Holiday Fund**, which provides a grant to EAG's performing-artist clients with small children during the holiday season.

FREE RECURRING EVENTS AT EAG...

Actors Night

Third Tuesday of the Month (September 20, October 18, November 15) at 7:00pm ET in Guild Hall

Register for each month's FREE class at ticketstripe.com/eag-actors-night

Actors Night with **Peter Von Berg** is a judgment-free zone, where EAG members can work on monologues, scenes, commercial copy, cold readings, your own material—anything!—before a group of supportive and talented fellow artists. Whether or not you get constructive feedback is up to you.

Sustainable Conversations

Mondays, September 26, October 24, and November 28 at 7:00pm ET on Zoom

Register for each month's FREE forum at ticketstripe.com/eag-sustainable-conversations

Author/actress/EAG Member **Helena-Joyce Wright**, actor/EAG Council/DEI Committee chair **Chris Chinn**, and members, staff, and friends of EAG are continuing our monthly Zoom discussions centered around race and racism in America and in the arts.

The Intentional Artist

Tuesdays, September 27 through December 13 at 1:00pm ET on Zoom

Register for this FREE workshop by emailing karen@actorsguild.org

Join our safe space to set a creative intention and receive accountability and support to achieve your goals. We will be reading *The Creative Habit* by Twyla Tharp, for inspiration.

Yoga Mondays

Every Monday | 1:00pm ET on Zoom

Register for this FREE weekly class by emailing reservations@actorsguild.org

Stretch, strengthen, and start your week right with some soul-soothing yoga with **Rebecca Ambrose**. (45 min.)

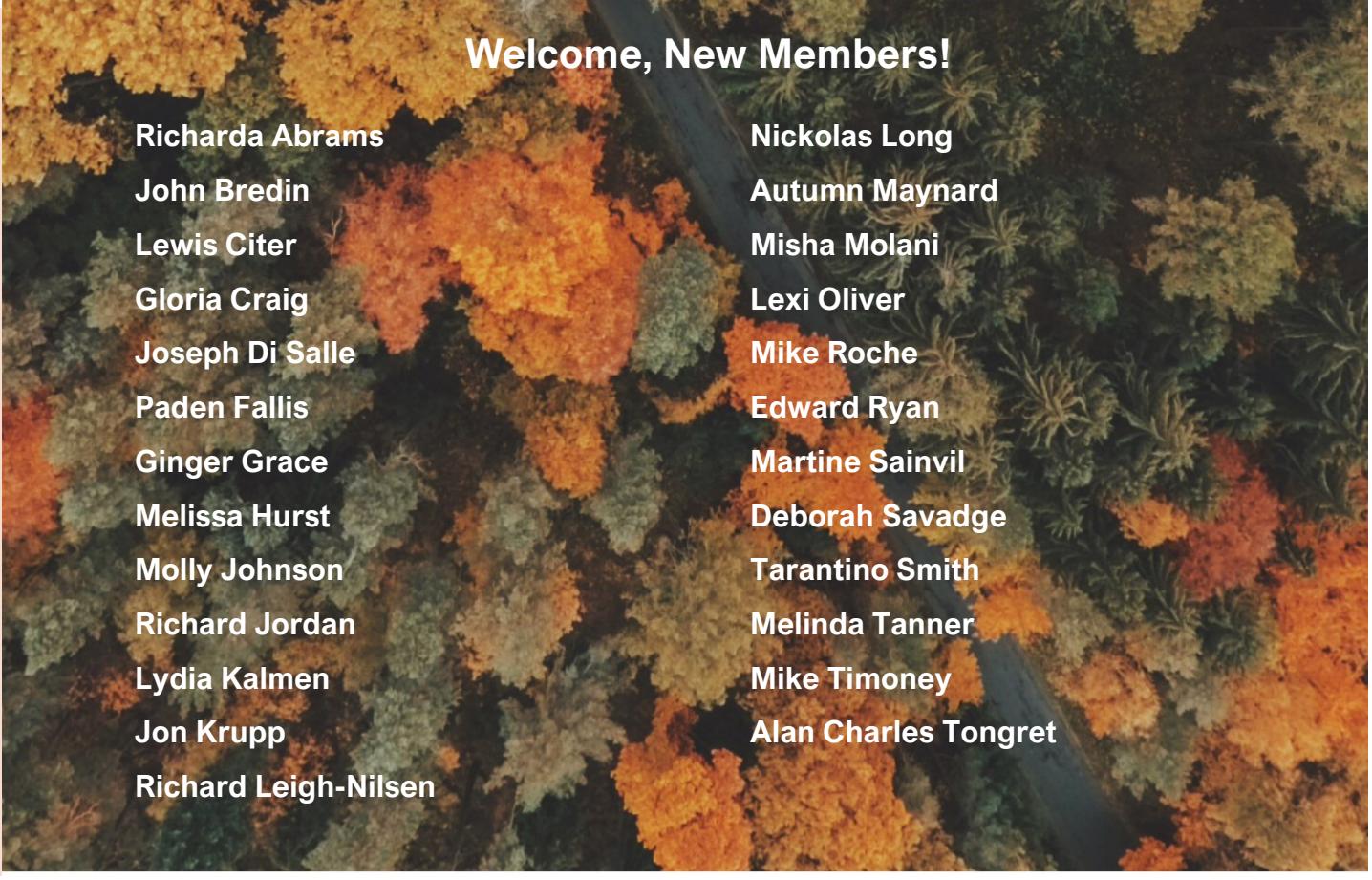
Pilates with Marla

Tuesdays at 10:30am ET + Thursdays at 2:30pm ET on Zoom

Register for these FREE classes by emailing reservations@actorsguild.org

Stretch, work that core, and have fun with certified personal trainer **Marla Altberg**. (45 min.)





Welcome, New Members!

Richard Abrams

John Bredin

Lewis Citer

Gloria Craig

Joseph Di Salle

Paden Fallis

Ginger Grace

Melissa Hurst

Molly Johnson

Richard Jordan

Lydia Kalmen

Jon Krupp

Richard Leigh-Nilsen

Nickolas Long

Autumn Maynard

Misha Molani

Lexi Oliver

Mike Roche

Edward Ryan

Martine Sainvil

Deborah Savadge

Tarantino Smith

Melinda Tanner

Mike Timoney

Alan Charles Tongret



**The Episcopal Actors' Guild
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