

RAPID LEMON PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS

THE 22ND ANNUAL TEN-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL IN BALTIMORE

VARIATIONS ON silence

DIRECTED BY JANIS HANNON

JULY 10-26, 2026

THE PLAYS AND PLAYERS

"The Void's Had Enough of Your Noise"

by Colin Tillery

Jules – Alexys Adams
MacKenzie – Cat Bustos
Jordan – Steven Forrester
The Void – Caleb Madison
Jesse – Jae Jones
Abbie - ReginaGinaG

"Things Unsaid"

by Regan Marie Nelson

Ben – Steven Forrester
Stephanie – Alexys Adams
Charge Nurse – Cat Bustos

"Can You Hear Me Now?"

by Wendy Matt

Chris – Caleb Madison
Patrick – Jae Jones

"Voicemail"

by Gabe Fremuth

Phyllis – Cat Bustos
Joe – Steven Forrester
Sally – ReginaGinaG

"Moving In"

by Allison Chen

Dad – Jae Jones
Justin – Caleb Madison
Lucia – Alexys Adams
Mom - ReginaGinaG

"Body Language"

by Taylor Leigh Lamb

Ty – Steven Forrester
Alex – Cat Bustos
Jade – Alexys Adams

Partygoers – Jae Jones, Caleb Madison, ReginaGinaG

There will be a brief intermission between acts.

"On Hold"

by Douglass E. Smith Jr.

The Body – Jae Jones
Woman – Alexys Adams
Representative – Cat Bustos
Officer – ReginaGinaG

Passersby – Steven Forrester, Caleb Madison

"Save the Monarchs"

by Tia Nellie

Monnie – Alexys Adams
Rayn – Cat Bustos
Sionna – ReginaGinaG

Character – Caleb Madison

"Who Cares?"

by Alfonso Morales-Escobar

Hope - ReginaGinaG

"Dark Matter Department of Community Services"

by Deborah Carry-Amland

Carrie – Cat Bustos

DM – Jae Jones, Steven Forrester

"Waiting for You"

by Mae Philippe-Auguste

Sky – Cat Bustos

Sky's Girlfriend – Alexys Adams

"Gus"

by Natasha Joyce
and Martin Thompson

Sam – ReginaGinaG
Gus – Caleb Madison
Miles – Steven Forrester
Veronica – Alexys Adams
Buff Boy – Jae Jones
Alexa – Cat Bustos

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Janis Hannon
Stage Manager	Jackie Glenn
Intimacy / Combat Choreographer	Mel Gabel
Fight Captain	Caleb Madison
Set Designer	Steve Sawicki
Lighting Designer	Martin Sundiata
Costume Designer	Tim Clark
Sound / Video Designer	Max Garner
Assistant Stage Manager	Waverly Johnson

VARIATIONS 2027: YOU PICK THE THEME!

Next year, we will present the 23rd annual Variations Project. As always, the theme will be chosen by audiences at this year's show. Look for three milk bottles in the lobby. Your donation is your vote! The theme that collects the most will be announced at our closing performance on July 26.



THANK YOU for supporting Baltimore's ten-minute play festival!

MEET THE LEMONS



ALEXYS ADAMS (she/her) is a DMV-based theater, film, and TV actor who turned a 2020 plot twist into a full-blown calling. A proud graduate of the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, Alexys sharpened her craft with grit, glamor, and just the right amount of diva sparkle. She made her Baltimore debut in *Blood at the Root* at Fells Point Corner Theatre, followed by *Floating Down to Camelot* at Spotlighters, *The Trip to Bountiful* at Arena Players and Dan Rodricks' *No Mean City*. She dedicates this production to her amazing late father, Keith Adams, who always believed her star would rise.



CAT BUSTOS (she/her) is thrilled to be working with Rapid Lemon for the first time. She grew up just outside Chicago and holds a degree in theater from Indiana University. Previous Baltimore theater credits include: *The Complete Works of Jane Austen Abridged* (Manor Mill Playhouse), *The Long Christmas Ride Home* (Strand Theater), *Clybourne Park* (Spotlighters) and *Our Town* (Manor Mill Playhouse). In addition to acting, she has also designed the lighting for multiple projects with Manor Mill Playhouse and directed *Floating Down to Camelot* (Spotlighters) as part of Baltimore Playwrights Festival 2025.

DEBORAH CARRY-AMLAND (she/her) is excited to be a part of the Variations Project for the third time! Her other plays include "Three Cucumbers" and "A Thing for The Thing" in *Variations on Vision* and *Variations on Holidays* respectively. Deb is a mom of two cool kids. She works for the State, and kinda likes Vagon poetry as it turns out, but daydreams about early retirement. Often. She writes routinely at a weekly neighborhood writers' group, and spends some of her free time waving signs on a highway overpass.

ALLISON CHEN (she/her) is excited to be a part of The Variations Project for the first time. As a performer she has appeared in productions with the Johns Hopkins University Theatre and Spotlighters Theatre, and she is happy to be making her playwriting debut with Rapid Lemon Productions.

TIM CLARK (he/him) is a student artist and designer pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre (Design and Production) at University of Maryland Baltimore County. He specializes in costume design, but also has experience in scenic painting and welding. Recent work includes costume designing for Nikki Hartman's *Doll Parts...* at The Voxel and assistant costume designing for *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* at UMBC. More of his work and portfolios can be found at www.timothytclark.com. He would like to thank the director and Rapid Lemon Productions for the opportunity!



STEVEN "TRELIS" FORRESTER (he/him) is a multidisciplinary artist within his hometown of Baltimore and has worked with different local organizations/theaters as a teaching artist, mentor, actor, and assistant stage manager (Dance & Bmore, Arts for Learning, Spotlighters Theatre, The Voxel). He recently debuted in the August Wilson Celebration production of *Seven Guitars* as Canewell. Art is his passion and he dedicates his time and energy to perfecting his craft. "Everyone is born to excel, somehow and somewhere. Everybody is exceptional and extraordinary at being who they are. Don't lose it trying to be someone else."

GABE FREMUTH (he/him) works at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education's Center for Technology in Education. He is also an actor, having most recently appeared in *How to Transcend a Happy Marriage* in 2025. He has placed in screenplay competitions and written several published comic books. It's a joy to be a part of the long-running Variations Project and he hopes to be a part of many more to come!

A graduate of Towson University, **MEL GABEL** (she/they) is a fight and intimacy choreographer celebrated for crafting electrifying scenes onstage. She is ecstatic to be involved in her fifth stint with Rapid Lemon, and even more thankful to the cast and crew of *Variations on Silence* for their warmth and openness. With credits including *From East, Like the Sun*, *Variations on Night* and *...on Courage*, *Honey Bee Baby*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Ragtime*, *Uncle Vanya*, and other projects, Mel brings a wealth of experience to each collaboration, to deliver captivating and safe fight sequences. For inquiries and bookings, email themelgabel@gmail.com.

MAX GARNER (he/him) founded Rapid Lemon Productions in 2012, and is proud to serve on the Board of the Baltimore Small Stage Coalition. Max is best known for his design work – his soundtracks have appeared with AXIS, Mother Lode, PTB, Mongrel, Rep Stage, The Flying Tongues, CTA, Top Floor, Run of the Mill, TMC, Arena Players, FPCT, Cohesion, Single Carrot, FTS, and RLP; and in professional productions at Coppin State, Morgan State, Loyola, Towson, and Catholic Universities. Baltimore's small arts companies are driving what's good about our community, and deserve our support! Info: www.rapidlemon.org.

JACKIE GLENN (she/her) is incredibly excited to be stage managing her second production! In 2019, she graduated with degrees in theatre and English from Washington College, where she was credited with directing, assistant stage management, props design, dramaturgy, and various crew roles for 14 different productions. She's worked for several Baltimore theaters, including Center Stage, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, and the Hippodrome; in addition to stage managing for Strand and working on several previous Rapid Lemon shows. She's grateful to her partner and their cats for keeping her company while working on late night reports.

JANIS HANNON (she/her) graduated from Kean University in 2019 with a degree in theatre design and technology. Her credits include stage manager for Rapid Lemon Productions shows *The Book of Grace* (2024), *Variations on Courage* (2024), *Honey Bee Baby* (2025), *Variations on Night* (2025), and *From East, Like the Sun* (2026). She also stage managed Strand's production of *Rarefied Air* (2025). Janis is currently a production assistant at Hippodrome Theatre. Outside of theater, Janis works as a special effects makeup artist and scare actor with Field of Screams Maryland, Hera's Nightmare, and The Final Bell Haunted School House.

WAVERLY JOHNSON (she/her) aims to study art history at Towson University to become a museum curator while also bettering her sewing skills to cosplay alongside her awesome sister. She has been involved with theater for a long time, especially in her high school's drama club. In her senior year, she co-directed *Doubt* (2025) with her peers and portrayed Matthew Markinson in *A Few Good Men* (2026). She has worked with Rapid Lemon before as an assistant stage manager for *Variations on Night* and is more than thrilled to be back to help her theater aunt Janis in her director duties!



JAE JONES (he/him) is a Baltimore-based actor working in theater and film. His credits include *Seven Guitars*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Little Women*, *Dontrell*, *Who Kissed the Sea*, *Evita*, and *Variations on Courage*. He has performed with Sisters Freehold, Spotlighters, Arena Players, Silhouette Stages, and the Baltimore Rock Opera Society. Jae is excited to return to the Rapid Lemon stage. He is drawn to character-driven stories that explore identity and community. A trained tenor and dancer, he performs in freestyle, hip-hop, and Latin styles; is bilingual in English and Spanish, and brings strong physicality and presence to his work on stage and screen.

NATASHA JOYCE (she/her) is a writer based in Baltimore. Her work has appeared in *Points in Case*, *Slackjaw*, *Unstaged Magazine*, and yes, even Substack. She holds an MFA in Screenwriting from UCLA and works in media accessibility.

TAYLOR LEIGH LAMB (she/her) is a Baltimore-based writer and theater-maker. The power of art as a tool to impact social change is something Taylor strongly believes in. Following that value has led her to playwriting, working at regional theaters, writing and editing for publications, producing independent web series, and more. Taylor's short plays have been presented by Two Strikes Theatre Collective, Rapid Lemon Productions, West Side Show Room, Have We Met Productions, and Playwrights' Round Table. A book-in-hand production of her full-length play *You Too?* opened Strand Theater's 16th season and was further developed as part of The Playwrights Realm's *Scratchpad Series*.



CALEB MADISON (any pronouns), based in Baltimore, is still taking his first steps as an actor. Most recently he appeared as Ellis in Rapid Lemon's world premiere of *From East, Like the Sun*, and as Caliban in *The Tempest* with Devil's Isle Shakespeare Company. He is excited to be part of another world premiere!

WENDY MATT (she/her), according to legend, emerged from the womb with a pen in hand. While that may not be entirely accurate, she has been writing stories for most of her life. About a year ago Wendy began to explore playwriting, deviating from her repertoire of essays, short stories and poems. "Can You Hear Me Now?" is her first fully staged work. When not typing on a screen, Wendy can be found hiking, traveling, dabbling in pottery and other crafts, and keeping her mind sharp at NDMU's Renaissance Institute. Wendy is excited to be part of this year's Variations Project lineup.

ALFONSO MORALES-ESCOBAR (he/him) is a trilingual playwright, screenwriter, and poet based in Washington, DC. Alfonso was born in Córdoba, Veracruz, Mexico, carrying the weight of Indigenous, African, and Italian ancestry in his blood. His writing does not merely tell stories; it challenges, provokes, and in his hands, feelings become characters and lifelines, exposing raw truths about struggle, love, and resilience. Whether his work changes the world for better or worse is not his concern; only that it changes it.

TIA NELLIE (she/her) is a playwright, actor, and multidisciplinary creative from Baltimore. Her work "Eyeballs" was featured in the 2024 Variations Project, and she is so ecstatic to share "Save the Monarchs" with everyone this year. Some of her performing credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *The Comedy of Errors* at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company; and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* at ArtsCentric. Tia is a proud alumna of Towson University, where she earned her BFA in Acting. When not writing or on stage, Tia enjoys dancing, and finding the best places to hike in the DMV.

REGAN MARIE NELSON (she/her) is an Anne Arundel County based playwright, director, actress and producer who has been active in regional theater since childhood. She is the founder of Write Here Onstage, which only produces plays written by area playwrights. "Things Unsaid" is her 8th script to be produced in Maryland, preceded by "The Set Up," "Anyone But You," "A Bloody Double Cross," "Til Death Do Us Start," "Be A Doll and Die!" (Murder Mystery), "For Better Or For Crying Out Loud" and "The Monster Match." Learn more about her work at regannelsontheatre.com.

MAE PHILIPPE-AUGUSTE (she/her) is a Baltimore-based actor, singer, playwright, and educator. She has acted in shows for Maryland Ensemble Theatre, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Fells Point Corner Theatre, and Vagabond Players. She has also sung in cabarets with StillPointe Theatre and Dance & Bmore as well as at events for the Greater Baltimore Section, National Council of Negro Women. In addition to her performing, Mae works as a teaching artist for The Lyric, Baltimore Shakespeare Factory, and Theatreworks Live. She has also produced several audiobooks.

WWW.RAPIDLEMON.ORG



REGINAGINAG (she/her) began her acting journey during the pandemic and has been chasing the stage ever since. Credits include *Seven Guitars*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *For Colored Girls*, and original productions like *The African Singularity*, *Variations on Night*, *Working for Crumbs* and *Redemption's Last Call*. She is also a writer, host, and storyteller, drawn to work that celebrates resilience, complexity, and joy; especially stories rooted in Black womanhood. Whether on stage or behind the mic, ReginaGinaG brings heart, humor, and intention to everything she touches. Her dream is to perform in regional theaters all along the East Coast, sharing stories that move, challenge, and heal.

STEVE SAWICKI (he/him) is excited to work with Rapid Lemon Productions again. Steve serves as the scenic designer and technical director with the St. Paul's Schools, where he also teaches technical theater classes. A 2021 graduate of Kent State University with an MFA in technical production, Steve has designed for West Virginia Public Theatre, Kent State University, and more than 15 productions at St. Paul's.

DOUGLASS E. SMITH JR. (he/him) is a Baltimore-based playwright and storyteller whose work explores emotional truth, identity, and the complexities of human connection. His writing centers intimate, thought-provoking narratives that challenge audiences to confront silence, memory, and personal reckoning. His recent work includes "On Hold," featured here, and selections recognized by the *Maryland Bards Poetry Review*. Douglass is committed to creating impactful, purpose-driven stories across stage, film, and literature, with a focus on community and healing through art. This is his first production with Rapid Lemon Productions.

MARTIN SUNDIATA (he/him) is a graduate of Morgan State University with a bachelors in theatre arts. He is very excited to work with RLP again. Credits include *The Long Christmas Ride Home* (Strand Theater); *Treemonisha*, *Street Scene* (Morgan State Opera); *Honey Bee Baby*, *From East Like the Sun*, *Variations on Change*, *...on the End*, *...on Courage*, and *...on Night* (Rapid Lemon Productions); *The Color Purple*, *Aida*, *Once on this Island* (MSU Musical Theatre). He also directed his original work *Dream and Disconnect* at the Turpin Lamb Theatre in April 2022. You can see more of his work at MartinSundiata.com.

MARTIN THOMPSON (he/they) writes about the true and the strange. His stories and poems have appeared in *Thin Air Magazine*, *Reference Mollusk*, *The Cellar Door* anthology, *Ithaca Short Film Festival*, and *Capital Fringe* among others. He is the Founding Editor of *Unstaged Magazine*. Baltimore is his home.

COLIN TILLERY (he/him) is thrilled to be a part of *Variations on Silence*! Previous Rapid Lemon credits include: *Variations on Vision* (2020) and *Courage* (2024) as both ensemble and playwright, and *Variations on Holidays* (2021) as ensemble. Other recent credits include *The Heidi Chronicles* (Vagabond Players), *Trouble in Mind* (FPCT), *Floating Down to Camelot* (Spotlighters), and *King Lear* (BSF). Many thanks to Rapid Lemon, Janis, and the cast and crew. Much love to family and friends for their eternal support. Special thanks to JT and our very own shadow pups Max, Bam, and Willow.



Thank you MSAC!

The work of Rapid Lemon Productions is supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council.

To discover more about how they impact Maryland, visit msac.org.



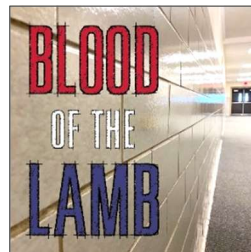
Rapid Lemon Productions is proud to be a founding member organization of the Baltimore Small Stage Coalition, born in 2022 with the purpose of restarting collective auditions in the region.

BSSC is committed to mutual support, advocacy, and collaboration to benefit the rich network of non-equity theaters in our area.

www.bmoresmallstages.org



COMING NEXT FROM RAPID LEMON PRODUCTIONS



Blood of the Lamb
by Arlene Hutton

Regional Premiere, August 28–September 13

Nessa is pregnant. She finds herself detained in a Texas airport with Val: a court-appointed attorney assigned to represent her fetus. With new laws in place Nessa will not be allowed to leave the state until she after she gives birth, even though both women know that the baby is deceased and Nessa's life is at risk. Can Val be persuaded to go against her convictions, risking her career to help Nessa escape?

This is a searing political and personal drama about life, death, and freedom in post-Roe America. A 2025 Drama Desk Award nominee for Outstanding Play, *Blood of the Lamb* won the Critics Circle Award at the Adelaide Fringe Festival. Jalice Ortiz-Corral directs.

2026 is our 15th great season, and we don't want you to miss a minute. Tickets are available now!

Use this handy QR code, or go to www.rapidlemon.com/tickets.

