



**Rorschach**  
THEATRE *we are what you see.™*

BY KATE HAMILL  
DIRECTED BY  
REBECCA ROVEZZI

# DRA CULA

A FEMINIST  
REVENGE FANTASY,  
REALLY

October 14 -  
November 6, 2022

Firehouse at The Parks at Historic Walter Reed

# DRACULA

A FEMINIST REVENGE FANTASY, REALLY

By Kate Hamill

Directed by  
Rebecca Rovezzi

**Set Design**

Sarah Markley

**Sound Design**

Kenny Neal

**Costume Design**

Sydney Moore

**Lighting Design**

James Morrison

**Fight Choreography**

Casey Kaleba

**Props Design**

Mercedes Blankenship

**Intimacy Choreography**

Megan Behm

**Vocal Coach**

Jen Rabbitt Ring

**Stage Management**

Caraline Jeffrey (Season Stage Manager)

Jen Katz (Assistant Stage Manager)

**Cast:**

VAN HELSING: Phoenix Cross

RENFIELD: Christina Day

JONATHAN HARKER: Conor Patrick Donahue

SEWARD: Erik Harrison

LUCY WESTENRA: Bri Houtman

DRUSILLA/MILLER/MERCHANT: Marissa Liotta

MINA HARKER: Jessica Ludd

MARILLA/MAID: Jolene Mafnas

DRACULA: Ben Topa

**Production Manager and Technical Director:**

Adam B. Ferguson

**Asst. Costume Design:** Ashlynn Ludwig

**Asst. Lighting Design and Master Electrician:**

Dean Leong

**Additional Set Construction and Electrics:**

Sydney Bronaugh, Kat Darnell, Sean Flaherty,

Val McFatter.

**Understudies:** Maryanne Henderson, Dannielle

Hutchinson, Andrew Quilpa, Kaeli Patchen, &

Daniel Riker

**Box Office Manager:** Michael Kyrioglu

**House Manager:** Kelsey Jenkins

# Rorschach

## THEATRE *we are what you see.™*

**Jenny McConnell Frederick and Randy Baker**  
**Artistic Directors**

Through uncommon uses of environment and intimate passionate performances, Rorschach Theatre seeks to lure its audiences beyond the limits of ordinary theatrical experience so that they may discover new elements of their own humanity.

Rorschach Theatre tells stories that allow for innovative design and visceral performances. The company treats productions as "installations" that surround the audience with the world of a play. The work centers on the intersection of magic or impossible moments and every day human experiences. Without proselytizing, it provides a complex, intellectual catalyst for self-exploration of challenging subjects.

In addition to its regular season, Rorschach produces "Magic in Rough Spaces," an annual new play development series; "Klecksography," an annual new artist development event (for actors, local playwrights, and directors); and "Fight Camp," a stage combat training program held every summer.

**[rorschachtheatre.com](http://rorschachtheatre.com) \* [facebook.com/rorschachtheatre](https://facebook.com/rorschachtheatre) \* [@rorschachdc](https://twitter.com/rorschachdc)**





# ABOUT THE CAST



**PHOENIX CROSS (Dr. Van Helsing)** is an actress and writer in the DMV. Phoenix has had the pleasure of performing in a myriad of on stage as well as film projects. She also has performed and been a member with Quest: Visual Theatre company where she learned ASL (American Sign Language). While being a member she has traveled and performed in various cities in USA. She has also performed internationally in Australia and Hong Kong. Phoenix has had training in pantomime, clown work and stage combat and is truly a physical performer. Phoenix is thrilled to be apart of another Rorschach production and thanks them for once again, believing in their ability to show up and show out! Phoenix would like to thank their family and friends for all their love and support.



**CHRISTINA DAY (Renfield)** is an actor, circus arts entertainer, and proud VCU Theatre alumni. She is excited to be crawling out of the coffin and returning to Rorschach Theatre after playing Agnes in *She Kills Monsters*. Christina has also worked with The Hub Theatre (*Andi, The Burn*), Imagination Stage, Happy Theater, Wit's End Puppets, Flying V Theater, Venus Theatre, and performed in the IAAPA award winning juggling show *Ed-Zoo-Cation Team* for two seasons at Hersheypark.



**CONOR PATRICK DONAHUE (Jonathan Harker)** is excited to make his debut at Rorschach Theatre! Regional credits include: *The Lifespan of a Fact* (North Carolina Stage Company); *The Thanksgiving Play* (Olney Theatre Center); *Escape from Peligro Island* (Imagination Stage); *Treasure Island* (Synetic Theater); *Dog Sees God* (Prologue Theatre); *The Nutcracker* (Puppet Theater Co); *Lobby Hero, Appropriate* (Silver Spring Stage). Conor is a graduate of the Studio Acting Conservatory in Washington DC, and holds a BA in Theater from Warren Wilson College. Conor is proud to be represented by Alenah Marie Riffle with MVP Sports & Entertainment Management. Find him on Instagram: @conorundun



**ERIK HARRISON (Dr. Seward)** is an actor, writer, and director. He was last on stage as part of Rorschach Theatre's critically acclaimed immersive experience *Chemical Exile: Synthesis*, and is frequently heard as one of the writer/performers for the radio sitcom *Granola Park Radio* broadcast by WOWD-LP and produced by The Coil Project, the theater company he co-founded in 2014, and where he served as the original Artistic Director. DC stage credits include work at Avant Bard, 4615 Theatre, Nu Sass Productions, Brave Spirits Theater, and Off The Quill.



**BRI HOUTMAN (Lucy Westenra)** is a D.C. based actor making her Rorschach debut as Lucy Westenra in this feminist retelling of "Dracula". Bri graduated from George Washington University last May receiving a B.A. in both theatre and criminal justice and since has participated in two shows with the Endangered Species Theater Company in roles including Ophelia in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Bri is passionate about using her talent and unique background to make fresh and dynamic art whether it be on screen or stage. You can see them next in *Gloria: A Life* with Theater J this March as part of the ensemble.



**MARISSA LIOTTA (Drusilla, Merchant, Miller)** is a DC-based actor making her Rorschach Theatre debut. She was most recently seen in Theater Alliance's *Do You Feel Anger* as Eva. Other past credits include Margaret/Seacoal in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Grassroots Shakespeare DC) and the Witch in *Rapunzel* (Kaleidoscope Theatre Company). She holds a Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre from Catholic University.



**JESSICA LUDD (Mina Harker)** is thrilled to be working with Rorschach again after making her DC stage debut last year as Beatrice in Rorschach's *Distance Frequencies*. She is doubly excited to approach a *Dracula* adaptation for the second time in a row this year, as she was most recently seen as Lucy in The Coil Project's production of *Forgotten Monsters of Filmland*. Jessica has recently completed conservatory training at the Maggie Flanigan Studio and strives to challenge and surprise herself artistically.



**JOLENE MAFNAS (Murilla/Maid)** is an actor based in Washington DC. She grew up on stage as a trained dancer for 13 years, but in college, she found her love of acting. She has had lead and supporting roles in various plays as well as short and feature films. Her favorite theater roles she's played are Asuncion in *Asuncion*, Dave in the staged reading of *Hot Pot At The End Of The World*, and Michelle in *Debris*. Jolene is excited to be making her Rorschach Theatre debut as Marilla/Maid in *Dracula*. She is also cast as Actor 2 in Workhouse Performing Arts upcoming production of *Women Playing Hamlet* which will open on December 3rd. To keep up with Jolene follow her on instagram @joolenem.





**BEN TOPA (Dracula)** is a DC native thrilled to make his Rorschach debut. He recently graduated from Harvard College, where he studied Social Studies and Theatre. Favorite performances include Hamlet (*Hamlet*), Warren (*This is Our Youth*), and Lotta Baggage (Hasty Pudding Theatricals' *Ship Happens*). Earlier this year, he helped premiere *Late*: a new musical in Boston. Ben has sung from Italy to Japan with the Krokodiloes, Harvard's oldest, world-touring a cappella group. He has studied with the Theatre Lab and Atlantic Theatre Company. [benjamintopa.com](http://benjamintopa.com)

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM



**KATE HAMILL (Playwright)** is an award-winning New York City-based actor and playwright. She is focused on creating new feminist, female-centered classics, both in new plays and in adaptation: stories that center around complicated women. Her other adaptations include *Vanity Fair*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Little Women*, *Mansfield Park*, and highly acclaimed *Sense and Sensibility*, among others. Her work has been produced off-Broadway, at A.R.T., Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Guthrie Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Seattle Rep, PlayMaker's Rep, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Dallas Theater Center, Folger Theatre (8 Helen Hayes Award nominations; Winner, Best Production) & more.



**REBECCA ROVEZZI (Director)** is an East Coast based Director with a focus in New Play Development and Mixed-Media. She serves as Artistic Associate at The O'Neill Theater Center and graduated from Skidmore College with a Bachelor of Science with Honors in Directing. She has participated in training intensives at NYU and SITI. She has worked in new play development at Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Portland Stage, The Portland Fringe Festival, Rorschach Theatre, The Manhattan Repertory Theater, and Ruthless Nightingale Theatre Company. Rebecca has been a script reader for The Magic in Rough Spaces New Play Lab, and The Clauder Competition, and is currently reading for The Playwright's Realm and Woolly Mammoth.



**MEGAN BEHM (Intimacy Choreographer)** is a professional director, choreographer and arts administrator based in Washington, DC. She has worked for NextStop Theatre Company, Avant Bard Theatre, The Virginia Shakespeare Festival, The Welders, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Constellation Theatre Company, Olney Theatre Center, the Folger, Mosaic Theater Company, Forum Theatre, and the American Shakespeare Center. She is a proud graduate of the College of William and Mary. Learn more: [www.megan-behm.com](http://www.megan-behm.com) or follow @mmbehm



**MERCEDES BLANKENSHIP (Props Design)** is just happy to be here! Most recent credits include "The Lightning Thief" (Director) with Wildwood Summer Theatre, and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" (Rehearsal Stage Manager/Prop Designer) with the Imagination Stage Performance Ensemble. Upcoming: "Bat Boy" (Prop Designer) with the Imagination Stage Performance Ensemble. She was the Education Apprentice at Round House Theatre for the 2021–2022 season, and holds a BA in Musical Theatre from American University. Big thanks to every local thrift store, Michaels, and Delaney Gregg. [mercedesblankenship.com](http://mercedesblankenship.com)



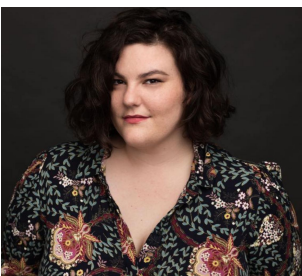
**CARALINE JEFFREY (Season Stage Manager)** is a Southern Maryland native excited to be working on her second production with Rorschach Theatre! Caraline has earned a BA in Theatre and English from Lehigh University, and a graduate certificate in Arts Administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Previous Rorschach credits include *Chemical Exile: Synthesis*. In addition to stage managing, Caraline also works as an administrator for George Mason University's Center for the Arts.



**CASEY KALEBA (Fight Choreography)** has stabbed people with Rorschach in Columbia Heights, Georgetown, Chinatown, H St, and Silver Spring. Work with the company includes the original *Nowhere, She Kills Monsters*, and *Forgotten Kingdoms*. Other credits include the Guthrie Theatre, Spoleto Festival, Folger Theatre, Round House Theatre, Signature Theatre, Washington National Opera, Ford's Theatre, Keegan Theatre (Helen Hayes nomination – *The Lonesome West*), Constellation Theatre (Helen Hayes nomination – *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*), and Olney Theatre Center. Casey is a Fight Director and Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors. [www.toothandclawcombat.com](http://www.toothandclawcombat.com)



**JEN KATZ (Asst. Stage Manager)** is thrilled to be joining Rorschach for this production. Jen has worked extensively throughout the DMV, primarily as a Stage Manager. Notable projects include the History is 2020 project with Brave Spirits Theatre, Revolutionists at Prologue Theatre, and Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some) at NextStop Theatre. Most recently Jen served as ALD for both Twelfth Night and Macbeth at Chesapeake Shakespeare.



**EMILY LATHROP, PhD (Dramaturg)** is an academic, arts administrator, and theatre practitioner and is currently the Connectivity Manager at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. She holds a PhD in English from George Washington University and a Master's degree in early modern literature from King's College London. She is thrilled to be joining Rorschach for the first time!





**DEAN LEONG (Asst. Lighting Design/Master Electrician)** is a freelance Lighting Designer from the Washington DC area. Recent design credits include: Lighting: *Our Town*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *The Wolves* with CUA Drama Dept. *A Tuna Christmas*, *BURST*, and *Ghost Light* with Parlor Room Theater Co. *Chemical Exile: Synthesis* with Rorschach Theatre. *The Infinite Tales*, *Museum 2040*, and *Tempered: A Cabaret* with 4615 Theatre Co. He would like to thank his wife and daughter for their love and support. To view more of his work you can visit: [www.deanleongdesigns.com](http://www.deanleongdesigns.com)



**SARAH MARKLEY (Set Design)** is so excited to be joining the team Rorschach Theater for the first time for this production of *Dracula*! Sarah studied scenic design and painting at Skidmore College, and has been working as an interior designer for JLA Designs for the past few years. Thanks so much to the cast and crew for all their hard work!



**SYDNEY MOORE (Costume Design)** is a Washington, D.C. based costume, graphic, and interior designer. She is the resident costume designer of the Greenberg Theatre at American University. She holds her MFA in Production Design from The George Washington University and her B.A. in Technical Theatre and Design from Winthrop University. When she's not knee deep in a design, she can be found hanging out with her cats, Tilly and Bobbin, with an embroidery hoop or paintbrush in her hands. She is overjoyed to be returning to Rorschach for her fourth project (*Reykjavic; Indelible; Nowhere* - associate designer). Recent credits include: *Southern Gothic; Sons of Hollywood* (Windy City Playhouse, Chicago), *Boy Detective Fails; Sins of Sor Juana* (AU, dir. Aaron Posner), *Airness* (Keegan Theatre & 1st Stage), *Explorer's Club; Dog Sees God; Grand Concourse* (Prologue Theatre, founding member), *Winter's Tale; Macbeth* (asst. costume design, Folger Theatre). [www.sydneymooredesigns.com](http://www.sydneymooredesigns.com)



**JAMES MORRISON (Lighting Design)** is a professional Lighting and Media Designer based out of the Washington DC Area. In the DC area he has designed for the Mosaic Theater Company, NextStop Theatre, Riverside Dinner Theatre, Ravel Dance Company, Greater Washington Ballet, Rorschach Theatre and The Creative Cauldron. James hold a BFA in Scenic and Lighting Design from the Shenandoah Conservatory and an MFA in Lighting Design from Illinois State University. To view more of his work please visit his portfolio at <http://jamesmorrisondesigns.com/>





**KENNY NEAL (Sound Design)** is a Helen Hayes Award recipient (*The Royale* at Olney Theatre Center/1st Stage) and seven-time nominated sound designer, composer and arranger. DC AREA: Rorschach Theatre (*She Kills Monsters*); Olney Theatre Center (*Dance Nation, The Royale, Oil*); The Kennedy Center (*She a Gem, Digging Up Dessa*); Signature Theatre (*The Upstairs Department, Daphne's Dive, Easy Women Smoking Loose Cigarettes, Heisenberg, John, The Gulf*); Studio Theatre (*Straight White Men, Jumpers for Goalposts, Choir Boy*); Prologue Theatre (*Recent Tragic Events*); Constellation Theatre Company (*The Master and Margarita*); Theater Alliance (*Klytemnestra*); 1st Stage (*Airness, columbinus, Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train, Well, Floyd Collins, Old Wicked Songs, Bat Boy*); Factory 449 (*Agnes of God*); Taffety Punk (*Pramkicker, Mom Baby God*).



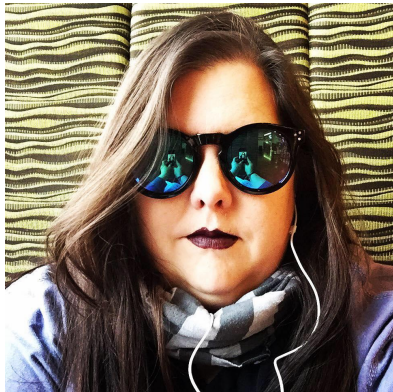
**JEN RABITT RING (Vocal Coach)** appeared previously in Rorschach's *Chemical Exile: Synthesis, A Bid to Save the World, Separate Rooms* with Theatre 4615, and *She Rode Horses Like the Stock Exchange* with Taffety Punk, to name a few DC highlights. A designated Linklater Voice teacher, Jen teaches Acting and Voice at multiple institutions in addition to coaching privately. MFA, Rutgers University.



**ADAM B. FERGUSON (Production Management & Technical Direction)** is an acclaimed director, arts administrator and advocate. Originally from Virginia, Adam's adventures have taken him from South Africa to New York City to Bahrain, and many places in between. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts and Rhetoric and Communication Studies from the University of Richmond, as well as a Master of Public Administration and Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Virginia Commonwealth University. Adam is the Production Manager for Rorschach Theatre, as well as the Program Manager for the American High School Theatre Festival and the International Collegiate Theatre Festival hosted annually as part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, as well as the National Performing Arts Festival by WorldStrides. Other past work experiences include: Artistic Associate at Andy's Summer Playhouse alongside Jared Mezzocchi. Assistant to the Producer of the Met Live in HD at the Metropolitan Opera, Assistant to the Managing Director at Virginia Repertory Theatre, Associate Producer at Firehouse Theatre, Tour Associate at MCT, Inc. in the International Tour Office, and inaugural Arts Editor of Beyond the Arts, powered by theTUNDRA. For full bio and professional directing credits visit: [adambferguson.com](http://adambferguson.com).



**RANDY BAKER (Artistic Director)** is a playwright, director and the co-Artistic Director of Rorschach Theatre in Washington DC. Recent shows he has directed with Rorschach include *Very Still and Hard to See* (Five Helen Nominations including Best Director), *Chemical Exile: Synthesis*, *She Kills Monsters*, *The Electric Baby*, *The Minotaur* and *After the Quake*. Recent shows he has directed outside of Rorschach include the seven-room living installation piece, *Hello, My Name Is...* at The Welders (Three Helen Hayes nominations including Best Director), a shadow puppet gamelan-inspired *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at WSC Avant Bard, *Big Love* at Catholic University, *Anon/ymous* at Georgetown University and his own adaptation of *Rashōmon* at American University. Recent plays he has written include the world premieres of *Forgotten Kingdoms* and *Truth & Beauty Bombs* at Rorschach Theatre and workshops and educational productions of *The Burning Road* (Arena Stage), *Monastery* (Theater J), *Between Days* (Theatre Lab), and *Rashōmon* (American University and Spooky Action Theatre). Upcoming is *The Legend of Hang Tuah* at Pointless Theatre (an adaptation of the Malay Legend with shadow puppets and martial arts).



**JENNY MCCONNELL FREDERICK (Artistic Director)** is a Director, Producer, and maker of impossible theatre. She's the co-Artistic Director of Rorschach Theatre which she founded in the summer of 1999 with Randy Baker. For Rorschach, she the creation and development of the company's groundbreaking pandemic pivot *Psychogeographies* and has directed more than a dozen shows including the Helen Hayes Nominated *Voices Underwater* and *God of Vengeance* as well as both of the sold-out runs of Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*. In 2015, she conceived and directed *Truth & Beauty Bombs*, an original work based on the Canadian webcomic, "A Softer World." She co-created *Chambers of the Heart* and *MOVE!*, two immersive dance/theatre projects at Word Dance Theatre. She served as Artistic Director of CulturalDC's Source Festival and Mead Theatre Lab Program. In that capacity she oversaw the selection, development and production of more than 200 works for the stage over nearly a decade. Work developed and produced by Jenny at the Source Festival boasts multiple National New Play Network Rolling World Premieres, several American Theatre Critics Association Steinberg Award Nominations, and an Osborn Award Winner. Jenny has directed for Theater J, Capital Fringe Festival, Catholic University and University of Maryland. She's served as a member of Theatre Washington Advisory Board and a mentor director for the Theatre Lab's Honors Acting Conservatory and for the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival and was a featured speaker at the CityWrights Conference in Miami. She graduated cum laude from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BFA in Theatre and briefly joined Mensa for the free pencils. She lives in Takoma, DC with her husband and their long-term collaboration, a son named Thane.

# Rorschach Theatre Staff

**Founding Artistic Directors:** Jenny McConnell Frederick and Randy Baker

**General Manager:** John Ralls

**Production Manager:** Adam B. Ferguson

**Associate Producer and Press Contact:** Jonelle Walker

**Season Stage Manager:** Caraline Jeffery

**Board of Directors:** David Ghatan (Board Chairman), Claire Carlin, Sonali Kumar, John Ralls, Jim Rosenberg, J. Toscano, Eileen Vitelli, Randy Baker, Jenny McConnell Frederick

**Resident Company Members:** Linda Bard, Sara Barker, Tori Boutin, Frank Britton, Robin Covington, Natalie Cutcher, Louis E. Davis, Casey Kaleba, Veronica J. Lancaster, Lee Liebeskind, Cam Magee, Scott McCormick, Katie McCreary, Linz Moore, Gordon Nimmo-Smith, Robert Pike, Megan Reichelt, Debra Kim Sivigny, Christian Sullivan, Sarah Taurchini, Sara Dabney Tisdale, Catherine Tripp, Yasmin Tuazon, Jonelle Walker, Grady Weatherford

## DRACULA SPECIAL THANKS:

The Parks at Historic Walter Reed, Pipkin Creative, Walnut Street Creative, Mark Simpson, Artistic Concepts Group, Flying V, Greg Anderson, Chelsea Radigan, Helena Pennington, Tiffani Gavin, Jorge Lopez Rivera, American University Department of Performing Arts, the National Conservatory of the Dramatic Arts, Georgetown University Department of Performing Arts, Nan Ficca, National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts, Alicia Digiorgi, Georgetown University, Gordon Nimmo-Smith, Sean Flaherty, Sydney Bronaugh

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*Disney+ is amazing, you guys. And Netflix. Seriously. It's right there in the tv already. No shoes—or even pants—required.*

*Rorschach Theatre knows how stiff the competition is when it comes to your entertainment options. But as you know – having spent more than 20 years with our unique brand of theatre – what we do is different. It's our intention to keep engaging you in a way that Hulu never can, bringing you spine-tingling, heartwarming, brain-teasing events that immerse you and engage you.*

*Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to Rorschach Theatre today. We can't do it without you.*

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*Thank you! Our appreciation for you all is **eternal.***

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Maggie & John Horn  
Brandy Johnson  
Ellen Kohn

## First Read Club (cont.)

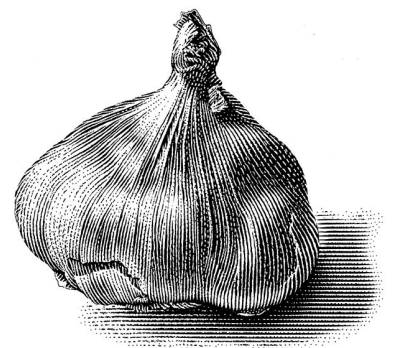
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We are **bloody** lucky to have all you incredible people!  
Thanks for making this show possible.

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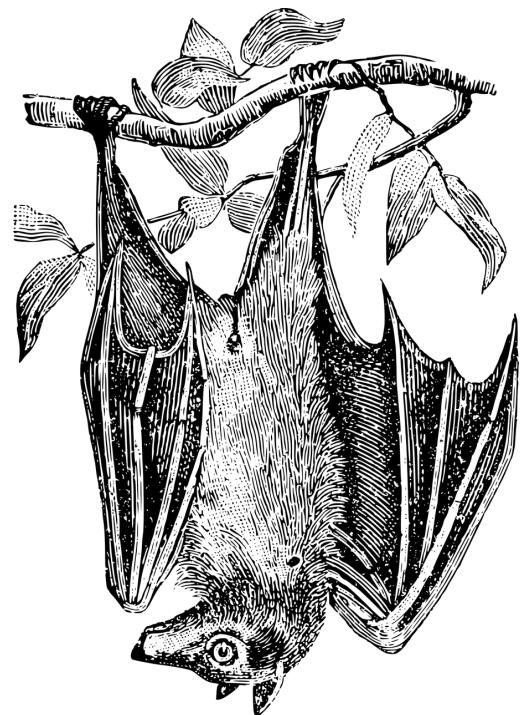
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Casey Kaleba  
Sarah Lessem  
Vince Morris  
Happy O'Brien  
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Damia Torhagen  
Jjana Valentiner  
Ruth Werner  
William Brian Wheeler  
Zachary Wood  
Brian Woodburn  
Pui-San Yee

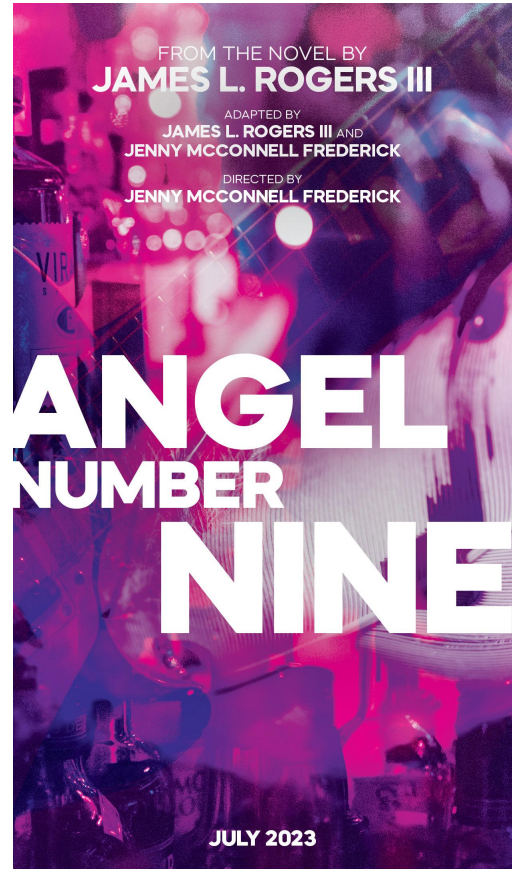
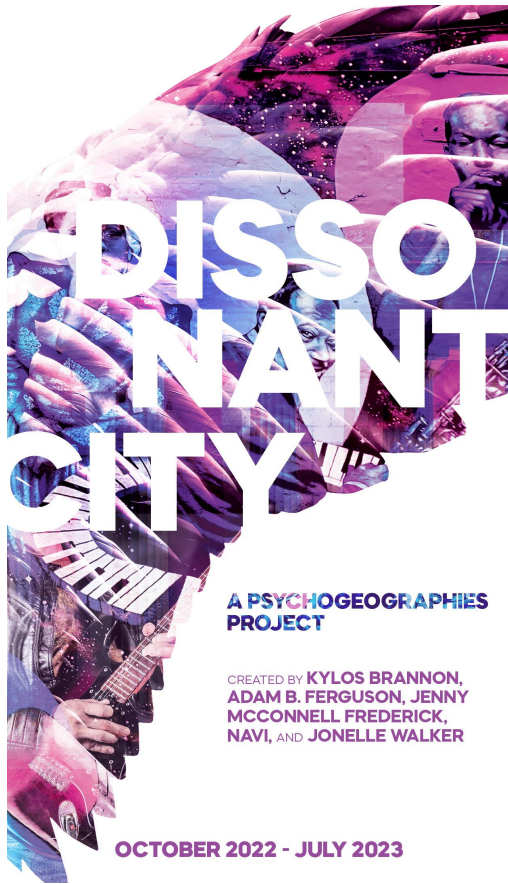
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Ashi Day  
Robert Dickson  
Hugh Eckert  
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Nicole Hertvik  
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Jennine  
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Psychogeographies projects harness the power of both the built and natural world to create a visceral piece of immersive storytelling. Each month participants receive a map and instructions to travel to a new curated location in the DC area.

[Learn More.](#)

**O**nce upon a time, a rain cloud fell in love with a human. Dolan, who bears an uncanny resemblance to author Hans Christian Andersen, tries to tell this simple and sweet story, but characters in the story keep turning into figures from Dolan's own history of turbulent relationships.

An adaptation, a reimagining, and a critique of *The Little Mermaid*, *SOMETIMES THE RAIN, SOMETIMES THE SEA* is a story of romantic, obsessive, and unrequited love.

**W**hen Angel meets Cupid in a bar and her band gets an opening slot on a tour, life takes some unexpected turns into a past she tried to leave behind. Part rock show, part booze-soaked road trip through the dive bars and dark clubs of the late 90's east coast music scene, *Angel Number Nine* shows us that the things we need are sometimes found on the roads we tried to avoid. *ANGEL NUMBER NINE* will serve as the culmination of the 2022/2023 Psychogeographies project *DISSONANT CITIES*.



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