2nd Story presents

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

March 24, 2024

www.2ndStory.com

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**SHOW DESCRIPTION**Still, in the 21st century, dominant social cues insist that men can only be properly identified through rigorous occupations, that men are only men if they sweat and toil in work. The persistence of these cultural tropes harm all men across lines of race, gender, and sexuality, along with their loved ones. But the only way to change culture is to challenge it directly. All of these stories feature men actively working on themselves, in relationship to their families, to their grief, on their own internal understanding of self. These stories offer a rebuke to the norms of masculinity that suggest men must be fully formed, tackling the world with confidence and the occasional stoicism but never fundamentally admitting their flaws.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Chicago is the traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: The Odawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi Nations. Many other Tribes like the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, and Fox also called this area home. Located at the intersection of several great waterways, the land naturally became a site of travel and healing for many Tribes. American Indians continue to call this area home and now Chicago is home to the sixth largest Urban American Indian community that still practices their heritage, traditions, and care for the land and waterways. Today, Chicago continues to be a place that calls many people from diverse backgrounds to live and gather here. Despite the many changes the city has experienced, both our American Indian and the 2nd Story community see the importance of the land and this place that has always been a city home to many diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

This organization, and the people behind it, believe that Black Lives Matter. We believe that no one is free until we are all free. As an organization comprised of artists, advocates, staff, and board members, we believe that sharing and deeply listening to each other's personal stories opens the possibility of radical change that this moment calls for. As Dr. Maya Angelou said, “Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.”

**LABOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

We acknowledge that the work that we do in community rests on the labor that has preceded us, much of which was done by Black, Brown, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and disabled activists, and this labor was frequently invisible, unacknowledged, and unpaid.

**ARTS WORKER CARE**

2nd Story is proudly certified by the Pay Equity Standards.

Developed by On Our Team, The Pay Equity Standards are a system to establish and publicly recognize equitable pay practices within theatre companies, arts organizations, and not-for-profit organizations.

**BIOGRAPHIES - THE TELLERS**

Black, trans\*genderqueer, educator, advocate, spouse, friend, and Beyonce' fan all describe **Dr. S Simmons (he/him/his**). S is originally from Chicago Heights, IL and is the eldest of three. S has been happily married to wife, Danielle, for 16 years. Dr. S earned a B.S. and M.S. in Psychology from Iowa State University, and PhD in Higher Education from Loyola University Chicago. Over the course of his career, S has held several positions within higher education. In all of S's roles, he has provided leadership and guidance on identity development, pedagogy, diversity, inclusion, and equity within and across departments. Ask anyone who knows S and they will tell you S is passionate, caring, and leads with love.

**Jim Lupo (he/him)** is a professor at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law where he teaches seminars on Law and Literature, Law and Rhetoric, and Persuasion Theory. When not teaching future leaders about the power of story, or helping advance the cause of story as critical to filling the empathy lapses of our current leaders, he obsesses over achieving perfect pasta al dente-ness and sauce to noodle ratios.

**Yongwoo he/him)** is a Korean-American teacher, martial artist, musician, actor, and filmmaker originally from Pittsburgh, PA. Equally passionate about all those things, he teaches preschool and produces videos at Bubbles Academy, writes songs for kids and not-kids alike, teaches and performs with Playmakers Laboratory, trains at Imazaki Dojo and competes across the country in full contact karate and kickboxing, and will someday update his website (TheYongwoo.com). He did just update his LinkedIn, so there's hope.

**BIOGRAPHIES - PRODUCTION TEAM**

**Justin Cavazos (he/him, Musician)** is a singer, guitarist, songwriter, and producer based in Chicago. He previously music directed and arranged the new musical, Double Vision, for the Chicago Musical Theatre Festival. Originally from Texas, Justin received his BA in Music with a concentration in Vocal Performance from Stanford University. Why he moved to Chicago to finally experience winter remains a mystery.Justin’s current focus is on authentic storytelling in songwriting and live performance with his original music projects.

**Devin Christor (he/him, Director)** is a director that focuses on plays that critique hegemonic masculinity. Since receiving his B.A in Drama from the University of North Texas he has traveled the country working for several professional theaters to study the ecology of regional theater in America. Credits include: 1919 (Steppenwolf); Julius Caesar, God of Carnage (Milwaukee Repertory Theater); Into the Side of a Hill (Flint Repertory Theater "New Works Festival"); Toni Stone (The Goodman); The Gift of the Magi (American Players Theatre); A Raisin in the Sun (Beverly Arts Center). DevinChristor.com

**RJ Silva (he/him, Producer)** is a writer and producer, born and raised in Manila, Philippines. He currently produces for CIRCA Pintig, Chicago’s Filipino theatre organization, and has performed in their production of Daryo’s All-American Diner, which was named Chicago Reader’s Best New Play of 2023. His plays have been performed at CIRCA Pintig, Chikahan Theatre Company in SF, and PlayGround Chicago. He is the co-founder of The Ampliverse, an inclusive multimedia channel that produces pop culture podcasts and shows. RJ is honored to have directed, produced, and even shared a story with 2nd Story, and is always grateful to be involved! RJ-Silva.com TheAmpliverse.com

**Nick Ward\* (he/him, Curator and Emcee)** has been a 2nd Story company since 2006, where he's told stories, produced and curated shows, taught classes, and served as the Co-Director of Education. His book of essays, All Who Belong May Enter, featuring many stories that premiered with 2nd Story, was published by Autumn House Press in 2021. Around Chicago's performing arts community, he worked in various roles with Young Chicago Authors, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Theatre Seven of Chicago, Lifeline Theatre, and PR Casting. He was the Asst. Casting Director and Screenings Coordinator of the Emmy-nominated series, Brown Girls.

\*Denotes Current or Emeritus Company Member

**ABOUT 2ND STORY**

**MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES**

We believe that stories are what bind us to each other.

We want to live in a world driven by empathy.

Therefore, we create spaces where people can share and deeply listen to one another’s stories.

Our Core Values are Inclusion, Craft, and Courage.

**STAFF**

Amanda Delheimer\*, Artistic Director

Lilian Matsuda, Interim Managing Director

Carolyn Aguila, Manager of Relationships

Ali Drumm\*, Manager of Strategy and Operations

Liz Rice\*, Manager of Curriculum and Education

Jackie Snuttjer, Accountant

Sadaf Ferdowsi, Digital Media Coordinator

Max Spitz, Podcast Producer

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David Wagener

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**2ND STORY COMPANY**

2nd Story's company is comprised of story-makers working together to build community through the power of storytelling.

Liz Blondel

Madeline Bourdenko

Paula Carter

CP Chang

Stephanie Chavara

Amanda Delheimer

Ali Drumm

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Reshmi Hazra Rustebakke

Megan Shuchman

Megan Stielstra

Aimy Tien

Ozzie Totten

Cyn Vargas

Nicholas Ward

Scott Woldman

Jessica Young

Sarah Zematis

**WITH GRATITUDE**

**2ND STORY GRACIOUSLY THANKS ITS SEASON 25 SUPPORTERS:**

**LEADERS ($20,000 AND ABOVE)**

The Lupo Family

**DIRECTORS ($10,000 - $19,999)**

Eric Rothstein & Gina Wammock

David Wagener & Erika Nelson

**AMBASSADORS ($5,000 - $9,999)**

Athene Carras & Thomas Applegate

James Lupo

**CURATORS ($2,500 - $4,499)**

Hannah & George Stowe

Lilian Matsuda & Nick Gehlfuss

Jessica Wetmore

**DIRECTORS ($1,000 - $2,499)**

Sheila Chapman

Carol Delheimer

Burt Fujishima

Katie & Peter Hauser

Anne Leyden

Lynnette Li & John Rappaport

Deb Oestreicher & Victor Magar

Liesl Pereira & Ashley Olson

Lauren Sivak & Erin Barlow

Dr. S. and Dr. Danielle Simmons

Kara Teeple

Josh Weinstein & Madeline Long

Brenda Strong

Danielle & Hervé Zille

**STORY SUSTAINERS - 2nd Story’s Recurring Donor Program**

Carolyn Aguila
Madeline\* & Mark Bourdenko

Michael & Suzanne Caplan

CP Chang\* & Jessica Young\*

Megan Carney

Sheila Chapman

Stef Coleman

Amanda Delheimer\*

Anna Delheimer

Carol Delheimer

Sarah Goldberg

Eli Harvey

Andrewa Herrera

Alex Levy

James Lupo

Lauren Kullman

Carol Maher

Dorothy Milne

Jonathan Petto

Liesl Pereira & Ashley Olson

Tiffany Roget Megan Shuchman\* & Kelly Mitchell

Lauren Sivak & Erin Barlow

Lydia Slaby

Jackie Snuttjer

Linda Sullivan

Heather Vogel

Jessica Wetmore
Chevy Williams

Sarah\* & Scott Zematis

Danielle & Hervé Zille

\*Denotes Current or Emeritus Company Member

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If your name was left off in error, please accept our apologies and contact Lilian at Lilian@2ndstory.com.