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Ashland New Plays Festival is seeking submissions of union and non-union actors for the **workshop and public reading of the 2022 Fall Festival winning plays, as listed below.**

Rehearsals: October 16-22, schedule varies per play

Performances: October 18-23, schedule varies per play

Pay: AEA SPT 1 - AEA rate - \$279/wk, plus pension and health per AEA agreement.

Nonunion actors will also be paid \$279 per week.

Housing and travel stipend or airfare provided for out of town actors.

Please submit your headshot and resume via our submissions portal:

<https://ashlandnewplays.org/work-with-us/#work-with-us-actors>

For any questions, please email casting@ashlandnewplays.org

Play #1: THE BREAKFAST AT THE BOOKSTORE by Lisa Langford

SYNOPSIS:

It's 1973, five years after the 1968 Glenville Uprising, started by a shootout between police and Black nationalists. Dot wants to be an activist and support the Black liberation movement by opening a revolutionary bookstore. Sharpe, Dot's common-law husband and a former Black nationalist, wants anything but. And Spacemen. Yep.

SEEKING:

Sharpe: African American, late 50s, crotchety, hardened by disappointment, wants to open a repair shop, in love with Dot. Realistic about Dot's hopes, and the danger it could bring.

Haywood: African American, early 20s, works in a lumber yard, in love with Dot. Willing to help Dot achieve her goal of opening a bookstore.

Fran: Caucasian, 30s, mailwoman, lonely. Lives in Little Italy, in love with Dot. Wants to help Dot bring her breakfasts to fruition. The first mailwoman in the district, she is no stranger to conflict.

Play #2: THE HUNT FOR BENEDETTO MONTONE by Victor Lesniewski

SYNOPSIS:

Amid the German occupation of Italy during World War II, Pietro struggles to provide for his family while caught between Fascist law and Catholic morality. A play about our susceptibility to government-sponsored fear and hatred.

SEEKING:

Pietro Bonatti: late 50s, an administrator in the city government. Plays by the rules. Proud of all of his children. Will do anything to protect his family and friends.

Grazia Bonatti: mid 50s, Pietro's wife. Catholic, and holds her values close as the war creeps closer to home. Secretly aiding Jewish people in her town.

Nevio Bonatti: early 20s, Pietro and Grazia's son, the youngest of seven children. Eager to marry Lucia; Nevio is revealed to be in love with Lucia's brother.

Marco Sala: mid 40s, Pietro's neighbor, a police officer. Follows orders and stays in line, excited by opportunities to move up socially. Cares deeply for the safety and future of his family.

Lucia Sala: early 20s, Marco's daughter, the third of five children. Eager to marry Nevio, and start their lives together. Awaits her brother's return from the war. She is hopeful for her future.

Play #3: REMAINS AND RETURNS by Novid Parsi**SYNOPSIS:**

In 2018, as an Iranian-American family talks about nothing and everything at once, two middle aged brothers—one who has remained near their childhood suburban home, the other who returns—confront their elderly immigrant parents about the impending realities of old age. Thirty years earlier, in 1988, the parents confront their teen sons about the impending realities of adulthood and their own hopes for their children's futures—until the younger son is outed. Returning to 2018, *Remains and Returns* considers how we deny our familial, societal, and political pasts, and how our pasts endure.

SEEKING:

Zarah [za-rah] Shirvani [sheer-vah-nee]: MENA, F, mother, 78 and 48 years old. Proud of her sons, and her grandchildren. Works hard to keep her family afloat. Cares that her sons get along. Loves Cher. Does not want to accept that she and Ramin are aging; she feels they are fine at home.

Ramin [rah-meen] Shirvani: MENA, M, father, 80 and 50 years old. An engineer. Works hard and cares that he does his job well. Wants his sons to do well, and hopes they have the same drive. When his sons are young, he worries that they do not have "a plan". As he ages, his memory is not what it used to be.

Ash (Ashkan [ash-kahn]) Shirvani: MENA, M, son, 48 and 18 years old. Gay, and accidentally outed by his older brother as a young adult. After being forced away from his home, experiences a general disconnect from his parents but loves and cares for their well-beings.

Ben (Behnam [beh-nahm]) Shirvani: MENA, M, son, 50 and 20 years old. Remained close to his parents, and raises his children 30 minutes away from them. Worries about his parents as they age, wants them to move into an elder care facility.

Play #4: CHAPTERS OF A FLOATING LIFE by Clarence Coo**SYNOPSIS:**

It's the Second World War and two couples from China are trying to make ends meet in New York City. One husband and wife live uptown, obsessed with a past of poetry, painting, and gardens. The other two face the day-to-day reality of keeping a Chinatown restaurant in business. Their worlds, once separated by class and education, converge when the two women find each other in Central Park and fall under the spell of the Chinese language.

SEEKING:

Shen: M, early to mid-20s. Asian American. An unemployed college professor. Married to Yun. Analytical, but not as poetic in nature as Yun. Good natured, and cares deeply for the well-being of Yun. Though they have known each other almost their whole lives, Yun remains a mystery to Shen.

Yun: F, early to mid-20s. Asian American. A novelist. Married to Shen. A writer working on a new manuscript. Suffers from writers' block, until she meets Elsie.

Elsie: F, early to mid-20s. Asian American. A restaurant worker. Married to Tom. A chef who runs the kitchen at the restaurant she and Tom own. Dreams of a life outside of their restaurant. Is learning to read with Yun.

Play #5: BEST AVAILABLE by Jonathan Spector

SYNOPSIS:

We're not going to talk about the sudden departure of our previous Artistic Director, because we want to focus on the future, not the past. The one thing we're all on the same page about it is: We Need Change. Change that builds on the remarkable legacy of our institution. It's just like the Ancient Blessing, May You Live In Interesting Times.

SEEKING:

Staff & Board:

Helen: she/her, 50s, Managing Director, white.

Maya: she/her late 30s, Former Associate Artistic Director, BIPOC

Dolores: she/her 80s, Past Board President

Box Office Workers:

Carolina: she/her, early-mid 20s, aspiring dramaturg, BIPOC

Bex: they/them, early-mid 20s, aspiring director

Ariana: she/they, early-mid 20s, aspiring actor, BIPOC

The Management Consultants:

Dan: he/him, indeterminate middle age

Dave: he/him, indeterminate middle age, BIPOC