



# TESS JANNERY-BARNEY

DIRECTING, WRITING, AND DESIGN PORTFOLIO

# OVERVIEW

## ABOUT

Tess Jannery-Barney (She/Her) is an 18-year-old performer, composer, playwright, director, and musician from the Washington, D.C. area.

NY, CT – Playwright: Break My Bones (The O'Neill YPF, '20).  
Playwright/Director: Mr. Stranger and Pie from the Pattersons' (Dramafest at Stagedoor Manor with Stephen Sondheim's Young Playwrights Inc., '19-'20).

D.C. – Book/Music/Lyrics/Morse Code: Static: Noise of a New Musical (Capital Fringe Festival – Best Music & Best Ensemble Winner, '18-present). Playwright/Director/Music/Live Musician: Your Carving Footprint (Saxon Stage After Hours, '21-'22).

Playwright/Director: Gravediggers (Saxon Stage After Hours – Reading & Developmental Workshop, '22.) First-ever WTOP Top Kid award winner (D.C. Regional, '20) for work on Static during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Whatta World" and "Tell Me How" on all streaming platforms.

Captain and Founder of Saxon Stage After Hours, a playwriting, directing, and student-run production group. Lead Cappies Critic Langley Critic Team for high school theater awards critics in the D.C. area. Member of the Dramatists Guild. [www.tessrowan.com](http://www.tessrowan.com)



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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703-581-8789

[www.tessrowan.com](http://www.tessrowan.com)

# TESS JANNERY-BARNEY

## Production Resume

**Note:** My full name is Tess Rowan Jannery-Barney. Outside of school, I use Tess Rowan (first, middle) as a stage name ([www.tessrowan.com](http://www.tessrowan.com))  
In school activities and productions, and on college applications, I use **Tess Jannery-Barney** (first, last.) Thank you!

**PRONOUNS:** She/Her | **WEBSITE:** [www.tessrowan.com](http://www.tessrowan.com) | **EMAIL:** [tessjannerybarney@gmail.com](mailto:tessjannerybarney@gmail.com) | **PHONE:** 703-581-8789

### PRODUCTIONS - THEATER

<i>Static: Noise of a New Musical</i>	Maine McAfee/Guitar/ Book/Music/Lyrics/Director	Capital Fringe Festival
<i>Break My Bones</i>	Playwright	The O'Neill Theater Center YPF
<i>Mr. Stranger (Script Published)</i>	Playwright/Director	Dramafest
<i>Pie from the Pattersons (Script Published)</i>	Playwright/Director	Dramafest
<i>Your Carving Footprint</i>	Playwright/Director/Casting/Producer/Music/Guitar	Saxon Stage After Hours
<i>The Lightning Thief</i>	Annabeth Chase/ Substitute Music Director	Saxon Stage
<i>26 Pebbles</i>	Vocalist/Guitar/Ensemble	Saxon Stage
<i>I Ain't Made That Way</i>	Trinity/Fight Captain	Shoestring Theatre Co.
<i>Shrek the Musical</i>	Pinocchio/Dance Captain	Lopez Studios Inc.

### WORKSHOPS - THEATER

<i>Static: Noise of a New Musical</i>	Maine McAfee/Guitar/Book/Music/Lyrics	Flying V
<i>Gravediggers</i>	Playwright/Director/Casting/Producer	Saxon Stage After Hours
<i>Closing Time: A Night of Staged Readings</i>	Playwright/Director/Casting/Producer	Saxon Stage After Hours

### FILM

<i>The Second Date</i>	Director/Sound/Music & Featured Role	Self-Dir. with Talia-Rose Diorio
<i>Real Talk</i>	Supporting/Editor	Dir. Gunnar Peacock
<i>Reflection</i>	Lead	Dir. David Mason III
<i>Closure</i>	Supporting	Dir. Robert Labandeira
<i>The Encryptionist</i>	Supporting	Dir. Allan Fongellaz
<i>Little Ghost</i>	Featured	Dir. Mike Powell

### CAST RECORDINGS

<i>Static: Noise of a New Musical</i>	Maine McAfee & Book/Music/Lyrics/Musician	Self-Produced (In Production)
<i>Astrom Club: The Musical</i>	Astrid Newmaker/Millie Langley	Hannah McAleer (In Production)

### AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Best Musical & Best Ensemble Winner - Capital Fringe Audience Awards - *Static* -(Performer, Writer, Director, Producer, Marketing) | WTOP Top Kid Award - *Static*, Thornhill Theater Space New Musical November - *Static* | Student Environmental Action Showcase (Artist: Upcycled Musical Instrument Mosaics; Playwright & Director: *Your Carving Footprint*) | Dramafest Winner; Scripts published with Smith & Kraus Publishers Inc. | Guest Playwright Winner at The O'Neill Theater Center Young Playwrights Festival | Excellent Rating - Playwriting Thespy's Competition.

### RELATED EXPERIENCE

Founder, Captain, Marketing Head - After Hours (*Playwriting, directing, and student-run production group*) | VP of Langley High School Thespian Honor Society | Captain, Marketing Head, Founding Member - Assembly Required Improv Troupe | Lead Cappies Critic, Marketing Head - Saxon Scribes (*Cappies theater critic team*) | Dance Teacher, Events Staff, Party Princess - Bella Ballerina (*Works with children from 18 months old to 10 years old; Ballet, Tap, Hip-Hop, Jazz*)

### TRAINING

**ACTING:** (Theater/Film) - Theater - Cheri Johnson, Gwendolyn Ellis | Film - Jacob Dresch (New York Film Academy at Harvard) Voiceover - Wes Johnson, Jerry Fonoroff | Shakespeare - Jim Warren, Jacob Presson (Stagedoor Manor) | Improv - Pete Bergen

**VOICE:** (Musical Theater, Pop/Rock) - Sally Horton, Erin Clarke, Lauren Hooper, Will Reynolds

**DANCE:** (Jazz, Ballet, Tap, Lyrical, Musical Theater, Modern) - Julia Freyer, Ashburn Academy, Stagedoor, Broadway Artists Alliance.

**MUSIC:** Songwriting (Oliver Houser - Creative Stages), AP Music Theory (Caroline Player - Langley High School.)

**WRITING & DIRECTING:** Playwriting & Design (The O'Neill YPF), Directing the Musical (Jason Wiggins - Stagedoor Manor.)

### SPECIAL SKILLS

Longbow archery (performed bullseye live on stage), guitar, piano, ukulele, songwriting, published playwright, downhill skiing, soccer, volleyball, backpacking, stage combat, British accent, Southern accent, member of the Dramatists Guild.

# STATIC: NOISE OF A NEW MUSICAL

Writer (Book/Music/Lyrics)  
Director  
Producer  
Performer  
Musician (Guitar/Morse Code)  
Orchestrator  
Set Designer  
Props Designer  
Marketing

## ABOUT

Static is an original morse code musical about a teen girl trying to find her dad who's lost in the woods on the Appalachian Trail. The McAfee family has lived in the Pennsylvania forest ever since their father went missing while hiking. Now, daughter Maine teams up with local teen Charlie on a detective mission to find her father, yet, the truth may silence waves of sound. Static is an original adventure musical with a radio blend of musical theater, rock, folk, and immersive morse code clues.



## PRODUCTION BACKGROUND

### Social Media & Digital Theater - 2019 to 2022

Tess began writing Static in eighth grade at 14 years old. In 2020, she joined @staticmusical on social media and shared her original music publicly for the first time and creating two viral #staticsingers and #staticsingersreprise musical theater TikTok contests.

Additionally, Tess performed Static in multiple international virtual charity concerts, such as Save the Arts and Lockdown Live, and began fundraising for Static as well.

Static was featured in Thornhill Theatre Space's New Musical November showcase. "Whatta World" (2021) and "Tell Me How" (2022) from Static: Noise of a New Musical are available at Tess Rowan on all streaming platforms.

### World Premiere - Summer 2022

At 17, Tess directed the sold out world premiere of Static at the 17th annual Capital Fringe Festival in Washington, DC in July 2022. Static won the Best Musical and Best Ensemble Awards at Capital Fringe. Fun fact: this was the first performance of a musical in history to use morse code as a method of dramatic storytelling.

### Further Workshop and Development - 2023

Tess is working with a professional regional Maryland theater, Flying V, on an upcoming reading and public workshop of Static for Spring 2023.

## AWARDS

WTOP Top Kid Award ('20)

Thornhill Theatre Space New Musical November ('21)

Best Musical & Best Ensemble ('22 Capital Fringe Festival Audience Awards)



## TOPICS & THEMES

- Connection
- Family
- Nature
- Friendship
- Loss
- Isolation
- Idealism



*"Static is homegrown and self-taught."*  
-NBC4 Washington

*"The best things to do in the D.C. area the week of July 7-13..." -Washington Post*

*"The fact that [Tess] wrote the book, the music, and the lyrics for the show and also directed and starred in it is nothing less than astounding."* -DC Theatre Scene

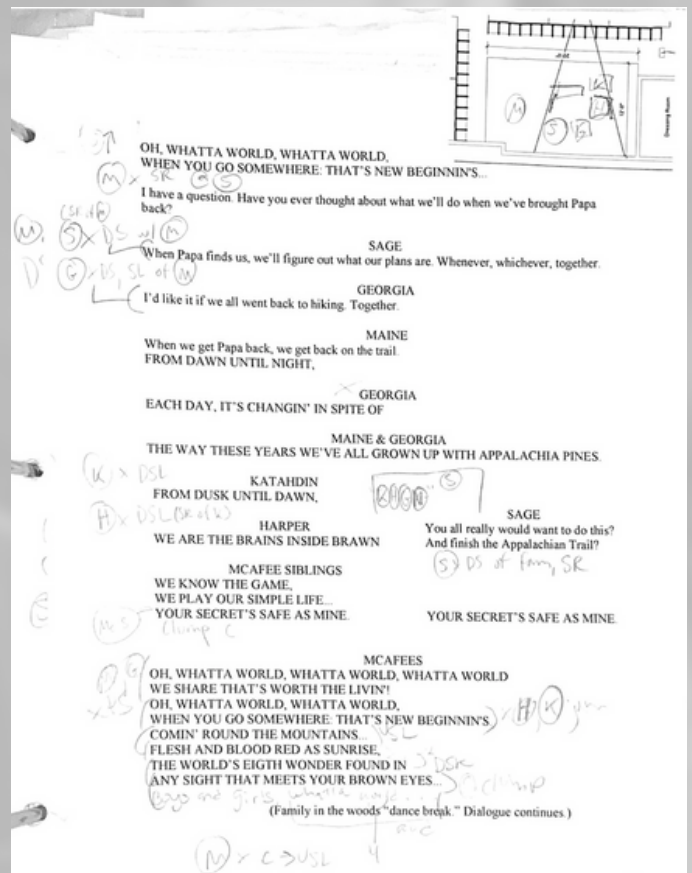
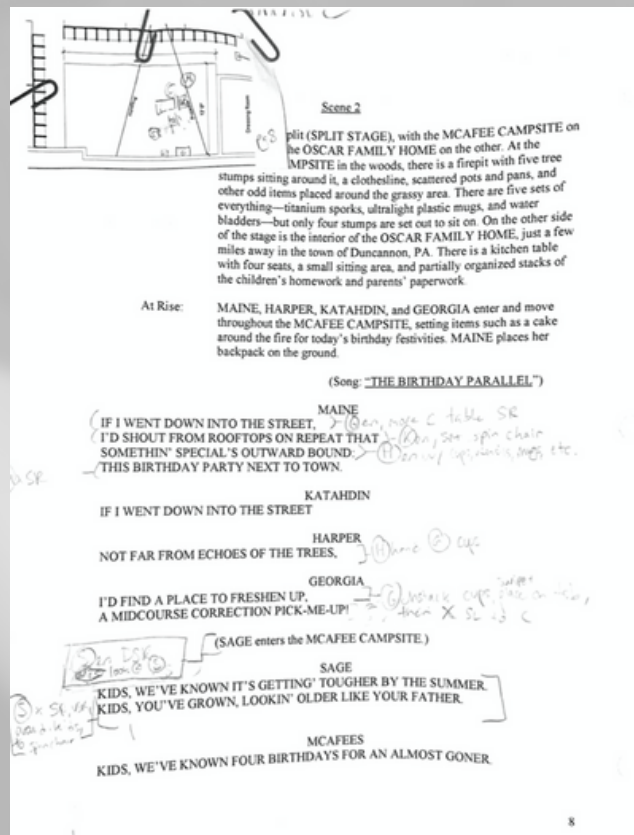
## INSPIRATION



- Set in the woods and neighborhood of the famous Appalachian Trail town, Duncannon, PA - accurate trail mileages in script, real backpacking props used, set pieces include trail signs
- Morse code - exact rhythms and intricate codes embedded in songs, including a full language transcribed into music
- Ham radio knowledge - proper props such as CB radios and telegraph morse code keys acquired and artificially aged for the look of the production
- Broadcasts - The radio host character's broadcasts include weather alerts based off of historic Duncannon forecasts and missing person case updates drawing from true crime articles

# STATIC

## SCRIPT SAMPLES



## DESIGN SAMPLES

### Morse Code in Music/Rhythms for Static: Noise of a New Musical

Tess Rowan

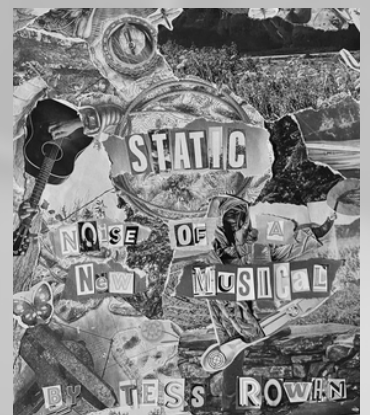
Letters  
in 4/4:



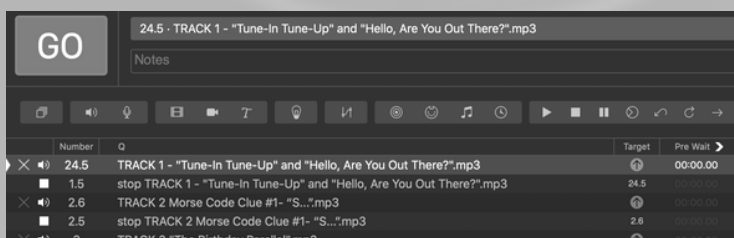
Music



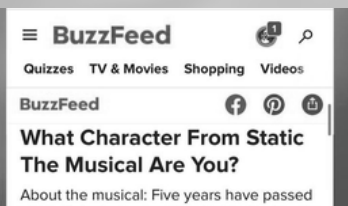
Props



Marketing



Sound/Orchestrations



Marketing



Set



# STATIC

PRODUCTION STILL & REHEARSAL PHOTOS



# GRAVEDIGGERS

Writer  
Director  
Producer  
Casting  
Marketing

## ABOUT

Gravediggers is an original dark comedy play following six inhabitants of a run-down historic estate in rural Montana and the secrets they bury down deep in the ground.

On one side of the Boothe Estate lies a graveyard, garden, gift shop, and mansion, home to aging property owner, Boothe, and lonely gravedigger employee, Pete. On the other side stands a small church and clergy house, now a part-time chapel, run by Reverend Margot, and a funeral home, run by her sister-in-law, Audrey, and Audrey's teenage niece, Joyce.

When new groundskeeper Nellie arrives at the Boothe Estate, plants suddenly die, invasive insects take over, and a new romance rewrites tombstones, leaving secrets sprawled out across the overgrown lawn. The Boothe Estate's odd occupants and even odder staff members must learn to let their skeletons out of the closet in a story of love, destruction, and obsessions with death.



## TOPICS & THEMES

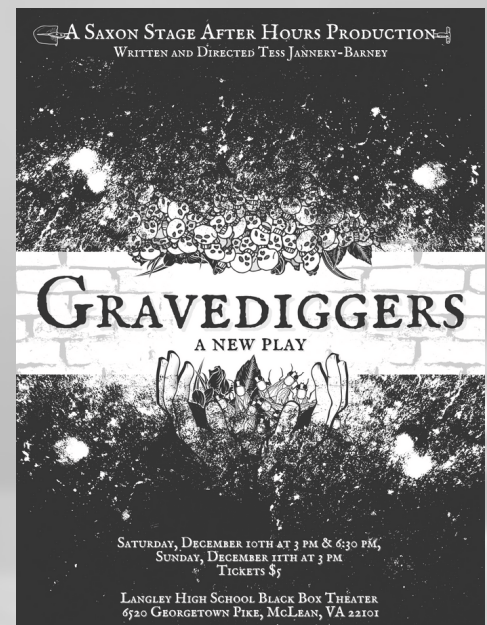
- Death
- Loss and Coping
- Responsibility
- Isolation

## PRODUCTION HISTORY

### Staged Reading - November 2022

A short excerpt of Gravediggers was originally performed in November 2022 at Closing Time, a night of staged script readings written and performed by the students of Saxon Stage After Hours. Tess wrote and directed Gravediggers, in addition to casting and producing the Closing Time program, and coordinated post-show audience feedback for production development.

After Hours is a playwriting, directing, and student productions group at Langley High School, founded and run by Tess Jannery-Barney.



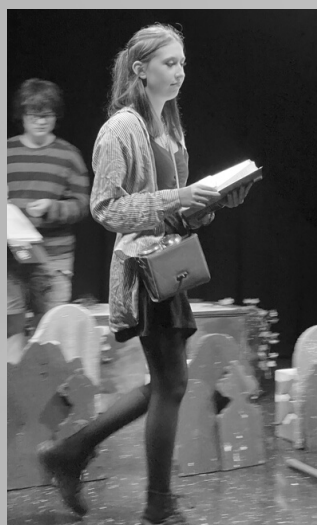
### Workshop - December 2022

The full, two-act script of Gravediggers was performed in a bare-bones workshop-style setting with Saxon Stage After Hours.



# GRAVEDIGGERS

PRODUCTION STILLS & REHEARSAL PHOTOS



# GRAVEDIGGERS

## SCRIPT SAMPLES

JOYCE (to PETE)  
We don't have the body just yet.

PETE  
Oh.

NELLIE  
Ah, so are you the reverend?

JOYCE  
She's the fourth wife of my now dead father who used to be the reverend who ran this chapel next to my now dead aunt's funeral home that ~~run~~ run.

MARGOT  
Yes, I'm the reverend. I'm her... Aunt.

JOYCE smiles, then shakes her jar. The buzzing sound grows louder.

Oh, I don't like this...

Reverend Margot—

See you Sunday, Boothe...

(NELLIE smiles, holding up her flowers.)

Wait! Do these—

Yes, those flowers are fine, they're fresh, dear.

I'll be ready to run the funeral myself! I'll make it... good, for Mrs. Curtis...

(JOYCE and MARGOT exit. The buzzing quiets.)

NELLIE (calling offstage)  
I'm sorry for your loss!

No one lost anyone.

We'll see Mrs. Curtis again Sunday.

MARGOT (to NELLIE)  
Are you the new groundskeeper?

NELLIE & BOOTHE  
Yes.

BOOTHE  
Reverend Margot—

MARGOT  
See you Sunday, Boothe...

(NELLIE smiles, holding up her flowers.)

Wait! Do these—

Yes, those flowers are fine, they're fresh, dear.

I'll be ready to run the funeral myself! I'll make it... good, for Mrs. Curtis...

(JOYCE and MARGOT exit. The buzzing quiets.)

NELLIE (calling offstage)  
I'm sorry for your loss!

No one lost anyone.

We'll see Mrs. Curtis again Sunday.

NELLIE  
Oh. Do the other nine acres of the gardens look like this?

BOOTHE  
Just as dead as the graveyard. We needed you, Nellie.

NELLIE  
Well. Thanks for the opportunity, it really means a lot, seeing I'm saving up for—

(NELLIE picks up the bin of garden supplies next to the coffins and begins potting a row of fresh plants. NELLIE tries to dig a garden trowel into the ground. The soil is ashy and rock solid, NELLIE can't break ground.)

I'm assuming you don't use much fertilizer around here, Mr. Boothe.

PETE  
Unless you count bodies.

(NELLIE rubs her plant.)

NELLIE (to BOOTHE)  
I don't.

JOYCE  
Won't you just talk to Aunt Audrey about having me give the eulogy? I've watched her given 'em enough, haven't I? I'm sure I could do even a decent job for Mrs. Curtis.

MARGOT  
Hello, Boothe. I just, I was wondering, we've been waiting, I would just appreciate, for the service—

JOYCE  
Aunt Margot means we need flowers.

(NELLIE looks at her plant. PETE crosses to MARGOT and holds out his shovel. NELLIE crosses to MARGOT and holds out her plant.)

PETE  
I'm ready, who died?

NELLIE  
Oh! Do these flowers work? I was gonna plant them right now.

(PETE and NELLIE look at each other.)

## INSPIRATION





# YOUR CARVING FOOTPRINT

## ABOUT

Writer  
Director  
Producer  
Casting  
Marketing  
Composer  
Musician  
Donation Coordinator

Your Carving Footprint is an immersive one-act conservationist comedy about acting out against the inevitable. Teenage couple, Bobbi and Simon, have one hour left at their hideout until Bobbi's parents' construction company tears down Zone B of the South Valley Parkland Forest. Before sunrise dawns, Bobbi and Simon must discover if it's best to sit and wait for fate to take over, or try and control the uncontrollable. This interactive play of petition signing, tree stabbing, and paper airplane projectiles brought a natural disaster to the Saxon Stage Black Box.

Your Carving Footprint is a sustainable production, using 100% recycled materials onstage and creating zero waste during performances.

## PRODUCTION HISTORY

### Performance - February 2022

Tess turned a school black box into an intimate in-the-round forest junkyard for the first-ever in-person production of Saxon Stage After Hours. On the way into the theater, audiences could pass by a donation booth, benefitting the Northern Virginia Conservationist Trust, as well as Sandy Hook Promise, relating to the themes of one-acts, Your Carving Footprint, and 26 Pebbles. All materials, from tree stumps onstage to marketing posters made from old books, to tickets handed out to audience members, were recycled and sustainable.

### Virtual Earth Day Performance - April. 2022

Tess also put together an Earth Day ticketless live stream event, encouraging support and optional donations for the Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

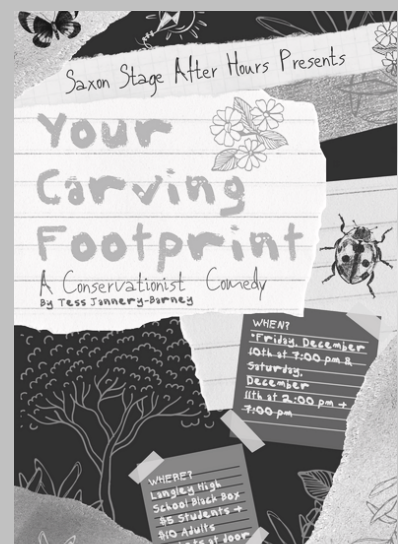
## TOPICS & THEMES

- Performative Activism
- Love
- Nature
- Environmentalism
- Communication

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

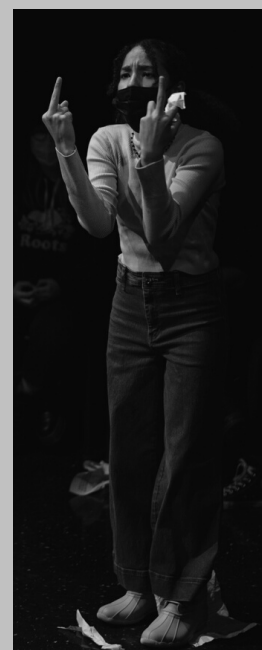
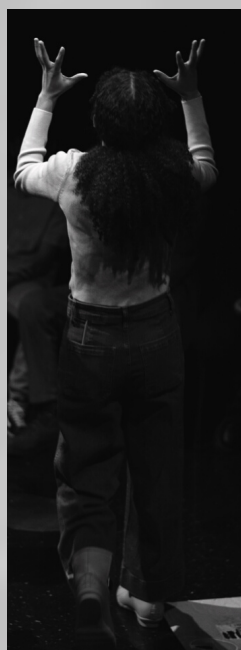
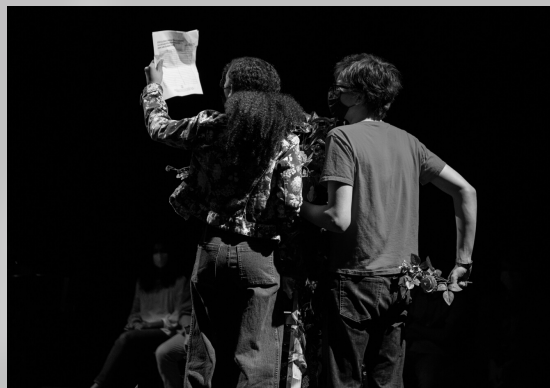
Featured in the NoVa Outside Student Environmental Action Showcase, along with a display of Tess's collection of original eco-friendly upcycled mosaic musical instruments. ('22.)

Virginia Thespian Festival  
Playwriting Thespy Competition -  
Excellent Rating ('23)



# YOUR CARVING FOOTPRINT

PRODUCTION STILLS & REHEARSAL PHOTOS





# YOUR CARVING FOOTPRINT

PRODUCTION STILLS & REHEARSAL PHOTOS



# MR. STRANGER

Writer (Script Published)  
Director

## ABOUT

Newly single Leah and her confidant, Maggie imagine whimsical ideals and fatal destinies that could ensue with the unidentifiable teenage enigma, Mr. Stranger. An odd day in the park may lead to young love or a strange family Friday game night in this upbeat ten-minute comedy.



## PRODUCTION HISTORY

**Production - July 2019**

Selected as a Winner of  
Dramafest ('19) and presented  
at Stagedoor Manor

Published and available for  
licensing through  
Smith & Kraus Publishers ('20)  
as a part of Stephen Sonheim's  
Young Playwrights Inc.

## TOPICS & THEMES

- Romance
- Misogyny
- Youth
- Friendship



# PIE FROM THE PATTERSONS'

Writer (Script Published)  
Director

## ABOUT

After a fatal accident caused by teenage twins, Penelope and Sawyer Patterson, rush to their neighbor's door. But, Penelope and Sawyer struggle with saying "sorry," so, they must apologize in the only way they know how: with pie. It's all up to cat caregiver and cooking connoisseur, Mrs. Margery to decide whether or not the Patterson twins can be redeemed for their mistake.

## TOPICS & THEMES

- Family
- Mistakes
- Forgiveness
- Animals

Eccentric characters, rolling dialogue, diverging alliances, and a kitchen-equipped bloodbath are baked into this offbeat one-act comedy.

## PRODUCTION HISTORY

### Production - July 2020 (Zoom)

Selected as a Winner of Dramafest ('19) and presented virtually by Stagedoor Manor

Published and available for licensing through Smith & Kraus Publishers ('20) as a part of Stephen Sonheim's Young Playwrights Inc.



## INSPIRATION





# ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

## BREAK MY BONES (2020)

Writer

Break My Bones is about finding balance, as Lily fights to craft the perfect eulogy to heal all wounds. Patrick, Andrew, and Lily surpass worlds on an exploratory journey to bring back life.

Break My Bones was selected by The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center for the 2020 Young Playwrights Festival.



## THE SECOND DATE (2022)

Co-Director  
Production Manager  
Sound  
Music  
Editing



The Second Date is a romantic comedy short film about two teens, a failed performance troupe, and the stresses of young love. The Second Date wrapped filming in Spring 2022 and is currently in post-production. Produced by After Hours.

## OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD (2023)

Producer

Occupational Hazard is a one-act office comedy. Tess is currently in the process of producing the first stage production of Occupational Hazard at After Hours, and will soon produce a sitcom style short film of the same story.

