



THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# LIVING NEWSPAPER FESTIVAL

MAY 4-8, 2023 | THE ARMORY (5917 N. BROADWAY)

## JUMP SCARE

*By* Ike Holter

*Directed by* Ike Holter and Jarred Webb

*Featuring:* Rolando Serrano & Wes Needham

## A.L.P.

*By* Felicia Oduh

*Directed by* Lanise Antoine Shelley

*Featuring:* Chris Khoshaba & Adia Alli

## SWARM

*By* Nora Leahy\*

*Directed by* Liz Sharpe\*

*Featuring:* Janice O'Neill & Sam Boeck\*

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Amal Salem

CASTING DIRECTOR

Catherine Miller\*

STAGE MANAGER

Anna Brockway

ARTICLE CURATOR

Jon Cohen\*

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Samuel Stephen

SOUND DESIGNER

Michael Huey

FIGHT & INTIMACY

COORDINATOR

Gaby Labotka

## HOW TO MAKE A LIVING NEWSPAPER

CHICAGO — Pick and prod through current events from around the country, choose three. Pair stellar playwrights and directors and assign each pairing an article. Let sit to marinate, let a one-act play bake. Cast from Chicago's talented actor pool. Rehearse a bit. Meet at The Armory to share our stories.

### JUMP SCARE

*Before Michigan State Shooting, Some Students Survived Sandy Hook and Oxford*

FEBRUARY 14, 2023  
NEW YORK TIMES

*The gunfire on Monday night left three dead and five critically injured. For some students, the familiar rituals of sorrow, anger and disbelief were playing out again.*

EAST LANSING, Mich. - As gunshots erupted on the vast Michigan State University campus late on Monday,

killing three students and injuring five others, many on campus felt a chilling sense of familiarity.

They were just children when the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., killed 26 students, teachers and staff members in 2012. Nine years later, the Oxford High School shooting in a nearby township outside of Detroit, left four teenagers dead.

Now, as young adults, they had made it to college, and it was taking place all over again.

### A.L.P.

*Bing's A.I. Chat: 'I Want to be Alive*

FEBRUARY 16, 2023  
NEW YORK TIMES

*In a two-hour conversation with our columnist, Microsoft's new chatbot said it would like to be human, had a desire to be destructive and was in love with the person it was chatting with.*

Bing, the long-mocked search engine from Microsoft, recently got a big upgrade. The newest version, which is available only to a small group of testers, has been outfitted with advanced artificial intelligence

technology from OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT.

### SWARM

*Protestor accused of unleashing bee swarm on deputies to stop eviction*

OCTOBER 20, 2022  
WASHINGTON POST

*Rorie Woods, 55, allegedly told deputies she was glad some of them were allergic to bees*

Wanting to stop sheriff's deputies from carrying out a court-ordered eviction last week, Rorie Woods turned to a "dangerous weapon," authorities said.

Woods allegedly pulled up to the home where the eviction was taking place, got out of her SUV and walked back to the flatbed trailer she had towed to the tony neighborhood in Longmeadow, Mass., a town of nearly 16,000 on the Connecticut state line.

Then, she unleashed hundreds of bees from the hives she had brought, according to the sheriff's office.

## ARTIST BIOS

### JUMP SCARE

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**IKE HOLTER** (Writer/Director) is an award winning writer whose work includes Jackalope's world premieres of "Exit Strategy" and "The Light Fantastic." Other work includes the 7 play "Rightlynd Saga", Kid Cudi's "To The Moon" concert, and the FX television show "Fosse/Verdon", for which he received the WGA award for Best Adaptation. He's directed for Studio Theater in DC, "The Midnight Society" series, and for The Inconvenience, The Roustabouts, and Jackalope in Chicago. Represented by WME and M88, and glad to be back for his 13th Living Newspaper!

**JARRED WEBB** (Associate Director) (he/him) is a Chicago-based director and actor. He has recently directed with Proboscis Theatre and Theatre Unspeakable. As an actor, Jarred has worked with *The Play That Goes Wrong* National Tour, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Prague Shakespeare Company, Southwest Shakespeare Company, and more.

**ROLANDO SERRANO** (Ryder) is happy to be making their post-pandemic return to the stage with the Jackalope team. Most recently they understudied the role of Peter in *The Luckiest* at Raven theatre. Rolando studied acting at Missouri State University and is a proud graduate of the School at Steppenwolf. They are represented by Dream Team Talent.

**WES NEEDHAM** (Nate) tries to stay busy. In addition to his favorite role as Hannah's husband and Maisie and Otto's dad, he also works as Content Director and producer for "Good Evening with Pat Whalen", Chicago's best political late-night talk-show. As for acting, he's been lucky to be an ensemble member of The New Coordinates, and performed at such venues as

Steppenwolf Garage, iO, Second City and ComedySportz Theater. You may have even caught him briefly on NBC's "Chicago PD."

### A.L.P.

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**FELICIA ODUH** (Playwright) is a Nigerian-American, Chicago-based actor/playwright whose work has been developed with Northlight Theatre, Vertigo Productions, and Black Lives, Black Words. She is also a writer for OTV's comedic web series, *How to Love*, and a recipient of the Reva and David Logan Foundation's 2021 Artist Grant. Theatre acting credits include work with Definition Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Paramount Theatre. TV credits include *Shining Girls*, *4400*, and *How to Love*.

**LANISE ANTOINE SHELLEY** (Director) (she/her) is the Black Theater Coalition AMEX Directing Fellow 2023, Drama League Classical Directing Fellow, and Stratford Shakespeare's Chicago Fellow. Recent directing credits include a staged reading of *Phedre*, *A Tempest* at off-Broadway Red Bull Theater; Other credits: Paramount, Silent Theatre Company, Rites of Spring Festival Voices and Faces, Akvavit Theatre, DePaul University, and 16th St Theater. MFA from ART/Harvard University and BADA in Oxford, England.

**ADIA ALLI** (Syd) is a first-generation, Nigerian-American artist. Chicago theatre credits: *School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play* (Goodman Theatre); *Cardboard Piano* (TimeLine Theatre); *The Escape* (Art Institute of Chicago); *No Child...* (Definition Theatre); and *The Doppelganger* (Steppenwolf Theatre, u/s). Film/TV credits: *The Chi*, *Chicago Med*, and *Seeds*. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, a specialization in African American and African Studies, and a minor in Economics from Michigan State University. Represented by Gray Talent Group.

**CHRIS KHOSHABA** (Reece) From Skokie, IL, Chris' past theatre credits include: *Loyalina* (Goodman Theatre), *Rent* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *The Tragedy of King Christophe* (The House Theatre of Chicago), *I Call My Brothers* (Interrobang Theatre Project), *King Lear* (Redtwist Theatre). He has a BFA in Acting from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

### SWARM

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**NORA LEAHY\*** (Writer) is a playwright and Jackalope company member. Her work has been developed or produced at Lean Ensemble Theater (Hilton Head, SC); Nashville Story Garden (TN); The Arden (Philadelphia, PA); Actors Theatre of Charlotte (NC); and locally with The New Coordinates, The Greenhouse Theater, and Jackalope. Her plays have been nationally recognized, including *BADLANDS* (Relentless Award Honorable Mention, 2019; Hass Fellowship, 2020); *IF YOU FORGET ME* (Princess Grace Award Semi-Finalist, 2019); and *THE BRIDGE* (Woodward Newman Award Finalist, 2017).

**LIZ SHARPE\*** (Director) is thrilled to be in their artistic home directing for *LNF*. Liz has recently been covering for *Describe the Night* at Steppenwolf and will be seen in *Pretty Shahid*, next at Jackalope this season. Represented by Grossman and Jack.

**JANICE O'NEILL** (Ensemble) is excited to be back working with Jackalope. Past performances with Jackalope: *The Light Fantastic*, *Exit Strategy* ( Three Oaks Festival). Other performances: *Plano* (First Floor@Steppenwolf), *Put Your House in Order*, *Distance*, *Conversations on a Homecoming*, *The Petrified Forest* at Strawdog. *Mary Page Marlow*, *Carlyle*, *Mary*, *A Permanent Image*, *Symmetry* US/P, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *The Voyage* Inheritance, *A Delicate Balance* US/P, *Mariette in Ecstasy*

*The Sugar Syndrome*, and numerous Films & commercials.

**SAM BOECK\*** (Ensemble) (he/they) is pumped to be back with his Jackalope fam. Chicago credits: *Among The Dead* (Jackalope), *Murder on the Orient Express* (Drury Lane) *Graveyard Shift* (The Goodman) *Dutch Masters* (Jackalope Theatre) *Witch* (Writers Theatre) *The Tempest*, *Comedy of Errors* (Commission Theatre) *Insurrection: Holding History* (Stage Left); *Grapes of Wrath* (The Gift). Los Angeles Credits: *An Enemy of the People* (LA Theatre Works) and *Gus's Fashions and Shoes* (VS. Theatre). TV/Film: *Unusual Suspects*, *August: Osage County*, *The Veil*. Sam is represented by DDO. Giddy Up!

## PRODUCTION TEAM

**AMAL MAZEN SALEM** (Production Manager) is proud to be working with Jackalope Theatre for the first time! She recently Production Manage at A Red Orchid Theatre after studying theatre at Northwestern. She produced several avant-garde plays, such as *Hookman* and *Already Whole*, and managed productions for WAVE Productions. A Chicago native through and through, it's always been Amal's dream to take her place in Chicago's theater community and is honored to do it with the LNF team.

**ANNA BROCKWAY** (Stage Manager) (she/her) is grateful to be returning to Jackalope as the stage manager for *Living Newspaper Festival*. Previous Jackalope credits include *Among The Dead* (SM), *Neighborhood Narratives 2021* (SM), *Fast Company* (ASM). Other Chicago credits include: *Collaboration - Encounter 2020* (SM), *Collaboration - Book of Peace 2019*

(ASM), *Red Tape Theatre - Queen of Sock Pairing* (SM).

**SAM STEPHEN** (Lighting Designer) (they/them) currently resides in the Chicagoland area, where they are always working with new companies all around the area. Their goal is to help transport people to a one of a kind world inside of the theatre and take them on a once in a lifetime adventure!

**MICHAEL HUEY** (Original Music and Sound Design) has composed music and designed sound for over 60 theatrical productions across the Chicago area and abroad. He has a long running history with Lookingglass Theatre Company, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Side-show Theatre Company, Adventure Stage, Filament Theatre, Bros do Prose, Jackalope Theatre Company, and many more. He has been nominated twice by the Joseph Jefferson Awards for his music and sound design. Music and more at [officialmichaelhuey.com](http://officialmichaelhuey.com).

**GABY LABOTKA** (Fight + Intimacy Choreographer) (she/they/anything respectful) is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist who works as an actor, director, intimacy director, fight director, and choreographer across the country. She is a fierce advocate for respect, empathy, representation, inclusion, and safety in the theatre, and they are dedicated to making art that reflects those values. Recent/Selected Credits: *The Wonder* (Eclectic Theatre, Director and Fight Director); *Revenge Song* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Asst. Director/Asst. Fight Director); *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (Steep Theatre Co, Fight & Intimacy Director); *House of Joy* (Reperatory Theatre St. Louis, Fight & Intimacy Director); *Paradise Square* (Broadway, Intimacy Director); *La*

*Ruta* (Steppenwolf, Fight Director); and *WHITE* (Definition Theatre, Intimacy Director). Gaby is a Certified Intimacy Director through Intimacy Directors & Coordinators, an Advanced Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors, and the recipient of two Alliance of Latinx Theatre Artists Awards for Outstanding Fight Choreography. [@theatre\\_warrior](http://www.gabylabotka.com).

\*denotes Jackalope Company Member



## GIVE TODAY

[www.jackalopetheatre.org](http://www.jackalopetheatre.org)

Help Jackalope create more theatre like *The Living Newspaper Festival*.

Scan the QR code to donate, or inquire at the box office.

Patrons like you allow us to continue growing, creating, and making a difference from Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. As a nonprofit organization, we rely on donors who support Jackalope across a wide range of giving amounts. And every donor becomes an essential partner in our mission for a more diverse definition of American identity.



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