

Voices HEaRd: A Women's Theatre Festival

PRODUCTION LINE UP

2026 Theme: Reclamation June 4-14

For the 2026 *Voices HEaRd: A Women's Theatre Festival*, the theme of *Reclamation* bridges parody, true crime, and new works by centering women reclaiming their own stories. The festival highlights women taking control of their legacies—challenging the myths, stereotypes, and sensational headlines that have long defined them.

Disenchanted!

by Dennis T. Giacino with Fiely Matias

Director: Vanessa Becker Weig

Music Director: Ron Wilbur

Asst Director: Rylie Sudduth

Forget the princesses you think you know—the original storybook heroines have tossed their tiaras and come to life to set the record straight in this hilarious hit musical that's anything but Grimm. These royal renegades are none-too-happy with how they are being portrayed in today's pop culture, and they've arrived to expose the truth by changing the narrative of their own "happily ever afters."

In *DISENCHANTED!* your favorite princesses comically belt out a subversive, "not-for-the-kiddies" truth that rips the script to shreds. While they tell the princesses exactly where to stick their stereotypes, this "Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical" nominee also celebrates individuality and the beauty found within. See for yourself if they really lived happily ever!

BORDEN: A NEW MUSICAL (Development Presentation)

Created by NYC-based writer Cavan Hendron, (*and Co-Written by Aaron Roitman and Directed by Neeta Thadani*), *BORDEN* explores the complex family dynamics of the Borden household leading up to and following the infamous 1892 murders, centering on the shifting power between sisters Emma and Lizzie. The piece blends history with emotional storytelling, examining freedom, legacy, love, and control within the family.

This project has been in development for several years, including extensive historical research in collaboration with acclaimed Lizzie Borden scholar Cara Robertson, along with industry presentations in New York City. We are excited to

continue shaping and refining the show by sharing it with the Lexington community.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PLAY FOR THE TICKTOCK PLAY FESTIVAL

TICKTOCK Play Festival

This showcase of short plays and devised work advances the festival's focus on agency and the power of women to claim ownership of their stories. By reshaping the narrative, we reclaim the pen from those who have miswritten our pasts—or would distort our futures. This festival centers the truth of our lived experiences, setting the record straight unapologetically and in our own voices.

For the 2026 Voices HEaRd: A Women's Theatre Festival, the theme of Reclamation serves as a bridge between parody, true crime, and new works. This theme focuses on women seizing control of their own legacies from the myths and headlines that have long defined them.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

Voices Amplified is seeking submissions of short plays or devised movement theatre works 3-30 minutes by *female-identifying playwrights.

*This includes those who have experienced womanhood in all its intersectionality, including cisgender, transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming individuals.

We will have two different submission types with two different deadlines:

Adult Play submissions accepted February 1-February 28

High School Play submissions accepted February 1- April 18.

There will be workshops for high school students to be announced very soon that will involve assistance with writing a short play.

- We are interested in plays and performances that explore the 2026 theme of Reclamation.
- We can accept materials with 1-4 performers.
- Performers may be any and all gender expressions.

WHAT WE'RE OFFERING:

- Selected plays and pieces will receive a production of 2 performances as part of Voices Amplified 2026 Voices HEaRd.
- Adult playwrights will receive a small honorarium for their work and 2 complimentary tickets to attend the TICKTOCK festival.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR SHORT PLAYS

Submissions will be collected according to the above deadlines. After the deadline, our Play Selection Committee, which will include the directors for the Playfest, will read and review each piece, narrowing the number of scripts or proposals to a selection of 90 to 120 minutes of material. This material will include 1-2 high school submissions and 1-2 devised pieces. Directors will then choose one of the selected plays, and the directors will cast from open auditions. For devised work, no directors will be assigned and devisors will have the opportunity to use their own performers or to participate in the casting process. After a rehearsal period in May 2026, the plays will be presented for 2 performances in front of a paying audience as part of the Voices HEaRd Theatre Festival June 4-14.

****Play Submission Process****

1. Be sure to upload a PDF version of your play title in caps, followed by the playwright's name. Example: DISENCHANTED_Emma Erwin.
2. Submit to TICKTOCK Playfest Producer Emma Erwin emma.activateawp@gmail.com. Play submissions will not be accepted anywhere else.
3. Please include a Title Page with your full contact information, and a brief synopsis of the play.
4. Please number all pages.
5. Submit your play before the February 28 deadline.
6. There is no entry fee.
7. Plays submitted will not be returned.
8. Plays should not be AI generated.
9. Please make sure your script is easy to read.
10. All plays should be in 12 pt font with 1 in margins. Please make sure you use a standard & easy to read font.
11. We are wanting plays, not skits. There should be a beginning, middle, and end with an actual plot.
12. No multiple scenes or scene changes during your play.
13. No extensive set/costume/light/projection requirements. Shows should be able to be done on a minimal budget in the Pam Miller Downtown Arts Center Blackbox.
14. For plays with complex requirements, stage directions will be read as part of the performance. Our focus will be on exploring the words and story, and less so on creating a full production.
15. The setting of your play should be simple or suggested.
16. Please, no more than 4 characters
17. Please let us know if any of the character's requirements are flexible for age, gender, and race/ethnicity.
18. We are unable to give feedback on plays not selected.
19. We will email all playwrights at the end of the process.
20. By submitting a script for consideration, the playwright agrees that Voices Amplified may produce the play for our 2026 Festival.

21. If selected, we ask that you actively promote your productions to boost ticket sales and share pertinent marketing information about the festival.

****Submission Requirements for Devised Work****

Devised submissions require a "Proof of Concept" or "Pitch" package:

1. Project Description: A summary of the central concept, themes, and intended audience (usually 150–400 words).
2. Supporting Media: Video clips of past workshops, storyboards, inspirational "look books," or sound recordings.
3. Technical Parameters: A description of the physical needs of the piece, as devised work often relies on specific set pieces or unique staging.
4. Creative Team Bio: Information on the ensemble or lead artists, highlighting their collaborative experience.

GENERAL AUDITION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. To audition for any of the production line-up for Voices HEaRD, please submit an audition form.
LINK: <https://forms.gle/3cHh9EpcgcGNfjvS8>
2. On the audition form, you will have the opportunity to link your video submission, resume and headshot. You will also be able to notate what productions you are interested in.
3. Make sure to have a clean background, good lighting, and that we can see you from the waist up.
4. Please only submit one video and slate at the beginning of your video.

*******VIDEO SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS*******

All Productions and Borden

-Please submit a 60-second monologue and a 32 bar cut of a song. With accompaniment.

Disenchanted Only

-Please submit a 32-bar cut of a song with accompaniment in the style of the show.

Playfest Only

-Please submit a 60-second monologue

CASTING NOTICE – BORDEN: A NEW MUSICAL

(Development Presentation)*****

In collaboration with Voices Amplified (Lexington, KY)

We are thrilled to bring *BORDEN: A New Musical* to Lexington, Kentucky for the very first time as part of a special development presentation in collaboration with Voices Amplified.

Created by NYC-based writer Cavan Hendron, (and Co-Written by Aaron Roitman and Directed by Neeta Thadani), *BORDEN* explores the complex family dynamics of

the Borden household leading up to and following the infamous 1892 murders, centering on the shifting power between sisters Emma and Lizzie. The piece blends history with emotional storytelling, examining freedom, legacy, love, and control within the family.

This project has been in development for several years, including extensive historical research in collaboration with acclaimed Lizzie Borden scholar Cara Robertson, along with industry presentations in New York City. We are excited to continue shaping and refining the show by sharing it with the Lexington community.

This is a DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION - NOT a full production.

Think of it as a creative “*play session*” where we collaborate, explore, have fun, and discover what the show wants to become as it continues its journey.

We are seeking actors who sing (*no need to be classically trained*) and who are excited to collaborate, play, and be open to rewrites and changes throughout the development process.

REHEARSAL PROCESS

The initial portion of rehearsals will take place over Zoom, allowing us to begin exploring the material, music, and scenes remotely. The week leading up to the development presentation will be fully in person in Lexington, where everything will come together for the presentation.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

- 60-second monologue
- 32-bar cut of a song

CHARACTERS

EMMA BORDEN – Lizzie’s older sister

LIZZIE BORDEN – Emma’s younger sister

ANDREW BORDEN – Father to Emma and Lizzie

ABBY BORDEN – Andrew’s second wife, stepmother to Emma and Lizzie

BRIDGET SULLIVAN – The family’s live-in Irish maid (*Irish accent is needed for this role.*)

(Some actors may double.)

IMPORTANT NOTES

- This is a development presentation
- Actors who enjoy collaboration and creative exploration are encouraged
- No roles include first right of refusal

If you're excited about new work, storytelling, and being part of a show in development, we would love to see you!

DISENCHANTED AUDITION NOTICE*****

by Dennis T. Giacino with Fiely Matias

Director/Choreographer Vanessa Becker Weig

Music Director: Ron Wilbur

Asst Director: Rylie Sudduth

Forget the princesses you think you know—the original storybook heroines have tossed their tiaras and come to life to set the record straight in this hilarious hit musical that's anything but Grimm. These royal renegades are none-too-happy with how they've been portrayed in today's pop culture, and they've arrived to expose the truth by changing the narrative of their own "happily ever afters."

In DISENCHANTED! your favorite princesses comically belt out a subversive, "not-for-the-kiddies" truth that rips the script to shreds. While they tell the princes exactly where to stick their stereotypes, this "Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical" nominee also celebrates individuality and the beauty found within. See for yourself if they really lived happily ever!

* Princesses: The show is made up of 10 princesses, ranging from Sleeping Beauty to Mulan to Ariel. Each princess tells their own version of the story. All vocal ranges, ethnicities and body types encouraged! Due to the adult humour we are looking for performers 18 and over - we will consider Junior and Seniors in high school with parental permission. We encourage ALL ages over 18, including women of a certain age. Some roles may be doubles. We will cast between 6-10 actors.

AUDITION REQUIREMENT:

- 32 bars of a song that best shows off your voice.
- Please be sure to sing to an accompaniment track.
- fill out the audition [**FORM**](#)
- there is place on the form to submit your video, headshot and resume

CASTING FOR:

SNOW WHITE Brassy and ballsy, sassy and self-assured. She is the leader of the Princess pack who likes to be in control. Equal parts serious-minded, sexy, and fun-loving. With her skin as white as snow and lips cherry red, she aspires to be perfect in all that she does but soon realizes that being perfectly 'you' is more important. Vocal Range: Soprano A3 - C6

CINDERELLA Perky and quirky, slightly ditzy. She is always enthusiastic, especially when it comes to being a real-life princess. A happy-go-lucky girl who is about to discover that there is more to being a princess than gowns and glass slippers. Vocal Range: Mezzo/Soprano A3 - A5

SLEEPING BEAUTY: The perfect comic foil to Snow White's perfect 'straight-man.' Always the cut-up, she brings a flippant unpredictability to the evening's festivities. She's a comical bull in a china shop. Some would prefer she fit into the stereotype of a perfect princess but she'd rather break the mold and be perfectly herself. Vocal Range: Mezzo/Soprano EB3 - A5

THE PRINCESS WHO KISSED THE FROG: Forgotten and left out of the kingdom for many years, this empowered Black woman has now arrived on the scene as a feisty, fabulous storybook princess! She is the ultimate supreme diva in the land and she's ready to take the world by storm! [Must be African American] Vocal Range: Mezzo F#3 - F#5

HUA MULAN: Strong yet gentle, shy yet out-going, she is a walking dichotomy of masculinity and femininity seeking self-acceptance in a world that would have her choose one or the other. [Must be Middle Eastern/Southeast Asian/ Pacific Islander; May also also double as Pocahontas and Princess Badroulbadour] Vocal range: Mezzo/Soprano G3 - A5 Full vocal range when doubling: G3 - A5

POCAHONTAS: The ultimate exploited girl who is a bizarre blend of the innocent little Powhatan tyke from history and the buxom babe from today's pop princess culture. Her journey takes her back to her authentic, historically significant self. Vocal range: Mezzo/Soprano G3 - A5

PRINCESS BADROULBADOUR: The spunky princess from the Middle Eastern-South Asian Aladdin sagas. She's had it up to her veils with being secondary in her own tale. She is unhappy with the misogyny and oppression of women in her stories (and in today's world) but getting even puts a little 'swing' in her step! Vocal range: Mezzo/Soprano G3 - A5

THE LITTLE MERMAID: An innocent, obedient young woman turned rebellious, jaded lush. She has given up everything just to net a man, her father, her fin, even her voice. She can only move forward with baby steps; one foot in front of the other. [May also double as Belle and Rapunzel;] Little Mermaid Vocal Range: Mezzo F3 - E5 Full vocal range when doubling: Contralto/Mezzo C2 - F#5 (will modify if C2 is too low...because that's really low)

BELLE: A smart, witty French girl from classic lit driven crazy by the misrepresentation of her image in pop culture. An insane woman who finds herself speaking with inanimate objects and cleaning up after her beast of a boyfriend. Vocal Range: Mezzo G3 - F#5

RAPUNZEL: A strong German woman with a domineering personality, a big mole on her cheek, and a bushy unibrow! American capitalism has turned this frail, sheltered girl into a Mel Brooksian, Wagnerian singing monster bent on getting her fair share. Vocal Range: Contralto C2 - D5 (will modify if C2 is too low...because that's really low)

TICKTOCK Play Festival AUDITION NOTICE

This showcase of short plays and devised work advances the festival's focus on agency and the power of women to claim ownership of their stories. By reshaping the narrative, we reclaim the pen from those who have miswritten our pasts—or would distort our futures. This festival centers the truth of our lived experiences, setting the record straight unapologetically and in our own voices.

We are seeking actors for the TICKTOCK Play Festival of ALL Gender Expression, Race Ethnicity, and Ages (High School and up)

QUESTIONS?

GENERAL-Vanessa Becker Weig (vanessaweig@voicesampd.org)
TICKTOCK Play Festival [-emma.activateawp@gmail.com](mailto:emma.activateawp@gmail.com)

Tech Schedule

Schedule			
Sunday	May 31	TECH	Disenchanted
Monday	June 1	TECH	Disenchanted
Tuesday	June 2	TECH	Disenchanted
Wednesday	June 3	Opening	Disenchanted/ Festival
Thursday	June 4	Performance	Disenchanted
Friday	June 5	Performance	Disenchanted
Saturday	June 6	Workshop	
Saturday	June 6	Performance	Disenchanted
Sunday	June 7	Performance	Disenchanted

Sunday	June 7	Rehearsal	Tick Tock Theatre
Monday	June 8	OFF	
Tuesday	June 9	Tech	Tick Tock Theatre
Wednesday	June 10	Performance	Tik Tok Theatre
Wednesday	June 10	Tech	Borden
Thursday	June 11	Performance	Borden
Friday	June 12	Performance	Tick Tock Theatre
Saturday	June 13	Performance	Borden
Saturday	June 13	Performance	Disenchanted
Sunday	June 14	Performance	Disenchanted

History of Voices HEaRd

When Voices Amplified was known as The Girl Project, we developed and produced a signature community event each year from 2017 to 2019 called Voices Heard. This annual gathering was dedicated to celebrating and uplifting local artists—especially those whose voices have historically been underrepresented or misrepresented. Through multidisciplinary performances, including spoken word, music, dance, and visual art, Voices Heard offered a welcoming platform for artists to share personal stories, creative work, and cultural perspectives with a broad audience. Over those three years, we proudly collaborated and performed alongside more than 100 artists from across Kentucky, helping to cultivate a vibrant, inclusive arts community. The event also fostered important conversations about identity, equity, and representation, making a lasting impact on both participants and audiences.

We are excited to announce the return of Voices Heard in 2026, reimagined with a refreshed framework and dynamic lineup that reflects our evolution and rebranding as Voices Amplified. The upcoming event will continue our tradition of spotlighting diverse talent and new opportunities for artistic exchange and community engagement.