



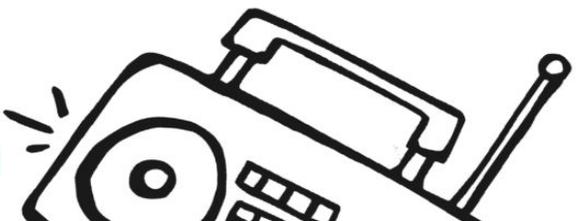
This program is made possible by the New York City Artist Corps.



# OUR CHILDHOOD SUCKED

**WRITTEN BY SMJ**  
**CREATED and DEVELOPED BY**  
**Ezra Brain, Ludmila Brito, Stephanie Fongheiser, Talia Frank-Stempel,**  
**Daniel Kunkel, Alizae Powell, Danielle Truss, & SMJ**

**THE TANK**  
**312 W 36th St, FL 1**  
**FREE!**  
**Saturday, October 16th at 3:00 pm**



# THE TANK

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**ARE YOU AN ARTIST?** The Tank is committed to supporting the work of as many artists as we possibly can. We operate with open submissions, so you can email us and do a show. For info on how to submit a proposal, please visit [thetanknyc.org/perform](http://thetanknyc.org/perform)

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## 2021 TANK INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

The Tank's programming is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

CyberTank programming is made possible by the NYC COVID-19 Response and Impact Fund and The New York Community Trust.

Additional Rehearsal Space pre-COVID-19 made possible by the A.R.T./New York Creative Space Grant –supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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Council on  
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# ***OUR CHILDHOOD SUCKED***

**Created & Developed by Ezra Brain, Ludmila Brito,  
Stephanie Fongheiser, Talia Frank-Stempel, Daniel  
Kunkel, Danielle Phillips, Alizae Powell, & SMJ**

**Written by SMJ**

## **CAST**

***Manny Melbourne***

**Danielle Truss**

***Jade Dean***

**Talia Frank-Stempel**

***Riley Kingston***

**Alizae Powell**

***Chase Romero***

**Evan Moore-Coll**

***London Hayes & Chris Hayes***

**Annie Fang**

***Stage Directions***

**Nicky Khor**

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

**Director**

**Ludmila Brito**

**Production Stage Manager**

**Alyssa Samuelson**

**Dramaturg**

**Ezra Brain**

**Assistant Director**

**Callan Whitley**

# ACTORS



Danielle Phillips (*Manny & Creator - she/her*) is an actor/writer and is an alum of the National Theater Institute's Fall '17 semester and Spring '18 Advanced Performance semester, where she performed in both devised works *OVER/UNDER* and *Channeling*. Credits include: *Small Town Icons* (PEA Fest), *Playdate* (Dixon Place), *The Crucible*, *Vanya and Sonya* and *Masha Spike*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Cloverdale Playhouse) and *Helvetica* (Auburn University Montgomery).

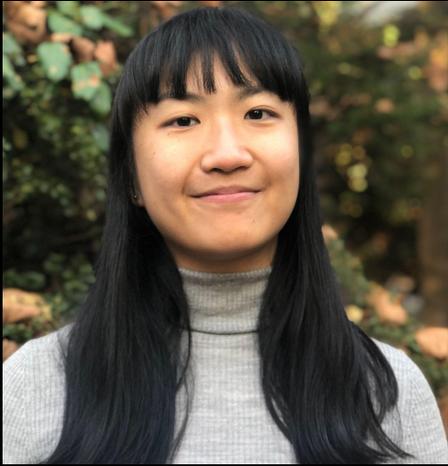


Alizae Ivette (*Riley & Creator - she/her*) is a 24 year old actress/singer. Alizae has been a part of many workshops, she has played the Blue Ranger in *THE COMMAND CENTER* also written by SMJ, she has also been in the ensemble in the workshopping of "Fora" by Jae Broderick and composed by Matt Cohen. Alizae has also worked with Troy Anthony as a singer in his piece "Antioch Mass" and more recently "Troy Anthony and Friends" at Joe's Pub. Alizae is more than excited to share this collaborative piece of work that her and her friends have developed over the past year, finally in person.



Talia Frank-Stempel (*Jade & Creator - she/her*) is an actor, writer, and teacher based out of New York. Originally from DC, Talia graduated from Emerson College in May 2019 with a BFA in Theater Education and Performance as well as studied at the Eugene O'Neill NTI program during the spring of 2018. Talia is currently an intern at Soho Rep. Talia has a passion for new play development, devising, physical theater, and making people smile. She has trained across the US and abroad including Action Theater in Estonia with Ruth Zapora, a Chekhov intensive in Cuba, and Lecoq with Complicite in London. She wrote and directed her play *Phoenix*, which premiered at Emerson College in Boston in April 2019. Favorite acting credits include *Uncle Vanya* (Yelena), *The Glass Menagerie* (Laura), *Anchortown* (Moonrise) and *Cabaret* (Fraulein Kost).

# ACTORS



Annie Fang (*London & Chris - she/her*) is an actor, singer, dancer, and aspiring dumpling-pleating expert. Previous credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (DelShakes), *This Is The Week That Is* (1812 Productions), *SHIP* (Azuka Theatre), and *Man of God* (InterAct Theatre). She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2019 with a BA in Economics.



Evan Moore-Coll (*Chase - he/him*) is a Manhattan based actor and stage fighter from Charlottesville, Virginia. He graduated from Otterbein University in 2017 with a BFA in Acting. Recent credits include *King Lear* and *Macbeth* with New York Classical Theatre.



Originally from Portland, OR, Nicky Khor (*Stage Directions - he/him*) relocated to Atlanta, GA, following his graduation from Whitman College. There he spent a year as a member of Horizon Theatre's apprentice company and has worked regionally ever since. He currently resides in New York City where he dreams of one day returning to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Favorite roles include Cleanté (TARTUFFE), The Nasty Interesting Man/Lord of the Underworld (EURYDICE), and Simon (THE PRINCESS OF CASPIA). Legend has it he's the reason the Mona Lisa smiles.

# CREATIVE TEAM



Ludmila Brito (*Director & Creator - she/her*) is an Indigenous-Brazilian director focused on the development of politically urgent plays and decolonization. Most recently, she directed Emily J. Daly's ep. of the MTARadioPlays (Rattlestick) and Project Transform (Hartford Stage) with Nilaja Sun. UWC and NTI alum, Ludy is pursuing her Directing MFA at Boston University.



Alyssa Samuelson (*Production Stage Manager - she/her*) is a theatre administrator and covid compliance officer based in NYC. She is originally from Warren, PA. and graduated with a B.A. in Theatre from Otterbein University in 2020. During her time at Otterbein, she co-founded the University's first student-run theatre company and became Otterbein Summer Theatre's first student company manager. Alyssa was also the Business Intern for Weston Playhouse during their 2019 summer season. When not working, Alyssa loves to scrapbook, craft, and spend time with her cat-daughter, Willow.



Ezra Brain (*Dramaturg & Creator - they/them*) is a trans multi-disciplinary artist, activist, and teacher based in NYC. As a theatre artist, their writing has been performed at the Tank, Literacy Theatre, Stop Pretending Theatre Project, Passaic Preparatory Academy, the New Masculinities Festival, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol, the Art Garage, Dixon Place, and Stay True Theatre. Their play *Something's Coming* (co-written with J. Andrew Norris) was a 2020 Finalist for the Jewish Playwriting Contest from the Jewish Plays Project. Ezra's essays and articles have been published in 10 countries and 6 languages. As a filmmaker, Ezra's work has been accepted into multiple festivals around the world. They are an award-winning teaching artist, a proud member of Ring of Keys, the Dramatists Guild, and the Editorial Board of Left Voice.

# CREATIVE TEAM



Callan Whitley (*Assistant Director*) is a freshman directing and playwrighting student at Emerson College in Boston. OCS is her first introduction back to live theatre since covid.



Daniel Kunkel (*Creator & Poster Design - he/him*) is a director, writer, stage combatant and podcaster currently living in scenic Bend, Oregon on the side of a mountain with his girlfriend and two cats. He graduated from Otterbein University with a BFA in Acting in 2020 after founding the school's first all-student organized theatre company. He is currently a head investigator on *The Mistletoe Secret*, a podcast exploring the Hallmark Cinematic Universe. When not creating, he enjoys wood carving, sword and armor making, and macaroni and cheese.



Stephanie Fongheiser (*Creator - she/her*) is a Filipino American actor based in Chicago. She is honored to be working with such a talented group of people and is very grateful to SMJ for asking her to be a part of this project. She most recently appeared as Jane Bennet and dramaturg in the virtual adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* (*Pride and Prejudice Productions*). Chicago credits include: *Fast Company* (u/s, Jackalope Theatre), *Double Vision* (Underscore Theatre), *Our Perspective: Asian American Play Readings* (Asian Improv aRts Midwest), *Game of Tiaras* (Surging Films & Theatrics), and *Kiss Me, Kate* (Big Noise Theatre). She will soon join the cast of *Royal Princess Parties* as Mulan and Raya.



SMJ (*Playwright & Creator - they/them*) is an NYC-based, mixed-race, and non-binary playwright, educator, and theatermaker originally from Mount Vernon, OH. Their work has been seen in various forms throughout the US and the UK. They've been a resident artist with the Access Theater, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, The Sappho Project, The Workshop Theater, Art House Productions, Fresh Ground Pepper, the HMBG Foundation, The Midnight Factory, The Dare Tactic, and Dragon's Egg Studio. SMJ was recently a recipient of a City Artists Corps Grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts. They're a graduate of Otterbein University and the National Theater Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. SMJ is a member of the Dramatists Guild and Ring of Keys. [www.smjwrites.com](http://www.smjwrites.com)

## PRODUCTION HISTORY

**OUR CHILDHOOD SUCKED** was first developed with the Art House Productions 2020 - 2021 INKubator Program.

This reading is made possible due to financial support from the City Artists Corps Grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts. Rehearsal and Performance space was provided by The Tank.

## THANK YOU

Chris and Lisa Ponce, Sheryl Frank, Shima Rayej, Grace Dillon, Jarod Samuelson, Laura Gutierrez, Julianne Schaub, Katie Dembinski, Faulty Stars 1995, Mark Fongheiser, Tara Kunkel, Maggie Marie Rodgers, Nick Blanchard, Laura Brain, Adnan Ahmed, jmdiab, Molly Camp, Sally Clark, Alex Tobey, Henri Sudy, and Anne-Marie Pietersma

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