

Milwaukee Repertory Theater's

Rep Lab

SHORT-PLAY FESTIVAL

Returns April 4-8 in the Stiemke Studio

March 7, 2019 [Milwaukee] - [Milwaukee Repertory Theater](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com) presents the ninth annual production of **Rep Lab**, a short-play festival featuring The Rep's highly-lauded Emerging Professional Residents in the Stiemke Studio, April 4-8, 2019. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at www.MilwaukeeRep.com, by phone at 414-224-9490, or at the Ticket Office at 108 E Wells Street, Milwaukee.

Described by *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* as "fun-filled," and "thoughtfully arranged," **Rep Lab** showcases the work of The Rep's Emerging Professional Residents (EPRs) across theatrical disciplines from direction to design to acting. Rep Lab is conceived and produced solely by the Emerging Professional Residents and has become one of the hottest tickets in town.

THE CAST

The cast and creative team of **Rep Lab** will feature Rep Emerging Professional Residents:

Sadé Ayodele is a recent graduate of University of California at Riverside's Theater, Film, and Digital Production program. She has been with MRT since October and understudied Lizzy in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* and Jacqueline Blount in *Junk*. In April, she will understudy Risa in *Two Trains Running*. Prior to coming to Milwaukee, Sadé played Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid* (The California Theatre, dir. Joseph Henson) and Dorine in *Tartuffe* (UC Riverside, dir. Miles Anderson). After finishing the EPR program, Sadé is planning on settling in Chicago.

Sam Bravo is a sunny California native, and arrived at Milwaukee Rep in December and played Devon Atkins in *Junk* and understudied Bob Price in *Things I Know To Be True*. Sam trained at PCPA in Central California where his favorite roles included: Spike, *Vonya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*; Jehan Frollo, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*; Carl-Magnus, *A Little Night Music*; and Spot Conlon, *Disney's Newsies*. Before arriving in Milwaukee, Sam performed in San Francisco's iconic musical revue *Beach Blanket Babylon*. Sam holds a BA in Finance from Point Loma Nazarene University and is excited to be moving to Chicago this spring!

Blake Dava comes to Milwaukee from Ohio, and has worked in The Rep's Emerging Professional Residency since August 2018. He has appeared onstage as Ensemble (*In the Heights*, u/s, performed), Dick Wilkins/Ghost of Christmas Future (*A Christmas Carol*), and Ensemble (*Junk*). He understudied Babur (*Guards of the Taj*), Young Scrooge/Dickens Assistant (*A Christmas Carol*), Addesso/Cizik/Murray (*Junk*), and Ben (*Things I Know To Be True*). Additional credits include Tantrum Theater (*Lysander, A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and Ohio University (including El-Fayoumy, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, George, *Stop Kiss*, and Etienne, *The Ladies Man*). Blake is an alum of Ohio University (BFA in Theater Performance - Acting), BS in Strategic Communications Journalism), and plans to move to and build a career in New York.

Jose Galvan is a queer, Mexican-born immigrant director. His role in Milwaukee Rep's Emerging Professional Residency was to serve as Assistant Director for the 2018/2019 productions of *In The Heights*, *The All Night Strut*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Mark Twain's River of Song*, *Things I Know To Be True* and *Every Brilliant Thing*. Throughout the season, he directed staged readings of *Present Laughter* (Ten Chimneys) and *The Great Gatsby*. He is an associate member of SDC and alumni of Directors Lab West. He was also the first artistic/literary intern at the Old Globe. Following his residency, Jose is pursuing his MFA in Directing.

Justin Jones is originally from New York City and is a graduate of LaGuardia High School and Williams College. At The Rep, he performed in the ensembles of *A Christmas Carol* and *Junk*. He also understudied Charles Bingley in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, Fred in *A Christmas Carol* and Kevin Walsh in *Junk*. After understudying in The Rep's upcoming production of *Two Trains Running*, Justin plans to continue pursuing acting in New York.

Ismael Lara is a director from Southeast Texas. Selected directing credits: *And All the Dead Lie Down* by Harrison David Rivers (Convergence-Continuum), *Aunt Leaf* (Cleveland Play House), *The Mint Play* (Cleveland Public Theatre). Assistant Director credits: *Guards at the Taj*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *Junk*, *The Chinese Lady*, and *Two Trains Running* (Milwaukee Rep), *The Family Claxon* (Cleveland Public Theatre, world premiere), *Oreo. Carrot. Danger.* (Fault Line Theatre, San Francisco, world premiere). Ismael is also part of the 2018/19 SDC Observership Class and will be attending an MFA Directing program in the Fall of 2019.

Jessica Ma is originally from Dallas, Texas, her Rep roles include: Ellen/Cook in *A Christmas Carol* and understudy for Judy Chen in *Junk* and Afong Moy in *The Chinese Lady*. She is a graduate of Southern Methodist University, and where her favorite roles included Gloria/Mother Teresa in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, Female Greek Chorus in *How I Learned to Drive*, and Crystal in *Bethany*.

Nima Rakhshanifar has been a part of the Emerging Professional Residency since August 2018, moving to Milwaukee from San Jose, California. Nima was featured as Belle's Husband in *A Christmas Carol* and the Waiter in *Junk*. Nima also understudied Arthur de Bourgh in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, Ghost of Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol*, Mia in *Things I Know To Be True*, Humayun in *Guards at the Taj* (performed). A graduate of Pacific Conservatory Theatre in Santa Maria, California, Nima hopes to continue exploring theatre styles both across the country and around the world.

Isabella Reeder is a native of the strange and delightful state of Utah. She is a recent graduate of the University of Utah and was most recently seen as Charlene Stewart in *Junk*. Other recent Rep productions include *A Christmas Carol* (Ensemble), *In the Heights* (Ensemble u/s), and *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Lydia u/s). Isabella will be working with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks this summer.

Hannah Shay hails from Wisconsin and earned her BA in Theatre Arts with a concentration in acting at UW-Parkside. She has trained with the SAFD, passing with recommendation in Rapier & Dagger, Smallsword and Unarmed. Milwaukee Rep credits include *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Mary Bennet u/s), *A Christmas*

Carol (Nanny), *Junk* (Ghost Writer/Ellen), and *Things I Know To Be True* (Pip u/s). Hannah plans to start the next chapter of her career in Chicago, but you can see her in early 2020 for the world premiere of *No Wake* at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre.

Michael J. Wu is the Four-Four Foundation Acting Emerging Professional Resident at the Milwaukee Rep this season. He performed in *A Christmas Carol* and *Junk* and understudied roles in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* and *The Chinese Lady*. Before coming to The Rep, Michael worked and studied at Pacific Conservatory Theatre, where he performed in *Twelfth Night*, *The Crucible*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. This summer, Michael will be heading to California to perform *Mamma Mia!* at San Jose Stage. He is also a United States Air Force veteran.

DESIGN TEAM AND PRODUCTION STAFF

Costume Designers **Amelia Strahan** (2018/19 Production EPR, Costume Construction) and **Victoria Lowell** (2018/19 Production EPR, Wardrobe), Lighting Designer **Annalise Caudle** (2018/19 Production EPR, Assistant Lighting Design), Properties Designer **Linda DiBernardo** and **Jenn Higgins**, Stage Manager **Kira Neighbors** (2018/19 Stage Management Fellow) and Assistant Stage Manager **Josh Hart** (2018/19 Production EPR, Stage Management) with Production Manager **Kaitlyn Anderson**, Scenic Coordinator **Danny Halminiak**, Lighting Director **Aaron Lichamer**, Sound Director and Designer **Erin Paige**, Properties Director **Jim Guy**, and Costume Director **Nicholas Hartman**.

:: Fact Sheet::

Replab <small>Performed and Directed by The Rep's Emerging Professional Residents</small>				in the Stiemke Studio APRIL 2019			
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
▲ Opening Night ◆ Closing Night			4/4	4/5	4/6	4/7	
			8:00pm ▲	8:00pm	4:00pm 8:00pm	2:00pm 7:00pm	
4/8	4/9	4/10	4/11	4/12	4/13	4/14	
7:30pm ◆							

Rep Lab

April 4 – 8, 2019: (Opening night Thursday, April 4, 8pm) in the Stiemke Studio

Information

Tickets are \$15. To purchase please visit www.MilwaukeeRep.com, by phone at 414-224-9490, or at the Ticket Office at 108 E Wells Street, Milwaukee

Hours: 12pm – 6pm; on performance days, the Ticket Office remains open until 15 minutes past curtain.

For more information, please visit www.MilwaukeeRep.com.

About Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Milwaukee Rep is the largest performing arts organization in Wisconsin in terms of audiences served and one of the largest professional theaters in the country. Each year, The Rep welcomes up to 275,000 people at nearly

700 performances of 15 productions ranging from compelling dramas, powerful classics, new plays and full-scale musicals in its three unique performance venues – the Quadracci Powerhouse, Stiemke Studio and Stackner Cabaret. Now in its 65th Season, The Rep has gained a national reputation as an incubator of new work, an agent of community change and a forward-thinking provider of vital arts education programs. Under the leadership of **Artistic Director Mark Clements** and **Executive Director Chad Bauman**, Milwaukee Repertory Theater ignites positive change in the cultural, social, and economic vitality of its community by creating world-class theater experiences that entertain, provoke, and inspire meaningful dialogue among an audience representative of Milwaukee’s rich diversity.

###