

# Gregory Jafari Van Acker (they/he)

Casting Director | Playwright | Lyricist

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## Chronological Paid Employment History

### **2022-2024:**

#### CASTING DIRECTOR (selected) — Bass/Valle Casting / The Casting Collaborative

Kimia Zaman...of the Mountains	Dir. Shadi Ghaheri	Kennedy Center, DC
Safe	Dir. Jess McLeod	NYCLU / BAM, NY
The End of Incorporated Filth	Dir. Thalia Ranjbar	Dixon Place/HOT Festival, NYC
Como Correr: A Hip-Pop Musical	Dir. Nico Raimont	Peak Performances/MSU, NY
Kisses and Bullets	Dir. Faranak Sahafian	Columbia Thesis Film, NY
Bite-Sized Broadway - Season 2	Dir. Christopher Michaels	IndieWorks Theatre Company
Queen's Ball: A Bridgerton Experience	Dir. Meagan Bordner	Netflix/Shondaland, NYC
The Deciders	Dir. Jess McLeod	Woolly Mammoth, DC
Shoot For The Moon	Dir. Raja Feather Kelly	Musical Theatre Factory, NYC
The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill	Dir. Jess McLeod	BFRJ Sings/Little Island, NYC
Sugar Skull	Dir. Elena Araoz	Rhythm of the Arts, National Tour

#### ASSOCIATE CASTING DIRECTOR (selected)

Dial M For Murder	Dir. Robert M. Hupp	Syracuse Stage, NY
Cinderella	Dir. M. Rain Anderson	Syracuse Stage, NY
The Chinese Lady	Dir. Jess McLeod	Alliance Theatre, GA
Madre de Dios	Dir. Laurie Wollery	Eugene O'Neill Center, CT
You Are Cordially Invited...	Dir. Zi Alikhan	Eugene O'Neill Center, CT
Hurt People	Dir. Eric Ruffin	Eugene O'Neill Center, CT
Horsegirl & Cowdaddy	Dir. Adil Mansoor	Eugene O'Neill Center, CT
12 Chairs	Dir. Charlotte Murray	Eugene O'Neill Center, CT
Parrots at the Pagoda	Dir. Jorge B. Merced	Pregones / PRTT, NYC
House of Telescopes (world premiere)	Dir. Lyam B. Gabel	Pipeline Theatre CO, NYC
Once	Dir. Melissa Crespo	Syracuse Stage, NY
El Otro Oz	Dir. Melissa Crespo	Atlantic Theatre CO, NYC
Cebollas	Dir. Jerry Ruiz	Denver Center, CO
Sunset Boulevard	Dir. Dan Levine	ACT of CT, CT
English	Dir. Shadi Ghaheri	Alliance Theatre, GA
A Tale of Two Cities	Dir. Leora Morris	Alliance Theatre, GA
Journey!	Dir. John Rando	Broadway International, NYC
The Great Gatsby	Dir. Alexander Wright	Immersive Everywhere, NYC
Stranger SINGS! - The Parody Musical	Dir. Nick Flatto	Playhouse 46@ St. Luke's, NYC

#### CASTING ASSISTANT (selected)

1776	Dir. Nick Bowling	Marriott Lincolnshire, IL
How To Break	Dir. Logan Vaughn	Village Theatre, WA
Siren: A New Musical	Dir. Elena Araoz	Shubert Organization, NYC
West Side Story	Dir. Lonny Price	International Tour
Anastasia	Dir. Sarah Hartmann	NETworks National Tour

AUDITION MONITOR / READER

Little Shop of Horrors	CD Jason Styres	Virginia Theatre Festival
Goodspeed Season Auditions	CD Paul Hardt	Goodspeed Musicals, CT
Much Ado About Nothing	CD Danica Rodriguez	Shakespeare Theatre CO, DC

EDUCATOR — Audition Technique Workshop from EPA to CB (UNC/PlayMakers Industry Week)  
Audition Technique Workshop for Musical Theatre (Niagara University)

PLAYWRIGHT/LYRICIST — Noor Theatre Highlight Series: SWANA Writers' Co-Op (Noor Theatre, NYC)  
The Price of Saffron (Spinning Dot Theatre/Eastern Michigan University)  
The Newest Newcomer (Sundog Theatre, commission, touring 2025)

EVENT HOST — Annual Storytelling Festival (Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art and Storytelling)

STORYTELLER — Tales from Greece and the Middle East  
The Saga of the Pomegranate Princess and the Third Son  
The Tale of the Wonder Horse (Sugar Hill Museum of Art and Storytelling)

ACTOR — The Bee Man / 29 Hour Reading (IndieWorks Theatre Company)

BROADWAY FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CASTING INITIATIVE INTERNSHIP — Mentors: Candido Cornejo Jr, Rachael Jimenez, Sujotta Pace, Danica Rodriguez, Xavier Rubiano, Gama Valle, Hershey Vazquez Millner, Victor Vazquez

**2021:**

RECIPIENT — Dr. Kenny Hasija Encouragement Fund for Artists (awarded by Ken Davenport)

PLAYWRIGHT/LYRICIST — Sugar Skull: A Virtual Día de Muertos Adventure (Rhythm of the Arts)

**2020:**

PLAYWRIGHT/LYRICIST — The Joining Place (avail on Bandcamp / Spotify)  
Live Lounge Series (Signature Theatre/Playwrights Horizons, NYC)  
Goodspeed Musicals/Johnny Mercer Writer's Grove (Goodspeed, CT)

**2014 - 2019:**

DIRECTOR OF PERFORMING ARTS — Hopscotch Montessori Schools (2019-2022)

PLAYWRIGHT/LYRICIST — MTF 4x15: Round 31 (Musical Theatre Factory/Town Stages)  
MTF Reclaiming Our Time (Musical Theatre Factory/Joe's Pub)  
Sugar Skull: A Día de Muertos Musical Adventure (Columbia Artists)  
The Book of You (Durango Arts Center)

THEATRE TEACHER / PRIMARY AND TODDLER TEACHER — Twin Parks Montessori (2017-2019)

RESIDENT PLAYWRIGHT / DIR OF PERFORMING ARTS — Gate Hill Day Camp (2015-2018)

PLAYWRIGHT — Thurgood Grows Up (Sugar Hill Museum of Art and Storytelling)

HEAD START TEACHER — Dorothy Day Early Childhood Center (2014-2017)

**EDUCATION**

BACHELOR OF ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO / EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE  
Graduated with High Honors in Musical Theatre

## **RELEVANT SKILLS**

- AirTable, Breakdowns, Eco Cast, Castit, Final Draft, IMDB Pro, Microsoft Office, QuickTime, Zoom, Skype, Google Programs (Docs, Drive, Sheets, Slides), Spreadsheets, MAC usage
- Avail Checks, Agent/Talent Communications, Running In-Person Auditions, Posting to Audition Sites (Backstage, Playbill, Breakdowns/Actors Access, etc), writing casting breakdowns, hiring and managing audition monitors, scheduling.
- Skilled in language and communication (in-person, over the phone, and in writing).

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC)/New York City Department of Cultural Affairs/Howard Gilman Foundation Creative Engagement Grant
- Dr. Kenny Hasija Encouragement Fund of Artists Recipient (presented by Ken Davenport)
- Broadway For Racial Justice BIPOC Casting Directive Internship
- Johnny Mercer Foundation Grove, Goodspeed
- Eugene O'Neill National Music Theatre Conference Semifinalist
- Miranda/Telsey Casting Internship Semifinalist