

Annual Report 2020-2021





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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Theatre East

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Theatre East

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Julia Rae Maldonado, *Director of Communications*
Emily Verla, *Development Liaison*
Kire Tosevski, *Web Development Manager*

Complex stories. Simply told.

TheatreEast.org



Letter from the Artistic Director

What a year it's been. It's been a year of difficulty, a year of growth, a year of loss, and a year of great creativity.

We here at Theatre East feel very fortunate for the opportunities that have come our way, and the opportunities we've created.

As COVID took hold and the entire world went remote, we began thinking what we could offer the public. "What do people need?" was the prevailing question. We began to create live remote events, looking for material that would translate through a remote medium. While many theatre companies either made the move to produce films and share the recordings, or simply hit the "Play" button on a show that was produced 5 years ago, we remained committed to providing LIVE experiences. The thought occurred to me after attending a remote memorial, a remote wedding, a remote birthday party, a time of comforting friends, arguing with some, all while standing in front of a camera...that we were having meaningful, truthful experiences. All through Zoom. Why couldn't plays be written to reflect this ubiquitous experience?

For 5X5 we commissioned playwrights to embrace and write for this new world we were living in. They delivered. Five brilliant plays which were performed and streamed live and audiences responded. Over 30,000 views.

Next, we decided to do a fully mounted production and presented PROCESSING...by the brilliant emerging playwright Petra Brusiloff. Ms. Brusiloff, a recent high school graduate who finished up her senior year remotely, writing about the issues facing students as they deal with loss during a turbulent, remote time. Four friends processing together over a game of remote Monopoly. Critics and audiences praised the show.

We then entered a partnership with Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, one of the most well-respected acting programs in the country and worked with student playwrights and actors by creating the Wet Ink Series in which we provided opportunities for students to work with professionals here in New York City. This was such a success that it's become a recruiting tool for SMU and we will be continuing the partnership this spring.

The Theatre East Writers Room was launched under the guidance of our Director of Communications, Julia Rae Maldonado. Seven beautiful new plays have been started and completed since the space was created. All the plays from this year's 5X5 Drama Series were born out of the Writers Room. And our spring Main Stage Production, EDIE SAVES THE BIRDS by Stephanie Fagan had its first breath in the Writers Room. It is a place of creative potency.

Lastly, Theatre East has a new and permanent home. We have partnered with long established Astoria Performing Arts Center to create an artistic center in Queens.

As you can see, we've remained busy. And it feels like we're just getting started. We hope you'll join us.

I submit our report to you. I encourage you to look over it. You deserve to see what you helped create on a shoestring remote season. We accomplished a great deal because of your generous support. Thank you. We truly hope we can count on your support as we look to a great future.

My absolute best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judson Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Judson Jones
Artistic Director



MISSION STATEMENT

Theatre East is a 501(c)3 nonprofit theatre company whose mission is to provide the community with a platform to deepen our understanding of ourselves and the world we share through works of theatre that utilize simple storytelling.

Simple storytelling

There is magic in theatre if you allow it. We choose to unabashedly celebrate the fact that we're in a theater. We know we cannot nor should we choose to compete with the film industry. That's not our medium.

"Is it needed to tell the story?" is a question that is constantly asked. If it's not needed, let's get rid of it. A stage in its most perfect state is empty full of endless possibilities. Therefore, anything added must be of the utmost importance. By removing the spectacle, over-produced aspects, we're left with the story. And if the story and the telling found therein is strong enough, the audience will be magically transported and will leave with a true transcendent experience.

Promoting dialogue and providing a place for dialogue to occur

All too often, theatre that delves into the political or social realm chooses to do so with a set, dogmatic agenda. "Here's what we want you to think." We instead say, "Here's what we want you to think about." We find the gray area much more fascinating, representative, and complex than the black or white. It's this complexity we want to have a dialogue about. And while this is often more challenging, as the black and white ends are more comfortable, it can lead to the heart of what theatre was intended to be. Translated from the Greek, theatre literally means, "a seeing place."



Creating work of social relevance

This is intentionally a broad and expanding area as our society is ever changing. Theatre should reflect and even provoke such changes. But again, provocation can be done by exploring the complexities of an issue rather than simplifying it one hot button side over another. Simple storytelling, but complex exploration.

Providing a platform for community organizations to have a presence

For each production, Theatre East has committed to partnering with a CBO that deals with the issues discussed. Following select performances we have talkbacks not to discuss production aspects but to discuss the issues with the experts in the community. This fosters a dialogue with communities that might not happen outside of the theater.



MAIN STAGE

Four 2020 high school graduates play an online game of Monopoly while trying to reconcile their clashing memories of their late computer science teacher.

As their disagreements divide them, it becomes a question whether the young women will even be able to stay together long enough to finish the game. With the energy of a “Let’s Play” combined with the intimacy of a private video call, *PROCESSING...* humorously and honestly examines how we collectively acknowledge the past to proceed forwards.

5X5 DRAMA SERIES

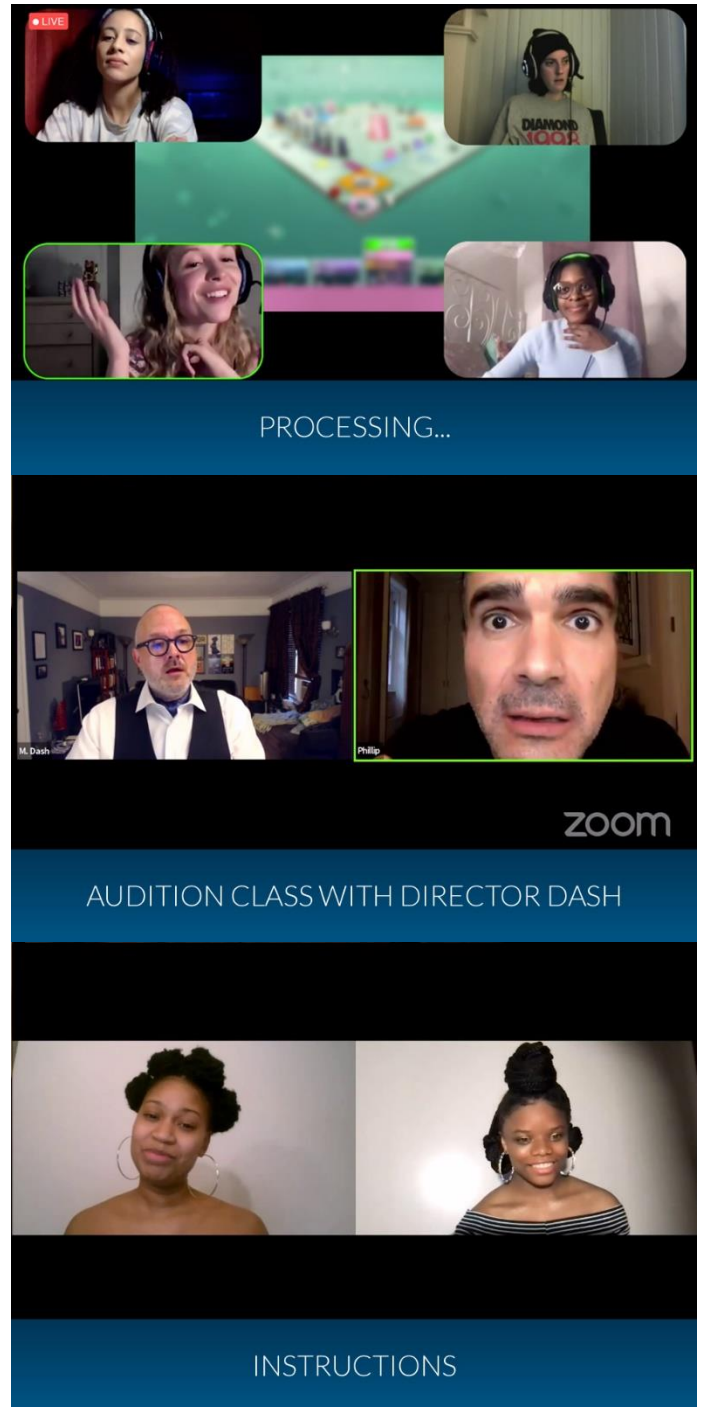
The series was founded in 2016 with the idea of bringing performances beyond the footlights of the theater and into non-traditional spaces like breweries, rooftops, apartments, taverns, and more to provide a unique immersive audience experience. This season, due to COVID-19, the series was unable to travel so instead 5 plays were commissioned specifically, for a remote medium.

WET INK SERIES

This season, **Theatre East** partnered with the **Division of Theatre and the Meadows School at Southern Methodist University** in Texas to workshop and produce readings of new plays by student playwrights. The plays were rehearsed with a mix of student and professional actors and stage managers, directed by NYC-based professionals and SMU faculty members and then streamed live, both in the fall and in the spring.

WRITERS ROOM

Launched 18 months ago, and in keeping with the commitment to support playwrights and new works of theatre, Theatre East facilitates a writers’ group for the purpose of continual play development.





PROCESSING...

WRITTEN BY PETRA BRUSILOFF

DIRECTED BY JUDSON JONES

PROCESSING...was a fully mounted production, which ran for 10 live performances, streamed through FiveOhm. Because of the difficult subject matter, a virtual lobby was created so audiences could stay and discuss the issues raised. Teachers, students, and parents expressed their gratitude for providing a space for these important voices. As critic Jan Ewing wrote, "Processing ... by recent high school graduate Petra Brusiloff, is a play written by a millennial about millennials. But, there's nothing particularly "young" about it."

February 17-27

Production Broadcast Design & Engineer: Romo Halahan

Set Design: Steven Brenman

Costume Design: Sherry Martinez

Creative Consultant: Zach Murphy

Production Stage Manager: Julia Rae Maldonado

Publicity: Katz PR

Social Media Manager: Jeff Gorcyca

Production Coordinator: Mike McNulty

Executive Producer: Christa Kimlicko Jones

Cast: Lizzy Jarrett, Jasmine McLeish, Marshall Louise, Feyisola Soetan

Performances: 10

Attendance: 501

CRITICAL RESPONSE

"Ms. Brusiloff has drawn a tight picture of the way we have all been living during the Pandemic."

"I can say without a doubt that Ms. Brusiloff has a future as a playwright."

Jan Ewing, *Pup's Books*

"As Zoomed theatre goes, this is good. The playwright is a recent high school graduate and seems to me very promising."

Larry Harbison, *Times Square Chronicle*

"Petra Brusiloff's PROCESSING...speaks to a timely issue - how are our young people handling the unique challenge of the current times?"

Laurie Lawson, *Electronic Link Journey*





5X5 DRAMA SERIES

June 14 – 29

Performances: 5 live-streamed through Theatre East social media platforms

Views: 31,768

Because of COVID-19, the company was not able to tour yet remained committed to producing live theatre. 5 playwrights were commissioned to write specifically for a remote medium and because of technology, not only was it possible to share these stories, but artists from all over the United States were able to be involved. Also, because of the ability to stream content, these shows were seen all over the world by over 30,000 people. Theatre East also partnered with locally owned businesses who had been doing so much to help those in need. Each performance, these businesses were highlighted.

All five plays were created in the Theatre East Writers Room.

THE DEAD CAN ZOOM

Written by Dan O'Neil

Directed by Judson Jones

Featuring Ben Dawson, Christa Kimlicko Jones, Chrysi Sylaidi, Debra Wassum

A mysterious Medium connects clients with ghosts over Zoom... for a price.

BYE CHARLIE, BYE LANE

Written by Stephanie Fagan

Directed by Shaun Bennet Fauntleroy

Featuring Rachel Towne, Jennifer Tsay

An art student must complete her final thesis painting remotely. Her subject is her recent ex.

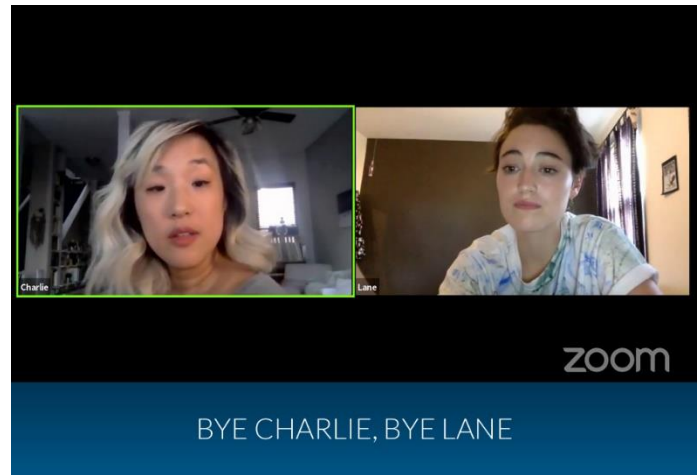
KARULA'S DREAM SHOW LIVE

Written by Julia Rae Maldonado

Directed by Bianca Puerto

Featuring Peter Ferraiolo, Kim Rios Lin, Paula Pizzi, Yhá Mourhia Wright

A Seer believes she can save the world through her incredible gift of Dream Interpretation.



TOGETHER

Written by Shaun Bennet Fauntleroy

Directed by Benard Cummings

Featuring Olivia de Guzman, Lyon Hamill, Shyama Nithiananda

Three people try to get to the heart of the matter while separated by forces beyond their control.

AUDITION CLASS WITH DIRECTOR DASH

Written by Lori Fischer

Directed by Misti Wills

Featuring Dan Domingues, Lori Fischer, Beth Ann Hopkins, Judson Jones, Christa Kimlicko Jones, Julia Rae Maldonado, Mike McNulty, Lauren Pisano, Kelvin Summerhill

The Legendary Director Dash runs an acting class like no other over Zoom.



WET INK SERIES

In partnership with the Division of Theatre and the Meadows School at Southern Methodist University in Texas, the series provided the opportunity to workshop and produce readings of new plays by student playwrights. The plays were rehearsed with a mix of student and professional actors and stage managers, directed by NYC-based professionals and SMU faculty members and then streamed live, both in the fall and in the spring.

In the fall, 7 junior and senior playwrights wrote short plays based on the prompt inspired by the late John Lewis: "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of the day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." The following plays were streamed live on November 9th and 10th.

GRACE

Written by Crislyn Frayson

Directed by Mikaela Brooks

Featuring: McKenna Dersam, Crystal Tigney, Yhá Mourhia Wright

DELI

Written by Anthony Gaetjen

Directed by Judson Jones

Featuring: Felipe Carrasco, Angelica McEwan, Savier Losornio

NECESSARY TROUBLE

Written by Dalton Glenn

Directed by Lisa Devine

Featuring: Carson Shofner, Debra Wassum

A SISTER IS GOD'S WAY OF MAKING SURE WE NEVER WALK ALONE

Written by Stakiah Washington

Directed by Shaun Bennet Fauntleroy

Featuring: Tyne Dickson, Monique Letamendi, Lisha McKoy

THE LOST GOSPELS

Written by Shyama Nithiananda

Directed by Misti B. Wills

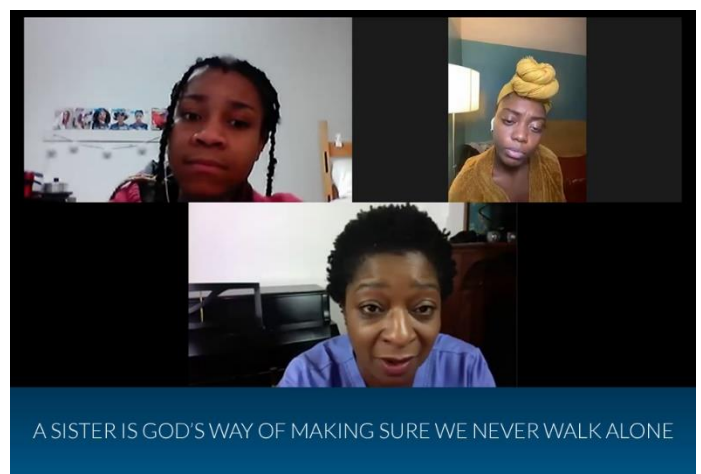
Featuring: Ben Dawson, Cam Frontain, Lyon Hamill

TWO PONDS

Written by Josh LeBlanc

Directed by Nick Piacente

Featuring: Sami Habib, Kathryn Taylor Rose



In the spring, 7 junior and senior SMU playwrights wrote short plays based on the prompt, “Change Takes Courage” In 2021, Americans are tasked to look to our present and to move into our future. To address the events of 2020 with the courage to create positive change in ourselves and our social and political systems. How can we be fearless and bold as we embrace and use lessons in social justice and social activism in order to dismantle systemic exclusion and oppression? How can we demonstrate courage with ourselves and others to create inclusive, positive change?

The following plays were streamed live on March 22nd and 23rd.

EDEN MINING CO.

Written by Anthony Gaetjen
Directed by Dan Hasse
Featuring: Alysia Giakoumas, Savier Losornio,
Kathryn Taylor Rose

BROTHER'S KEEPER

Written by Brady White
Directed by Jenna Burnett
Featuring: Sami Habib, Christa Kimlicko Jones, Oliver
Palmer

WE FIGHT OUR OWN BATTLES

Written by Dalton Glenn
Directed by Judson Jones
Featuring: Ben Stegmair, Ben Dawson

I WILL ONLY WRITE THIS ONCE

Written by Isa Muiño
Directed by Shaun Bennet Fautleroy
Featuring: Kayla Earl, Joshelyn Hawkins

GOODBYE, WORLD!

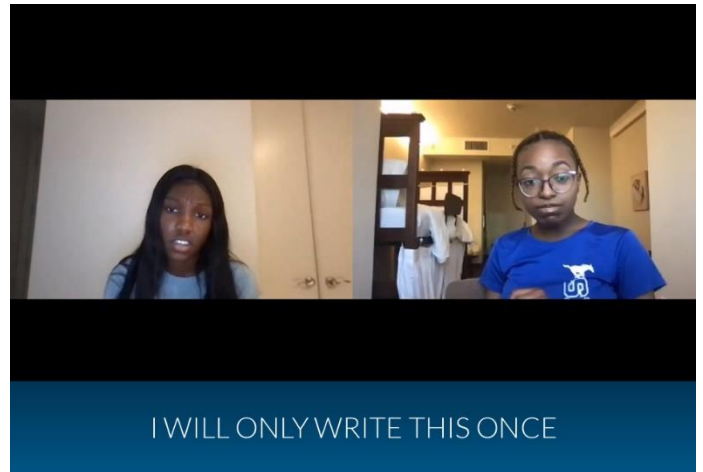
Written by Josh LeBlanc
Directed by Mac Welsh
Featuring: Lyon Hamill, Debra Wassum

INSTRUCTIONS

Written by Stakiah Washington
Directed by Melissa Maxwell
Featuring: Coda Boyce Crystal Tigney

WEDNESDAY AT 8/7 CENTRAL

Written by Shyama Nithiananda
Directed by D. Wambui Richardson
Featuring: Cam Frontain, Melanie Peterman





WRITERS ROOM

In keeping with our commitment to support playwrights and new works of theatre, Theatre East facilitates a writers' group for the purpose of play development:

Writers from across the greater Theatre East community are invited to become resident playwrights and members of the **Writers Room**. Writers present 10-20 pages of works-in-progress to be read out loud and discussed by the group every two weeks. Meetings are attended by resident playwrights and Theatre East staff. Presenting playwrights are also welcome to invite guest actors and/or collaborators. Meetings are organized and moderated by Theatre East Director of Communications, Julia Rae Maldonado.

Works completed in the Writers Room move on to a new developmental reading series, the **Play Room**, where the plays are read and discussed in their entirety. Work developed in the Writers Room and the Play Room could potentially feed into other Theatre East programming including the Neighborhood Reading Series, 5X5 Drama Series, and even Main Stage Productions.

The Writers Room and the Play Room meetings take place over Zoom. In the future, conditions allowing, Theatre East may move to in-person meetings. Admissions are rolling and are by invitation only. We are optimistic that the creation of the Writers Room will streamline our new play development process in a way that will be enormously beneficial to playwrights as well as to the company at large.



Some of the achievements that have come out of the Writers Room.

Petra Brusiloff

PROCESSING...
Produced by Theatre East 2021

Lori Fischer

Member of the 2020-2021 UCLA Professional Program in Screenwriting

Dan O'Neil

4:45 (original monologue)
Produced by Fault Line Theater on IGTV
THE NINE O'CLOCK PROBLEM
Produced by Theater in Quarantine on YouTube

Oliver Palmer

German Ridge (short screenplay)
Finalist at Sedona International Film Festival
1st Place at Florida Script Challenge Festival

Travis Tate

QUEEN OF THE NIGHT
Produced by Dorset Theatre (August 10 - September 4)

Stephanie Fagan

EDIE SAVES THE BIRDS
is Theatre East's next Main Stage production!

Julia Rae Maldonado

Member of LAByrnth Theatre's 2020 Intensive Ensemble
JUNTOS (short play)
Finalist in the Samuel French 46th Off Off Broadway Play Festival
KARULA'S DREAM SHOW LIVE (digital short play & web series)
Originally produced in Theatre East's 5x5 2020 Drama Series
Inspired an ongoing Instagram web series @karulasdreamshow
Included in NYC'S 2021 Solocom hosted by The Pit NYC
THE ZOOKEEPERS (digital short play)
Produced as part of LAByrnth Theatre's 2020 Barn Series
Winner of the L.B. Williams Playwriting Award
BACK PAGES (digital short play)
Produced by The Stella Adler Studio 2020



THEATRE EAST'S NEW HOME

After a decade of producing in midtown Manhattan, Theatre East is putting down roots in Long Island City, Queens. The New York Times called Queens, "the largest and fastest developing borough in the City" and yet it lacks a professional theatrical presence. We aim to change that. Theatre East has partnered with Astoria Performing Arts Center to create a state-of-the-art theatrical venue that already has renters lined up through the summer of 2022.

While there is work to be done, already great theatre is being performed in the space. We commissioned local artist, Eunice Adoukpe, to create a mural in lobby that represents the Five Points area along with some of the 150 cultures that reside in Queens.

The space will have an 86-seating capacity and a fluid setup which allow Theatre East and renters to configure the space into a proscenium, thrust, the round, or even an alley configuration.

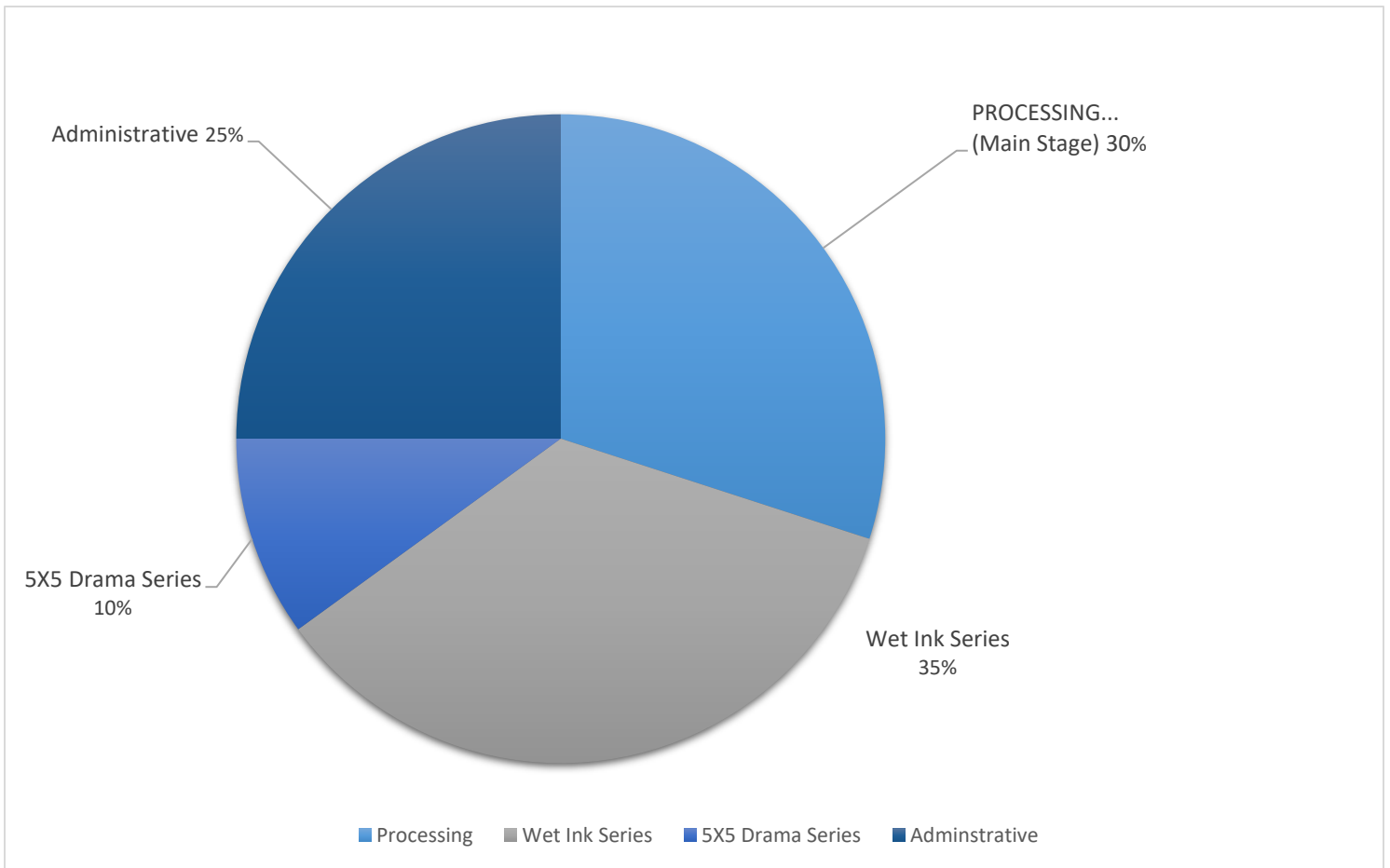
We're setting a goal of a \$50,000 capital campaign that will go to completing the space, buying and installing lighting equipment, outfitting a modular stage, and bringing all aspects of the space into modernity.



2020-2021 Budget EXPENSES

Processing: \$6,650
5X5 Drama Series: \$2,175
Wet Ink Series: \$7,830
Administrative: \$5,600
Total: \$22,255

TOTAL EXPENSES



REVENUES

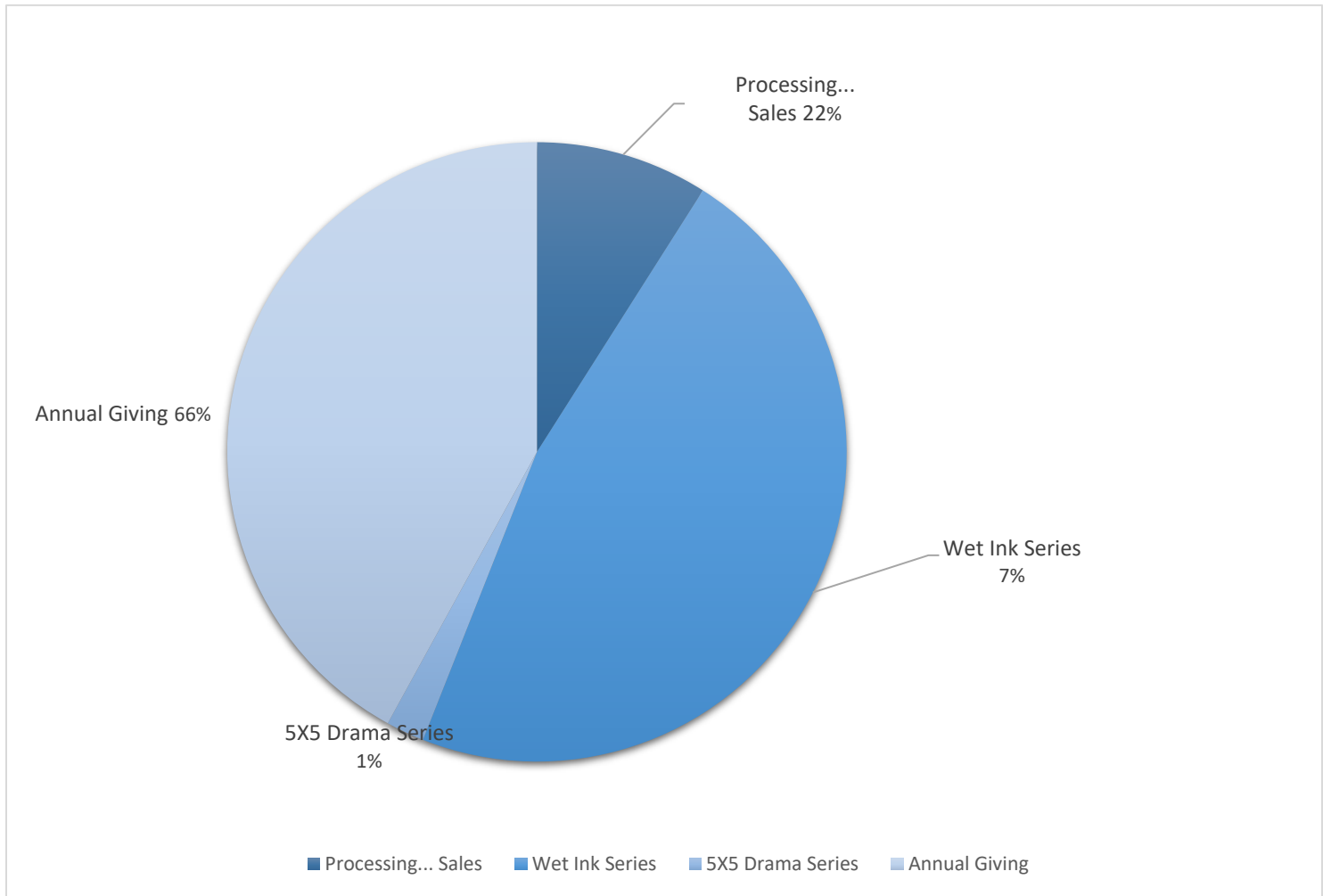
Processing Ticket Sales: \$2,330

5X5 Drama Series: \$420

Wet Ink Series: \$11,830

Annual Campaign: \$10,550

Total Revenue: \$25,130





2020 - 2021 SUPPORTERS

PRODUCER'S CIRCLE

\$10,000+

Anonymous

PLAYWRIGHT'S CIRCLE

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Nadja Caulfield

Tom & Laura Green

Anonymous

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Aja Baxter

Harvey & Kathleen Guion

Rebecca Kaplan

David McNally

Lauren Weiner

BENEFACTOR

\$1,500 - \$2,499

Richard Mawe

SPONSOR

\$500 - \$1,499

Jack & Tracy Jones

Frank & Sheila Kimlicko

RDG GLOBAL LLC

Kathy Schlottach

PARTNER

\$100 - \$499

Pat Addiss

Florence Craig

Andrew Davies

Jim & Elise Donovan

Mary Epner

Omar Gharzeddine & Hala Schoukair

Lynn Henderson

Jack & Jeannie Jones

Mike & Stephanie Kimlicko

Adam Marchuck

Olga Mezhibovskaya

Brandon & Iman Nelson

Susan O'Leary

Kirk Olson & Chris Cangiano

Jo Rosenfeld

Ari Rubin

Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Slater

FRIEND

\$25 - \$99

Tracy Breslin

Mary Cox

Evelyn McVeigh

Patricia Palumbo

Mark Rosati

Angela Vitale

Steve Westhafer

Deb & Mike Verla