

A Real Time WriteNow Workshop
with Emma Goldman-Sherman for LMDA, 6/20/20

I. Introduction - how WriteNow Workshop came to be

II. Presentation - a model session of WriteNow Workshop

A. We will hear a reading of an excerpt from *Mateo en El Barrio* by Jessica Carmona

Jessica Carmona is an Award Winning Actress and Playwright of Afro-Puerto Rican descent. She is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she received her B.F.A in Acting. She starred in the award winning indie film "**Millie and the Lords**". She recently performed the role of Odessa/Haikumom in "**Water by the Spoonful**" at the Red Monkey Theatre Company. Her original play "**Elvira-The Immigration Play**" was an official selection of the 2019 Strawberry One Act Theatre Festival and the 2015 NYC Fringe Festival. She is a member of SAG-AFTRA, the Off Broadway Alliance, and the UFT. Jessica is passionate about social justice, education, community building, her culture and her Faith in God. She believes in the power Art to transform lives and create positive change in the world.

Synopsis: *Mateo en El Barrio*

A modern day re-telling of the Gospel of Matthew, this play tells the story of Mateo, (a Rikers Island Inmate) and his cohorts experiencing transformation and profound change as they meet a man named Jesus. As we are taken through the modern day interpretations of the famous story, we see the harsh realities of structural racism and inequality within the US criminal justice system, and we also see a story of redemption and possibility where you would least expect it.

B. We will have a guided feedback session to provide feedback to Jessica Carmona

1. Feedback is for the playwright
2. She won't respond to the feedback as is her right. She has fed us with her work, and now we will feed her in return with how we understood and experienced her work. It is a mutually nurturing process.
3. We respond with what we know and how we know it - even the most basic of knowledge can be reflected back to the playwright like how the characters are related and how we are aware of the dynamics of their desires.
4. We respond with what moved us, what we loved, what we responded to, what landed with us, what we will remember.
5. We can ask questions about what may have confused you and what questions you might be asking yourself about the play - these will be helpful to the playwright, but not answered for you in the moment.

III. Q & A - how to create your own workshop

Bios for the cast of Mateo en El Barrio by Jessica Carmona

Jennica Carmona (Herodias and Liz/female roles) has worked as an actor on several theater productions. Favorite roles include Marela in “Anna in the Tropics” (Hippodrome State Theatre) and Female Storyteller in “Mi Casa, Tu Casa” (Luna Stage). Jennica originated the role of Elvira in “Elivra-The Immigration Play”, which has been produced at several theaters in New York City and throughout the country. Jennica played the leading role of Carmen on the Emmy Award winning television series, “We Are New York”, an educational series devoted to helping members of the immigrant community learn English. She currently plays the role of Clara Ventura in the new radio series, “Time Storm”, a children’s show which celebrates Puerto Rican history and visionaries. (Cocotazomedia.com). She is also The writer and director of the award winning film, “Millie and the Lords”. For more information check out jennicacarmona.com.

Germainne LeBron (Ensemble Actor #3, Mateo) is an Actors Theatre of Louisville Professional Training Company 2019/20 Alum where he wrote and performed a solo show Titled: *Madre Tierra* which premiered in The Actors Theatre of Louisville Solo Mio festival. He also performed in *Louisville//Kentucky//USA* in their new play project festival, Fifth Third Banks *Dracula* and *A Christmas Carol*. Other Theatre includes: *Eight Tales of Pedro* at The Secret Theatre; *O’s Confederados* and *Lucha Libre* at Columbia University’s Schapiro Theater; *River Rouge* at The Lenfest performing Arts center ;*Elvira: The Immigration Play* at Collaboracion Theater Company; *Much Ado About Nothing* at La Plaza Cultural Community Garden; *King Lear* at The Brick Theatre. *Tours: Julius Caesar*, a regional tour with Stages on the Sound; *Hamlet* and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* with Red Monkey Theater Group regional tours. *Additional Credits:* LeBron is a proud graduate of The City College of New York. To learn more, please visit GermainneLebron.com.

Alex Lugo (Ensemble Actor #4, Jesus) is a second generation actor and musician from Miami, FL. He was raised in a family of artists and is the son of Daniel Lugo, a prominent Puerto Rican film and television actor. He has trained at both the Adriana Barraza Acting Studio in Miami and the Stella Adler Studio in NYC and is an alumni of the American Theatre Wing’s SpringboardNYC program. He also holds a Bachelors of Science in Mathematics from Florida International University. He most recently played the role of Elliot Ortiz in the Red Monkey Theatre Group’s production of *Water By The Spoonful* by Quiara Alegria Hudes.

Ismael Castillo (Ensemble Actor #1, Manny) is an artist born and raised in The Bronx. Currently a rising Third year in the MFA program at the New School of Drama. Credits: *LAST DAYS of Judas Iscariot* (NSD), *Romeo and Juliet* (NSD), *The Tempest* (R.Evolucion Latina)

John Cencio Burgos (Pastor Matt Figueiroa) – “I’d rather regret the things I’ve done, then regret the things I haven’t done” –Lucille Ball. You can follow John on social media at [Facebook.com/johncburgos](https://www.facebook.com/johncburgos); instagram @jbu81; twitter @johncburgos and visit his website www.johncencioburgos.com for full resume and additional media

Rachel Tamarin (Stage Directions) Rachel is a director, actor, sound designer, and stage manager, as well as the Managing Director of Red Monkey Theater Group (RMTG), based in Bronx, NY. Recent directing credits include: *Hedda Gabler*, *Water by the Spoonful*, *Stop/Kiss*, and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (RMTG). Acting: Rachel Howells in *Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual* (RMTG/M&M PAC), Stella in *The Good Cop* (Davenport Theatre). Stage Management: *Twelfth Night*, *Rhinoceros*, *Hamlet*, and *Neil Gaiman's Neverwhere* (RMTG). Sound Design: *Hedda Gabler*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Seagull*, *Macbeth* (RMTG).

Carole Forman (Workshop Responder) is an Actor, Storyteller, and Visual Artist. She sang and acted in the Broadway production of *Strider* based on the story by Tolstoy. She played the prophetess Miriam in the tour of *In the Voice of Our Mothers*. Carole performs regularly with the 29th Street Playwrights Collective and was Abida in *Tamar: The Two-Gated* by Emma Goldman-Sherman. As a Jewish Spiritual Storyteller, Carole has told all over the U.S. and Canada to people of all ages and backgrounds. She is a SAG BookPal reading in the public schools along with her hand-held pals Jacques-O and Melody. As Bubbe in the short film *40 Nichols* she delivered all her lines in Yiddish! Carole and her husband, writer/teacher Yitzhak Buxbaum live in Brooklyn, NY. AEA SAG/Aftra, www.caroleforman.com, carolefor@msn.com.

Thank you for attending this panel. If you have further questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to Emma Goldman-Sherman at emmagoldmansherman@gmail.com.