

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

COLUMBIA COLLEGE THEATRE DEPARTMENT
NOVEMBER 2019



What is Student Spotlight?

Student Spotlight is a monthly newsletter created and distributed by the Theatre Department Administrative Team in order to highlight the amazing work students are doing both inside and outside the department.

Columbia | Theatre
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Our November 2019 featured students are...

Hannah Loessberg '22

she/her

BFA in Acting

Currently working on: D2 Triple Bill: *Sender*
Playwrights Aloud! committee member and playwright



"*Speak Up!* is a 25-minute play that seeks to educate schools, students, parents, and faculty about mental health awareness and suicide prevention education.

The play has been vetted by mental health professionals and comes with a digital tool kit that includes surveys and suggestions for the talkback after the play is shown. We are urging theatre educators to take this play back to their own schools, and pair with the counseling department to produce the play as an educational tool and to provide students with an outlet to speak up when they suffer. The play serves as a catalyst for a conversation. We had a booth at the Educational Theatre Association conference in NYC and got about 84 respondents who were interested in reading the play!"

Kirsten (Ky) Baity '21

they/them

BA in Playwriting

Currently working on: *Bust Down Scariana:*
Tales of Black Femme Magic



"I work with an organization called The Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health. Specifically, their theater company For Youth Inquiry (FYI). FYI writes and performs plays that speak to young people about issues like consent, sexual and gender identity, and how to end sexual violence and rape culture. My main role has been performing plays and teaching workshops in character about these issues. Recently, I have been working on a play with other trans and gender non-conforming artists about young TGNC folk better navigate school and healthcare systems. I feel that it is my duty as an artist to dream of a world that is safe and affirming for marginalized communities, and to shift culture in that direction. I am also currently looking for queer people of color to collaborate on a devised piece about joy. Email kbaity@colum.edu if you are interested!"

Want to be featured and share your work in the Student Spotlight newsletter? Email Noelle Humbert (nhumbert@colum.edu) your news, updates, accomplishments, and more to be included in this year's editions!