

Steep Back This Summer with the U.S. Premiere of *The Writer*

The Writer

By Ella Hickson

Directed by Georgette Verdin

August 11 – September 16, 2023

A playwright wants to create a new story for a new world - something cathartic, something transformative, something mythic. But artistic integrity clashes with commercial pressure as she tries to wrest away the narrative from the establishment and its gatekeepers.

(Chicago, June 13, 2023) Steep Theatre will be back in action this summer with the U.S. Premiere of Ella Hickson's *The Writer*, directed by Georgette Verdin. The production will be performed at the Edge Theater, right in the heart of the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago that Steep has long-called home, as the company prepares for construction on their newly-acquired building. *The Writer* marks director Verdin's Steep debut and Chicago audience's introduction to Hickson, one of the UK's most talked-about playwrights.

The Writer premiered at London's Almeida Theatre in Spring of 2018 and ignited passionate response from both audiences and critics as it took an uncompromising look at the state of theater and the world at large. It was named one of the top ten shows of the year by *The Stage*, *The Evening Standard*, and *The Independent* and was named the number one show of the year by *Timeout London*.

"This is as bold and exciting a script as we've ever done," said Artistic Director Peter Moore. "It hits this moment and this form in ways that are both completely riveting and rattling. Steep feels very much the home for this piece and I'm grateful we'll be a part of the conversations that will undoubtedly follow."

The Writer will feature Steep Ensemble Members Lucy Carapetyan, Nate Faust, and Peter Moore, and guest artists Krystal Ortiz, Jodi Gage, and Allyce Torres, all of whom will be making their Steep Theatre debuts.

About the Playwright

Ella Hickson is an award-winning playwright whose work has been performed throughout the UK and abroad. Ella's theatre credits include *Adult Children* (2021) a VR piece for the Donmar co-created with Sacha Wares and ScanLAB Projects, *Swive* (2019) at The Globe, *Anna* (2019) at the National Theatre, *The Writer* (2018) and *Oil* (2016) at The Almeida Theatre, and *Wendy and Peter Pan* (2015) at The Royal Shakespeare Company. She is a member of the Royal Society of Literature, a Thornton Wilder Fellow, and has twice been a MacDowell Colony Fellow, as well as a recipient of The Catherine Johnson Award.

About the Director

Georgette (she/her) is a Cuban-American freelance director, the Associate Artistic Director of Northlight Theatre and a proud member of Rivendell Theatre Ensemble. Recent directing credits include the World Premieres: *A Mile in the Dark* (Interrobang Theatre Project/Rivendell); *Enough to Let the Light In* (Teatro Vista at Steppenwolf 1700) and *Chagall in School* (Grippio Stage Company). She's been nominated for two Joseph Jefferson Awards for Director of a Play (Midsize) for the Chicago premiere of *This Wide Night* (Shattered Globe/ Interrobang Theatre Project) and the World Premiere of *Spay* (Rivendell Theatre). Georgette was profiled as one of 50 artists in NewCity Magazine's 2023 edition "Players: Who Really Performs for Chicago Right Now" and was the 2022 Michael Maggio Directing Fellow at Goodman Theatre. From 2015-2023 she served as Artistic Director of Interrobang Theatre Project, an award-winning storefront, known for their gutsy and socially-relevant productions. Georgette holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA and a Master in Directing from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. She is an associate member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. Upcoming productions include *Night Watch* at Raven Theatre, *Dial M for Murder* at Northlight Theatre and *Pussy Sludge* at Facility Theatre. georgetteverdin.com.

About Steep Theatre

Founded in 2000 by three actors, Steep has grown into a dynamic ensemble of forty-three theatre artists, supported by a dedicated and inspired team of arts administrators and community members. Described by Chris Jones of the *Chicago Tribune* as "the most fearless theater in town," Steep creates powerful productions of plays by today's most exciting writers and features the work of Chicago's hottest theatre artists in an intimate, accessible space. Steep is known as a home for hard-hitting, finely tuned ensemble work. With each production, the company has shepherded a growing community of audiences and artists into bold new territories of story and performance. Steep Theatre is committed to creating an inclusive and anti-racist environment for making and watching theatre. To learn more, please visit <https://steeptheatre.com/antiracism>.

WHERE:

The Edge Theater

5451 North Broadway, Chicago, IL 60640

The Edge Theater Theatre is within blocks of the Bryn Mawr Red Line Station and is served by the #36, #84, #92, #146, #147, and #151 buses.

WHEN:

August 11 – September 16, 2023

Previews: August 5, August 6, and August 10, 2023

Press Opening: Friday, August 11, 7:30pm

Schedule: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 7:30 pm | Sunday matinees at 3pm

Accessible Performances:

-Audio Description Date: Sunday, August 27

-Open Captioning: Saturday, September 2 and Sunday, September 3

Contact us at access@steeptheatre.com or 773-649-3186 for more information.

BOX OFFICE:

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www.steeptheatre.com

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GENERAL INFORMATION:

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CAST:

Lucy Carapetyan**^

Nate Faust^

Jodi Gage
Peter Moore^
Krstal Ortiz
Allyce Torres

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Director – Georgette Verdin
Stage Manager – Lauren Lassus^
Scenic Designer – Sotirios Livaditis
Lighting Designer - Brandon Wardell^
Sound Designer – Thomas Dixon^
Costume Designer – Gregory A. Graham
Props Designer – Lonnae Hickman
Projection Designer - Erin Pleake
Movement Director - Claire Bauman
Intimacy Director – Gaby Labotka
Dialect Coach - Adam Goldstein
Dramaturg - Caroline Uy
Production Manager – Jennifer Aparicio
Technical Director – Andy Cahoon
Assistant Director - Maddy Brown
Casting Director - Lucy Carapetyan**^
Casting Associate - Lisa Troi Thomas^
Sound Engineer/Assistant - Morgan Durdaryk
Props Assistant - Theo Wampuszyc
Costume Assistant - Caitlin McCarthy
Lead/Master Electrician - Kieran O'Connor
Photos - Randall Starr

^ Steep Company Member

* Appearing through an Agreement between Steep Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

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