



Mangrove Creative Collective Plants Roots in the South Florida Arts Community

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Mangrove Creative Collective, a new artistic force in the community, is taking root with original, South-Florida infused projects.

The Collective, for short, began as the dream of four long-time Florida residents who were inspired by the concept of a new voice in indigenous theater. Together, they envisioned an entire company built to nurture and preserve stories that are distinctively South Florida with a global message. In 2013, they assembled a clutch of passionate, local artists to share in the pursuit of this vision, each with highly developed and specific talents, and all artistically compatible.

Comprised of “Creators” and “Collaborators”, who both work on “Creations”, the Collective is committed to highlighting and telling stories— both new and old—that are distinctly South Florida, yet transcend time and place. One can think of the Creators as the staff (artistic directors and management), tasked with keeping the Collective moving forward toward its goals and big picture dreams. Collaborators consist of everyone that works with the Collective whether as an actor, designer, administrator, etc. Creations are the very projects that they develop together.

The Collective is passionate about the development of new works through a multi-layered process that involves readings, one-on-one time with the writers, discussions with actors and audiences, exploration, fundraising, and finding just the right creative team to move the project forward. That team then ushers the writers through a two-year process that culminates in a workshop production. After a workshop production is mounted, the Collective is committed to providing ongoing guidance to the writer to re-tool the script and/or seek to produce a full production for the South Florida community. Additionally, the Collective will support writers by helping the piece have a life outside of its region, working with festivals and literary managers to have the piece produced in other markets.

Past and Future Work

In 2013, the Collective partnered with local, acclaimed playwright Juan C. Sanchez to develop its first work, *Paradise Motel*, which chronicled seven decades of Miami history in a seedy, Calle Ocho motel. The work was commissioned by Miami Theater Center as part of The Sand Box Series 2013-2014 and was well-received by the South Florida community. After a fruitful year of exploring new ideas, re-working its creative process, and giving its playwrights time to research and write their scripts, the Collective is eager to continue developing thought-provoking stories.

Upcoming projects:

- *The Prey*, by Gina Montet, currently in the writing lab and scheduled to have its first, public reading as part of the 2015 South Florida Theatre League’s Summer Play Fest Reading Series.
- *Tangled Roots* by Matt Stabile entering the writing lab this summer.
- *Coral Fables*, by Gina Montet, currently being written.

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About the Mangrove Creative Collective

Mission:

Mangrove Creative Collective seeks to serve, engage, and energize the South Florida community by creating and developing innovative storytelling. Our work highlights South Florida's rich culture and history, illuminating homegrown, culturally-diverse stories for a global audience.

Current Creators (*original 4):

- **Jane Duncan**- Dramaturg, educator, & actress
- **Niki Fridh***- Actress
- **Margaret M. Ledford***- Director
- **Gina Montet**- Playwright, actress, educator, & director
- **Matt Stabile***- Writer, director, actor, & educator
- **Joseph M. NeSmith**- Non-profit manager & stage manager
- **David Radunsky***- Administrative and technical theatre
- **Kunya K. Rowley**- Singer & actor

Learn more about the Collective at www.mangrovecreativecollective.org and follow updates at www.facebook.com/MangroveCreativeCollective

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