



2025

WATERWORKS FESTIVAL

INDEX OF SHOWS

WATERWORKS: New Works on Water Street
May 15-May 31, 2025

A Festival of New Works at Live Arts
123 East Water Street, Charlottesville
434.977.4177 | livearts.org

Box Office: Tickets (\$15) for readings and performances are available at [this link](#) or at the door. [Ticket packages](#) are also available.

Subscribers: To reserve your tickets, please email Audience Experience Director Darryl Smith at darryl@livearts.org or give him a call at 434-977-4177 x123. Make sure to include the **date and time** of your chosen performance.

Volunteer: If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out [this form](#)!

Please note: We reserve the right to alter the festival program as needed.



WATERWORKS FESTIVAL SCHEDULE - WEEK ONE

Thursday, May 15

LOCALLY SOURCED OPENING

6:30 | Gibson Theater - Second Floor

LOCALLY SOURCED

Five short plays presented by Live Arts Playwright's Lab

List of shows performing:

"Train of Thoughts" by Sean Michael McCord, directed by Claire Chandler

"Mapping the Future" by Jenny Mead, directed by Alex Citron

"The ... Thingy" by Kate Monaghan, directed by Kerry Moran

"No End in Sight" by Scott Dunn, directed by Katie Rogers

"I Want To Believe" by Sara Hutchinson, directed by Mandy Shuker. CONTENT WARNING: references to gendered violence, abduction/kidnapping, childbirth

Featuring: Maeve Chandler, Courtney Christensen, Bette Dzembe, Kiri Gardner, Eamon Hyland, Cleopatra Howell, Jess Litman, Peter Malcolm, Kat Maybury, Drew McCarter, Mark McClane, Alex Mitchell, Deepika Parthasarathy, Virginia Wawner, and TBD.

Join us for a reception after the show to celebrate these local playwrights!

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Friday, May 16

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

6:30pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor

PLATO'S BABY by Tim Boland

Plato's Baby is a romantic comedy reflecting on the state of love in our current society. Two characters come together to break social norms and create a new family form as platonic friends co-parenting their own biological child.



The playwright provided the following content warning: There is a suggested love scene, which is played offstage.

Directed by Jeff Sands

Featuring: Emily Douglas, Tony Field, Elizabeth Rose, Ethan Serr, Annie Way, Robert Wray

[BUY TICKETS](#)

7:00pm | Founders Theater - Third Floor
CRAYON SUN by Tlaloc Rivas

CRAYON SUN explores joy, memory, and resilience amid tragedy. Mando and Valoria, fiercely imaginative schoolmates, confront loss and pain through art and storytelling, while navigating societal tensions and the weight of generational trauma.

The playwright provided the following content warning: While the play is an elegy based on the events of Uvalde, TX, there are no depictions of violence. However, if the topic itself finds one to be unprepared for the emotional experience, it's totally fine. Other than a few words of salty profanity (mostly in Spanish), it is a play for ages 10 and up.

Directed by Cait Redman

Featuring: Kelly Carney, Megan Durkee, Mercedes Herrera, Sean Lopez, Julian Rivera Santiago, and TBD.

[BUY TICKETS](#)

8:15 | Gibson Theater - Second Floor
LOCALLY SOURCED

See description from Thursday, May 15

[BUY TICKETS](#)



Saturday, May 17

1:00-3:00pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor
Community DEEP DIVE - DEVISE

Live Arts Education Director Daniel Kunkel facilitates a conversation and workshop on the beginnings of the playwright's process.

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)

5:00pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor
PLATO'S BABY by Tim Bolland

See description from Friday, May 16

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)

5:30 | Founders Theater - Third Floor
CRAYON SUN by Tlaloc Rivas

See description from Friday, May 16

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)

7:15pm | Gibson Theater - Second Floor
LOCALLY SOURCED

See description from Thursday, May 15

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)

7:30pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor
(wryly) by Edward J. Rubeo

ALAN and LYNETTE meet at a college reunion and watch a run-through of a play that Alan has written about their relationship thirty years earlier. In doing so, both come to realize how it affected the rest of their lives.

The playwright provided the following content warning: Foul language in two lines of dialogue.



Directed by Laura Mawyer

Featuring: Elizabeth Eckman, Tom Green, Miles Jackson, Geri Sauls

[BUY TICKETS](#)

8pm | Founders Theater - Third Floor

THE PITFALLS OF EXAGGERATED SWAGGER by Cris Eli Blak

After the death of their adoptive father, four estranged siblings reunite at a funeral home, mourning their disjointed relationships, the pasts they've never healed from, and the present that won't seem to end.

The playwright provided the following content warning: Language; discussions of race, childhood abuse, and drug use.

Directed by Steph Finn

Featuring: Rory Adams, Arianna Jones, Sean Lopez, Josh Mohale, Isaac Thorne

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Sunday, May 18

1:00pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor

(wryly) by Edward J. Rubeo

See description from Saturday, May 17

[BUY TICKETS](#)

2:30 | Founders Theater - Third Floor

THE PITFALLS OF EXAGGERATED SWAGGER by Cris Eli Black

See description from Saturday, May 17

[BUY TICKETS](#)

5:30 | Gibson Theater - Second Floor

LOCALLY SOURCED

See description from Thursday, May 15

[BUY TICKETS](#)



WATERWORKS FESTIVAL SHOW CALENDAR - WEEK ONE

	THURSDAY May 15	FRIDAY May 16	SATURDAY May 17	SUNDAY May 18
Gibson	6:30pm LOCALLY SOURCED Performance	8:15pm LOCALLY SOURCED Performance	7:15pm: LOCALLY SOURCED Performance	5:30pm: LOCALLY SOURCED Performance
Founders		7pm: CRAYON SUN Performance	5pm: CRAYON SUN Performance 8pm: PITFALLS OF EXAGGERATED SWAGGER Performance	2:30pm: PITFALLS OF EXAGGERATED SWAGGER Performance
Conover		6:30pm: PLATO'S BABY Performance	5pm: PLATO'S BABY Performance 7:30pm: (wryly) Performance	1pm: (wryly) Performance



WATERWORKS FESTIVAL SCHEDULE - WEEK TWO

Tuesday, May 20

4pm | Common House - 206 W. Market St., Charlottesville, VA 22902

Meet the Playwright Happy Hour with the Playwrights and Producers of **LOCALLY SOURCED**

New this year! Live Arts partners with Common House for happy hours with the playwrights and directors of the Waterworks Spotlight shows. These events are at Common House, located just steps away from Live Arts. Common House is a gathering space that cultivates community through inspirational design, dynamic programming, and intentionally-sourced food and beverage.

Wednesday, May 21

6:30pm - *Double Bill* | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor

WHEN MEPHISTOPHELES MET HELEN by Chris Gavalier

Behind the scenes of Doctor Faustus and The Iliad.

Directed by Kerry Moran

Featuring: Aafreen Aamir, Claire Chandler, Kate Donithen

BLOOD ON DEER ROCK by Jonathan Joy

A party of three has accepted dinner invitations from mystery novelist Jane Karnes on the pretense that they are to provide feedback for her latest work. Unexpected twists abound in this 20minute, genre-busting play.

Directed by El Banaszak

Featuring: Carrie Contreras, Zachary Zartler, Linda Zuby, and TBD.

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)



7:00pm | Founders Theater - Third Floor

DINOSAUR(s) by James Still

2 adult siblings share one profound thing: surviving a violent childhood trauma. The siblings find themselves traveling back "home" near a tiny town in Kansas where they meet 3 locals who have developed ways of coping with a quickly changing world.

The playwright provided the following content warning: Childhood trauma (offstage); physical violence (offstage).

Directed by Geoff Culbertson

Featuring: Daniel Atwood, Henry Lee, Jane McDonald, Virginia Wawner, Melissa Zheng

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Thursday, May 22

4pm | Common House - 206 W. Market St., Charlottesville, VA 22902

Meet the Playwright Happy Hour with Derek Snow, playwright of THE RAVENSIDE OCCURRENCE and director, Maia Adolphs

New this year! Live Arts partners with Common House for happy hours with the playwrights and directors of the Waterworks Spotlight shows. These events are at Common House, located just steps away from Live Arts. Common House is a gathering space that cultivates community through inspirational design, dynamic programming, and intentionally-sourced food and beverage.

6:00pm | Founders Theater - Third Floor

JAMES OF NAZARETH by Lisa Dellagiarino Feriend

A retelling of the Jesus story from the point of view of his younger brother, James, who is left trying to hold the family together and keep everyone out of trouble while Jesus is off preaching radical civil disobedience and a new world order.

The playwright provided the following content warning: There is strong language at the end, oppression throughout, talk of child loss, and death. (It's also a retelling of the Jesus story, for



anyone who may have had such a negative experience with Christianity as a child that they don't want to touch it.)

Directed by Lynne Cates

Featuring: Liam Cavanaugh, Alex Griffith, Otis Hahn, Jay Herrin, Deepika Parthasarathy, Christina Henderson Paxson, Daphne Wheeler, Brendan Wypich

[BUY TICKETS](#)

7:45pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor

DISPERSION OF LIGHT by Rich Rubin

In 1932, the storied marriage between Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz is shaken by professional setbacks as well as marital infidelity.

The playwright provided the following content warning: R-rated for language and mature themes.

Directed by Mandy Shuker

Featuring: Christina Ball, John Bordeaux, Leah Esslinger, Chris Gorman, Alicia Henry

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Friday, May 23

6:30pm - Double Bill | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor

WHEN MEPHISTOPHELES MET HELEN by Chris Gavalier

See description from Wednesday, May 21

BLOOD ON DEER ROCK by Jonathan Joy

See description from Wednesday, May 21

[BUY TICKETS](#)

7:00pm | Founders Theater - Third Floor

DINOSAUR(s) by James Still

See description from Wednesday, May 21

[BUY TICKETS](#)



8:00pm | Gibson Theater - Second Floor
RAVENSIDE OCCURENCE by Derek Snow

Originally commissioned and developed in a workshop production by Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park through its Jerome Fey Play Collection Fund, THE RAVENSIDE OCCURRENCE chronicles the night that four women escape from an asylum and take refuge in an abandoned inn only to have the bonds of their found family tested by the ghost that inhabits its halls. This curious tale, with a haunting score for string quartet by composer Jimmie A. Parker, asks us to consider the importance of history and remembrance.

Directed by Maia Adolphs

Featuring: Aafreen Aamir, Rory Adams, Kristen Bell, Kate Donithen, and TBD.

[BUY TICKETS](#)

8:15pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor
GO DOWN MOSES by Dana Leslie Goldstein

A controversial speaker visits a liberal college campus, sparking more than just debate.

The playwright provided the following content warning: KKK appearance, police brutality.

Directed by Alex Citron

Featuring: Ed Belcher, Kaia Brown, Jay Herrin, Cleopatra Howell, Margaret Ryan-Byrne, Isaac Thorne, Robert Wray

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Saturday, May 24

1:00-3:00pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor
Community DEEP DIVE - PRODUCE

Education Director Daniel Kunkel, Artistic Director Susan E. Evans, and Playwright Derek Snow facilitate a discussion on getting your work produced by a theater.

[BUY TICKETS](#)



3:00pm | Founders Theater - Third Floor
JAMES OF NAZARETH by Lisa Dellagiarino Feriend

See description from Thursday, May 22

[BUY TICKETS](#)

5:30pm | Founders Theater - Third Floor
NOT FUNNY by Sigrid Edson

Haunted by the memory of her abusive ex-girlfriend, Su seeks refuge at her estranged best friend's house in Williamsburg, Virginia. There, she finds distraction and solace in a historical reenactor, but soon discovers that the past is not as easy to escape as it seems.

The playwright provided the following content warning: This play contains themes of intimate partner violence, discussions of sexual assault, and mentions of suicidality.

Directed by Aldrian Argante

Featuring: Sophia Christensen, Emily Hurst, Nicole Richardson

[BUY TICKETS](#)

7:15pm | Gibson Theater - Second Floor
RAVENSIDE OCCURENCE by Derek Snow

See description from Friday, May 23

[BUY TICKETS](#)

7:30pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor
DISPERSION OF LIGHT by Rich Rubin

See description from Thursday, May 22

[BUY TICKETS](#)



Sunday, May 25

1:00pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor
GO DOWN MOSES by Dana Leslie Goldstein

See description from Friday, May 23

[BUY TICKETS](#)

3:00pm | Founders Theater - Third Floor
NOT FUNNY by Sigrid Edson

See description from Saturday, May 24

[BUY TICKETS](#)

5:30pm | Gibson Theater - Second Floor
RAVENSIDE OCCURRENCE by Derek Snow

See description from Friday, May 23

[BUY TICKETS](#)



WATERWORKS FESTIVAL SHOW CALENDAR - WEEK TWO

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25
<i>Gibson</i>			8:00pm: RAVENSIDE OCCURRENCE Performance	7:15pm: RAVENSIDE OCCURRENCE Performance	5:30pm: RAVENSIDE OCCURRENCE Performance
<i>Founders</i>	7pm: DINOSAUR(s) Performance	6pm: JAMES OF NAZARETH Performance	7pm: DINOSAUR(s) Performance	3pm: JAMES OF NAZARETH Performance 5:30pm: NOT FUNNY Performance	3pm: NOT FUNNY Performance
<i>Conover</i>	6:30pm: WHEN MEPHISTOPHELE S MET HELEN & BLOOD ON DEER ROCK Performance	7:45pm: DISPERSION OF LIGHT Performance	6:30pm: WHEN MEPHISTOPHELES MET HELEN & BLOOD ON DEER ROCK Performance 8:15pm: GO DOWN, MOSES Performance	7:30pm: DISPERSION OF LIGHT Performance	1pm: GO DOWN, MOSES Performance



WATERWORKS FESTIVAL SCHEDULE - WEEK THREE

Wednesday, May 28

4pm | Common House - 206 W. Market St., Charlottesville, VA 22902

Meet the Playwright Happy Hour with Daniel Vincent, playwright of *MARIA KENT AND THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE*, and director, Daniel Kunkel

New this year! Live Arts partners with Common House for happy hours with the playwrights and directors of the Waterworks Spotlight shows. These events are at Common House, located just steps away from Live Arts. Common House is a gathering space that cultivates community through inspirational design, dynamic programming, and intentionally-sourced food and beverage.

6:30pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor

THE BIG ONE by Dylan Malloy

Set at a wellness retreat in Southern California, THE BIG ONE follows three strangers who join a pyramid scheme to better themselves. Over the course of a week, love will be found, lives will be ruined, and money will be made.

The playwright provided the following content warning: Discussions of death and grief, a brief depiction of medical distress, discussions of suffering from chronic illness.

Directed by Kerry Moran

Featuring: Jesse Timmons, Brian Walter, Austen Wethersby

[BUY TICKETS](#)

7:00pm | Founders Theater - Third Floor

DREAM CATCHER by Lowell Williams

The play is about the inequities and the inclusion of misinformation or the exclusion of factual information in American History being taught in American schools.

The playwright provided the following content warning: Racism, use of profanity.

Directed by Mary Hall

Featuring: Ed Belcher, Timothy Hulse, Thad Lane, Bonita Patton, Isaac Thorne

[BUY TICKETS](#)



7:15pm | Gibson Studio - Second Floor

MARIA KENT AND THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE by Daniel Vincent

After her brother attempts to sell their long-time home, a cowgirl runs away with a pirate captain in the search of an ancient mermaid's treasure, and discovers it's a pirate's life for her.

Directed by Daniel Kunkel

Featuring: Claire Chandler, Sophie Clayton, Liberty DeLeon, Les Fennel,

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Thursday, May 29

6:30PM | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor

OCEAN VIEW ODYSSEY by Robert Wray

A New York City lawyer named Henry Byers returns to his home in Virginia where he tracks down his estranged father in hopes of healing wounds from the past. But it's the malleability of time and the unearthing of family secrets which shape his quest.

The playwright has provided the following content warning: Depictions of war, death.

Directed by Sean McCord

Featuring: Anne Blair, Jim Dulaney, Alex Griffith, Jim Hortskotte, Kate Monaghan, Mandy Shuker

[BUY TICKETS](#)

7:00pm | Founders Theater - Third Floor

THE END IS NIGH (AND YET SO FAR) by Greg Mandryk

Set in a party hall on a night when a doomsday cult is celebrating their big end-of-the-world bash, ominous signs suggest the cultists may be on to something.

The playwright has provided the following content warning: Explicit language.

Directed by Fran Smith

Featuring: Leena Miller, James Sanford, Ethan Serr, Eli Smith, Zach Zartler, Linda Zuby

[BUY TICKETS](#)



7:15pm | Gibson Theater - Second Floor

MARIA KENT AND THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE by Daniel Vincent

See description from Wednesday, May 28th

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)

8:15PM | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor

THE DELTA PRINCES by Mike Teverbaugh

A father and son sail down the Mississippi together, resolving three generations of family dysfunction. All they had really set out to do was complete a family project of seeing all 30 Major League Baseball stadiums.

The playwright has provided the following content warning: Profane language.

Directed by Justin Guidroz

Featuring: Chris Gorman, Margaret Migas, Jacob Walton

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)

Friday, May 30

6:00pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor

THE DELTA PRINCES by Mike Teverbaugh

See description from Thursday, May 29th

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)

7:00pm | Founders Theater - Third Floor

DREAM CATCHER by Lowell Williams

See description from Wednesday, May 28th

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)



7:30pm | Gibson Theater - Second Floor

MARIA KENT AND THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE by Daniel Vincent

See description from Wednesday, May 28th

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)

8:00pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor

THE BIG ONE by Dylan Malloy

See description from Wednesday, May 28th

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)

10:00pm | Gibson Theater - Second Floor

IDK IF THIS FUNNY - Chris Alan Comedy Night

Don't miss one of the hottest rising comics in the country—Charlottesville's own Chris Alan! Fresh off his debut YouTube special Gotta Be Honest (produced by comedy star Mark Normand), Chris brings sharp wit and a fearless take on marriage, parenting, race, military life, and more. It's a hilarious, no-holds-barred ride from a voice you won't forget.

Chris has opened for SNL's Michael Che, Hannibal Buress, Neal Brennan, and others. He also co-hosts the hit podcast The New OG with Jamal Dowell.

Catch Chris and friends Gunnar Cain, Jemar O'Neal, and John Rodemacher for a night of nonstop laughs—May 30 at 10 PM at Live Arts Theater , Downtown Charlottesville!

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)



Saturday, May 31

11:00am-1:00pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor

Community DEEP DIVE - RESPOND

Education Director Daniel Kunkel, UVA Professor Marianne Kubik and Playwright Danny Vincent in conversation about responding to a playwright's work, using the tools of Liz Lerman's CRP. Devised by Liz Lerman in 1990, Critical Response Process® is a method for giving and getting feedback on creative work in progress, designed to leave the maker eager and motivated to get back to work.

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)

2:00pm | Conover Studio - Fourth Floor

OCEAN VIEW ODYSSEY by Robert Wray

See description for Thursday, May 29th

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)

4:00pm | Founders Theater - Third Floor

THE END IS NIGH (AND YET SO FAR) by Greg Mandryk

See description for Thursday, May 29th

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)

6:00pm | SEASON WRAP PARTY

Come join us for our 24/25 Voyages Season Rave Review, where we will be looking back on this season's memories to celebrate our volunteers.



WATERWORKS FESTIVAL SHOW CALENDAR - WEEK THREE

	WEDNESDAY May 28	THURSDAY May 29	FRIDAY May 30	SATURDAY May 31
<i>Gibson</i>	7:15pm: MARIA KENT AND SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE Performance	7:15pm: MARIA KENT AND SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE Performance	7:30pm: MARIA KENT AND SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE Performance 10pm: CHRIS ALAN & FRIENDS COMEDY SHOW	
<i>Founders</i>	7pm: DREAM CATCHER Performance	7pm: THE END IS NIGH (AND YET, SO FAR) Performance	7pm: DREAM CATCHER Performance	4pm: THE END IS NIGH (AND YET, SO FAR) Performance
<i>Conover</i>	6.30pm: THE BIG ONE Performance	6:30pm: OCEAN VIEW ODYSSEY Performance 8:15pm: THE DELTA PRINCES Performance	6:00pm: THE DELTA PRINCES Performance 8pm: THE BIG ONE Performance	2:00pm: OCEAN VIEW ODYSSEY Performance