

# TORI KEENAN-ZELT

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## Education

**NYU Tisch School of the Arts Asia.** MFA in Dramatic Writing - 2013. Playwriting concentration. Teaching Fellow.

**Simmons College.** MAT in Secondary Education - 2007. English and History emphasis.

**Harvard University.** AB magna cum laude in History and Literature (America Field) - 2006. High Honors.

## Awards and Affiliations

New Georges Audrey Resident 2021 ♦ SF Playhouse Commission 2020 ♦ Project Y Playwrights Group 2020 ♦ New York Innovative Theatre Award Nomination – Best Original Full-Length Script 2019 ♦ Bay Area Playwrights Fest 2019 ♦ Ellie Award 2019 ♦ Princess Grace Finalist 2018, 2016, 2015 ♦ Dramatists Guild Fellows Finalist 2019 ♦ Emmy Award Nominee 2016 ♦ Kilroys List Top 5 Plays 2016 ♦ Fresh Ground Pepper PlayGround PlayGroup 2016 ♦ O'Neill Resident 2015 ♦ Ensemble Studio Theatre Playwrights Unit 2016-Present ♦ Actors Studio Playwrights/Directors Unit 2014-2017 ♦ Mission to (dit)Mars Propulsion Lab 2014-2018 ♦ Bastard Playgroup 2013-2016 ♦ Nashville Rep Ingram New Works Lab Playwright 2014-15, 2017-18 ♦ Pittsburgh Fringe Best Ensemble 2014 ♦ Playwrights' Center Core Apprentice 2013-14 ♦ Jerome Finalist 2014 ♦ O'Neill Semi-Finalist 2013, 2014, 2019, 2022 ♦ PoNY Nominee 2014 ♦ InterAct 20/20 Finalist 2014 ♦ Lark Playwrights' Week Finalist 2013 ♦ Lark Dramaturgy Fellow 2013-14 ♦ 24-Speed Judges Award 2011, 2012 and Audience Award 2013

## Longer Plays

### **THE JONBENÉT GAME** *San Francisco Playhouse Commission (2020)*

2023. Workshop (upcoming)

2022. Workshop (dir. Lauren English, featuring Taylor Schilling)

American Lives Theatre (IN)  
SF Playhouse (SF)

### **INVASIVE SPECIES**

2023. New Georges Workshop (upcoming, dir. Portia Krieger)

2021-2022. New Georges Audrey Residency (dir. Portia Krieger)

New Georges (NYC)  
New Georges (NYC)

### **HOW THE BABY DIED** *Bay Area Playwrights Festival 2019, O'Neill Semifinalist 2019*

2020. Public Reading (Upcoming, dir. Portia Krieger)

2019. Bay Area Playwrights Festival Reading (dir. Lauren English)

2019. Playground Workshop (dir. Portia Krieger)

2018. Ingram New Works Festival Reading (dir. Jessika Malone)

2018. Roundtable (dir. Graham Smith)

The Lark (NYC)  
The Playwrights Foundation (SF)  
The Lark (NYC)  
Ingram New Works Lab (Nashville)  
The Lark (NYC)

### **SEPH** *Princess Grace Finalist 2018*

2019. Workshop (dir. Hannah Wolf)

2019. Workshop (student directed)

2017. Workshop (dir. Jessika Malone)

2017. Workshop (dir. Jessika Malone)

2017. Roundtable (dir. Ilana Becker)

2016. Staged Reading PlayGround PlayGroup (dir. Ilana Becker)

2016. Roundtable (dir. Shelley Butler)

2015. O'Neill Fall Residency (dir. Ilana Becker)

2015. BRB Retreat

Blank Theatre Living Room Series (LA)  
Nomadic Theatre, Georgetown Univ. (DC)  
The Araca Project (NYC)  
Actors Bridge Ensemble (Nashville)  
The Lark (NYC)  
Fresh Ground Pepper (NYC)  
The Lark (NYC)  
O'Neill Theatre Center (CT)  
Fresh Ground Pepper (NYC)

### **AIR SPACE** *Kilroys List Top 5 Recommended Plays 2016, Princess Grace Finalist*

2018. Staged Reading (dir. Spencer Whale)

2017. Staged Reading (dir. M. Graham Smith)

2016. Staged Reading (dir. Nic Wehrwein)

2016. Roundtable (dir. Portia Krieger)

2015. Ingram New Works Festival Reading (dir. Nate Eppler)

City Theatre (Pittsburgh)  
San Francisco Playhouse (SF)  
Coffee and Whiskey Productions (Chicago)  
The Lark (NYC)  
Nashville Rep (TN)

### **EPISODE #121: CATFIGHT**

2015. University Production (dir. Steven Koernig)

Yale Cabaret (CT)

### **TRUTH/DARE** *New York Innovative Theatre Award Nominee: Best Original Full-Length Script, Best Ensemble Pittsburgh Fringe, Nashville Top 10 of 2018, Princess Grace Finalist, Jerome Finalist, Kilroys Long List, O'Neill Semifinalist*

2018. World Premiere (Nonequity, dir. Andrew Smith)

2018. Production (Nonequity, dir. Natalie Risk)

2017. Workshop Production (dir. Larissa Lury)

2016. Workshop (dir. Larissa Lury)

2015. Workshop (dir. Ilana Becker)

2014. Staged Reading (dir. Ilana Becker)

2014. Roundtable (dir. Ilana Becker)

2014. Staged Reading (dir. William Kovacsik)

Project Y Theatre (NYC)  
Woven Theatre (Nashville)  
Am. Southwest Theatre/NMSU  
High Desert, Am. Southwest Theatre/NMSU  
Dixon Place (NYC)  
Pittsburgh Fringe (PA)  
The Lark (NYC)  
NYU Tisch Asia (Singapore)

### **EGYPT PLAY** *InterAct 20/20 Finalist, Lark Playwrights Week Finalist, O'Neill Semifinalist*

2016. Staged Reading (dir. Larissa Lury)

2016. Roundtable Reading (dir. Larissa Lury)

2015. Staged Reading (dir. Portia Krieger)

2014. Reading

2014. Roundtable

2012. Roundtable

Ensemble Studio Theatre (NYC)  
The Lark (NYC)  
The Actors Studio (NYC)  
Somersault Theatre Co. (Australia)  
The Lark (NYC)  
Williamstown Theatre Festival (MA)

## Shorter Plays

### **HOW TO BE A WIDOW** *Ellie Award Winner: Women Playwrights Initiative, Ivoryton Playhouse*

2020. Radio Play

2019. Workshop (dir. Susan Einhorn)

2018. Staged Reading (dir. Natalie Risk)

2016. Production (dir. Sarah Crockarell)

Playing on Air (NYC & NPR)

Ivoryton Playhouse (CT)

Pipeline Playground (Nashville)

Three Leeches Theatre (Denver, CO)

### **SPELLBOUND: RIDE INTO RED**

2018. Narrative Circus (dir. Jessika Malone)

Kindling Arts Festival (Nashville)

### **MARIA**

2019. Production (Nonequity)

Big Bear Theatre Project (Big Bear, CA)

### **THANKS**

2016. Production (dir. Jordan Schulze)

New York Madness (NYC)

### **WEATHER WE'RE HAVING**

2016. Production (dir. Jordana Williams)

One-Minute Play Festival (NYC)

### **HOW TO FLY**

2016. Production (dir. Jordan Schulze)

Fresh Ground Pepper/Crashbox (NYC)

### **BEAUTIFUL TOMORROW**

2014. Production (dir. Ilana Becker)

Around the Block, 5D (NYC)

### **BURNING LINES**

2014. Production (dir. Laura Barati)

Cold Basement (Chicago)

### **EVERYTHING YOU WERE LOOKING FOR**

2014. Presentation (dir. Ilana Becker)

New York Madness (NYC)

### **I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS THE ANTICHRIST**

2013. Production (dir. Lilli Stein)

#serials@theflea (NYC)

### **BOTTLES ON THE WATER, SHORT PLAYS FROM ABROAD** (published by Next Stage Press)

2013. Production

Drama Book Shop

### **A THRILLER IN TWO ACTS: A ONE-ACT PLAY**

2011. Singapore Short & Sweet Selection

Singapore Short & Sweet (SG)

## Screen

### **DOS RIOS** (Writer/Director)

*In Post-Production*

2022. Shot in Dos Rios, CA

Hungry Moon Productions (SF)

### **LUCY AND MINA FOREVER** (Screenwriter)

One-Hour TV Pilot. 2022

### **DOLLY AND THE DEMON** (Screenwriter)

Half-Hour TV Pilot. 2021

### **WORKING CHILDREN** (Screenwriter)

*Emmy Award Nominee*

2014. Premiered March 2015 on PBS

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (VA)

## Bio

TORI KEENAN-ZELT is an award-winning playwright who also writes for the screen. Originally from Pittsburgh, she has written her way out of an Evangelical childhood and two young marriages. Her plays are American horror stories that masquerade as comedies and illuminate the dark corners of women's lives that are rarely discussed. They include *How the Baby Died* (Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Ingram New Works Lab, Cleveland Public Theatre--upcoming); *Seph* (The Araca Project, Princess Grace Award Finalist, Fresh Ground Pepper PlayGround PlayGroup); *Air Space* (The Kilroys' The List, The Ingram New Works Lab); *Truth/Dare* (Project Y, New York Innovative Theatre Award Nominee for Best Original Script, Best Ensemble Pittsburgh Fringe, Best Live Performance—The Nashville Scene); *The Egypt Play* (The Playwrights Center); and *Episode #121: Catfight!* (Yale Cabaret), and others.

Tori holds a BA from Harvard and an MFA from NYU Tisch. She has written for The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's *Electronic Field Trip* series (PBS), for which she received an Emmy nomination, and her award-winning one-act play *How to Be a Widow* recently aired on NPR's *Playing on Air* program. Currently, she is commissioned by San Francisco Playhouse (*The JonBenét Game*) and is developing a new play in residence with New Georges (*Invasive Species*).

**Samples, References, and Teaching/Dramaturgy Resume available upon request.**