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Meet The 2024-2025 BCA Playwright Residents!

BOSTON, MA — Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) is proud to announce its 2024-2025 BCA Playwright Residents: [Gabriela Tovar-Borghini](#) and [Munroe Forbes Shearer](#)!

The [BCA Playwright Residency](#) supports rising playwrights by providing space to write, rehearse, and workshop a new work. Support is tailored to the selected artist, including mentorship, professional development to create, produce and reach expanded audiences, as well as further their creative process. This program aims to provide a container for playwrights who are invested in developing experimental work that sheds light on underrepresented stories and narratives. The playwright must create a new work while in the program.

Although we are only in the second year of this residency program, it has become increasingly clear that there is a vital need for residencies like this one in our artistic landscape. We again received an overwhelming amount of applications for this residency, which not only shows the program's appeal but also highlights the vibrant artistic community eager to explore and push the boundaries of new work. This residency not only facilitates individual artistic growth but also cultivates a collaborative environment where ideas can flourish. Providing artists with the opportunity to have creative agency, along with access to dedicated space and essential resources, is crucial for nurturing their development and fostering innovative practices. We are looking forward to continuing to grow this residency program.

Quote from Michaila Cowie, Director of Theatre Arts, BCA

“I am excited to welcome our upcoming Playwright Residents, who are committed to amplifying underrepresented stories. Through their powerful voices and unique perspectives, they will illuminate the narratives that often go unheard, fostering a rich, more inclusive

dialogue. Both playwrights emphasized their desire to engage the theatre community during their process and beyond. I am looking forward to following along on their journeys and how their plays develop and thrive over the next year.” — Michaila Cowie, Director of Theatre Arts, Boston Center for the Arts

About The 2024-2025 BCA Playwright Residents

[Gabriela Tovar-Borghini](#) (any) is a playwright currently based in the Boston area, with hopes to begin impacting their community with their art. As a queer BIPOC writer, they didn't grow up with artists of similar experience and now they are passionate about creating the art they were longing for. Gabriela is an interdisciplinary artist, but above all, loves writing in all forms, especially for the stage. They just came back from studying devising in Italy, at the Accademia dell'Arte, and are returning to Boston full of new ideas, pages, and inspiration.”

For their residency, Gabriela will be developing a new play called *Llorona, or the Weeping Women*. Gabriela's plans for the residency are, “with the space provided, as well as workshops through the BCA, the goal will be to end with a production-ready draft of the script. Some goals to make this happen will include a shifting of the ethnicities in one of the main characters, a deep dive into the power of language in the show, and an exploration of the themes surrounding family in the text. Outside of the show itself, I hope to really invest and engage in the blossoming new works community within the city of Boston, specifically the Latino community.” [See full bio.](#)

[Munroe Forbes Shearer](#) (he/any) is a writer, designer, and big idea generator from Essex Junction, Vermont (now based in Boston). His work centers his rural New England heritage, evolving queer identity, and passion for history to explore complex themes of gender expansion, queer family, grief, and intergenerationality. His plays have won the Rod Parker Playwriting Fellowship, the Betsy Carpenter Award for Playwriting, and been a finalist for Waterworks 2024. His nonfiction work has been selected as a runner-up for the Tom Howard/John H. Reid essay contest, featured on *HowlRound*, and published in *Passengers Literary Journal*.

“During this residency,” Munroe says, “I want to continue to develop the lens through which my previous work explores historical queerness into a piece exploring queer intergenerationality across history. In my work, past and present, I've tackled historical mysteries like those of Christopher Marlowe, the enigmatic Shakespearean playwright, and Antinous, the doomed lover of Roman emperor Hadrian. I'm fascinated with the hushed whispers and half-truths that are told about their lives, and seek to find the lessons they can teach about modern queer experience. Through collaborations with other artists, I'll build work that travels across spectrums of gender, geography, and time in order to deeply and holistically explore these themes across a much wider array of stories. In much of the theatrical canon, works that explore queer thought are intentionally specific to era, place, and identity. My dream is to weave these threads of specificity into a tapestry of larger truth: *Where have we been? How did we get here? Where do we go now?*” [See full bio.](#)



About Boston Center for the Arts

Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) supports working artists to create, perform, and exhibit new works; develops new audiences; and connects the arts to community, and has for over five decades engaged the creative community for the public good. While the organization's physical residence is in the historic South End, BCA touches every part of Boston's cultural ecosystem. A leading force in the city's cultural community, BCA has supported thousands of individual artists, small organizations, and performing arts companies, who add depth and dimension to the Boston arts ethos. Through residencies and programming, BCA serves as an epicenter for an expanding cohort of artists working across all disciplines and has catalyzed careers by providing fertile ground for experimentation and artistic risk-taking. To learn more about Boston Center for the Arts, visit bostonarts.org.

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