

THROWN
STONE

CONNECTION



2022 Annual Report



So What Else is New?

NEW FELLOWSHIP, NEW PLAYWRIGHT, NEW SUPPORT, NEW AWARDS, NEW CHALLENGES

2022 WAS A WHIRLWIND, and continued at a break-neck pace all year. Literally. Jonathan broke his neck (and a few ribs) in a cycling accident in November. He was fortunate to receive extraordinary care from Ridgefield EMS and Danbury Hospital, and continues his recovery with the help of RVNAhealth and his family. Jason finished the year in quite different circumstances, rehearsing for his GableStage debut in *We Will Not Be Silent*, a new play by David Myers about civil disobedience in World War II, running January 6-29, 2023 in Coral Gables, FL.

Thrown Stone's year began with the sudden news that The Lark, a developmental theatre company in New York that has been instrumental in supporting the work of hundreds of playwrights, had closed its doors forever. Thrown Stone Playwright Phanésia Pharel, had been a finalist for their New Voices Fellowship when the announcement was made. Thus began a scramble to fund a new fellowship, the results of which are reported on page 4.

Shortly after that, playwright Tammy Ryan joined our Daniel E. Offutt III Charitable Trust commission of a new play about the 19th-century artist Ammi Phillips. Ms. Ryan spent several weeks this spring and summer traveling Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York researching the itinerant artist and writing the play. A workshop reading of the first draft was performed in October, and positioned it for the announcement you will read in page 3.

Our productions returned to Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance this summer after a 2020 hiatus and our 2021 outdoor season. Directed by erstwhile Fairfield resident Tracy Brigden (see her career news on the next column), the New England premieres of *Athena* by Gracie Gardner and *Hysterical!* by Elenna Stauffer were among our most critically acclaimed productions to date. We highlighted our theme of #GirlPower with the inaugural presentation of the Thrown Stone New Connections Award (see page 2).

As the year came to a close, Thrown Stone was included among 21 other local nonprofits in an allocation of Ridgefield's ARPA funding (see page 4). This constituted our first funding from the Town of Ridgefield in our six-year history, and an important recognition of the arts' impact on our local economy.

The future is always uncertain, but our impact was never in doubt. As you read this report, we invite you to consider our mission. New plays are so much more than entertainment. They ask urgent questions, lift up important voices, and help sustain communities. Thank you for your support.

Guthrie Theatre Names Tracy Brigden Senior Artistic Producer

Shortly after directing Thrown Stone's 2022 repertory season, Tracy Brigden was named the Guthrie Theater's Senior Artistic Producer and a member of the Senior Management Team. This role oversees all artistic team operations at the acclaimed Minneapolis, MN regional theatre, one of the most influential in the United States.

Tracy led City Theatre in Pittsburgh, PA as their Artistic Director for 16 years, produced almost 200 plays, and launched an extensive play development program — including a new play festival. She has also directed new plays around the country, including at City Theatre, Hartford Stage, Atlantic Theatre Company, Barrington Stage Company, TheaterWorks Hartford, Pittsburgh Public Theater, and many more. Thrown Stone congratulates Tracy on this well-earned position and we wish her all the best in Minneapolis!





2022 Season Recap

THROWN STONE'S FIFTH SEASON featured two new plays about friendship, competition, and coming of age in today's world: *Athena* by **Gracie Gardner**, and *Hysterical!* by **Elenna Stauffer**. Performed in repertory at Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance, both plays were directed by **Tracy Brigden**. The stellar cast included **Shannon Helene Barnes, Olivia Billings, Julia Crowley, Kendyl Grace Davis, and Isa Muiño**. In true repertory fashion, the cast of *Athena* performed parts in *Hysterical!* and two intrepid swings understudied multiple roles. Together with a visionary creative team and production staff, the "Summer of Thrown Stone," as proclaimed by CT Critics Circle member James Ruocco, captivated audiences and critics alike:

"Important, Humorous, Timely, Bold, Powerful... Unleashed with natural conviction, honesty and charm" — **James Ruocco, CT Critics Circle***

"Priceless" — **Tom Holehan, CT Critics Circle**

"Engrossing, highly satisfying" — **Stuart Brown, CT Critics Circle**

"Perfect... Wonderful... Unforgettable... Flawless... Definitely Worth Experiencing" — **Zander Opper, CT Critics Circle**

"A unique coming of age story you will not soon forget" — **Bonnie Goldberg, CT Critics Circle**

"Mind-blowing... A significant achievement in modern theatre" — **James Ruocco, CT Critics Circle***

We selected our season at the end of 2021, but these plays and their focus on young women in athletics only became more relevant as we moved into production. Over the past two years, women's sports have been at the center of cultural conversations around access and equity under Title IX, pay inequity, institutionally-abetted abuse, and mental health. *Athena* and *Hysterical!* with their wildly different perspectives on women's athletics and their *tour de force* performances, made a significant statement for #GirlPower. Over just eighteen performances in a tiny, 60-seat house in Ridgefield, our 2022 season also demonstrated what new plays can achieve at their very best: theatre that moves, connects, and challenges all who join the conversation. To view the #GirlPower program, visit thrownstone.org/p22

* Named to James Ruocco's *Best Plays of 2022 (Equity)*



Theresa Santoro

2022 New Connections Award Honorees

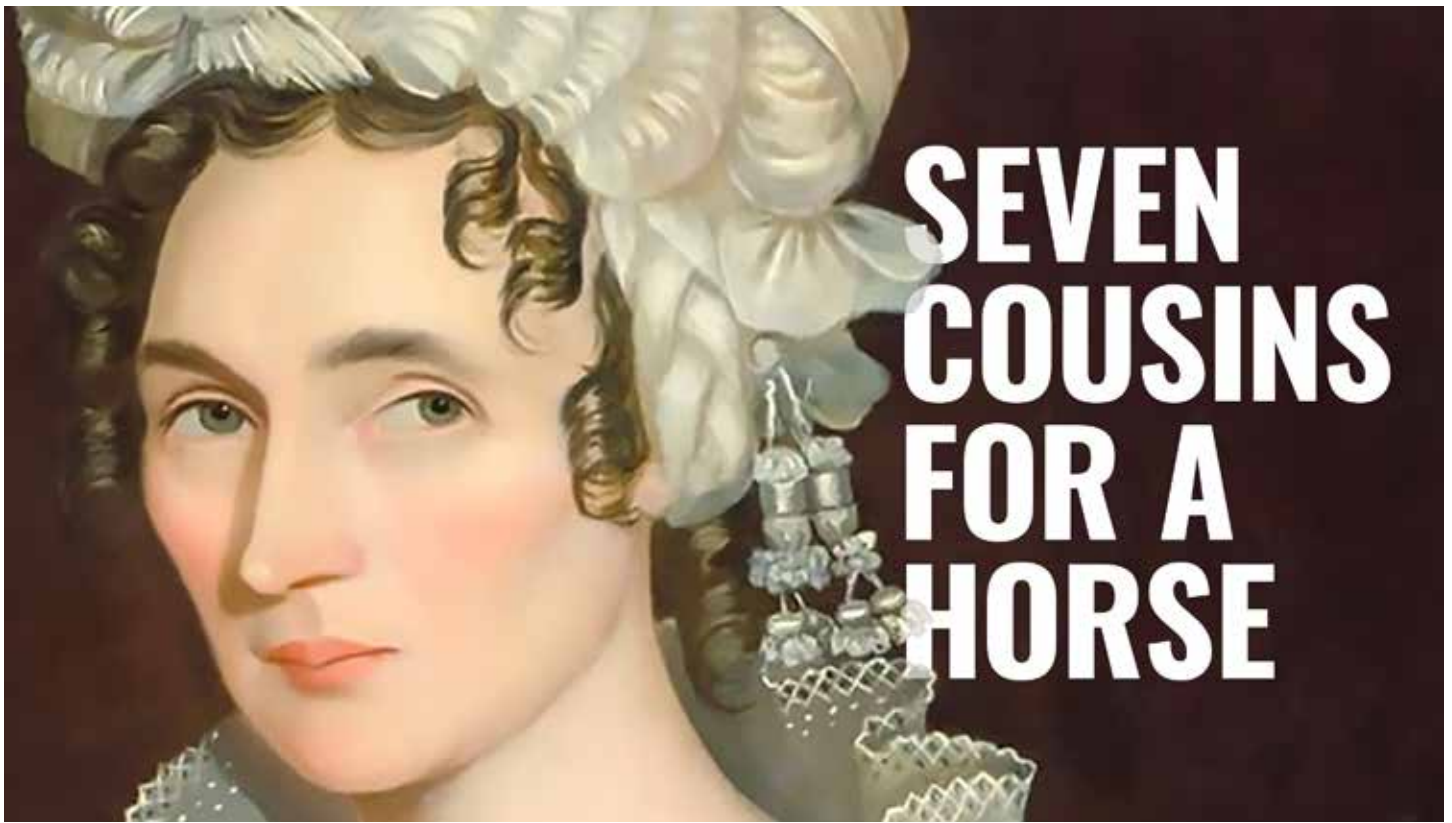
In 2022 we were pleased to recognize RVNAhealth President and CEO Theresa Santoro and Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance Executive Director Amy Piantaggini as the inaugural honorees of the Thrown Stone **New Connections Award**.

The New Connections Awards were envisioned to recognize individuals who exemplify Thrown Stone's values and our mission to move, connect, and challenge all who join our theatrical conversation. Each year, the award will focus on a distinct theme that harmonizes with our season. In 2022, that theme was *Mentoring Young Women*.



Amy Piantaggini

The inaugural honorees have distinguished themselves over a number of years as mentors, and have each selected a mentee, who presented their awards in a short ceremony following our opening night performances. Thrown Stone is grateful to these mentors who make a profound difference in our region, and we are delighted to celebrate their work with this award.



Ammi Phillips (Detail), c. 1820

#Ammi

ART, FAMILY, AND GREAT CHANGE IN AMERICA | 2023 PREVIEW

Thrown Stone’s 2023 season will feature **the world premiere of *Seven Cousins for a Horse* by Tammy Ryan**. Originally commissioned in 2020 with underwriting by the Daniel E. Offutt, III Charitable Trust, this work features a new playwright and a new title. *Seven Cousins for a Horse* tells the story of Ammi Phillips, the most prolific folk artist in American History, returning to his home town of Colebrook, Connecticut in the wake of a personal tragedy. It is 1848, a time of great change. The Seneca Falls Convention is about to call for women’s suffrage, chattel slavery has finally ended in Connecticut, and there is already talk of a war between the states. But Ammi has work to do. He must capture the likenesses of his cousins, the Kinney family. All they can offer in payment is a strong horse, but that may be just the thing he needs to reset his itinerant career — and find his way back home.

In the late spring of 2021, playwright Tammy Ryan joined the project, replacing Jacqueline Goldfinger, who withdrew for personal reasons. Tammy dove headlong into Ammi’s world with a research trip in late April and a Ridgefield residency in August. By October, she completed a first draft, which was workshopped and read for an invited audience on October 22. Directed by Artistic Director Jonathan Winn, the cast included Thrown Stone collaborators Shannon Helene Barnes, Will Jeffries, Aidan Meachem, and Mark Silence; and introduced our audience to actors Amanda Curtin, Emmanuelle Nadeau, and Marissa Ruben. The performances were received with overwhelming enthusiasm by our invited audience, and a second draft was completed at the end of 2022, which will be workshopped in New York City at New Dramatists in April, 2023.

Seven Cousins for a Horse will open at Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance in July of 2023.

The Surviving Kinney Portraits



NISUS KINNEY



JANE KINNEY



SARAH KINNEY



LUCIUS CULVER

Ammi Phillips (Detail), 1848



Meet Playwright Tammy Ryan

Tammy Ryan’s wide-ranging work has been commissioned, developed, and performed at regional theaters across the United States, including Alliance Theatre, City Theatre, Florida Stage, Marin Theatre Company, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Portland Stage, People’s Light and Theatre Company, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh Playhouse, and many others. Internationally, her work has been seen in Australia, Canada, India, Japan, and Turkey.

Tammy has been supported by the National New Play Network, The New Harmony Project, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Sewanee Writers’ Conference, The Heinz Endowments, The Pittsburgh Foundation, and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. She is a resident playwright at New Dramatists and a longtime member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

Tammy is based in Pittsburgh where she leads playwriting workshops and master-classes both virtually (from her dining room table) and around the country. Her work is published by Broadway Play Publishing, Dramatists Play Service, Dramatic Publishing, and Playscripts, and can be read on the National New Play Exchange.

Francesca Primus Prize, ATCA
2020 Haas Fellow, PlayPenn
Walter E. Dakin Fellowship, SWC
Jane Chambers Award Honoree
New Dramatists Resident Playwright

Thrown Stone Receives ARPA Support from the Town of Ridgefield

In December, Thrown Stone was among the 21 local arts and culture nonprofits to receive a portion of Ridgefield’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. We are deeply grateful to the town for this unprecedented support. Thrown Stone’s allocation represents about 3.5% of our 2022 budget, and while that is significant, support from patrons like you remains crucial to our mission to develop and present new professional theatre in our region.

See thrownst.one/arpa for more background from The Ridgefield Press.



The 068 Magazine Playwriting Fellowship

This year, with support from **068 Magazine**, **The Borman Family Foundation**, and the **Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut**, we launched the **068 Magazine Playwriting Fellowship** and named its first fellow, **Phanésia Pharel**. The fellowship began February 1, and included a six-month stipend, dramaturgical support, and a workshop of the playwright’s new material. During the fellowship, Ms. Pharel wrote *R&B*, a play honoring the survivors of gendered violence in the music industry; joined **The Wish Collective**, a group of pro-choice artists who wrote and performed their play, *The Wish*, across the United States; completed new drafts of *Black Girl Joy*, her play set at a home for vulnerable youth in Miami; and began work on a third play, *Just the Two of Us*, a play about a mother, a daughter, and the American dream. Ms. Pharel also spent the summer with Thrown Stone, assistant-directing our *#GirlPower* season. With dramaturgical and production support from Thrown Stone, a workshop of *Just the Two of Us* is planned for this spring. Without the support of Dee Dee Colabella, Kate Borman, and Lisa Scails, this incredible output from a significant new voice in the theatre would not have been possible. Ms. Pharel, now enrolled in the graduate playwriting program at UCSD, put it this way: “I cannot imagine the last six months of my life without this fellowship.”

FACTS

MISSION

To engage our region with new and reimagined theatre in intimate settings, creating a body of work that moves, connects, and challenges all who join the conversation.

PERSONNEL

Jason Peck & Jonathan Winn,
Co-Artistic Directors
Corrine Woods, Business Manager
Richard Harrison, Artistic Associate
Maria McConville, Artistic Associate

BOARD

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Kevin Mambo
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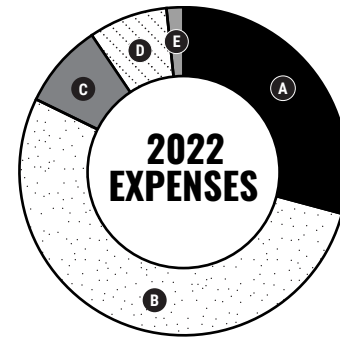
Thrown Stone is a 501(c)(3) organization.
EIN: 81-1683094.
D-U-N-S Number: 080603526.
2017-2021 IRS Form 990, Bylaws, Conflict Of Interest Policy, and Sexual Harassment Policy available upon request.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	EXPENSES	NET ASSETS
2016	\$8,600	\$2,800
2017	\$64,800	\$14,700
2018	\$100,400	\$25,500
2019	\$122,300	\$41,500
2020	\$20,800	\$160,900
2021	\$148,800	\$175,800
2022	\$224,000	\$115,600
2023 EST.	\$190,042	\$60,300



A. Donations and Grants	\$183,900
B. In-Kind Donations	\$30,700
C. Ticket Sales, Concessions, Other	\$28,000
Total	\$242,600



A. Production, Space Rental, Marketing	\$65,700
B. Artist and Other Salaries	\$118,600
C. Commissions & Licensing	\$18,700
D. Fellowship	\$17,500
E. General Operating	\$3,500
Total	\$224,000

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

We thank our generous donors, grantors, and sponsors for their financial support, along with generous in-kind donations from individuals and businesses for media, services, artist housing/travel, and catering.

We returned to two productions in repertory for our 2022 season, launched a playwriting fellowship, and completed a commission that will premiere in 2023. Production costs increased in 2022 as we returned to indoor theatre. Set and lighting equipment, fuel, and labor costs all surged due to inflation and supply chain disruption. Of our 2022 expenses, 98% represented the direct costs of programming — artist and other salaries, fellowship, commissions and licensing, production, space rental, and marketing costs.

In 2023, we anticipate a steep decline in the government funding that sustained us through the COVID-19 pandemic, and will continue to rely on support from individuals and foundations to continue our mission.

HISTORY

- 2016** Debut Summer Reading Series: *The Fields of Blue and Glow* by August Schulenberg and *Blink* by Kate Moira Ryan at the Ridgefield Library; Chekhov International Theatre Festival staged reading of *Milk* by Ross Dunsmore
- 2017** The U.S. Premiere of *Milk* by Ross Dunsmore at Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance; Chekhov International Theatre Festival staged reading of *The Butcher* by Gwydion Suilebhan
- 2018** The New England Premiere of *The Arsonists* by Jacqueline Goldfinger and The East Coast Premiere of *Where All Good Rabbits Go* by Karina Cochran, in repertory at Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance
- 2019** The Connecticut Premiere of *Cry it Out* by Molly Smith Metzler and The East Coast Premiere of *Birds of North America* by Anna Moench, in repertory at Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance; staged reading of *Willing* by Claire Glubiak at the Ridgefield Library
- 2020** Productions canceled due to COVID-19.
- 2021** The World Premiere of *The Suburbs: The Caterers* by Tony Meneses, *Should We Dance Instead?* by Phanésia Pharel, and *An Education: How To Confront the Classics* by Catherine Yu
- 2022** The New England Premieres of *Athena* by Gracie Gardner and *Hysterical!* by Elenna Stauffer, in repertory; Full-length commission of *Seven Cousins for a Horse* by Tammy Ryan; **068 Magazine Playwriting Fellowship.**

FUTURE PLANS

- 2023** The World Premiere of *Seven Cousins for a Horse* by Tammy Ryan

98% of our expenses go directly into our programs

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WSHU Public Radio*

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068 Magazine
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CT Humanities
Town of Ridgefield – ARPA Funds

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Way of the Sword

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Fairfield County Bank
The Wadsworth R. Lewis Fund

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Dimitri's Diner*
Houlihan Lawrence
Ridgefield Library – Battle of the Books
Ridgefield Parks and Recreation*
Stacey's Totally Baked*

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National New Play Network
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In memory of Linda Almira
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Sapphire (\$1,000+)

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Thank you!

*Includes in-kind donation of goods or services.

We apologize for any errors or omissions — please email us with any corrections or if you wish to remain anonymous in the future.

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Front Cover:
Shannon Helene Barnes and Olivia Billings in *Athena* by Gracie Gardner, 2022
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