

ANTAEUS Theatre Company

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

30TH ANNIVERSARY





THE TRANSFORMATIVE

POWER OF

LIVE THEATER



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A LETTER FROM our BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends.

After serving on the Antaeus Board for many years, I had the honor of stepping into the role of Board Chair in September. I am proud to have the opportunity to help lead such an extraordinary organization, and I am profoundly grateful to my predecessor, David Gindler, for his years of exemplary service. Antaeus would not be where it is today without him, and I am pleased to share that he remains an active member of the Board. David Gindler and Kiki Ramos Gindler will always be cherished members of this community.

As pleased as I am to serve in this new role, my tenure has begun during an unusual and challenging time. The pandemic has been difficult for all of us. This past year was meant to be a time of celebration for Antaeus as we marked our 30th anniversary. Although we were not able to come together in person to mark this important milestone, the generous and inspiring support from our community has given all of us at Antaeus a renewed sense of purpose and deep gratitude.

For the leadership of Antaeus, this past year has served as a time of reflection, recommitment, and innovation. Our most notable accomplishment in the Covid-era was the creation of *The Zip Code Plays: Los Angeles*, a series that shines a light on the history and cultures of the city. Thanks to the incredible talents of the actors, playwrights, and an extraordinary sound team, this original audio series has reached audiences across Southern California and around the world. We are thrilled that these stories have meant so much to the thousands of people who have enjoyed them. We would not have been able to produce this excellent series without the support of people, like you.

As you read this report, you will learn more about *The Zip Code Plays* and all the other programming Antaeus artists and staff took on during what would have been our 30th Anniversary Season. Even though the doors have been closed, it was a remarkably successful and busy year. We were able to maintain employment for the entire administrative team while building greater financial stability for the theater's future. We created online programs for artists, audiences, and local students. And we focused effort and attention on centering the vitally important issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion within our organization.

As we look toward reopening in early 2022, there are more challenges that lie ahead. I am confident that Antaeus will rise to meet these new opportunities with strength, creativity, innovation, and a deep sense of value and purpose.

We are very grateful that you have stayed with us throughout this difficult time. Thank you again for your confidence in us, and we hope that you will continue to support Antaeus's work in 2022 and in the future.

I look forward to seeing you at the theater very soon.

Sincerely,

Evie DiCiaccio, Board Chair Antaeus Theatre Company

ABOUT ANTAEUS



MISSION

Antaeus is an actor-driven theater company that explores and produces timely and timeless works, grounded in our passion for the Classics. We illuminate diverse human experiences through performance, training, and outreach.

We believe in the transformative power of live theater.

OUR **VALUES**

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE Some of the finest artists in the American theater call Antaeus their home. We believe in excellence and strive for greatness. We believe in taking creative risks and working above and beyond our comfort zones in order to create experiences that stimulate, inspire, and challenge our audiences.

COMPANY We are a community built by artists who have chosen to contribute their vast array of talents to Antaeus. Our dedication to the larger group is our strength, and makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Theater is a profoundly social act. Antaeus is a gathering place where actors and audiences can come together for a shared experience. We recognize it is important to engage our audiences on and off the stage. Using theater as a catalyst, we stimulate important conversations to nurture understanding and create empathy.

INCLUSIVITY We are committed to creating a welcoming environment and deeper inclusion within our company. Antaeus strives for diversity through Company membership, Board membership, staff, inclusive casting, choice of artistic material, and through our community engagement. We are a space where all voices are heard.

RESPECT We are committed to actively communicating by both listening and hearing without prejudice; we value each other's opinions. We approach our conversations with empathy, generosity, and a collaborative spirit to build a lasting foundation that honors our commitments to each other and the company.

ARTISTIC GROWTH We have a thirst for knowledge and are committed to growing as artists. Grounded in classical text and training, we are an artistic home where professional actors can continue to work on their craft amongst their peers. We inspire the next generation of theater artists through performance, education, and outreach.

ACCOUNTABILITY Antaeus builds trust through mutual respect and integrity in all of our interactions. We keep our word and honor our commitments to the company, the community, our audiences, and each other.

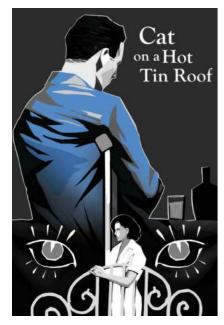
PROFESSIONALISM Antaeus is a leader in the professional arts community, which is reflected in the quality and vision of our artists, staff, and board members.

ANTAEUS through the years



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATIVE THEATER

As part of our celebration of three decades of Antaeus history, we unveiled our new 30th Anniversary Poster Gallery. We collaborated with 15 talented local artists, who created original artwork commemorating some of the most-loved productions brought to life on our stage since our founding in 1991.



The Hethouse

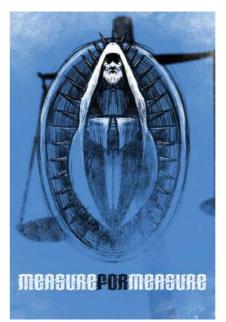




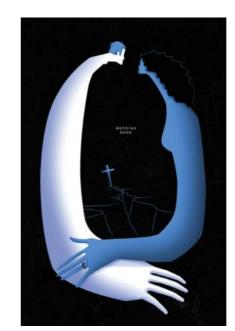


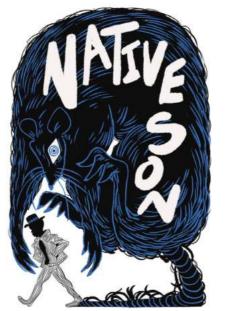








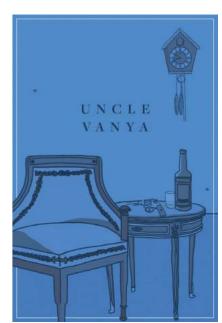














Artist credits from top left: Dwight Tablason, Valencia Spates, Cynthia Jacquette, Jessica Peng, Haes muri Lee, Bryan Gelderbloom, Vivian Naranjo, Larry Hughes, Marci Chorpash

THE ZIP CODE PLAYS: LOS ANGELES

In Fall 2020, we launched a brand-new series of original plays written by Playwrights Lab members, recorded by Antaeus actors, and enhanced with immersive sound design. Since their debut, the series has received more than 70,000 listens from around the world, and the number continues to grow each day. Inspired by the rich culture and history of diverse neighborhoods throughout LA County, the audio plays are available for FREE on our website and all major podcast platforms for everyone to enjoy.



90011: South Central Los Angeles - SpeakeasyBy Khari Wyatt, Directed by Bernadette Speakes

By Khari Wyatt, Directed by Bernadette Speakes Sponsored by Ruth Eliel & Bill Cooney

90272: Pacific Palisades - Annexing the Palisades
By Alex Goldberg, Directed by Ann Noble
Sponsored by The Peter Glenville Foundation

90403: Santa Monica - Plucker

By Nayna Agrawal, Directed by Jonathan Muñoz-Proulx Sponsored by Evie & John DiCiaccio

90024: Westwood - ALL INFORMATION HEREIN IS CLASSIFIED

By Deb Hiett, Directed by Carolyn Ratteray Sponsored by Belinda & Jack Walker

91352: Sun Valley - Salvage

By Steve Serpas, Directed by Julia Fletcher Sponsored by Debra Thomspon & Lawrence Riff

90012: DTLA - Clara and Serra and The Talking Bear By Angela J. Davis, Directed by Steven Robman Sponsored in Memory of Mark C. Lambert



90069: West Hollywood - Brunch, InterruptedBy Sean Abley, Directed by Michael A. Shepperd

Sponsored by Reba & Geoffrey Thomas

90026: Echo Park - \$10 and a Tambourine

By Mildred Inez Lewis, Directed by Gigi Bermingham Sponsored by Arlene Vidor

90303: Inglewood - The Vig

By Paula Cizmar, Directed by Bernadette Speakes Sponsored by Rosemary A. Hernandez

91331: Pacoima - Gold & Shine

By Khari Wyatt, Directed by Saundra McClain Sponsored by Ruth Eliel & Bill Cooney

91601: North Hollywood - End of the Line

By Peppur Chambers, Directed by Gregg T. Daniel Sponsored by April Webster

91754: Monterey Park - Bingo Bitches

By Elizabeth Wong, Directed by Jennifer Chang Sponsored by Sonja Berggren & Patrick Seaver



91201: Glendale - The Six Pianos of Miradero

By Alex Goldberg, Directed by Lisa Sanaye Dring Sponsored by Debra Thompson & Lawrence Riff

91505: Burbank - True Sound

By Steve Apostolina, Directed by Gregg T. Daniel Sponsored by Karen Frederiksen

90262: Lynwood - Blue Like You

By Ann Noble, Directed by Jonathan Muñoz-Proulx Sponsored by Evie & John DiCiaccio

90027: Griffith Park - The Fire In-Between

By Peppur Chambers, Directed by Rondrell McCormick Sponsored by Arlene Vidor

90039: Frogtown - Anaxyrus Boreas

By Daniel Hirsch, Directed by Sara Lyons Sponsored by Belinda & Jack Walker

90028: Hollywood - Marie Dressler: Good Gal

By Diana Burbano, Directed by Cameron Watson Sponsored by Anthony J. Oncidi

CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR THE ZIP CODE PLAYS

"DELIGHTFUL... like taking a whistle-stop tour of the weirder corners of our diverse metropolis... quick and fun and surprising, and the production quality is exceptional..."

Los Angeles Times

"AS INFORMATIVE AS IT IS ENTERTAINING... little known tales of Los Angeles's different neighborhoods."

— LA Splash

"ENCHANTING AND ORIGINAL... The Zip Code Plays deliver Los Angeles to your laptop."

LA Weekly

2021 AWARDS



WORLD PREMIERE EIGHT NIGHTS

Written by: JENNIFER MAISEL Directed by: EMILY CHASE

LA STAGE ALLIANCE OVATION AWARDS

Playwright of an Original Play: **JENNIFER MAISEL**

Lead Actress in a Play: **TESSA AUBERJONOIS**



THE ZIP CODE PLAYS TOUR

As part of the original audio series, Antaeus developed *The Zip Code Plays Tour* to provide engaging educational resources for audiences to enjoy along with the plays. Visitors can explore each Zip Code in the series with guided tours led by Antaeus actors. Each neighborhood tour highlights local landmarks and history, and features small businesses we partnered with to help us reach audiences in each Zip Code.

More than 5,000 visitors have seen Los Angeles history for themselves through our interactive Tour website (**zipcodeplays.org**), featuring fun and detailed map illustrations by local artist Cynthia Jacquette.

THE ZIP CODE PLAYS SALONS

Our community Salon series takes audience members behind the scenes of **The Zip Code Plays** with opportunities to hear from the playwrights, directors, and actors that brought these LA-inspired stories to life.

In addition to hosting **playwrights panels** for Seasons One and Two, Antaeus presented **virtual Salons** with a variety of local groups dedicated to serving their neighborhoods. Partners have included the Los Angeles Public Library, Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library, Westwood Village Improvement Association, and culture organizations such as glendaleOUT.

ANTAEUS BOOK CLUB

Last year, we developed the Antaeus Book Club as a special benefit for our donors and season subscribers. We hosted a total of **11 guided discussions** exploring classic plays from our production history, and the entire series featured **15 special guest** artists who were part of the play's original casts and creative teams at Antaeus. Book Club Meetings offered a deep dive into the following plays:

Peace in Our Time
The Time of Your Life
Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in
Black & White
The Wood Demon

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

King Lear
St. Joan
Mother Courage and Her Children
Top Girls
You Can't Take It With You
Native Son

ARTS EDUCATION

The Antaeus Odyssey Artists' Workshop serves students at five partner sites in Los Angeles: William Tell Aggeler Opportunity High School (in cooperation with Rancho San Antonio Boys Home), The New Village Girls Academy, Herbert Hoover High School, Homeboy Industries, and YWCA of Glendale and Pasadena.

Although in-person classes with our four original partner sites have been paused during the pandemic, this year we started a new virtual partnership with YWCA Glendale & Pasadena's Girls Empowerment program. In Spring 2020, Antaeus Teaching Artists taught weekly, in-depth creative writing classes to a group of local girls ages 10-16. In Summer 2021, Teaching Artists met with three different cohorts in the YWCA Camp Rosie program, offering creative writing workshops to a total of 54 students. We look forward to continuing with YWCA Glendale & Pasadena as a long-term partner, and plan to resume our other Arts Education programs in 2022.

"[Teaching Artists] Ann, Kwana, and Kelsey showed me a different way of writing and it was so much more interesting and fun. Without them, I would not have had so much fun during the pandemic."
-Ivy, Girls Empowerment Program participant

"Thank you so much for this great class and for the inspiration. I loved that Alexandra got to spend time with inspiring ladies like you. She enjoyed every minute and it got us through a really tough time this year. She looked forward to your class every time." -Daniella, parent

"Thank you so much for this amazing program. Daniela really enjoyed being able to express herself in this way. My high school daughter was also able to participate with Antaeus Theatre a few years ago, when Ann co-taught a Shakespeare class at Hoover HS (she loved it)." -Ibet, parent

ANTAEUS ACADEMY

In our renowned Academy, celebrated working actors provide high-level training for both aspiring theater artists honing essential skills and seasoned professionals fine-tuning their craft. In 2020/21, we offered **8 unique courses** during our Fall, Spring, and Summer sessions; with timely offerings ranging from "The Poetry and Blues of August Wilson" to "Auditioning in a Post Quarantine World."

We also launched a series of public MasterClasses, reaching hundreds of students with virtual educational programming led by renowned scholars and educators including Dakin Matthews and Armin Shimerman.







NEW CLASSICS INITIATIVE

As an artist-driven theater company, we believe in the power and importance of storytellers. They are architects of culture and windows to our history. Great theater demands a multiplicity of voices sharing vast and varying ideas and perspectives. The purpose of our New Classics Initiative is to nurture an inclusive generation of writers, both through our Playwrights Lab – a creative incubator for writers in the LA theater scene – and through a newly developed commissioning program, the NEXT Commissions. Through these programs, we support the creation of extraordinary new plays that will stand the test of time.

We've seen exceptional new work flourish in the supportive environment of our Playwrights Lab, and when we debuted productions of two new plays from the Lab in fall 2019, it was a moment of great pride for our company. Through this process, we experienced first-hand the power of programming dynamic new voices alongside celebrated classics – a combination that contrasts and enhances the impact of both.

We are proud to consider "new classics" a central part of our artistic identity. By supporting the great storytellers of our own time, we are not only creating something of value for the Antaeus community; we are fostering the development of extraordinary art to enrich the wider world of theater for generations to come.

PLAYWRIGHTS LAB

Since 2014, The Antaeus Playwrights Lab has served as an incubator for developing new plays. Lab Members participate in weekly meetings where Antaeus actors bring their newly-written words to life – an invaluable resource when creating new work.

Writers with promising works in development may be offered the opportunity to have their full-length plays explored at our Roundtables. These internal readings are followed by dramaturgical discussions to help guide the final stages of the playwrights' work. Plays considered to have high potential for future production at Antaeus (or elsewhere) may receive Completion Commissions to support their development with additional resources. We then present an annual reading series, LAB RESULTS, where select works from Lab are shared with the public.

Two original works from the Playwrights Lab (*The Abuelas* and *Eight Nights*) were produced as part of our 2019/20 season, and during 2020/21, we've produced and shared Lab members' original plays through our acclaimed audio series, *The Zip Code Plays*.

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NEXT COMMISSIONS

The NEXT Commissions, a new play development initiative for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) playwrights, were created to amplify historically underrepresented voices and to broaden the scope of the classical theater canon. Through this program, writers will develop original, full-length works inspired by, or in response to, classic plays, historical events and figures of their choosing.

A new addition to our enduring, high-quality programming grounded in the classics, NEXT aims to nurture an inclusive generation of writers. Our long-term goal with NEXT is to produce the plays developed within this commission program as part of an upcoming Antaeus season.

In July 2021, we announced the two playwrights selected for the inaugural NEXT Commissions — **Zola Dee** and **Marlow Wyatt**. Throughout the commission cycle, both playwrights will continue to receive financial, dramaturgical, and logistical support from Antaeus, with the goal of completing their original, full-length works in 2022.

Zola Dee - Zola Dee is an L.A.-based emerging theater artist, poet and vocalist from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She believes her work has a strong responsibility to investigate trauma and how it is passed down generationally; the black psyche; mysticism; and ancient spirituality. Her most notable work, *Gunshot Medley: Part 1,* was published in Routledges Contemporary Plays by Women of Color. Dee was named by *Los Angeles Times* theater critic Charles McNulty as a front-runner in "a vibrant new era in African-American playwriting." Other accomplishments include: 2017-2018 Core Apprentice at the Playwright's Center in Minneapolis, where she was recently awarded the Many Voices Fellowship, and 2018 Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights Diversity Fellow.

Marlow Wyatt - Actor and playwright Marlow Wyatt is a magna cum laude graduate of Howard University's College of Fine Arts. Her plays include SHE, scheduled for a 2022 world premiere by L.A.'s Latino Theater Company; Robbin, from the Hood, a 2021 Eugene O'Neill semi-finalist developed in MADLab with Moving Arts; and Listen, A Black Woman Is Speaking, chosen for the Playwrights Union "Sneak Peek" live reading series.

She is a featured playwright in "50IN50: Shattering The Glass Ceiling," curated by Dominique Morriseau, and in Letters To Our Daughters at the Kumble and Billie Holliday Theaters in NYC and WACO Theater in L.A. She is a 2018 Many Voices Fellowship finalist, a 2018 Howard Players honored alumna, 2016 CTG/Humanitas Playwrights Prize finalist, Long Beach Playhouse New Works winner, a two-time Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS Discretionary Grant recipient, Women In Theatre Red Carpet Award-winner, Pine-Sol/Ebony Magazine Powerful Difference Award-winner and Spirited Woman Grant recipient.

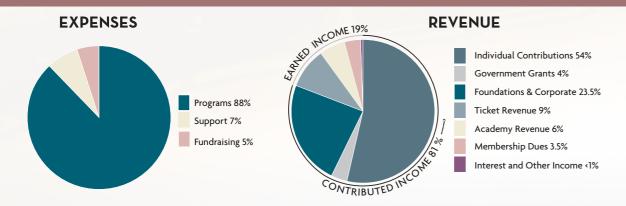
Statement of Financial Position

Financial Data from 2019/20 Audit

ASSETS	
Current Assets:	
Cash	\$348,745
Unconditional Promises to Give, current (net)	\$60,660
Other receivables	\$1,268
Prepaid Expenses	\$12,661
Total Current Assets	\$423,334
Property & Equipment, net	\$2,586,771
Other Assets:	
Unconditional Promises to Give, net	\$19,866
Library	\$15,000
Total Other Assets:	\$34,866
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$3,044,971

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	\$678
Accrued Expenses	\$17,821
Line of Credit	\$305,142
PPP Loan	\$71,225
Note payable, current portion	\$859
Total Current Liabilities:	\$395,725
Note Payable	\$149,041
Net Assets:	
Unrestricted	\$2,429,086
Temporarily Restricted	\$71,119
Total Net Assets	\$2,500,205
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$3,044,971

2019/20 Season - Audited Financials: Expenses & Revenue



THANK YOU to our 2020/21 **DONORS!**

30th ANNIVERSARY PLEDGES

Thank you to the following donors for making commitments in support of our 30th Anniversary Campaign:

Sonja Berggren & Patrick Seaver Karen Frederiksen

Al Latham & Elaine Kramer

Mary Lambert

Kitty Swink & Armin Shimerman

Jack & Belinda Walker

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Thank you to our generous donors for supporting us throughout this challenging year

Donations 9.1.20 through 8.31.21 (2020/21 Season)

Producer's & Director's Circle and Stage Crew Donors ensure that we are never limited in our artistic pursuits. This distinguished group of theater lovers provide us with vitally important support, and receive special recognition and exclusive benefits.

PRODUCER'S CIRCLE

\$50,000+

The Ahmanson Foundation
The David Lee Foundation
Kiki & David Gindler
LA County Department of Arts and Culture
The Michael J. Connell Foundation

\$25,000+

Sonja Berggren & Patrick Seaver
State of California
Karen Frederiksen
Al Latham & Elaine Kramer
Mary Lambert
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
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\$15,000+

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DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

\$10,000+

City of Glendale

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Debra Thompson & Lawrence Riff

Arlene Vidor

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\$5,000+

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R. Scott Thompson
April Webster

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

\$2,500+

Laura & Ira Behr
Dawn Didawick & Harry Groener +
Nancy Hancock Griffith*
The Millin Family
Michael Morrell
Richard Nathan +
Cara Robertson

\$1,500+

Anonymous Gigi Bermingham Deborah & Andrew Bogen Steven Warheit & Jean Christensen I Robin Groves + Paul M. Holmes + Anna Mathias & Alan Shearman Kitty McNamee & Paul Lazarus **Bruce & Valerie Merritt** Suzy Moser Dan Oliverio + Michael R. Oppenheim Pasadena International Film Festival Gwynne & Robert Pine + Susie Schwarz & Stuart Berton Larry Title & Ellen Shavelson Peter & Wendy Van Norden Patty Woo & Steven Poretzky Richard Yaffe

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\$1,000+

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Marlene & Bruce Larson
Jill Maglione & Paul Van Dorpe

STAGE CREW contd.

\$1,000+

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\$500+

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Drs. Ligia & William Toutant

Dale E. Turner

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