

2ND STORY PRESENTS

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SHOW DESCRIPTION

Still, in the 21st century, dominant social cues insist that men can only be properly identified through rigorous occupations, that men are only men if they sweat and toil in work. The persistence of these cultural tropes harm all men across lines of race, gender, and sexuality, along with their loved ones. But the only way to change culture is to challenge it directly. All of these stories feature men actively working on themselves, in relationship to their families, to their grief, on their own internal understanding of self. These stories offer a rebuke to the norms of masculinity that suggest men must be fully formed, tackling the world with confidence and the occasional stoicism but never fundamentally admitting their flaws.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Chicago is the traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: The Odawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi Nations. Many other Tribes like the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, and Fox also called this area home. Located at the intersection of several great waterways, the land naturally became a site of travel and healing for many Tribes. American Indians continue to call this area home and now Chicago is home to the sixth largest Urban American Indian community that still practices their heritage, traditions, and care for the land and waterways. Today, Chicago continues to be a place that calls many people from diverse backgrounds to live and gather here. Despite the many changes the city has experienced, both our American Indian and the 2nd Story community see the importance of the land and this place that has always been a city home to many diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

This organization, and the people behind it, believe that Black Lives Matter. We believe that no one is free until we are all free. As an organization comprised of artists, advocates, staff, and board members, we believe that sharing and deeply listening to each other's personal stories opens the possibility of radical change that this moment calls for.

LABOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that the work that we do in community rests on the labor that has preceded us, much of which was done by Black, Brown, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and disabled activists, and this labor was frequently invisible, unacknowledged, and unpaid.

ARTS WORKER CARE

2nd Story is proudly certified by the [Pay Equity Standards](#).

Developed by [On Our Team](#), The Pay Equity Standards are a system to establish and publicly recognize equitable pay practices within theatre companies, arts organizations, and not-for-profit organizations.



TELLERS



Jim Lupo (he/him) is a professor at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law where he teaches seminars on Law and Literature, Law and Rhetoric, and Persuasion Theory. When not teaching future leaders about the power of story, or helping advance the cause of story as critical to filling the empathy lapses of our current leaders, he obsesses over achieving perfect pasta al dente-ness and sauce to noodle ratios.



Black, trans*genderqueer, educator, advocate, spouse, friend, and Beyonce' fan all describe **Dr. S Simmons (he/him/his)**. S is originally from Chicago Heights, IL and is the eldest of three. S has been happily married to wife, Danielle, for 16 years. Dr. S earned a B.S. and M.S. in Psychology from Iowa State University, and PhD in Higher Education from Loyola University Chicago. Over the course of his career, S has held several positions within higher education. In all of S's roles, he has provided leadership and guidance on identity development, pedagogy, diversity, inclusion, and equity within and across departments. Ask anyone who knows S and they will tell you S is passionate, caring, and leads with love.



Yongwoo he/him is a Korean-American teacher, martial artist, musician, actor, and filmmaker originally from Pittsburgh, PA. Equally passionate about all those things, he teaches preschool and produces videos at Bubbles Academy, writes songs for kids and not-kids alike, teaches and performs with Playmakers Laboratory, trains at Imazaki Dojo and competes across the country in full contact karate and kickboxing, and will someday update his website (TheYongwoo.com). He did just update his LinkedIn, so there's hope.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Justin Cavazos (he/him, Musician) is a singer, guitarist, songwriter, and producer based in Chicago. He previously music directed and arranged the new musical, *Double Vision*, for the Chicago Musical Theatre Festival. Originally from Texas, Justin received his BA in Music with a concentration in Vocal Performance from Stanford University. Why he moved to Chicago to finally experience winter remains a mystery. Justin's current focus is on authentic storytelling in songwriting and live performance with his original music projects.



Devin Christor (he/him, Director) is a director that focuses on plays that critique hegemonic masculinity. Since receiving his B.A in Drama from the University of North Texas he has traveled the country working for several professional theaters to study the ecology of regional theater in America. Credits include: *1919* (Steppenwolf); *Julius Caesar*, *God of Carnage* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater); *Into the Side of a Hill* (Flint Repertory Theater "New Works Festival"); *Toni Stone* (The Goodman); *The Gift of the Magi* (American Players Theatre); *A Raisin in the Sun* (Beverly Arts Center). DevinChristor.com



RJ Silva (he/him, Producer) is a writer and producer, born and raised in Manila, Philippines. He currently produces for CIRCA Pintig, Chicago's Filipino theatre organization, and has performed in their production of Daryo's *All-American Diner*, which was named Chicago Reader's Best New Play of 2023. His plays have been performed at CIRCA Pintig, Chikahan Theatre Company in SF, and PlayGround Chicago. He is the co-founder of The Ampliverse, an inclusive multimedia channel that produces pop culture podcasts and shows. RJ is honored to have directed, produced, and even shared a story with *2nd Story*, and is always grateful to be involved! RJ-Silva.com TheAmpliverse.com



Nick Ward* (he/him, Curator and Emcee) has been a *2nd Story* company since 2006, where he's told stories, produced and curated shows, taught classes, and served as the Co-Director of Education. His book of essays, *All Who Belong May Enter*, featuring many stories that premiered with *2nd Story*, was published by Autumn House Press in 2021. Around Chicago's performing arts community, he worked in various roles with Young Chicago Authors, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Theatre Seven of Chicago, Lifeline Theatre, and PR Casting. He was the Asst. Casting Director and Screenings Coordinator of the Emmy-nominated series, *Brown Girls*.

ABOUT 2ND STORY

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

We believe that stories are what bind us to each other.

We want to live in a world driven by empathy.

Therefore, we create spaces where people can share and deeply listen to one another's stories.

Our Core Values are Inclusion, Craft, and Courage.

STAFF

Amanda Delheimer*, Artistic Director

Lilian Matsuda, Interim Managing Director

Carolyn Aguila, Manager of Relationships

Ali Drumm*, Manager of Strategy and Operations

Liz Rice*, Manager of Curriculum and Education

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2ND STORY COMPANY

2nd Story's company is comprised of story-makers working together to build community through the power of storytelling.

Liz Blondel

Pat Fries

Jenan Mohajir

Reshmi Hazra Rustebakke

Madeline Bourdenko

Julie Ganey

David Nabwango

Megan Shuchman

Paula Carter

Martinique Hallerduff

Vince Pagán

Megan Stielstra

CP Chang

Jessica Kadish

Cameron Pentimone

Aimy Tien

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INNOVATION



2nd Story is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency and by a CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events.

If your name was left off in error, please accept our apologies and contact Lilian at liliane@2ndstory.com

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*Denotes Current or Emeritus Company Member