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**THEATER ALASKA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
ALASKA WRITERS WORKSHOP**

**Year-long residency to develop
writing for performance**

Juneau, AK, September 30, 2020 -- Theater Alaska (Producing Artistic Director, Flordelino Lagundino; General Manager, Jennifer Lagundino) announced the creation of the Alaska Writers Workshop, which offers a cohort of ten Alaskan writers the space and time to develop their writing for performance. The year-long writing workshop, which begins January 2021, is led by Theater Alaska Writer-in-Residence Frank Henry Kaash Katasse and former Theater Communications Group Artist-in-Residence Maurice Decaul. Applications can be found at www.theateralaska.org and are being accepted until November 21, 2020.

“There are so many unique and spectacular stories that only Alaskans can and should tell,” says Katasse. “However, so many people don’t know how to get their stories from their imagination to the stage. We are looking for a group of people that are wanting to learn that process and provide the first steps in becoming playwrights.”

Katasse and Decaul will jointly lead quarterly gatherings in which Alaska Writers Workshop participants will be offered guided instruction and feedback for their writing. Theater Alaska is committed to providing a safe space for growth, as well as a pathway to professional work. “Our goal is to contribute to the artistic landscape of Alaska through this support of writers,” says Producing Artistic Director Flordelino Lagundino.

THEATER ALASKA | ALASKA WRITERS WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS

Frank Henry Kaash Katasse (Theater Alaska Writer-In-Residence, Founding Company Member) Frank is an Alaska Native from the Tlingit clan Tsaagweidí. Frank is an actor, director, producer, improviser, educator and playwright. Frank received his Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Arts from the University of Hawai'i: Mānoa. In 2017, Frank his play *They Don't Talk Back* received an NNPN rolling world premiere at Perseverance Theatre, Native Voices at the Autry, and La Jolla Playhouse.

Maurice Emerson Decaul, a former Marine, is a poet, essayist and playwright whose writing has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Daily Beast*, *Sierra Magazine*, *Epiphany*, *Callaloo*, *Narrative*, *The Common* and elsewhere. His poems have been translated into French and Arabic. His theatre pieces have been produced at New York City's Harlem Stage; Poetic License Festival, New York City; Washington DC's Atlas INTERSECTIONS FESTIVAL; l'Odéon-Théâtre de l'Europe in Paris; the Paris Banlieues Bleues Festival; the Middelheim Jazz Festival in Antwerp; the Avignon Theatre Festival in France; and Détours de Babel, the Grenoble Festival, France. Forthcoming productions will be held at Arizona State University, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Lincoln Center, the Mary L Welch Theatre at Lycoming College, Pennsylvania, and the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. His album, *Holding It Down*, a collaboration with Vijay Iyer, and was The LA Times Jazz Album of the year in 2013. A Callaloo fellow, Maurice is a graduate of Columbia University (BA), and New York University (MFA). He received his MFA in playwriting at Brown University.

ABOUT THEATER ALASKA

Theater Alaska brings vibrant theatrical events directly into community spaces. We are a theater for all and create accessibility to the arts through equity and inclusion. Theater Alaska was founded in 2020 with the passion to share stories that connect with its community in Juneau and around the great state of Alaska. For many, there exist significant barriers to attend theatrical events. To increase accessibility, the company brings free theatrical productions to venues such as community centers, schools, correctional facilities, and other non-traditional venues, meeting people where they are most comfortable. The theater also performs for paying audiences at traditional theater venues. Theater Alaska is modeled after Ten Thousand Things, Minneapolis, MN, which tours professional productions to community venues. www.theateralaska.org.

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