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**THEATER ALASKA ANNOUNCES
TWENTY-THREE WRITERS PARTICIPATING IN
2021 ALASKA WRITERS WORKSHOP**

Workshop supports writers from across Alaska

Juneau, AK, January 5, 2021 -- Theater Alaska (Producing Artistic Director, Flordelino Lagundino; General Manager, Jennifer Lagundino) announced the twenty-three writers who will be participating in the 2021 Alaska Writers Workshop, which offers a cohort of Alaskan writers the space and time to develop their writing for performance.

The writers come from Seward, Juneau, Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Kotlik, and include Christina Apathy, Annie Bartholomew, Douglass Bourne, Doug Capra, Diana Chambers, Merry Ellefson, Jessica Golden, Allan Hayton, Ty Hewitt, Patricia Hull, Michael Kay, Grant Kniefel, Brennon Land, Heather LaVerne, Tekla Monson, Shauna Potocky, Lorrena Prince, Kristen Ritter, Lindsey Schneider, Carey Seward, Jerry Smetzer, Stephanie Smith, and Mary Ann (MAT) Thomas.

The year-long workshop begins the weekend of January 23, 24, 2021 and is led by Theater Alaska Writer-in-Residence Frank Henry Kaash Katasse and former Theater Communications Group Artist-in-Residence Maurice Decaul. All meetings will be held over Zoom.

The writers will participate in quarterly gatherings in which they 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.

"We are excited to support these talented Alaskan writers and to explore how each has a personal connection to their place and culture," says Producing Artistic Director Flordelino Lagundino. "I am looking forward to hearing their unique stories and seeing how they contribute to the culture of performance in Alaska and beyond."

THEATER ALASKA | ALASKA WRITERS WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS

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.

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.

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 shares 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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