

Screenwriting, TV Writing, Playwriting

# STUDENT SCRIPTS

2026

# LIVE READINGS



**KSU ENGLISH**





## WILLIAM ABBOTT

From a young age, William Abbott was always interested in telling stories. Whether through speaking or writing, it became a true passion. Now, as a Journalism major and Film Studies minor, William is able to find use for that passion, developing sports stories and features, as well as original screenplays such as *Dead Haze*. When William is not working, he enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, Reneé, and his dog, Sage.

### *Dead Haze*

When a San Francisco teen loses his parents in a fatal car crash, he turns to the streets of Haight and Ashbury to find his way into the LSD movement, risking his relationships and identity. But his girlfriend's father, a CIA agent with a far from innocent past, is keeping a close eye, waiting to strike.



## BAILEY HUNT

Bailey Hunt is a third-year undergraduate student at KSU, majoring in English. She aspires to be a working screenwriter and hopes to attend graduate school in Professional Writing. Ever since she was a child, she has loved creating stories, playing pretend with her sister, and crafting elaborate side stories about the TV shows and movies she watched. She never thought about pursuing a writing career until high school. Originally, she planned to get a law degree and become an attorney, but after attending a few law-based clubs, she realized the profession wasn't really for her. There were too many rules to keep track of, it was creatively stifling, and the thought of a single mistake ruining her client's life was harrowing. So when her sister suggested that she work toward a more creative career like screenwriting, she decided to try it out. Since then, her love for writing has only grown, and she's taken a myriad of writing classes, such as TV writing, fiction writing, and playwriting.

### *Unlike Father, Unlike Son*

*Unlike Father, Unlike Son* is a 10-min script that centers on Ray, an attorney from a small town. Wanting a fresh start and to get away from his intrusive brother, he recently relocated to the city for a job opportunity. Spurred on by his newly made blank slate, Ray decides to foster a child and finds out about a boy named Marcus who's been taken advantage of by the world. Whether out of pity or empathy, Ray decides to foster the boy. The resulting first meeting between Ray and Marcus ends up a cacophony of broken promises, lessons learned, and unwelcome phone calls. Taking inspiration from various stories involving found families, this script emphasizes that being related by blood does not justify mistreating family members, nor does one have to be related to be loved like family.



## ALLY KAMAN

Ally Kaman is a graduate student in the Master of Arts in Professional Writing program here at KSU. A theatre person at heart, she earned her BFA in Theatre Performance from Columbus State University in 2018 and has been working in the performing arts in some capacity ever since. She's been writing for the stage for as long as she's been able to write, and her ambition is to be a playwright. Though her first love is theatre, she decided to take a TV writing class in the Spring of 2025, which ignited a love of TV and screenwriting as well. Ally likes to find the humor in all things and believes laughing through the darkness is one of life's greatest pleasures.

### Open Mic

Lacy is a small-town bartender who styles herself an artist. While she toils away writing middling mystery novels, she spends the week counting down the days to the weekly open mic night. While the open mic night is ostensibly open to anybody, she's dismayed to find it largely taken over by the same sad assortment of crass comedians week after week. Despite this, Lacy is a fierce defender of the show. Ambre (pronounced Am-bree), her roommate, doesn't share Lacy's plucky optimism. In fact, Ambre is pretty annoyed by a lot of Lacy's tendencies, and the two find themselves butting heads more often than not. Our show finds the two roommates at wit's end with each other, culminating in the performance of a lifetime.



## MAURA MAY

Maura May is a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the MA Professional Writing program at KSU and the 2026 recipient of the Women in Film & Television Atlanta (WIFTA) scholarship. Across genres and disciplines, her writing and scholarship explore the absurdity of everyday life, which she got to present at the Popular Culture Association's annual conference last month, and here for you today. When she is not writing plays that she considers apologizing for in advance (see below), she takes breaks from binges of the *Saw* franchise to watch a 1940s noir classic on 4k DVD from her exponentially increasing Criterion Collection selection— she contains multitudes.

### The Gas Station

In aptly named *The Gas Station*, a gas station attendant's graveyard shift takes a turn for the bizarre when an obnoxious YouTuber and a traumatized customer pay them a visit. As strange as it may seem, the play speaks to the absurdism and surrealism that anyone who has ever worked in a customer service role will know is not so "strange" at all. When we take the time to look, though, as our characters eventually do, we will find an opportunity for radial humanization.



## BRIANA WILLER

Briana Willer is a graduate student in the MAPW program. She has been an active writer of all things fiction since middle school and has recently fallen in love with screenwriting. Many of her works involve an element of mystery, horror, romance, or all of the above because she likes to explore the inner workings of everyday people. She enjoys scrutinizing the extremes of how people function, why things matter to them, and what makes them tick, especially in these particular genres. She loves how fiction has no bounds and that everything and anything, within reason, can be explored if a writer wills it into existence. Her writing goal is to work as a novelist or maybe even a screenwriter one day. The script that she's currently working on, *The Ballad of Chrissy Barrows*, is a love letter to all the horror, dramedy, and mystery fiction she has enjoyed throughout the years.

### *The Ballad of Chrissy Barrows*

*The Ballad of Chrissy Barrows* is a horror-comedy limited TV series about a teen, Chrissy, who is accepted into an affluent high school for the performing arts. When she auditions for the school play and gets the lead role, however, she gains the attention of the HBIC ("Head Bitch in Charge"): Judy Reece, who vows to do whatever it takes to prevent Chrissy from playing the part. Even if it means killing her.



## MIKAYLA WILLIAMS

Mikayla Williams is currently an undergraduate student pursuing a B.F.A in Digital Animation with a minor in Film Studies. She has a deep love for storytelling and channels it through screenwriting, live action filmmaking, and, of course, animation! After graduation, she hopes to write and direct both live action and animated films for the big screen.

### *Foul Play*

In 1990s Miami, a pro-wrestler obsessed with success must cover up the murder of his girlfriend the night before his championship match and wrestle with the turmoil it creates. Gene, one half of the pro-wrestling tag-team Foul Play, wants a championship belt around his waist and to go down in the hall of fame as one of the greats. His lack of success leads him to turn to steroids in the hopes of getting attention for his looks. After Kim, Gene's girlfriend, catches him doping, she threatens to snitch on him. In a fit of rage, he strangles her to death the night before Foul Play's championship match. Randall, Gene's best friend and the other half of Foul Play, helps him lie, cheat, and steal to cover up Kim's death. But when Gene discovers that Randall was hiding a secret about Kim from him, their friendship is fractured. This fracture carries into the match, affecting their performance. Aware of the scouts in the audience, Gene goes off script and sabotages Randall's performance, leaving him injured. He then doubles down on his actions, cutting a live promo announcing the break of Foul Play and the end of their friendship.

# ACTORS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & PERFORMANCE STUDIES



**Yayela Kristel Antoine** is a senior Theatre and Performance Studies major who has always had a passion for the arts. At KSU, you might have seen her perform in *Schoolgirls: The African Mean Girls Play* as Paulina, *Sarpong, Barbecue* as Marie, or the *New Works Play Festival* as Max. She was also recently in *Once on This Island* at the Woodstock Arts Theater. Apart from acting, she has directed several projects in the past year, including assistant directing *Blood Wedding* in November 2025 and many musical numbers for the Student Company of Musical Theatre. In her free time, she enjoys watching murder mysteries, hosting fun parties, and spending time with her community. Yayela is grateful to be a part of this year's showcase and extends her accolades to all of the writers and actors involved. *"But seek first the kingdom and his righteousness..." Matthew 6:33*



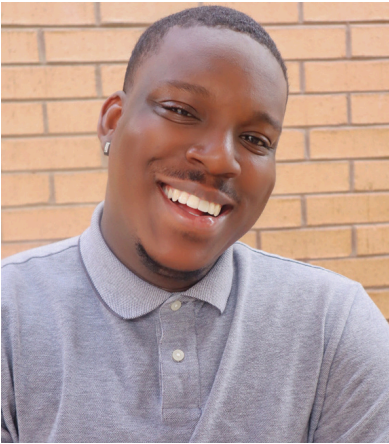
**Sophie Biel** is an Atlanta-based actor, singer, dancer, and student here at KSU. She is pursuing a double major in English and Musical Theatre with a minor in Dance. She is a passionate performer with ample experience in live theatre and film acting. Most recently, you may have seen her on stage in productions of *She Loves Me*, *Pippin*, and *Iphigenia and Other Daughters*. Additionally, since beginning college, Sophie has branched into the world of film acting as she has had the privilege of working on various short films and mini-documentaries with local filmmakers. Some of her recent projects include *Look at Me*, *Behind You*, *Twin Candles*, and a substance abuse PSA project. Sophie is an ambitious and driven performer who is always looking for new opportunities and projects to push her to the next level and tell meaningful stories. *Instagram: sophie.biel05*



**Issac D (Zack) Cortez** is a sophomore at KSU, majoring in Theater and Performance Studies with a concentration in acting. He has been a movie lover since he was a small child and is currently pursuing an acting career. He enjoys expressing himself through the arts, including film, and has studied films and acting performances throughout his life. He has recently become interested in filmmaking and enjoys being behind the scenes. While his focus is performing, he also studies philosophy and does a bit of writing. He hopes to bring a new perspective to everyone. He is excited to be a part of this showcase, meet new people, and learn from the process.



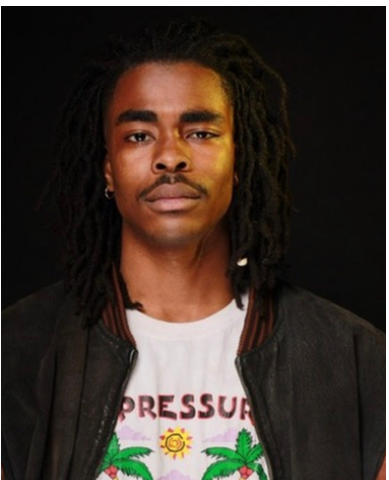
**Dylan Evans** is a junior at KSU and a Theatre and Performance Studies major with an acting concentration. He was first seen as an actor in a production of *Annie* when he was in the 5th grade, and he was in a few shows and productions at Adairsville High School, such as *Seussical*. He was most recently seen as Albert Einstein in *Picasso at The Lapin Agile* earlier this year, here at KSU. He is always looking for another chance to improve his work as an actor, and as a creative at heart with a love for film, he is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this project.



**Latrell Floyd** is a senior at KSU, majoring in theater arts. He has been acting since he was a small child, performing in church plays and doing small gigs from time to time. He did his first live performance in high school for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and at that moment, he knew this was going to be his future dream job. He has been acting ever since. His love for acting came from watching the great Denzel Washington for many years. Acting has helped him through trials and tribulations and has given him the confidence to do things he never had the will to do before. He is very passionate about his craft and aspires to be one of the many bests.



**Tylesha Harris** is a sophomore at KSU, pursuing a bachelor's in Performing Arts with a focus on acting. She has always loved stepping into different characters and telling stories that connect with people on an emotional level. Over the years, she has had the opportunity to be part of a few productions, and each experience has only deepened her passion for the craft. She enjoys the challenge of bringing characters to life and learning more about the art of performance with every role she takes on. Her goal is to create meaningful work that inspires others while staying true to herself as an artist. Acting isn't just something she does; it's something she loves and sees as her future.



**Tsunami LaRonde** is a Senior at Kennesaw State University, majoring in Public Relations and Theatre and Performance Studies. Tsunami has performed in *OPPOSSUM AND THE SEASON STONE* (Kennesaw State University), *BLOOD WEDDING* (Kennesaw State University), *THE STRANGEST THING IN THE WOODS* (Woodstock Arts), *SEARED* (Woodstock Arts), *KING LEAR* (Kennesaw State University), and will appear in Disney's *ALADDIN* (Marietta Theatre in the Square). He feels truly blessed to be able to pursue his passion and is always excited for the work to come.



**Leah Leonard** is a second-year Theater and Performance Studies major with a concentration in acting. She is interested in acting on stage, for film, and voice acting. You may have seen her in the spring 2026 *SCMT: Night at the Oscars* showcase at KSU. Leah is always open to new fun and exciting opportunities, and she is excited to help breathe life into these wonderful scripts with her fellow actors and scriptwriters!



**Nicholas Lykes** is currently a Junior at KSU, majoring in Theater and Performance Studies with a concentration in acting. Nicholas has been seen in KSU productions like *Sondheim over Sondheim* (ensemble), *Blood Wedding* (Woodcutter), and *She Loves Me* (Kodaly). Nicholas is passionate about on-screen and on-stage acting and is excited about doing his first student script reading!



**Shadi Mehrvarz** is a junior writer and performer majoring in Media and Entertainment at KSU. She originally trained as a performer in theatre and is continuing to develop her own creative writing to effectively capture and translate human nuances and experiences from paper to the stage. She wishes to explore the vital aspects of storytelling like character, dialogue, and performance, and elevate them to resonate with as many people as possible. Having been on both sides, Shadi wants to bridge the gap between creators and performers to recognize both roles with the same value, as well as ensure a basic understanding of how they collaborate before going into the industry among both fresh faces and prominent figures. Shadi depends on the audience and other creatives to grow as a writer and performer. Juggling new ideas and gaining different perspectives is crucial to her as she continues to pursue media and entertainment.



**Grant Williams** is a young man who has a dream: to inspire creation for young people through his acting. He is learning how to carry himself and treat others so that when he is being observed, he can lead by example. He cares about who people are and hopes that one day, people will hear his name and smile. Not saying he wants fame, but he wants people to be safe and comfortable around him. He loves sports and has been playing all his life, but then he found his passion. Storytelling is his greatest strength, and one day he will tell all kinds of stories to the world. Thank you for reading about Grant Williams.

*Special thanks to the writers and actors for sharing their talent and time. Thanks also to Hannah Shearer (English Department Office Manager), Terri Dudenhoeffer (MAPW Program Coordinator), Emily Kitchens (Associate Professor of Acting), and Rodrikus Springfield (Assistant Professor of Acting) for their assistance with this event.*

*Screenwriting/TV Writing/Playwriting Faculty  
Albert Lee, Aaron Levy, Mitch Olson & Anna Weinstein*