

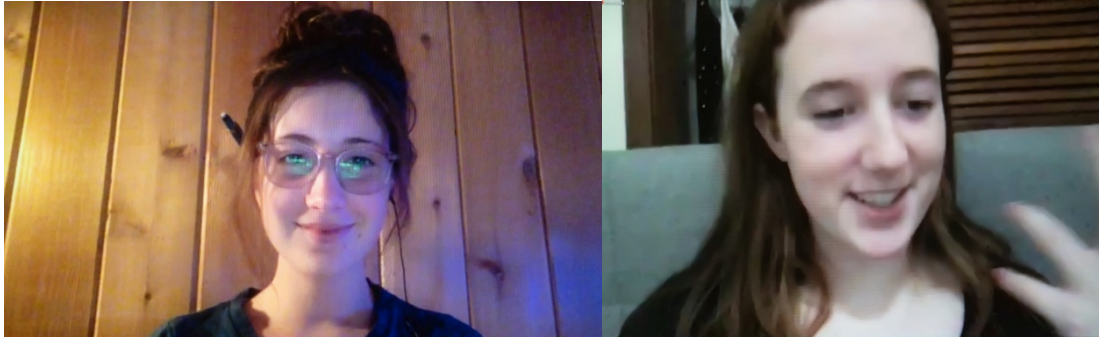


Jane Brinkley and Ashley Schmittle from Eugene, OR

Song: "Just Another Night"

Mentor: Tidtaya Sinutoke & Isabella Dawis

Musical Director: Patrick Sulken



Jane Brinkley is a freshman at Smith College with an interest in writing for the stage. She is a two-time winner of the National Young Playwrights Festival at the Blank Theater in Los Angeles, and is a Scholastic Art and Writing Awards gold medalist in her region for poetry and prose. In high school, she showcased at Oregon State for her solo musical theater, voice performance, group scene performance, and playwriting (twice), qualified for theater nationals various times, and performed on the International Thespian festival stage in a 2019 selected musical, *Be More Chill*. She is involved with various activist efforts in her hometown and beyond. She would like to thank her dear friend (who will go unnamed) for providing the beautiful inspiration for this song, we hope that we did it justice.

Ashley Schmittle is currently a freshman in college. She recently graduated from South Eugene High School.

Song Description: The setting is rural Oregon, 1956. Lana's husband has left her with their three children to fend for themselves. Lana, who is a closeted gay woman, meets Jo, a woman from an upper social class at a traveling carnival. Jo invites Lana to her home for dinner where Lana learns that Jo's husband, Nate, has been physically abusing her. A mishap during dinner sends Nate storming out of the house. The two women adjourn to the garden and argue about what should be done about Jo's domestic situation. Lana urges Jo to escape with her, eventually declaring her love for Jo just as Nate returns.

Brinkley's mentor Isabella Dawis is a playwright, actor, and musician who works with artists of all disciplines to create genre-crossing theater. Isabella's work with composer Tidtaya Sinutoke includes *Half the Sky*, an epic musical about an Asian American woman climbing Mount Everest (5th Avenue Theatre First Draft Commission, Weston-Ghostlight New Musical Award, Theater Mu's New Eyes Festival, Theater Latté Da's NEXT Festival, O'Neill Center Residency, Rhinebeck Writers Retreat) and *Sunwatcher*, a chamber musical about Japanese female astronomer Hisako Koyama (Weston

Playhouse's Songs for Today). She recently collaborated with Emily Gardner Xu Hall on the 24 Hour Plays: Viral Musicals. Isabella's writing has also been supported by Musical Theatre Factory, the Kurt Weill Foundation, New York Theatre Barn, the Bushwick Starr, Broadway Buskers, Central Square Theater, the Skeleton Rep, and the Schubert Club. Isabella was a 2019-2020 Rockwell Scholar at the Primary Stages Einhorn School of Performing Arts. B.M. summa cum laude and highest distinction, piano performance, University of Minnesota; Classical Voice Diploma Program, New England Conservatory.

Schmittle's mentor Tidtaya Sinutoke (ทิตยา สินุต) is a Thailand-born, NYC-based composer. Composition credits include *Half the Sky* (5th Avenue Theatre's First Draft Commission), *Sunwatcher* (The Civilians R&D Group), *Clouds are Pillows for the Moon* (Yale Institute for Music Theatre), *Hart Island Requiem* (Polyphone Festival), and *Water is Life* (NYMF - How the Light Gets In). She was awarded a 2017 Jonathan Larson Grant, the 2020 Weston-Ghostlight New Musical Award, and the 2020 Billie Burke Ziegfeld Award, presented by the Ziegfeld Club in partnership with New York Stage and Film. A recipient of the Composer-Librettists Studio at New Dramatists, Johnny Mercer Songwriter Projects, NYFA IAM Mentoring Program, Robert Rauschenberg Residency, EtM Con Edison Composer-in-Residence, MTF's MAKERS Cohort, and Rhinebeck Writers Retreat. A proud member of ASCAP, the Dramatists Guild, Maestra, and the Thai Theatre Foundation. BM: Berklee College of Music; MFA: NYU Tisch. Tidtayasinutoke.com

Brinkley and Schmittle's musical director Patrick Sulken is a New York City-based music director and orchestrator who most notably served as conductor and music director of *Pretty Woman: The Musical* on Broadway. As a conductor, his credits include *Kinky Boots* on Broadway, *Fly* at the La Jolla Playhouse, and the first national tour of *Peter and the Starcatcher*. As a pianist, he has accompanied the casts of *Mean Girls*, *Anastasia*, *Something Rotten!*, and *Gigi* on Broadway; and has been heard on the stages of Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Kennedy Center as well as NBC's *Today* and TBS's *Full Frontal* with Samantha Bee. Sulken works extensively as a music director both Off-Broadway (*We Are The Tigers*, *Gigantic*) and at regional theatres across the country.