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**Sun Valley Playwrights Residency names
Tony Winner & Pulitzer Finalist Stephen Karam 2025-2026 Resident Playwright**

This fall, three plays developed through Sun Valley Playwright's Residency premiere across Broadway, Off Broadway, and Off Off Broadway as nationally acclaimed playwrights Sarah DeLappe, Stephen Karam, Marisela Treviño Orta & Max Posner join a season of workshops, readings & community events in Idaho.

HAILEY, IDAHO – Sun Valley Playwright's Residency (SVPR), the non-profit organization that fosters new relationships between theatremakers and Idaho's Wood River Valley community and fuels the American theatre with invigorating new plays, is thrilled to announce its fall 2025 programming, in partnership with The Argyros Performing Arts Center, Boise Contemporary Theater, Boise State University's Department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing, The Community Library, and The Liberty Theatre Company.

"Sun Valley Playwright's Residency is entering an exhilarating new chapter, one that affirms the national reach and artistic caliber of the new plays we've been developing," says Co-Founder and Artistic Director John Baker. "We remain deeply committed to supporting artists creatively, expanding our statewide collaborations, and offering free, community-driven programming that begins locally and resonates nationally."

This fall, three plays developed through Sun Valley Playwright's Residency will premiere in New York City—On Broadway, Off Broadway, and Off Off Broadway—marking a major milestone for the organization and its growing national impact. *Blue Cowboy* by **David Cale** (*Harry Clark*), the first play commissioned by SVPR, will be produced by The Bushwick Starr and directed by Tony Award nominee Les Waters, who also helmed a workshop and reading of the piece in Ketchum in 2022. *Queens* by Pulitzer Prize winner **Martyna Majok** (*Cost of Living*), SVPR's 2022-2023 Resident Playwright, will be produced by Manhattan Theatre Club and star Tony Award nominee Marin Ireland (*Reasons to Be Pretty*) and Anna Chlumsky (*Veep*). And *Little Bear Ridge Road* by **Samuel D.**

Hunter (*The Whale*)—written as part of SVPR's NYC playwrights group—will make its Broadway debut at The Booth Theatre, directed by Tony Award Winner Joe Mantello (*Wicked*) and starring Tony Award Winner Laurie Metcalf (*Lady Bird*) and Tony Award nominee Micah Stock (*It's Only a Play*).

In Idaho, SVPR's October programming kicks off with the arrival of National Latino Playwriting Award Winner **Marisela Treviño Orta** (*The River Bride*) to the Wood River Valley. She will lead a free monologue writing workshop for local high school students and work on a bilingual (Spanish and English) play commission from The Liberty Theatre Company (TLTC) to premiere as a staged reading in Hailey, ID December 11-14, 2025. On **Sunday, October 5**, SVPR and TLTC invite audiences to a free Q&A with Orta, moderated by SVPR Artistic Director John Baker and TLTC Executive/Artistic Director Emily Meister, and a sharing of the high school students' monologues at Liberty Theater.

SVPR then welcomes Tony Award Winner and Pulitzer Finalist **Stephen Karam** (*The Humans*) as its 2025-2026 Resident Playwright, who will receive a commission, creative support, and residency time in Idaho's Wood River Valley to create a new play over the course of a year. This fall, Karam will spend several weeks as the Writer-In-Residence at the historic Ernest and Mary Hemingway House, which sits on 14 acres along the Big Wood River, looking out on the Pioneer and Boulder Mountains. The house is managed by The Community Library as a private residence for visiting writers, and is the site of ongoing preservation efforts.

"I'm thrilled to develop a new play at the Sun Valley Playwright's Residency," says Karam. "At a time when opportunities for new play development are disappearing, it feels vital to be part of an organization committed to fostering wholly original work from living writers."

On **Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. MT**, The Community Library hosts a conversation with SVPR's 2025-2026 Resident Playwright Stephen Karam, moderated by Wood River Valley-based actor and The Community Library's Collection Manager **Aly Wepplo**. The event is free and open to the public. More information is available at www.comlib.org/calendar.

On **Thursday, October 16, 2025**, The Magic Lantern offers Wood River Valley audiences a double-feature screening of two A24 movies with playwright connections: *The Humans*, written and directed by Stephen Karam, and *Bodies Bodies Bodies*, written by Pulitzer Finalist **Sarah DeLappe** (*The Wolves*). Aly Wepplo moderates a special Q&A with Karam and DeLappe between films. This event is a fundraiser to support Sun Valley Playwright's Residency.

On **Saturday, October 27, 2025 at 7 p.m. MT** at The Liberty in Hailey, ID and on **Sunday, October 28, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** at Boise Contemporary Theater, Sun Valley Playwright's Residency Artistic Director John Baker leads a conversation with Stephen Karam followed by a reading of his play, *Speech and Debate*, which will be directed by Boise Contemporary Theater's Artistic Director Benjamin Burdick and feature Theatre Arts majors and faculty from Boise State University. The readings are free and open to the public.

Finally, Lortel Award nominee, former Page 73 Fellow, and three-time MacDowell Fellow **Max Posner** (*The Treasurer*) wraps his time as the 2024-2025 Resident Playwright with a return trip to Ketchum, ID. On **October 20, 2025** at The Argyros Performing Arts Center, SVPR invites audiences to a work-in-process reading of Posner's *Hanukkah Spectacular*, the new play about contemporary Jewish identity he began writing a year ago while a writer-in-residence at the Hemingway House. The reading is free and open to the public.

"Writing is a beautiful struggle," says Posner, "and without opportunities like Sun Valley Playwright's Residency, many vital plays might be left to the wayside. I can't wait to spend more time under a big western sky and share with local audiences a play that keeps me up at night. I feel very fortunate for the chance to dig deeper."

Sun Valley Playwright's Residency is committed to making its programming accessible to all. The organization does not charge admission to its events, grounded in the belief that art and culture belong to everyone and should be accessible to everyone—now more than ever. This commitment to free, public programming is made possible by the generous support of individuals and foundations, whose contributions sustain SVPR's work with both the local community and theatre artists.

SVPR's 2025 programming is also made possible through partnerships with The Community Library, Boise Contemporary Theater, Boise State University's School of the Arts and Department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing, and The Liberty Theatre Company. Additional support comes from 2025 community sponsors, including Atkinsons' Market and Liberty Theater.

OCTOBER 2025 PROGRAMMING

THE STORIES WE SHARE: AN EVENING WITH AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT MARISELA TREVIÑO ORTA & LOCAL STUDENT WRITERS

Sunday, October 5, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. MT
at Liberty Theater, 110 N Main St, Hailey, ID

National Latino Playwriting Award Winner Marisela Treviño Orta (*The River Bride*) chats about her process of creating a new bilingual (Spanish/English) play for The Liberty Theatre Company. Plus local high school students share monologues they have written with Marisela's mentorship. Presented in partnership with Wood River High School and The Liberty Theatre Company.

Tickets: Free of charge; reservations recommended; more information is available at www.sunvalleyplaywrights.org.

A CONVERSATION WITH TONY AWARD WINNING PLAYWRIGHT STEPHEN KARAM

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. MT
at The Community Library, 415 Spruce Ave, Ketchum, ID

Tony Award Winner, Pulitzer Prize Finalist, and 2025-2026 SVPR Resident Playwright Stephen Karam will be in conversation with Aly Wepplo, The Community Library's Collection Manager, to discuss his process of writing for stage and screen before taking questions from the audience.

Tickets: Free of charge; reservations recommended but not required; more information is available at www.comlib.org.

POPCORN & PLAYWRIGHTS! A FUNDRAISER FEATURING TWO A24 FILMS & TWO OF AMERICA'S MOST ACCLAIMED PLAYWRIGHTS

Thursday, October 16, 2025
at The Magic Lantern 100 E 2nd St, Ketchum, ID

Two Films, Two Playwrights, One Night Only. Join Sun Valley Playwright's Residency for a double-feature of movies from indie film powerhouse A24 that redefine horror for the 21st century—plus a Q&A with the screenwriters. The evening kicks off with a screening of *The Humans*, adapted and directed by Tony Award Winner and 2025-2026 Resident Playwright Stephen Karam. The film that looks at the way we cope with our biggest fears, the way we process the big existential horrors of life. And the evening concludes with a screening of Gen Z whodunit slasher *Bodies Bodies Bodies*, written by Pulitzer Finalist Sarah DeLappe. This new cult classic is a hilarious and crackling look at backstabbing, fake friends, and one party gone very, very wrong. Between screenings, Karam and DeLappe will be in conversation with Aly Wepplo, The Community Library's Collection Manager, to discuss their process of writing for the screen before taking questions from the audience.

This event is a fundraiser for Sun Valley Playwright's Residency, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions from individuals and foundations provide the bedrock of support that makes everything SVPR does for the local community and theatre artists possible. A portion of each ticket sale is tax-deductible.

Tickets: More information is available at www.sunvalleyplaywrights.org.

HANUKKAH SPECTACULAR

A reading of a play-in-process by Max Posner
Monday, October 20, 2024 at 7 p.m. MT
at The Argyros Performing Arts Center, 120 S. Main St., Ketchum, ID

Former Sundance Fellow and three-time MacDowell Fellow Max Posner (*The Treasurer*) returns to Idaho to workshop and share the new family reckoning-showbiz comedy mash up about contemporary Jewish identity he has been writing as Sun Valley Playwright's Residency's 2024-2025 Resident Playwright.

Set over a 3-day workshop of a new play in a conference room at a talent agency in midtown Manhattan, a handful of Jewish artists are grasping at straws. On the threshold, at an inflection point, they weather unprecedented storms of ambivalence. Against their better judgement they go head-to-head with buried family traumas, New York City, God of the Old Testament, nuclear tribalism, and the power of theatre. Will they make it out in one piece? And should they?

Tickets: General admission tickets are free of charge; reservations required; more information is available at www.sunvalleyplaywrights.org. A limited number of pre-show VIP reception tickets are available to mix and mingle with the artists. These tickets also include VIP reserved seating for the reading. This reception is a fundraiser for Sun Valley Playwright's Residency, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions from individuals and foundations provide the bedrock of support that makes everything SVPR does for the local community and theatre artists possible. A portion of each ticket sale is tax-deductible.

SPEECH AND DEBATE

Written by Stephen Karam

Directed by Benjamin Burdick

Featuring Theatre Arts majors and faculty from Boise State University

Saturday, October 25, 2025 at 7 p.m. MT
at Liberty Theater, 110 N Main St, Hailey, ID

and

Sunday, October 26, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. MT
at Boise Contemporary Theater, 854 W Fulton Street, Boise, ID

Sun Valley Playwright's Residency teams up again with Boise Contemporary Theater and Boise State University to bring you a reading of one of our 2025-2026 Resident Playwright's early plays that put him on the map as a major voice in the American theatre.

The evening begins with a conversation between Tony Award Winner and Pulitzer Finalist Stephen Karam and Sun Valley Playwright's Residency Artistic Director John Baker, followed by a reading of Karam's play, *Speech and Debate*, which tells the story of three teenagers in Salem, Oregon. When one of them discovers the truth about a sex scandal in their town... secrets become currency, blogs are belted, and the trio's connection grows deeper in this dark comedy with music.

Tickets: Free of charge; reservations required; more information is available at www.sunvalleyplaywrights.org.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Sarah DeLappe is a playwright, screenwriter, and television writer based in Brooklyn. As a playwright, she is best known for *The Wolves*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2017. *The Wolves* was nominated for a number of awards including the Lucille Lortel Award and

the Outer Critics Circle Award; won the Relentless Award; and was a finalist for the Yale Prize and the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. *The Wolves* has been produced worldwide with over 300 productions. Her one-act, *Richard in 9 Poses*, was produced by Clubbed Thumb's Winterworks. She's taught at NYU and the New School. Other honors include the Page One Fellowship at the Playwrights Realm and the Sky Cooper New American Play Prize. Fellowships and developmental support include The MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, The Ground Floor, Cape Cod Theatre Project, LCT3 Playwright in Residence, Ars Nova Play Group, Clubbed Thumb Early Writers Group, SPACE on Ryder Farm, and Sitka Fellows Program. She holds an MFA from Brooklyn College. As a screenwriter, she wrote *Bodies Bodies Bodies* produced by A24. As a television writer, she has written for HBO's *The Regime*.

Stephen Karam is the Tony Award-winning author of *The Humans*, *Sons of the Prophet*, and *Speech & Debate*. He is a two-time winner of the Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play, a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist and a recipient of an Obie Award for Playwriting. Stephen recently directed his first feature film, a version of *The Humans* for A24 films. He wrote a film adaptation of Chekhov's *The Seagull* starring Annette Bening, which was released by Sony Picture Classics. His adaptation of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* premiered on Broadway as part of Roundabout's 2016 season. Recent honors include the inaugural Horton Foote Playwriting Award, the inaugural Sam Norkin Drama Desk Award, two Outer Critics Circle Awards, a Lucille Lortel Award, Drama League Award, and Hull-Warriner Award. Stephen is an Assistant Professor at The New School where he teaches playwriting. He is a graduate of Brown University and grew up in Scranton, PA.

Marisela Treviño Orta is an accidental playwright. Originally from Lockhart, Texas, she found her way to the genre while completing an MFA in Writing at the University of San Francisco (USF) where she studied poetry exclusively. While a student at USF, Marisela became the Resident Poet of El Teatro Jornalero!, a social justice theatre company comprised of Latinx immigrants. Marisela's first play *Braided Sorrow* (2008 Su Teatro world premiere) won the 2006 Chicano/Latino Literary Prize in Drama and the 2009 Pen Center USA Literary Award in Drama. Her other plays include: *A Girl Grows Wings* (2024 Latino Theater Company and Organización Secreta Teatro Bi-National world premiere); *A Place to Belong* (2018 ACT young Conservatory world premiere); *American Triage* (2012 Repertorio Español Nuestras Voces Finalist); *December* (2025 Alley Theatre world premiere); *Ghost Limb* (2017 Brava Theatre world premiere); *Heart Shaped Nebula* (2015 Shotgun Players world premiere); *Nightfall* (2021 Audible.com); *Return to Sender* (2019 Nashville Children's Theatre world premiere); *Shoe* (2019 Kendeda/Alliance Finalist); *Somewhere* (2020 Temple University world premiere); and *Woman on Fire* (2016 Camino Real Productions world premiere). In 2011, she began writing her cycle of grim Latinx fairy tales—fairy tales for adults inspired by Latinx mythology and folklore which include: *The River Bride* (2013 National Latino Playwriting Award Co-Winner, 2016 Oregon Shakespeare Festival world premiere); *Wolf at the Door* (2016 Kilroys List, 2018/2019 National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere); and *This Beating Heart* (formerly ALCIRA). Marisela is an alum of the Iowa Playwrights Workshop, the Playwrights Foundation's Resident Playwright Initiative, a Playwrights' Center Affiliated Writer, former member of the Goodman Theatre's Playwrights Unit, an advisory board member of the Latinx Theatre Commons, and a member of the Latino Theater Company's Circle of Imaginistas. Currently, Marisela is writing a shadow puppet play as part of a commission for The Liberty Theatre Company. She is also

writing *Rosaura*, a sequel to the Spanish Golden Age Play *Life Is a Dream* by Calderon de la Barca, as part of a commission for the Old Globe.

Max Posner is a celebrated playwright whose upsetting comedies of family life have pushed buttons off Broadway and across the United States. His play *The Treasurer* premiered at Playwrights Horizons in a critically-acclaimed, sold-out production directed by David Cromer starring Peter Friedman & Deanna Dunagan (NYT & TimeOut Critic's Pick; "highbrow brilliant" in Vulture; Lortel Nominee for Best Play; printed in American Theater Magazine). Earlier plays include *Judy* (Page 73 directed by Ken Rus Schmoll, TimeOut Critic's Pick); *Sisters on the Ground* (NYU directed by Ken Rus Schmoll); and *Snore* (Juilliard directed by Knud Adams)—both ensemble plays regularly performed in acting programs. His plays are published & licensed by Dramatists Play Service. Film: Max is adapting Percival Everett's novel *So Much Blue* for the screen with director Rashid Johnson. TV: Max wrote for John Early's episode of *The Characters* (Netflix) and with Early he is developing a drama about a jealous millennial hurtling towards a spiritual crisis in the Hudson Valley. Sundance Institute Fellow; winner of the Helen Merrill Emerging Award, Page 73 Playwriting Fellowship, MacDowell Fellowship (x3), Le Compte du Nuoy Awards from Lincoln Center (x2), Heideman Award, Edgerton Foundation New Play Award as well as commissions from Playwrights Horizons, Manhattan Theater Club, Williamstown, Lincoln Center, Clubbed Thumb, The New York State Council for The Arts and the Duke/Mellon Foundation. Born and raised in Denver, Colorado, Max went to undergrad at Brown University (Weston Award in Playwriting) where he studied with Paula Vogel. After moving to New York, he did a two-year Lila Acheson Wallace Playwriting Fellowship at Juilliard where he studied with Christopher Durang and Marsha Norman. Plays in development: *Hanukkah Spectacular* (Berkeley Rep Ground Floor directed by David Cromer, starring Kate Berlant; upcoming Sun Valley Playwright's Residency) and *The Pool* directed by Sarah Benson. Max lives in Brooklyn.

ABOUT SUN VALLEY PLAYWRIGHT'S RESIDENCY

Sun Valley Playwright's Residency is a non-profit organization that pioneers a radically new approach to supporting playwrights and the development of their new work. SVPR gives playwrights time and resources to write in an inspired Idaho setting and provides the local community insight into writers' creative processes. Resident Playwrights include David Cale (2021-2022), Martyna Majok (2022-2023), Rajiv Joseph (2023-2024), Max Posner (2024-2025), and Stephen Karam (2024-2025). For more information, visit www.sunvalleyplaywrights.org. Instagram: [sunvalleyplaywrights](https://www.instagram.com/sunvalleyplaywrights).

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

The Argyros Performing Arts Center is a high-tech performance and event facility designed to inspire and enrich artists, residents, and visitors from around the world. The Argyros operates year-round as both a state-of-the-art performing arts center and a private events venue. www.theargyros.org.

Boise Contemporary Theater (BCT) is a professional nonprofit theater company in Boise, Idaho, whose mission is to inspire our community to examine our perspectives and better understand ourselves, each other, and the world around us by creating thought-provoking stories of the human experience. Founded in 1997, BCT is the only nonprofit professional theater within 300 miles dedicated to producing challenging new work. BCT is a recipient of the Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, a two-time recipient of the National Theater Company Award from the American Theater Wing, and the 2022-23 City of Boise Cultural Ambassador. Now in its 26th season, BCT has presented over 90 Main Stage productions, including over 25 world premieres, such as Eric Coble's *The Velocity of Autumn* (which continued to Broadway). www.bctheater.org.

Boise State University's Department of Theatre, Film and Creative Writing serves as a partnership of programs focusing on the learning, practice, and interaction of the dramatic, cinematic, and literary arts. With the support of the School of the Arts at Boise State, the department strives to foster the rigorous intellectual investigation of form, practice, and theory and an active arts community through undergraduate research, professional training, experiential learning, and interdisciplinary collaboration between each of our programs. www.boisestate.edu/tfcw.

The Community Library brings information, ideas, and individuals together to enhance the cultural life of central Idaho. It provides free access to a wide range of books and educational programs and resources. Founded in 1955 by seventeen women, the Library is a nonprofit organization funded by revenue from grants, donations, and the Gold Mine Thrift Store. Its work encompasses a public library, Center for Regional History, the Wood River Museum of History and Culture, and the historic Ernest and Mary Hemingway House and Preserve, where it launched a writer-in-residence program in 2019. www.comlib.org.

The Liberty Theatre Company is a regional professional theatre nestled in the heart of Idaho's Wood River Valley. With five mainstage productions each year, groundbreaking education initiatives, and a radical commitment to access and inclusion, TLTC is a growing hub of artistic excellence and community engagement. With deep local roots and national artistic reach, the company exists to inspire, connect, and create meaningful shared experiences for all. www.libertytheatrecompany.org.

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