

ISABELLA DAWIS

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Rachel Ellicott, Paradigm Talent Agency

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MUSICALS (BOOK/LYRICS)

HALF THE SKY (full length, music by Tidtaya Sinutoke, directed by Desdemona Chiang)

Weston-Ghostlight New Musical Award, 2020

Concert/[Demo Recording](#) — Weston Playhouse/Ghostlight Records, dir. Nana Dakin

Radio Play (Full Audio Adaptation) — 5th Avenue Theatre, 2021

Finalist — O'Neill Center National Musical Theater Conference, 2021

Semifinalist — NAMT Conference, 2021

Recording — Lotte Lenya Competition Songbook, Kurt Weill Foundation, 2020

Residency — Rhinebeck Writers Retreat, 2020

Residency — O'Neill Center, 2020

Workshop/Reading — Theater Latté Da's NEXT Festival, 2019

Reading — Theater Mu's New Eyes Festival, dir. Markell Kiefer, 2019

First Draft Commission (Residency/Reading) — 5th Avenue Theatre, 2019

"A contemporary American musical on a global scale, infused with the sounds of traditional Thai and Himalayan folk music... A year after her sister's death, Aurelie sets out to fulfill her childhood dream of climbing Mount Everest. She joins an international group of mountaineers from around the globe. As Aurelie embarks on her path to the top of the world, memories of her Thai American past and the unresolved rift between her and her sister begin to surface. Borders between countries and cultures, past and present, and waking and dreaming blur in this epic journey of ambition, survival and reconciliation."

SUNWATCHER (1-act, music by Tidtaya Sinutoke, directed by Nana Dakin, producer/consultant Ikumi Kuronaga)

Residency — O'Neill Center, 2022 (upcoming)

Workshop — Musical Theatre Factory R&D Lab, 2021

Residency — Tofte Lake Center National Emerging Artists Program, 2021

Residency — Coalition of Asian American Leaders Spark Leadership Fund, 2021

Residency/Virtual Presentation — Civilians R&D, 2020-21

Residency/Virtual Presentation — Ancram Opera House Play Lab, 2021

Virtual Presentation — Rattlestick Playwrights Theater Global Forms Festival, 2021

Residency — Johnny Mercer Writers Grove, Goodspeed Musicals, 2021

Finalist — Ensemble Studio Theatre/Sloan Foundation New Commission, 2020

"An experimental chamber musical inspired by classical Noh theatre, SUNWATCHER intertwines the story of master solar observer and "hidden figure" Hisako Koyama (1916-1997) with the Japanese myth of sun goddess Amaterasu... In World War II Tokyo, despite the threat of firebombing from the US, Hisako looks through her telescope every day and sketches the spots on the sun's surface. Her observations lead her to the sun goddess Amaterasu, a powerful deity besieged by her violent brother. Hisako's experience of war collides with creation mythology, as both goddess and mortal are tested by tragedy and despair."

THIS ONE THING WILL GET YOU THROUGH 2020 (5 min, solo musical, music by Emily Gardner Xu Hall)

Video — The 24 Hour Plays: Viral Musicals, 2020 (featured in the New York Times)

"A 5-minute monologue musical, in which a social media influencer extolls the virtues of lemons while desperately avoiding a nervous breakdown."

YOUR MISSION (5 min, solo musical, music by Yazmeen Mayes)

Video — The 24 Hour Plays: Viral Musicals, 2021

"A 5-minute monologue musical, in which a secret agent schools a new recruit in the art of pilfering cookies."

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PLAYS

BONES OF A HORSE (10 min)

Audio Adaptation — *You Shall Hear Me*, Theater Mu and Theater 45°, dir. Eric Sharp, 2021
Reading — Theater Mu's New Eyes Festival: Un(Scene), dir. Rick Shiomi, 2021

"Amid the displacement of Japanese Americans during WWII, some Nisei are sent to Savage, Minnesota, where they train at a U.S. military intelligence school called Camp Savage, learning to decode Japanese military signals. One night, a serviceman stumbles upon the cursed burial site of the mega-celebrity racehorse Dan Patch -- a chilling encounter which forces him to question what it means to be American."

OCAMPO (1-act)

Reading — Primary Stages Einhorn School of Performing Arts, 2020

"This play takes place on an uninhabited island in the Philippines, soon to be swallowed by rising warming waters. On the island of Ocampo, Jenny, a Filipina-American daughter of a disgraced archaeologist, and Zay, a Filipino fisherman, become entangled in the search for a rare plant species. Their exploration uncovers surprising traces of the island's history as a former territory of Spain and America. And as night falls, they encounter strange and possibly supernatural creatures, taken from Filipino legend."

CAPITAL I (1-act, with incidental music by Stephanie Ann Boyd)

Workshop/Reading — Central Square Theater Youth Underground, dir. Isabella Dawis, 2015
Grant — New England Conservatory Entrepreneurial Musicianship, 2015
Grant — Schubert Club, 2015

"A one-act play told as a confession from the mind of the Internet itself. When the Internet wakes up, it finds it has become 'the greatest postal service in history.' But when it comes in contact with human consciousness, it begins to question its own protocols. CAPITAL I is about the trust that turns distance into intimacy — and the messages we carry, deliver, and lose along the way."

THE ORACLE (3 min, monologue)

Video — Primary Stages Detentions, dir. Aleesha Nash, 2021

"A 3-minute science fiction monologue. In a future where an oracle machine can correctly answer any Yes/No question, the speaker dares to interrogate the nature of love."

#50: BOOKSHELVES (10 min, monologue)

Video — Primary Stages Detentions, dir. Andrew Willis-Woodward, 2020

"A 10-minute monologue in the style of 'This American Life.' In a particularly searching episode, an inquisitive podcast host dissects the history and meaning of the bookshelf. Guest interviews include Gillis Lundgren of IKEA, John Waters, Emma Thompson, and a Neanderthal."

WALK ON (10 min)

Reading — Skeleton Rep Salon Series, dir. Ria T. DiLullo, 2018

"Set in the rural Midwest, inside a fast food chain, during a late night springtime blizzard. When a couple make a late night stop at a drive-through, they find an unconscious young girl. Upon reviving her, they discover that she is a ghost and has been following them. Inspired by the Dakota Sioux legend of a young girl who rose from the dead to become a great healer."

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AWARDS

Winner, Fred Ebb Award, with Tidtaya Sinutoke (2021)

Winner, Weston-Ghostlight New Musical Award, *Half the Sky* (2020)

Composers and the Voice Fellowship, American Opera Project (2021-23)

Finalist, Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theatre, *Half the Sky* (2021)

Recipient, Spark Leadership Fund, Coalition of Asian American Leaders (2021)

Recipient, New England Conservatory Entrepreneurial Musicianship Alumni Grant (2021)

Semifinalist, Many Voices Fellowship, Playwrights Center (2021)

Recipient, Rockwell Scholarship, Primary Stages Einhorn School of Performing Arts (2019-2020)

Pet Project Grant, Bushwick Starr (2020)

CONCERTS

[Broadway On Demand Artist Channel \(Tidtaya Sinutoke/Isabella Dawis\)](#)

“Reignite” — Prospect Musical Theater, dir. Cara Reichel, 2021

“Signal Online” — ALP Productions, 2021

“A Night of Color” — Pace University, 2021

“Songs For Today” — Weston Playhouse, 2020

“New Works Series” — New York Theatre Barn, 2020

“Broadway Buskers” — Times Square Alliance, 2020

“ZAPI Cabaret” — GenZ Asian/Pacific Islander Artists, dir. Sarah Shin, 2020

“Reclaiming Our Time” — Joe’s Pub/Musical Theatre Factory, dir. Arpita Mukherjee, 2019

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Actor/Singer: Theater Mu, Center for Contemporary Opera, New York Philharmonic Biennial (soprano soloist), 54 Below, 24 Hour Plays Nationals, the Tank, Beth Morrison Projects, Minnesota Opera, Children’s Theatre Company, Guthrie Theater, and more

Musical Direction: National Asian American Theatre Company

Panelist and Mentor: American Theatre Wing/NEA High School Musical Theatre Songwriting Challenge

TRAINING

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, B.M. Piano Performance, *summa cum laude* and *highest distinction*, Minor in Psychology

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, Classical Vocal Performance Diploma Program

American Theatre Wing SpringboardNYC, Musical Theater

American Theatre Wing Master Class, David Henry Hwang, Playwriting