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# IRIS RHIAN

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## PROFILE

I am early-career, dual-national (U.S. and Canada) playwright committed to uncovering the most uncomfortable of emotions in my work. I do my best to economize language; often attempting to distill an experience into a singular word or phrase. It is more palatable to package messier feelings that way: to contain them inside smaller vessels as a way of contextualization. I endeavor to open spaces for audiences to find themselves in my work. While not everything is relatable, I strive to find moments that strike truthful vibrations.

## EXPERIENCE

PLAYWRIGHT FELLOW, CENTRAL SQUARE THEATER, BOSTON – 2021-PRESENT

I am in the midst of my second year as a playwright fellow for Central Square Theater's Youth Underground initiative. The commission is an investigative (interview-derived) play in response to a topic the theater has chosen in conjunction with their youth. My first year play, *Recovery*, responded to themes related to Youth Mental Health. My current play, *Curiosity is Easier to Land on Than Hope*, explores LGBTQ+ Rights. Mentor: Melinda Lopez.

BLOCK A COHORT, PLAYWRIGHTS' THEATER CENTRE, VANCOUVER – FALL 2021

I was one of six early to mid career playwrights selected to participate in a cohort designed to further the development of our choosing. The cohort was guided by the mentorship of Fay Nass, Artistic Director of the Frank Theatre, the only queer-dedicated performance venue in Vancouver. I continued to develop writing surrounding a number of plays, alongside the other members in my cohort.

PLAYWRIGHT, LIVE BAIT NEW WORK FESTIVAL, NEW BRUNSWICK – SUMMER 2021

My play, *Hourglass*, received a staged reading at Live Bait's summer festival in Sackville, New Brunswick (a town where I used to live). The play, guided under the careful direction of Artistic Director Ron Kelly Spurles, was performed for both a live and virtual audience.

RETREAT, PLAYWRIGHTS ATLANTIC RESOURCE CENTRE, HALIFAX – SPRING 2021

I was the emerging playwright chosen to participate in the Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre's flagship program, their annual Playwrights' Retreat. I received funding and dramaturgical support to continue to develop my polar bear play, *Xenia*, a climate conscious, queer, epic odyssey. The retreat culminated in two staged readings performed by CAEA actors.

## EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS – BFA IN THEATRE, 2020

## SKILLS

Currently, I hold a position (company undisclosed) in the level design department of an indie video game based out of Vancouver. I also write poetry, short stories, and am a paid reader for Clubbed Thumb (New York), where I provide written coverage for submissions.