



## ARTS. WORK. LIFE. Season 2 Episode Guide

**ARTS. WORK. LIFE.** is an award-winning podcast about what it's *really* like to work in the performing arts, featuring bold, untold stories from artists and arts workers.

The podcast is produced by the Association of Performing Arts Professionals with the support of the Wallace Foundation. [Listen on your favorite podcast app.](#)

### SEASON 2 Storytellers

(in order of appearance)

#### EPISODE 1: IMPROV EVERYWHERE

- **Aruna Kharod** (Austin, TX), an ethnomusicologist and South Asian performing artist, who learned to let go of her perfectionist training to find joy again.
- **Audrey Rose Dégez** (Pittsburgh, PA and Paris, France), an American playwright and producer for CP4P International Productions, who had a planned residency in the Ukraine when the war broke out and instead established a creative refuge for artists like her.
- **Gracie Meier** (Santa Fe, NM), a multimedia artist and artistic director for The Exodus Ensemble, who demonstrates how improvisation and flexibility are strengths.
- **Kendra J. Ross** (Brooklyn, NY), a dancer, choreographer, community organizer and founding director of STooPS, who took the pandemic as time to slow her unsustainable pace.

#### EPISODE 2: ROOTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Malou Beauvoir** (Brussels, Belgium and New York, NY), a singer, songwriter and actress who, in an effort to preserve her family's culture, found her unique voice.
- **Heena Patel** (Asheville, NC), the CEO of MELA Arts Connect, who, after carrying the burden of responsibility for her culture, gave herself permission to renew and grow.
- **Dominic Moore-Dunson** (Akron, OH), a choreographer who grappled with the violence in his community and the legacy he would leave his children through dance.

**Available on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music, Spotify and more!**

## SEASON 2 Storytellers

(in order of appearance)

### EPISODE 3: FOR THE KIDS

- **Amancay Kugler** (Chicago, IL), the executive director of Yes Ma'am Circus, who faced the unique stressors of parenting while performing.
- **Beatrice Thomas** (California), a creative producer, drag performer and educator, and former director of Drag Queen Story Hour, who risked their own safety to preserve the magic of storytelling.
- **Brian Bon** (Anaheim, CA), a clogger, arts educator and director of Powerhouse Percussive Dance, who discovered the powerful impact of arts education.

### EPISODE 4: OUTSIDE IN

- **Chris Rooney** (Chicago, IL), a circus performer and founding member of the BIPOC Circus Alliance Midwest, who unveiled the beauty that comes from creating new spaces.
- **Farah Merani** (Los Angeles, CA), an actor, writer and arts educator, who confronted her complicated relationship with Shakespeare.
- **Mari Lee** (New York, NY), the CEO and artistic director of Salon Séance, whose new perspective as an outsider helped her create ways for people far outside the “elite” world of classical music to connect with it.
- **Leland Faulkner** (Maine), a performing artist and arts educator, who, after devastating times, remade himself by reconnecting with his Native roots.

### EPISODE 5: WITH OR WITHOUT A NET

- **Josh A. Campbell** (Philadelphia, PA), a curator and engagement and education professional, who, hired as a new leader of color in an organization, realized the support he expected didn't exist.
- **Lexis Hamilton** (Laramie, WY), a presenter and program coordinator for the University of Wyoming, who, after being sexually harassed on the job, struggled to regain her confidence.
- **DJ Doza The God** (Chicago, IL), an international DJ and transgender man, whose medical emergency revealed an unexpected community of support.
- **Shenea Stiletto** (Las Vegas, NV), a USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame Member and circus arts advocate, who translated her traumatic experiences into powerful advocacy.

### EPISODE 6: BREAKING OUT OF THE BOX

- **Emily Issacson** (Portland, ME), a conductor and the founder of Classical Uprising, who when told that her innovative ideas don't fit in classical music, paved her own way.
- **Luke Greeff** (Chicago, IL), a dancer, choreographer, circus artist, and educator, who when confronted with a work environment that failed to support transgender and gender non-conforming artists, stepped away and started one that would.
- **Sam Simon** (McLean, VA), a playwright, author and actor, who, facing his own diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimer's, is committed to sharing his story in a one-man show, for as long as he can.

The **Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP)** is the national service, advocacy, and membership organization for the live performing arts field, dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts presenting, booking and touring industry and the professionals who work within it.

Learn more at [apap365.org](https://apap365.org).

Interested in distributing the podcast? **Contact us at [podcast@apap365.org](mailto:podcast@apap365.org).**

## SEASON 2 Themes

(in order of appearance)

### BY TOPIC:

- **Audience Development:** Gracie Meier (E1), Mari Lee (E4), Emily Issacson (E6)
- **Advocacy:** Beatrice Thomas (E3), Shenea Stiletto (E5)
- **Artists and Artistic Process:** Aruna Kharod (E1), Audrey Rose Dégez (E1), Malou Beauvoir (E2), Dominic Moore-Dunson (E2), Farah Merani (E4), Mari Lee (E4)
- **Arts Presenters, Producers, Directors:** Audrey Rose Dégez (E1), Gracie Meier (E1), Kendra J. Ross (E1), Heena Patel (E2), Amancay Kugler (E3), Beatrice Thomas (E3), Brian Bon (E3), Mari Lee (E4), Josh A. Campbell (E5), Lexis Hamilton (E5), Emily Issacson (E6)
- **Arts Education:** Beatrice Thomas (E3), Brian Bon (E3), Farah Merani (E4), Leland Faulker (E4), Josh A. Campbell (E5)
- **Community:** Audrey Rose Dégez (E1), Gracie Meier (E1), Kendra J. Ross (E1), Dominic Moore-Dunson (E2), Beatrice Thomas (E3), Chris Rooney (E4), Mari Lee (E4), Josh A. Campbell (E5), DJ Doza The God (E5), Sam Simon (E6)
- **Entrepreneurs:** Audrey Rose Dégez (E1), Gracie Meier (E1), Kendra J. Ross (E1), Heena Patel (E2), Beatrice Thomas (E3), Brian Bon (E3), Chris Rooney (E4), Mari Lee (E4), Emily Issacson (E6)
- **Gender:** Beatrice Thomas (E3), Lexis Hamilton (E5), DJ Doza The God (E5), Shenea Stiletto (E5), Emily Issacson (E6), Luke Greef (E6)
- **Identity:** Malou Beauvoir (E2), Beatrice Thomas (E3), Chris Rooney (E4), Farah Merani (E4), Mari Lee (E4), Leland Faulker (E4), Josh A. Campbell (E5), DJ Doza The God (E5), Luke Greef (E6)
- **International/Intercultural:** Aruna Kharod (E1), Audrey Rose Dégez (E1), Malou Beauvoir (E2), Heena Patel (E2), Mari Lee (E4), Leland Faulker (E4)
- **LGBTQIA2S+:** Beatrice Thomas (E3), DJ Doza The God (E5), Luke Greef (E6)
- **Parenting:** Audrey-Rose Degez (E1), Dominic Moore-Dunson (E2), Amancay Kugler (E3)
- **REDI (Racial Equity Diversity and Inclusion):** Malou Beauvoir (E2), Heena Patel (E2), Dominic Moore-Dunson (E2), Chris Rooney (E4), Farah Merani (E4), Josh A. Campbell (E5)
- **Risk-taking:** Beatrice Thomas (E3), Josh A. Campbell (E5), Shenea Stiletto (E5), Emily Issacson (E6), Luke Greef (E6)
- **Wellness, Disability, and Health:** Kendra J. Ross (E1), Heena Patel (E2), Amancay Kugler (E3), Leland Faulker (E4), DJ Doza The God (E5), Luke Greef (E6), Sam Simon (E6)
- **Workplace/Work Culture:** Amancay Kugler (E3), Josh A. Campbell (E5), Lexis Hamilton (E5), DJ Doza The God (E5), Shenea Stiletto (E5), Emily Issacson (E6), Luke Greef (E6)

### BY DISCIPLINE:

- **Circus:** Amancay Kugler (E3), Chris Rooney (E4), Shenea Stiletto (E5), Luke Greef (E6)
- **Classical Music:** Aruna Kharod (E1), Mari Lee (E4), Emily Issacson (E6)
- **Dance:** Dominic Moore-Dunson (E2), Brian Bon (E3), Luke Greef (E6)
- **Music:** Aruna Kharod (E1), Malou Beauvoir (E2), Mari Lee (E4), DJ Doza the God (E5), Emily Issacson (E6)
- **Theater:** Audrey Rose Dégez (E1), Gracie Meier (E1), Farah Merani (E4), Sam Simon (E6)
- **One-Person Shows:** Leland Faulker (E4), Sam Simon (E6)

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