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ANNOUNCING SYNCHRONICITY THEATRE'S 2025-2026 STRIPPED BARE ARTS INCUBATOR PROJECTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATLANTA, GA – Atlanta's Synchronicity Theatre is pleased to announce the four works that have been selected as part of this season's **Stripped Bare Arts Incubator Project**. They are: **LOUD: A Ghetto Ass Rap Musical** by Valentina Johnson (November 12, 2025), **Made in America?** by Yide Cai (January 14, 2026), **Home Court** by Tori Weddell (April 15, 2026), and **Coping Mechanisms** by Christina Wilson (May 13, 2026). Performances are free and open to a live audience at Synchronicity Theatre, 1545 Peachtree St NE Atlanta, GA 30309. Reservations are required. Complete project descriptions are below. Please go to synchrotheatre.com to reserve tickets and for more information.

The **Stripped Bare Arts Incubator Project** focuses on projects that emphasize words and ideas, with minimal technical elements, and encourages artists to think about the essence of theatre "stripped of" intricate sets, lights, props, sound design, and costumes. The focus is on actors, words, passion, and ideas. Each selected project receives up to three days in Synchronicity Theatre's performance space with a technician, producer and/or facility manager, house manager, and a box office staffer for each performance. Each project also receives marketing support and mention on Synchronicity's website. Learn more about Stripped Bare experiences and projects at synchrotheatre.com.

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2024-2025 STRIPPED BARE ARTS INCUBATOR PROJECTS

LOUD: A Ghetto Ass Rap Musical

by Valentina Johnson

Performance Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Description:

LOUD: A Ghetto Ass Rap Musical tells the story of a young Black trans girl, Judah, who on her summer break from college tries to break through the rap industry in her hometown of Atlanta Georgia. We follow Judah's journey of finding not only the passion for her career but love for herself, her loved ones, and maybe a nigga or two along the way. All while meeting the wild and rambunctious people in her nook of Atlanta, we embark on themes of being seen, sexuality in the terms of what it may mean to love a trans woman, and what it means to exist fully in spaces that aren't exactly designed for you to succeed. While the city can seem so huge on paper, to Judah it can feel so small. We follow Judah's discovery of what it means to be earsplitting in a world not made for her to be heard. Through spoken word, rap, music, and dance we embark on a unique journey of self-love, identity, and Black authenticity that culminates into Loud: A

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Ghetto Ass Rap Musical!

About Valentina Johnson:

Valentina Johnson was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, where she began her artistry at the age of 5. She is a recent graduate of The University of Alabama's BFA Musical Theatre program. Throughout her time at the university, she has received many accolades including but certainly not limited to The Tommy walker award. This award acknowledges the tremendous amount of work she has put in for the entire theatre department being its head of diversity equity and inclusion, student ambassador for newly enrolled artists, and the precedent for newly found organizations to create spaces for people like her who felt that they had no voice in such a white dominated space. This drove her to devote her artistry toward doing just that, creating art to drive the authenticity of Blackness onstage. Her very first production, "Cotton Candy," told the story of two queer Black men falling in love and the extremity of beauty that comes with that. Her continuous use of Afro-surrealism combined with a contemporary Black lens has been a staple in her repertoire and will continue to be a leading device in future productions including "Loud: A Ghetto Ass Rap Musical."

Made in America?

by Yide Cai

Performance Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Description:

"Made In America?" is a satirical one-person play set in the gallery of a museum at an exclusive opening night of a controversial artwork: a single bloodstained brick. The play follows Andreas, the museum's curator, as he delivers an increasingly personal and politically charged monologue. What begins as a typical gallery talk unravels into a layered reflection on global trade, post-post-modern America, and the personal costs of national mythmaking. The brick in question is the last brick ever manufactured in the U.S.—a byproduct of a Chinese businessman's failed attempt to revive American industry during Trump's trade war. "Made In America?" is both an absurdist critique and a ghost story of globalization. It explores who gets to tell the story of America, and who pays the price for it.

About Yide Cai

Yide Cai is a poet, translator, and award-winning playwright from Shenzhen, China. His work has been featured at OOB Festival, BBTF, La MaMa, The Tank, Kanini Fest, and more. He is a fellow of the Laboratory for Global Performance & Politics, a member of TPOC Producing Cohort, and a scholar at Sewanee Writers' Conference. He is a MFA in Playwriting candidate at Boston University, and holds a BA in Playwriting & German Studies at Emory University.

Home Court

by Tori Weddell

Performance Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Description:

In the not-so-distant future, the state of Texas passes SB47, granting cities like Dallas the choice to opt-in to a measure allowing its residents to check their neighbor's citizenship status, and to detain and deliver any undocumented immigrants to ICE. Amid the backdrop of the Public Comment section of Dallas's Special City Council meeting, Abi Walker finds Luis Diaz practicing basketball on her affluent neighborhood's home court. After a contentious first meeting, the two high school seniors discover they can use each other's help fulfilling their respective dreams of playing for the UConn Huskies and getting a scholarship to University of Texas's pre-law program, until a shocking revelation leaves both of them questioning

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who they are and what they care about in the first place. A Romeo and Juliet with immigration reform, Home Court tells a story that's both timeless and frighteningly timely.

About Tori Weddell:

Tori Weddell is an Atlanta playwright and producer who believes that stories are the best thing about being stuck on this strange turning ball. She's the founder of ATL Original Works, best known for its performing arts variety show at PushPush Arts, and serves as the Development Coordinator for Atlanta Fringe Festival. In 2023, she wrote, produced and directed an immersive one-act house party called An Evening with the Fitzgeralds based on the lives and legends of Zelda and Scott Fitzgerald. Thank you to Elyzabeth Wilder for midwifing the birth of this play since its first draft in 2018.

Additional Artists:

Maddy Roberts (Director), Sofia Palmero (Dramaturg), Tyler D. Walters (Props & Scenography).

Cast includes Alia Williams, Martin Aramayo, Mike Billips, Liliangina Quiñones, Charis Sellick, Franz-Joseph Castillo, and Maya Torres.

Coping Mechanisms

by Christina Wilson

Performance Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Description:

Coping Mechanisms is a raw, multi-character play exploring how women survive trauma through humor, silence, and storytelling—unearthing the quiet rituals we use to cope, collapse, and carry on.

About Christina Wilson:

Christina Wilson is a versatile creative whose work spans from Shakespeare to Social Media. Her most recent credits include New Jack City Live! National Tour and Skeleton Crew by Dominique Morisseau. Christina is committed to creating her own opportunities in the industry, founding her own production company to develop bold, original work. As a singer, poet, director, and actress, her creativity knows no bounds. Enthusiastic and self-driven, Christina credits all of her success to her faith in Christ.

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ABOUT SYNCHRONICITY THEATRE

Synchronicity Theatre produces smart, gutsy, bold theatre that sparks community connections, uplifts the voices of women and girls, forges long-term and effective community partnerships, and develops new work. Synchronicity reaches nearly 14,000 patrons a year through its season of plays for adults (Bold Voices) and families (Family Series); community outreach; and educational programming, including Playmaking for Kids (PFK) and the award-winning Playmaking for Girls (PFG). An intimate theatre in the heart of midtown at Peachtree Pointe became Synchronicity's home for its main stage productions in the summer of 2014. The theatre also serves as a rental venue for independent film, dance, theatre and other projects. The Company recently opened the Synchronicity Annex, a new office, class, event and rehearsal space in Piedmont Heights, Atlanta.

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