

Hawai'i Theater People Featured with 063026 Download & Email

Nara Mālia Cardenas - Of Hawaiian ancestry, proficient or fluent in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, born, raised, and attended school on O'ahu. She currently lives in Draper, UT. She is a current theater maker and theater supporter. She chose to do the survey because, "Hawai'i theatre people are my people ❤️" and "Theatre - particularly Hawaiian theatre - is my passion." Her Instagram: @hawaiiimama

Amy Marie Hill – Currently lives on O'ahu. She is a current theater maker and theater supporter. She hopes for a consortium of Hawai'i Performing Artists. Her website: <https://amyhillactor.com/>

Mary Lyon Kamitaki – Born, raised, and attended school on Hawai'i Island. She currently lives in Brooklyn, NY and is a playwright. She would like to meet other Hawai'i theater people living in New York.

BIO: Mary most recently made her directorial debut on Why don't you come over?, a queer horror comedy performed in Manhattan in June 2025. Her plays have also been produced at Kumu Kahua Theatre in Honolulu and by Playwrights' Arena in Los Angeles and developed at Page 73, Alliance Theatre, A Noise Within, Open Fist Theatre Company, Pasadena Playhouse, Skylight Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA, and UCLA. She is an alumna of the New West playwrights' group at EST/LA and the Page 73 writers' group. Mary's plays center mixed, queer girls and women who reinvent themselves to survive in transforming worlds. Ask her about her cats' Instagram.

Her website: www.marylyonkamitaki.com

Justina Mattos - Proficient or fluent in HCE (Pidgin), Intermediate/conversational in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. Raised on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu, and Kaua'i.

Her Bio: Justina Mattos, Ph.D. is an educator, networker, writer, actress, and director who works in college, community, and semi-professional theatre. She serves as Associate Professor of Drama, and Chair of the Performing Arts Department at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. She writes plays in English, HCE (Hawai'i Creole English/Pidgin), and 'ōlelo Hawai'i; and also dabbles in film. She serves on the Board of Directors for KEAKA Hawaiian Language Theatre Festival; and for Keakalehua Playreading Hui. She traces her "theatre genealogy" through her mentors Jackie Pualani Johnson in Hilo (who gifted her with the inoa Hawai'i 'Ōlālīmākiaikalauaki), and Dr. Dennis Carroll in Honolulu. She loves to encourage the development of original scripts, especially works about Hawai'i and the Pacific.

“I hope to learn more about other theatre practitioners throughout Hawai‘i, to widen my network of future potential collaborators, and connect with playwrights on other islands to keep up to date with new works that are being created.”