



STANDOUT
WOMEN
2018

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TOP (L-R): Margot Bordelon, Jessica Fisch; BOTTOM (L-R): Morgan Gould, Dipika Guha, Meredith McDonough

TOP (L-R): Mara Nelson-Greenberg, Susan Soon He Stanton; BOTTOM (L-R): Leah Nanako Winkler, Deborah Stein, Jaclyn Backhaus

**STANDOUT
in the Arts**

*Women of the 42nd Humana
Festival of New American Plays*

**Actors Theatre of Louisville
ActorsTheatre.org**

The Humana Festival of New American Plays is a world-renowned event that has introduced more than 450 plays into the American and international theatre repertoire. Once a year, all eyes turn to Louisville for six world-premiere plays, making Actors Theatre a visible and vital force in the development of new work. About 36,000 patrons attend the six weeks of plays and associated events, including students from more than 50 colleges and universities.

The artists form the beating heart of the festival, with playwrights and directors leading the charge. This year, ten of those artists are women whose unmatched tenacity, passion, strength, humor and heart embody the spirit of the Humana Festival. As they approach the festival starting line, they took time to share their

inspiration.

The Directors

Without using the word "directing," describe what you really do...

Margot Bordelon: I'm a captain, a coach, a cheerleader, an editor, a sounding board, a teacher and of course, a student.

Morgan Gould: A lot of people think this work is about "being in charge." What I really do is make space for everyone's best work, including my own.

Jessica Fisch: I collaborate with brilliant artists to tell stories in ways that Netflix can't, and theater can.

I lead by...

Meredith McDonough: I lead by listening. You never know where the best idea in the room will come from, and you must remain open to grab it!

The Playwrights

What drives you?

Leah Nanako Winkler: A genuine love for theater. Writing is how I find meaning, empathy, humor, truth and joy.

Deborah Stein: Community. Family. History (personal, national, political, artistic, global, epic). Lots (and lots and lots) of cups of really strong black tea.

Susan Soon He Stanton: The desire to create theater that reminds audiences the world is full of uncanny, beautiful and odd moments worthy of observation.

Dipika Guha: My mother, my grandmother and all the raging, hilarious women in my family who never had a voice.

Jaclyn Backhaus: How art can shift culture toward empathy. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s