

The script selection for this session is *The Revolutionists* by Lauren Gunderson, whose work at People's Light includes *I and You* and *The Catastrophist*. Gunderson has been one of the most produced playwrights in America since 2015, topping the list three times including the 2022-23 theatre season.

Scripts will be provided at each session and read together in the group. This is not a class where individual students will be "cast" in specific roles, and no one should choose to sign up for the class based on whether they believe there is "a part for them." Reading will be shared so that each student has a turn to read a variety of sections and roles. Our intention is to enjoy the humor, ideas, questions, and inspiration of a script, without the goal of final performance. Discussion, interpretation, and laughter will follow as we imagine how this comedy translates from the page to the stage.

Lauren Gunderson says that this contemporary play about real historical figures explores "how we actually go about changing the world," and describes it:

It's a true story.
Or total fiction.
Or a play about a play.
Or a raucous resurrection. . .
that ends in a song and a scaffold.

Script excerpt from *The Revolutionists*

MARIANNE

I couldn't help but hear you talking to yourself. That usually means you're writing something new. That's good. No more writer's block?

OLYMPE

I wasn't blocked. I was just... mentally... hibernating. There's a lot of pressure to write something profound these days but I think I've almost got it, exactly what this revolution has been waiting for.

MARIANNE

Your opinion?

OLYMPE

Well... Yes. Crisis demands art. And I'm close to something great. A new, thrilling, very promising play that is very important and very funny and –

MARIANNE

very unwritten?

OLYMPE

Yeah I'm working on that. I keep thinking if I come up with a good title it'll loosen things up. Something tantalizing but really vague like... "The Revolutionists."