

# Deal Me Out

February 13-March 1

By

**MJ Halberstadt**

Directed by

**Shana Gozansky**

Tickets: (866) 811-4111 or [BostonPlaywrights.org](http://BostonPlaywrights.org)

---

# A WELCOME FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the last play in our 2019-20 Season of New Plays! *Deal Me Out* by MJ Halberstadt is a subtle comment on our modern culture in the Age of Trump. I say “subtle” because it’s ostensibly about the youth craze of “gaming,” but... “What’s that got to do with me,” you ask? It turns out pretty much everything. If you’ve ever felt the outsider, if you’ve ever believed you were powerless in the face of sexism or racism, if you’ve ever been stereotyped or discriminated against... Then you know these people. We all know them. In fact, we may be one of them. When their safe place in Oberon’s garage is threatened, these gamers’ desire to feel “safe” turns universal. *Deal Me Out* asks the most important question we have to wrestle with today in our crisis of commitment in America—“How do we go about listening with open minds when our very way of life is being disputed?” *Deal Me Out* shows us a microcosm of America. Watch, and you’ll see.

It’s a pleasure to have alumnus MJ with us (and to work with the wonderful director Shana Gozansky again from *Elemeno Pea* and last fall’s *The Book Club Play*). MJ’s work has been seen all over Boston—most notably at Bridge Repertory Theater (with the award-winning *The Launch Prize*) and Fresh Ink Theatre Company (*That Time the House Burned Down*). Plus, this cast is a diverse and talented ensemble, and our designers are gifted BU graduate students and professionals from the Boston theatre community. It’s an honor to work with them. I hope you’ll go online and read our full playbill to see just how talented they all are.

Up next is Boston Theater Marathon XXII! This year we are moving back to our original digs—here at Boston Playwrights’ Theatre on Sunday, April 19—the day before that “other” marathon. Don’t miss this exciting day of theatre—50 ten-minute plays in 10 hours (12 noon to 10 p.m.), all produced by 50 New England theatre companies. This is the **ONLY PLAY FESTIVAL IN THE WORLD** to have this many theatre companies together in one place, and all net proceeds go to the Theatre Community Benevolent Fund. You can come and go all day long with the All-Day Pass, so...plan ahead! Be there, or be square!

Once again, THANK YOU for encouraging new work for the stage. There’s a reason why we’re known as the “Home for New Plays in Boston.” It’s because of YOU and your continued support. You are the best!

With warmest regards,



---

Boston Playwrights' Theatre

presents

# Deal Me Out

By MJ Halberstadt

Directed by Shana Gozansky\*\*

Scenic Design	Jillian Tone
Lighting Design	Qian Chengyuan
Sound Design	David Wilson***
Costume Design	Talia Adler
Properties Design	Sally Tomasetti
Dramaturg	Ally Sass
Stage Manager	Marsha Smith*
Assistant Director	Rose Weiss
Prod. Asst. to the Stage Manager	Rachel Corning
Assistant Costume Design	Logan Samuels
Production Manager	Jeffrey Petersen
Production Assistant	Eliana Pipes
Master Electrician	PJ Strachmann
Electricians	Morgan Ehresman, Victor Gutierrez, Liam Hofmeister, Elmer Martinez, Eliott Purcell, Slava Tchoul
Carpenters	Danielle DeLaFuente, Bethany Grenier, Samantha Knox
Paint Charge	Michelle Sparks
House Managers	Michael Busani, Emily Keebler, Mavis Manaloto
Front of House Staff	Bina Aleksandrova, Daniel Blanda, Cayenne Douglass, Matt Leal, Eliana Pipes, Caity-Shea Violette

## CAST

Dez	Matthew Bretschneider*
Oberon	Caleb Cedrone*
Agatha	Rachel Belleman*
Cleo	Hannah Beebe
Kay	Micaleen Rodgers
Lucien	Dev Blair

***Deal Me Out* runs 90 minutes with no intermission.**

\*Member, Actors' Equity Association

\*\*Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

\*\*\*Member, United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829

*The video and/or audio recording of this performance  
by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.*

---

## FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT AND THE DIRECTOR

It's challenging to write a program note for a new play that doesn't try to do the work of the play. The impulse comes from the newness—from a desire to let you know what you're in for—to make sure you understand what we were trying to do. We could do that. We could tell you why this play is important to us or that there are Things You Should Know, but all we really want to say is thank you. Thank you for being here to see a play that you have never seen. For being curious enough to leave your home and sit with us in this garage for a bit. For being the collaborators we've been waiting for. Your responses, your questions, your mere presence complete a collaboration that has been forming since MJ first had an inkling of an idea. Plays can be written. Plays can be rehearsed. But a play doesn't really discover itself until you show up. So thank you for taking the time out of your lives to spend some time with us and to illuminate the play to us anew. And vote. Really, truly...vote.

—Shana and MJ

---

## CAST & CREW

**TALIA ADLER** (Costume Design) is in her third year at Boston University where she studies costume design in the School of Theatre. During her time at Boston University, she has worked on several productions in the School of Theatre as well as at Boston Playwrights' Theatre in the costume department collaborating with peers and professors, expanding her knowledge and techniques inside and outside of the classroom. Outside of theater, Talia has an extensive background in fashion where she has worked for individuals such as Jason Wu and Micaela Erlanger. After graduation, Talia hopes to move to either Los Angeles or New York and find a career in costuming for film and television.

**HANNAH BEEBE** (Cleo)(she/her/hers) is a Boston-based actor whose recent performance credits include *The Tempest* (Theater in the Open), *The Grace of Mary Traverse* (Collective Hysteria), *Twelfth Night* (Firehouse Center for the Arts), and *Mouthful of Birds* (Boston University). She received her BFA in Acting from Boston University's School of Theatre and holds a certificate in Classical Acting from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Hannah is so excited to be part of this production even after learning it is in fact not a staged version of her favorite game show, *Deal or No Deal*, and she hopes you enjoy the show! [www.hannahbeebe.com](http://www.hannahbeebe.com)

**RACHEL BELLEMAN\*** (Agatha)(she/her/hers) is a New York-based actor elated to work with Boston Playwrights' Theatre for the first time. Recent credits include: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Twelfth Night*, *Exit the King* (Actors' Shakespeare Project); *1776* (New Repertory Theatre); *Broadway Jukebox* (Brown Box Theatre Project); *Love's Labour's Lost*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company); *The Bridges of Madison County* (SpeakEasy Stage Company); and *Stuart Little* (Wheelock Family Theatre). Rachel has a BA in Musical Theatre from James Madison University. Many thanks to Mom, Dad, Jen, and MJ for the opportunity. [www.rachelbelleman.com](http://www.rachelbelleman.com)

**DEV BLAIR** (Lucien)(they/them/their) is a Boston-based poet, playwright, performer, and musical artist. They are from all over the occupied land known as the Southeast U.S. and are thrilled to be making their Boston Playwrights' Theatre debut. All of their work (from writing to performance) is in service of their primary artistic goal: to change the culture. Stream *Femmetasy*, Dev Blair's debut album, on Apple Music or Spotify, and be on the lookout for their next project. If you want to keep up with Dev's work, ask them about *The Dev Blur*, their monthly curated newsletter, after the show or visit [www.devblair.com](http://www.devblair.com). Boston credits: *Greater Good* (Company One Theatre/American Repertory Theater), *Straight White Men* (New Repertory Theatre), *This Place/Displaced* (Artists' Theatre of Boston). Cambridge credits: *Wig Out!* (Company One Theatre/American Repertory Theater). North Shore credits: *Daemonologie: Smoke and Mirrors* (Intramersive Media).

---

**MATTHEW BRETSCHNEIDER\*** (Dez)(he/him/his) is an actor and educator based in Providence. New York theatre credits include *The Footage* (The Flea Theater), *The Erlkings* (Theatre Row), *Are We Human* (New Ohio Theatre), and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Pulse Ensemble). Regional theatre credits include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Tartuffe*, *Dead End* (Huntington Theatre Company); *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Seminar*, and *The House* (Kitchen Theatre Company); *Hamlet* and *All's Well That Ends Well* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival). Television appearances include *Law and Order: SVU* and *The Path*. Matthew is a teaching artist for Trinity Repertory Company, the Gamm Theatre, and My College Audition. He earned a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where he trained with the Atlantic Theater Company.  
[www.matthewbretschneider.com](http://www.matthewbretschneider.com)

**CALEB CEDRONE\*** (Oberon) is thrilled to return to Boston Playwrights' Theatre. He first appeared here as Charles Johnson in Samantha Noble's *Franklin*. Stage credits include Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Cicero/Lucius in *Julius Caesar*, Monsieur Defarge in *Charles Dickens' A Tale if Two Cities* (National Players); Actor in *Greek* (Boston Lyric Opera); and Antonio/Stephano in *The Tempest* (Arts After Hours). Film credits include Hamlet in *Tales From Shakespeare & Postscripts* and Jace Smith in *The Clear*. You may recognize him in local industrials for B.GOOD, Thule, and VIP Tires & Service. A proud member of Actors' Equity, he earned his BFA in Acting from Boston University and his Diploma in Classical Acting from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He is represented by the Andrew Wilson Agency, LLC.

**QIAN CHENGYUAN** (Lighting Design), now a graduate student at Boston University, has served as a lighting designer for productions of dramas, movies, and TV shows in China. He has worked in different theatres including at the Chinese National Centre for the Performing Arts and National Theatre of China. Qian's experience in lighting design also includes fashion shows and exhibitions. Previously, Qian worked with Tik Tok and designed Tik Tok's video studio in China.

**RACHEL CORNING** (Production Assistant to the Stage Manager)(she/her/hers) makes her BPT debut with *Deal Me Out*. Since 2016, she has worked in various technical capacities with companies throughout the Boston and North Shore areas. Select credits include *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* (WGBH); *Trayf*, *Cardboard Piano* (New Repertory Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Birdy*, *Blue Kettle/Here We Go*, *Macbeth*, *Old Money*, *Death and the Maiden* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company); *A Christmas Carol*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Jersey Boys*, *Jekyll and Hyde* (North Shore Music Theatre). Rachel holds a BA in Communications from Simmons University and is a native of Ipswich, MA, where she first discovered her love for theatre in sixth grade.

**SHANA GOZANSKY** (Director)(she/her/hers) is a freelance director and teaching artist. She has directed at Merrimack Repertory Theater, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Gloucester Stage Company, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Central Square Theater, Trinity Repertory Company, The Hangar Theatre,

---

The Calderwood Arts Pavilion, The Bowery Poetry Club, Dickinson College, Manhattan Theatre Source, and The Red Room. She has held teaching positions at Brown University, Clark University, and The College of the Holy Cross and has directed at all three as well as at Emerson College. She has assisted on productions at Berkeley Rep, The Geffen, Manhattan Ensemble Theatre, Henry Miller's Theater, and Trinity Repertory Company. Shana holds a MFA in Directing from the Brown University/Trinity Repertory Company MFA Programs and a BA in Theater from Bard College, was an Artistic Associate at The Hangar Theatre, and an artist-in-residence at Chashama and The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. She is a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, a Drama League Directing Fellow, and an associate member of SDC. Up next: Clare Barron's *Dance Nation* with Company One.

**MJ HALBERSTADT** (Playwright)(he/him/his) is the writer of the plays *The Launch Prize* (Elliot Norton Award, Bridge Repertory Theater), *The Usual Unusual* (SpeakEasy Stage's Boston Project Commission), *That Time the House Burned Down* (Fresh Ink Theatre), the opera *Grindr (and other concerns)* with composer Marc Hoffeditz, and additional immersive and stage works. He is an alumnus of the Huntington Playwriting Fellowship, Boston University (MFA 2013), and Emerson College (BA 2010); instructor of dramatic writing at Emerson College and Northeastern University; member of the Dramatists Guild of America, Inc.; and a devoted knitter. [www.MJHalberstadt.com](http://www.MJHalberstadt.com)

**ELIANA PIPES** (Production Assistant) is a playwright, filmmaker, and actor. She's the winner of the Academy Gold Fellowship and the Leah Ryan Prize for Emerging Women Writers. Recent playwriting work includes *Cowboy and the Moon* (NNPN MFA Workshop), *DREAM HOUSE* (O'Neill Finalist), *Stand and Wait* (Gaffney National Playwriting Prize Winner), *Stiletto Envy* (Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Festival, Boston Theater Marathon). [www.elianapipes.com](http://www.elianapipes.com)

**MICALEEN RODGERS** (Kay) is an EMC and member of SAG, and they have enjoyed opportunities as a performer, stunt actor, and improviser. Favorite experiences include performing as a Commonwealth Shakespeare Company apprentice in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom), Suffolk University's production of *Orlando* (Orlando) directed by A. Nora Long, and Suffolk University's *Everybody* (Usher/God) directed by Anna Kohler. They will graduate from Suffolk University in the spring with a degree in Theatre and Art History, and are looking forward to their last production there in April as Kate in *Seminar*. Thank you to Kate Snodgrass, the entire team, and years of Dungeons and Dragons.

**ALLY SASS** (Dramaturg) is currently in her second year of the MFA Playwriting program at Boston University and holds a BA in Theatre from the University of Vermont. She is originally from Cambridge, MA. In the past five years, she has written, directed, and produced her original works at various theater and film festivals in the Northeast, most frequently in New York City. She is thrilled to have worked as the dramaturg for *Deal Me Out* and is grateful to have been a part of this team. Contact her at [allysass363@gmail.com](mailto:allysass363@gmail.com).

---

**MARSHA SMITH\*** (Stage Manager) is very excited to return to Boston Playwrights' Theatre. She has been privileged to work on shows here including *Laughs in Spanish*, *Franklin*, *Burning*, and *Little Black Dress*. She has worked a great deal over the years with Gloucester Stage Company on shows like *The 39 Steps*, *Lifespan of a Fact*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Doubt*, *The Widow's Blind Date*, *The Flick*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Man in Snow*. Recently with Actors' Shakespeare Project, she co-managed the rep project of *Macbeth* and *Equivocation*. Marsha is a graduate of Emerson College with a degree in Stage Management and lives on her family's farm in southern New Hampshire.

**SALLY TOMASETTI** (Properties Design) has designed props and scenery throughout the Boston area. Her design and props work has been seen on stage at the Boston Commons Shakespeare in the Park Festival working with the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company for the past three years. Sally has also designed props and done scenic work for Needham Community Theatre, Next Gen Theatre, and Boston Improve. Sally is a native of England, United Kingdom, where her love of visual arts began, often thinking of herself as a walking toolbox, and she is always ready for a challenge. This is her second show working with this fun group at Boston Playwrights' Theatre.

**JILLIAN TONE** (Scenic Design) is a senior Scenic Design major at Boston University. At BU, she has previously designed *String—A New Musical* and *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*. In addition to scenic design, she has also propped shows such as *The Exonerated* and *Horizon Line*. She's very grateful for the opportunity to design at Boston Playwrights' Theatre.

[www.jilliantone.wixsite.com/website](http://www.jilliantone.wixsite.com/website)

**ROSE WEISS** (Assistant Director) is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross, BA in Theatre. At Holy Cross she focused on performance as well as technical production, playwriting, and costume design. *Deal Me Out* is the first professional production with which she has been involved.

**DAVID WILSON\*\*\*** (Sound Design) returns to Boston Playwrights' Theatre having designed more than a dozen productions, most recently lighting and sound for *Elemeno Pea*. He has designed lighting or sound for more than 350 productions of opera, theater, concert, and dance. He has served on the faculty of Brandeis University heading the graduate program in sound design, and he has designed and taught at Boston College, Boston Conservatory of Music, Bowdoin, Emerson, Harvard, Merrimack College, New England Conservatory, Tufts, Suffolk and UMASS-Lowell. Regional credits include Actors' Shakespeare Project, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Central City Opera, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Company One, Deborah Abel Dance, Dibble Dance, Gloucester Stage Company, Greater Boston Stage Company, Israeli Stage, Lyric Stage Company of Boston, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Moonbox Productions, New Repertory Theatre, The Nora Theatre Company, North Shore Music Theater, Reagle Music Theater, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Shakespeare and Company, WHAT, and Wheelock Family Theater. He has received multiple nominations and awards for his work, most recently the IRNE award for Underground Railway Theater's *Frankenstein*. [www.dw-design.com](http://www.dw-design.com)

---



# BOSTON THEATER MARATHON XXII

**April 19 12NOON-10PM**  
[www.bostonplaywrights.org](http://www.bostonplaywrights.org)



\*Actors' Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 49,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States.



\*\*Stage Directors and Choreographers Society's mission is to foster a national community of professional stage Directors and Choreographers by protecting the rights, health and livelihoods of all our Members. To facilitate the exchange of ideas, information and opportunities, while educating the current and future generations about the role of Directors and Choreographers and providing effective administration, negotiations and contractual support.



\*\*\*United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, is a labor union and professional association of Designers, Artists and Craftspeople, many who are world famous, organized to protect craft standards, working conditions and wages for the entertainment and decorative arts industries.

# LADY DAY

AT EMERSON'S BAR AND GRILL

MAR 28-APR 19/2020  
Mosesian Center for the Arts

[newrep.org](http://newrep.org)  
617-923-8487

new  
rep  
35  
ANNIVERSARY

## SPECIAL THANKS

Boston Podcast Players, Rebecca Bradshaw, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Huntington Theatre Company, New Life Furniture Bank of MA, Sadie Rogers, The Tomasulo Family

## FIND US ONLINE



<http://www.twitter.com/playwrightsbpt>



<https://www.facebook.com/bostonplaywrights/>



<http://www.BostonPlaywrights.org>

#DealMeOutBPT #BUarts #newplay

---

# JACK WELCH PLAYWRIGHTS' FUND

*We are grateful to our friends for their support of our mission—to provide a home for new works for the stage.*

*If you are interested in making a donation to Boston Playwrights' Theatre, please contact Managing Director Jacob Strautmann at (617) 353-5899 or visit our online donation form at [www.BostonPlaywrights.org](http://www.BostonPlaywrights.org).*

## **Executive Circle (\$1000+)**

June Lewin  
Anastasia and Will Lyman  
Jack Welch Estate

## **Leadership Circle (\$500-\$999)**

Anonymous  
Donald Ingber and Ellen  
Dolnansky  
Peter Loewinthan  
Nancy R. Stone

## **Playwrights' Circle (\$100-\$499)**

Rosanna Y. Alfaro  
Anonymous (x2)  
Lynn and Fred Basch  
David Berndt  
Alan and Paula Brody  
Judith Chaffee  
Bonnie Costello  
Harold Crowley Jr.  
Peter Floyd  
Patricia Gleeson  
John Greiner-Ferris  
Richard and Hildy Grossman  
Marjan Hadipour and Roy Sun  
Dennis Hart  
Jim Honeyman  
Mary C. Huntington  
Lawrence Kessenich  
Matt Mayerchak  
Tom McCann  
Meg + Mal  
William J. Smith  
John and Ellen Sullivan  
Dawn Tucker  
Joyce Van Dyke  
In Memory of Jack Welch  
Ron and Janet Zwanziger

## **In-Kind Contributions**

Dolly Brooks  
Matthew Goode and  
Jeffrey Petersen  
Melinda Lopez  
Ronan Noone  
Kate Snodgrass

## **Friends' Circle (Up to \$99)**

Susan Almquist  
Anonymous (x3)  
Joseph Bates and Kristin  
Loeffler  
Tamar Brown  
Catherine Conneely  
Deborah Conover  
Scott T. Cummings  
Nava Eisenberg  
Brian Galford  
David R. Gammons  
Kippy Goldfarb  
Michael Hammond  
Patricia Hinsley  
Cyrus Hopkins  
Les Hunter  
Maziar Kazemi  
Julie Knopp  
John Kuntz  
Bill Lattanzi  
Alice and Charles Leidner  
Gloria Leipzig  
Samuel Libenzon  
In Memory of Jon Lipsky  
Eileen and Brian MacDougall  
Joseph Madge and Julia C.  
Frazer-Madge in honor of  
Jolie Frazer  
Marcelle Murray  
Marc Olivero and  
Maureen Conboy  
Dossy Peabody  
Paula Plum and Richard Snee  
Fred and Liz Robbins  
Karmo Sanders  
Stanley Shaffran  
Terrance Skelton  
Jane Sloan  
Ruth Spack  
Martha Stearns  
Jack Sullivan  
Gerard Twomey  
Janet Tyndall  
Sandra Weintraub  
Adam Zahler

---

 **Boston PLAYWRIGHTS' Theatre**

Founded in 1981 at Boston University by Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, Boston Playwrights' Theatre is an award-winning professional theatre dedicated to new works. At the core of our programs is the Playwriting MFA offered in the celebrated English Department in the College of Arts & Sciences and in collaboration with the award-winning School of Theatre in the College of Fine Arts. Alumni of our program have been produced in regional and New York houses as well as in London's West End; our own productions of alumni work have garnered regional and Boston awards, including numerous Best New Script Awards from the Elliot Norton committee and the Independent Reviewers of New England.

From class workshops to our Season of New Plays, BPT employs the best of New England's professional actors, directors, and designers to bring each playwright's vision to its first audiences.

Each spring we produce New Noises: Massachusetts Young Playwrights' Project. Area high schools work with professional playwrights, directors, and actors to see student works on stage for the first time.

Fifty local theatre companies join us annually for the Boston Theater Marathon, a showcase of new ten-minute plays by New England playwrights chosen each year from hundreds of entrants. Each play is produced by a different New England theatre company in a single ten-hour event with all proceeds going to charity.

When we are not producing plays, we continue our mission through the New Play Odyssey Program, which makes theatre space available to other New England theatre companies and playwrights for readings and festivals of new plays.

*Derek Walcott, Founder*

*Kate Snodgrass, Artistic Director*

*Jacob Strautmann, Managing Director*

*Jeffrey Petersen, Technical Director and Production Manager*

*K. Alexa Mavromatis, Marketing Coordinator*

*Melinda Lopez, Adjunct Assistant Professor*

*Ronan Noone, Adjunct Assistant Professor*

**We are proud of our mission.**

**To get involved, visit [BostonPlaywrights.org](http://BostonPlaywrights.org).**

**With your support, we support new plays!**

