Doug Robinson: You may have enjoyed some of the other content brought to you by the Yale Summer Cabaret but the following content contains adult language and themes. It is not intended to be consumed by children.

Stefani Kuo: My name is Stefani Kuo.

Andrew Riedemann: My name is Andrew Riedemann.

Mia Haiman: My name is Mia Haiman.

Chloe Knight: My name is Chloe Knight.

Doug Robinson: My name is Doug Robinson, and we are the leadership team for the Yale Summer Cabaret, 2021.

Stefani Kuo: The Yale Summer Cabaret, 2021 aims to re-imagine what theater can be by embracing non-traditional space, where anyone can follow their artistic impulses and develop new work skills and passions.

Mia Haiman: We aim to offer artistic and entertainment opportunities to the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale, the greater New Haven area, and anyone logging in from wherever you are.

Chloe Knight: We're happy to build upon the growing online accessibility of previous cabaret seasons in creating work that is available to you on demand.

Andrew Riedemann: We hope you will join us again in the future for more works brought to you by the Yale Summer Cabaret.

Doug Robinson: Enjoy the show.

Stefani Kuo: Enjoy the show.

Andrew Riedemann: Enjoy the show.

Chloe Knight: Enjoy the show.

Mia Haiman: Enjoy the show.

Stefani Kuo: Welcome to the Anything But Theater podcast. Um, these are the ground rules, which are, everyone has a beverage of their choice. It can be alcoholic. It doesn't have to be alcoholic. And the only rule is to not talk about theater. And if you talk about theater, you take a sip or you can sip throughout, it's up to you really. [laughs] Um, and if you like juice or something that isn't alcohol, that's totally fine. Um, today we're super excited, Chloe and I are super excited. We're interviewing Michael Walkup, who we both know and love, um, and who is the artistic director of Page 73, which develops and supports early career playwrights. Um, he's also, uh, an alum of the Yale School of Drama and Dramaturgy. And
we are super pumped to just be here with you today, Michael. Thanks for, thanks for talking with us today.

Michael Walkup: Thanks for having me.
Stefani Kuo: It's so trippy to see you over zoom.
Chloe Knight: Do we want to talk about how we both know Michael for people who are listening to this? 'Cause it's hilarious.
Stefani Kuo: Yes, yes, yes. That's a great idea.
Michael Walkup: Is this one of those full disclosure, up tops...
Stefani Kuo: [laughs]
Michael Walkup: Gotta let everyone know the personal connections here.
Stefani Kuo: Yeah. Perhaps.
Chloe Knight: I just love how funny it is. So, I was the development assistant at Page 73 the same time Stefani was in the writers group, Interstate 73. So I'd be in the office, you know, doing something in the fundraising database, hearing Michael talk about Stefani and whatever was going on in Interstate. Then I would leave, Zach, the intern would make delicious food, then Stefani and all the playwrights would come in and have their evening with Michael. And that happened for like half a year or at least-
Stefani Kuo: Yeah. For a while.
Chloe Knight: Yeah.
Michael Walkup: And Chloe you applied for Yale while you were in the office, I think. Am I getting that right?
Chloe Knight: No, I applied a few months after I left. Um, and it's funny, the reason I applied is 'cause Amanda Woods, who was the board chair at the time, encouraged me to apply at the end of the last board meeting I went to and she was like, "I think you'd be a really great fit for this program. Why don't you consider it?" And then a year and change later here we are.
Michael Walkup: Amazing. And yes, now I'm remembering the timeline. It all Kaleidoscopes. Maybe the pandemic has had an even stronger impact on smooshing time or stretching time, but...
Stefani Kuo: Yeah.
Chloe Knight: Yeah.
Michael Walkup: I guess this was a couple of years ago now. What, Stefani, what year of the writers’ group were you?

Stefani Kuo: I was 2019. You wrote my rec for YSD. I just am remembering.

Michael Walkup: Awesome.

Stefani Kuo: [laughs] Yeah. Yeah, that was 2019, which we, we ended just a couple months before the pandemic started really.

Michael Walkup: Right.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah. So we were the last full in-person year, I guess, until maybe next year? Question mark?

Michael Walkup: You what?

Stefani Kuo: We were like, I think 2019 was the last in-person full I73 group, right?

Michael Walkup: Oh, absolutely. We got four meetings into 2020 before we had to go on to zoom.

Stefani Kuo: Oh my god.

Michael Walkup: We'll start in-person meetings again, this fall. We're really excited.

Stefani Kuo: Okay. That's great. That sounds really nice. Can't imagine the group without the snacks is all I'm saying.

Michael Walkup: Well, we had this incredible intern, as Chloe mentioned, named Zach who... You know, we had like a little budget for every week's hospitality, and usually I say things like, some chips, some grapes, cheese, and, and Zach would say, "Well, I could buy a lot of ingredients with this and just like bake everyone an entire table full of food." And it was usually baking involved. There was often a great like dip of some sort for his bread that he would make. And, uh, your year of I73 got that kind of treatment that I just wanna say, we're not committed to maintaining, unless Zach himself will come back and continue doing it.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah. I, I full on, I remember early on, I was like, "I'm gonna eat dinner and then go to I73." And at some point I was like, "I'm gonna go to I73 and eat dinner, is what's gonna happen.

Michael Walkup: [laughs]

Stefani Kuo: [laughs]

Michael Walkup: Hospitality is one of our favorite like, markers of a Page 73 thing. Like, how does Page 73 go about its board meetings, its writers group
meetings, its, uh, meetings with playwrights, its interview with playwrights? It's usually that we try to add food and drink to it.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah, yeah.

Chloe Knight: I think we were really good at that. I remember all the donor event cocktail hours and they were delicious.

Michael Walkup: Yeah. [laughs] All right. Well, introductions I had to have been allowed to talk about-

Stefani Kuo: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I was just... I think that's a mild exception.

Michael Walkup: But I will still, I'll just ceremonially start this 'cause I had cracked it before we started recording. It is a Sixpoint, I'm being true to my Brooklyn self.

Stefani Kuo: [laughs].

Michael Walkup: A Sixpoint Brewery Hootie IPA.

Stefani Kuo: Hootie.

Michael Walkup: Hootie. It's just a silly word to say.

Stefani Kuo: I'm sipping some leftover white wine in the fridge. It's pretty good. Hasn't, hasn't gone bad yet.

Chloe Knight: Okay. So I, in celebration of Michael being on the podcast, and then we can stop talking about theater for real. Um, at the end of our gala, the year I was there, there was a bunch of leftover, um, bottles of alcohol that had been just opened. And I took a bottle of tequila and I have the last little bit left that I've decided to lightly sip during this, in the Page 73 glass that I had.

Stefani Kuo: Wow.

Michael Walkup: I'm, deeply touched. And I, my glass is in the freezer, it's a glass that's designed to get, um, uh, um, ice cube frozen in it so that you could pour your liquor in it and it won't melt too fast. Uh, it's such a, it was a sweet gift from our board president and, um, Chloe, that just makes me so happy. Although I gotta say the idea of a bottle of liquor, making it from the 2019 gala till now in this household, is a, that's like a Jesus level miracle at the wedding at Cana.

Chloe Knight: Okay, to be fair, it is one of three bottles of tequila I currently have in my apartment. And also I fled New York city when the pandemic happened and spent half of 2020, not in New York, drinking other tequila. So...
Michael Walkup: [laughs] Fair. It's not that others haven't passed along the way, it's just that this special bottle remains.

Chloe Knight: Exactly.

Michael Walkup: Let's talk about the beach.

Stefani Kuo: The beach.

Michael Walkup: Did you guys... are you beach people? Did you choose to go last summer?

Chloe Knight: Not last summer, but I just went to Lighthouse Point Park beach or whatever it's called for the first time.

Michael Walkup: Lovely.

Chloe Knight: Living my best life.

Stefani Kuo: How was it?

Chloe Knight: It, It was good. It was like, it, it was fun. It's a public beach. There were some people I had a friend in town. But whoever was running the speaker to tell us when the lifeguards were on and off duty, was really power hungry. 'Cause I felt like we couldn't go more than maybe 15 minutes with this like undecipherable jumble on the speaker telling us when the beach closed or when the lifeguard was coming back. And we thought it was directed at us, 'cause it was like right above where we were, but then we realized it was just some teenager with a little power, having, you know, the time of his life.

Stefani Kuo: Oh God.

Chloe Knight: Yeah.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah.

Michael Walkup: I went a couple of times last summer and there was some anxiety 'cause, you know, they weren't quite so forceful about saying that the outdoors was probably a pretty darn safe way to go. They were, we didn't know, or whatever they weren't saying, one way or the other. Um, and, but I still really wanted to, it was important and I, you know, I would, I would set up my towel encampment probably farther away from folks than I usually would. And then I was like, "It's always windy at the beach. It's windy, it's fine. It's windy." Um, but I'm really happy with the growing, you know, research and understanding that that's actually a pretty legitly safe place. Let alone now with vaccinations even more so, so that basically, as soon as that water heats up, I think, I think every chance New Yorkers get, they should head to that beach.
Stefani Kuo: Yeah. I wonder if people have become like more outdoor inclined after the pandemic or if that's just like... I, I can't tell. I can't tell people have become that way or because it's summer, but I'm curious if people will like, in general, just be more outdoors, like gathered as opposed to before, which would be nice.

Michael Walkup: It would be nice, and it, it would make a certain sense 'cause we've all been like, in our houses more than usual. I mean, I used to, when I... so that apartment that we left, it was really small. But when I left at 8:00 AM and got home at midnight, it really didn't matter that it was small. [laughs]

Stefani Kuo: Right, Right.

Michael Walkup: When it was like work from home 24/7, and maybe you're too scared to really be out and about like, I'm talking like March, April, May, oh my goodness. Uh, as soon as you know, I, again, used to live on Prospect Park and that became just such a mess. I- I didn't know the park that well. I lived there for five years before the pandemic, but I became like an expert on the various ways to walk around Prospect Park during those months that we still lived right there on that corner. Uh, so I hope that lasts. I hope that everyone's having that experience. There's a lot of bugs in the summer though, that drives people back in hiding.

Stefani Kuo: I know. That's the thing, it's the bugs.

Michael Walkup: And these... talk about the cliches of people chitter chattering, but these Cicadas that everyone's on about...

Chloe Knight: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Michael Walkup: I'm in South Slope. There's like four trees on my block. So like, I haven't heard any yet, [laughs] but like maybe they're coming or maybe if we went for a walk in Prospect Park right now, we'd be hearing them? I don't know. I just feel like everyone's always bringing them up.

Stefani Kuo: Really?

Chloe Knight: Yeah. I, anyone I know in the DC area has been really loud about it too. I feel like it's really bad there.

Stefani Kuo: That's so funny. I recently went upstate this last weekend and I was, I- I went with a friend from kindergarten and, and she's like born and bred in Hong Kong. And like, we were in this cabin and she was like, "I feel like I'm in a zoo." And I was like, relax. It's an Airbnb just chill out. But the, the cicadas were growing really loud. And like, then we spent like half an hour researching why cicadas make that noise. And this whole thing-

Michael Walkup: Isn't it sex?
Stefani Kuo: It's, it's actually not sex that they have. It's sex, but they have a separate organ that makes that noise. Cause it goes non-stop.

Michael Walkup: Wow.

Stefani Kuo: So it's just like, it's almost like hummingbirds, but their noises is like sort of like that. I think.

Michael Walkup: So when did you get back to the states, Stefani?

Stefani Kuo: I got back at the end of January. So, like, like five months ago? More or less.

Michael Walkup: Do you feel that the citizens you live amongst here are responding differently to the pandemic than who you were living amongst in Hong Kong?

Stefani Kuo: Yeah. I mean, for sure, for sure. For sure. For sure. I, when I came back, I remember I, I was, I was so shocked when I first came back by so many things already. I think the weird thing now is that everyone here is vaccinated. I mean, it feels like everyone's vaccinated. And so it feels like everyone's like we're done with the pandemic, but then on the other side of the world, everyone's in lockdown. So that's really strange. Um, and it makes me feel very, I don't know. I guess it's just odd because when things were good in Asia, we would look to the US and know that despite things being good, the pandemic is very far from over since it's still going. And it feels like, because it feels over here, it's over in the world, which is very weird to me. But I mean, it's because the media is Western centric, so et cetera, et cetera, you know, the world goes on. Um...

Michael Walkup: Oh absolutely. I was gonna say that's the most American thing ever.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah. [laughs]

Michael Walkup: It was the world's crisis when it was our crisis. And now it's like fine, but I mean, I don't know, we have our own, we have our own crisis ahead given our rate of vaccination and a surge in the Delta variant. So yeah, this is just an ongoing disaster.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah. I was, I went down to Virginia a couple weeks, some months back and I mean, look, vaccinations are great, but the, the difference between New York and Virginia was a little bit shocking. 'Cause they were all like, "It's over!" And they were like, ripping their masks off and throwing them on the ground. And I was like, truly don't know what's going on. Like, you should still wear them indoors everyone. But they were like done. They were like, we're over it.

Michael Walkup: Yeah. I, I know. And I feel like I've actually been talking a lot about my excited post vaccination stuff and the bars and everything. And I just want
to reiterate, these are like places that are catering to vaccinated only people, which I love. I love-

Stefani Kuo: Love it.

Michael Walkup: Maybe we should, but I was gonna say don't get me started on capitalism. But like if, since it's the system we have to deal with right now, and it's not gonna be overturned overnight, if capitalism is going to help us solve this problem by essentially making it undesirable in the marketplace to not be vaccinated, I'll take it. You know, that's like a good old neoliberal response to a problem is like use the market to encourage the behavior that you want. And while frustrating in most aspects, like say, hmm, justice...

Stefani Kuo: [laughs]

Chloe Knight: [laughs]

Michael Walkup: I would say that if they're anything, like if every bar and restaurant followed this idea of vaccinated only, and that could help, that'd be awesome. But listen to me, I'm sitting in New York city. We're not, we're already at 70%. They just lifted, uh, most of the restrictions anyway. So you would need that marketplace model to be happening in Virginia and Mississippi. And that's the problem is I don't think there is the pressure there to cater to a vaccinated only crowd so that you can help encourage the behavior that you hope others will choose.

Stefani Kuo: So right.

Doug Robinson: Bark and Vine is quickly becoming one of my favorite spots in New Haven. Located at 49 Orange Street, they are an indoor plant shop specializing in tropical plants. Whether you're a first time plant parent like myself or a long time gardener, their shop has everything you need. They believe that a green thumb is learned, not gifted. You can learn how to take care of plants, find out what they love, what they need so they can thrive in your own space. And they're here to guide you. Their knowledgeable team of plant experts will guide you every step of the way in finding your first, second, third, fourth, fifth, however many plants you desire. So go on in, check out Bark and Vine on 49th on Orange Street.

Michael Walkup: So if, picking up a thread from earlier...

Chloe Knight: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Michael Walkup: If people might become more outdoor inclined, which is, I think could be a real outcome of this period, and the outdoors are relatively safe, but like having activities and games is fun, could there be, and maybe we can all figure this out together and make our money, but like a major, major increase in the number of miniature golf bars opening up around the country?
Stefani Kuo: That is truly not where I thought this was going. Just, I was really trying and that is not what I thought.

Michael Walkup: So, I realize miniature golf, attracts young people, and therefore the bar part of my miniature golf bar is a little tricky, but like, it doesn't maybe have to be like a crazy bar. But also maybe it does because maybe it's like, you know, very like fun, tricky courses with like, I don't know, I'm thinking I was like, what's an adult theme? Like gore, like violence, like, like a horror movie themed, um, mini golf bar, you know. I don't think we have to worry about anyone stealing this idea after all. It's not really coming out all that well.

Stefani Kuo: Well, I feel like, let's say it's a lot of younger children, people going then their parents who have to chaperone would want somewhere to be, right?

Michael Walkup: [laughs]

Chloe Knight: They put corn hole in bars and that goes over really well. So it's a similar system except maybe a little more extravagant.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah.

Michael Walkup: Although, you know what that made me think Chloe, is you need a bunch of square footage for a real miniature golf course.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah, you do.

Chloe Knight: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Michael Walkup: But you know, you walk around... okay, so you get your drink at the bar and then you start playing. And then so each place where you're putting really needs a little table because that's, that's already, the worst part of miniature golf is having to hold the little scorecard and the pencil and your bottle of water or whatever, and putting. You can't get a good grip in that way.

Chloe Knight: [laughs]

Michael Walkup: So I'm picturing little like bar stands. Well, you really need one at the putting area and near the hole, because most courses, you sort of take one shot and you're down there and then you've got to like figure out the tricky thing of getting through it. So really it's just like a whole lot of little bar stools all over the place.

Chloe Knight: Wait, you know how they, you know how most of them are rimmed with either plastic or bricks or whatever on the side?

Michael Walkup: Yeah.
Chloe Knight: What if you just make a constant little bar table thing and you can just slide your drink down, like on a little conveyor belt.

Michael Walkup: [laughs]

Stefani Kuo: Oh, my goodness.

Michael Walkup: Also making me think a lot of trip hazards on a miniature golf course, which isn't gonna go well with our bar theme.

Chloe Knight: Get a waiver.

Michael Walkup: What?

Chloe Knight: Get a waiver.

Michael Walkup: [laughs]

Chloe Knight: These are solvable problems. Michael.

Stefani Kuo: That's true. I mean, I can't imagine that it's any more dangerous than like those places where they throw axes.

Michael Walkup: That's right, there are ax throwing bars out there.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah. I'm like, that looks unsafe. A bar next to axes? I don't know.

Michael Walkup: I mean, you know, darts has always been that. You can really fuck someone up with a dart.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah.

Michael Walkup: You get that in the wrong spot...

Chloe Knight: Yeah.

Chloe Knight: Did you ever go to one of those rage rooms?

Stefani Kuo: Oh, you mean where they break all the plates?

Chloe Knight: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Michael Walkup: No.

Stefani Kuo: My friends did

Michael Walkup: Wait, what?
Chloe Knight: Have you not heard of this? So they got really popular in Brooklyn for a while. There's, you can go to this thing called rage rooms and they give you basically a hazmat suit and a bat and a crowbar and you know, just some things to smash things with and you can buy different packages. So for X amount of dollars, you get two big pieces of technology like a TV or a printer and 15 plates. For more, you get 30 plates and five pieces of big technology and you wear your helmet and your goggles and you go in and you just smash the crap out of things for an hour.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah.

Chloe Knight: I highly recommend it.

Michael Walkup: Wow. I get it. I mean, it, it, it does, it, the appeal is instantaneous in the description.

Chloe Knight: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Michael Walkup: If we combined a rage bar and an ax throwing bar, we could just get angry people to chop a lot of wood, which could be much more productive than breaking a bunch of televisions. And then, and then maybe it's next to like a wood-fired pizza place.

Stefani Kuo: Oh my God. [laughs]

Michael Walkup: I don't know why I decided this part of the conversation would be us coming up with new business plans.

Chloe Knight: [laughs] Is it bad that in the back of my head, I'm like, I wonder what business we could incorporate this as. It's not a 501C3, but it could be, dadadada. An LLC? We can make an LLC.

Michael Walkup: [laughs] Well, isn't that like, what does it mean? Like limited liability. I think anytime that ax is involved, I'm gonna also want the phrase that I have limited liability.

Chloe Knight: Yeah.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah.

Michael Walkup: I'm sure that's not what that literally means. Business nerds who are listening. It's fine.

Chloe Knight: All the business nerds, listening to our Yale Summer Cabaret podcast.

Stefani Kuo: Definitely. Very.
Michael Walkup: There are some thirsty people at that school of management and they look to the drama school for potentially enticing and exciting folks. So, it might be.

Stefani Kuo: No, this is the most marketable phrase.

Chloe Knight: You know what I heard recently? So I knew that YSD was referred to as Yale School of Divorce, but as of last week, apparently the school of management is referred to as the Yale School of Marriage. So you can get divorced at YSD and then go find your new partner at the school of management.

Stefani Kuo: Who is getting divorced at YSD? This is wild.

Chloe Knight: No, no, it's a thing but like, I don't think it necessarily means literal divorce, like more than one of us have gone through a breakup this year.

Stefani Kuo: Okay. You're right.

Chloe Knight: At least out of my friend group. I'm really talking about myself and like three other people. But that's okay.

Michael Walkup: [laughs]

Stefani Kuo: You're right.

Michael Walkup: No, It had that rep, I was there in the early aughts. It had that reputation, someone would show up and they'd say, oh, my partner, boyfriend, husband, spouse, whatever is back in New York. And you know, the, um, unfortunately the, the assumption was that that would not last. And you know, a lot of the times it didn't. There's, you know, there's a lot of hot people at Yale. It causes, um, disruptions. And what I don't know is the things that caused the divorce. I don't think they themselves become lasting things. It's that, that's why it's not the school of marriage. You know, it's just like, it's YSD is the rage room where you go and you break the plates, of um...

Stefani Kuo: We're not building pottery pieces.

Michael Walkup: Yeah. You're like my relationship's failing. Maybe I'll get away to grad school and that will help. And then it turns out there's like a really hot actor in your class. And you're like, maybe it wasn't just about going to grad school. Tale as old as time folks. Tale as old as time.

Chloe Knight: Pretty on-point.

Stefani Kuo: Um, are there things you're gonna miss about the pandemic?

Chloe Knight: [laughs]
Stefani Kuo: Is this a bad question? For both of you, but...

Michael Walkup: I have two responses. My first was like, hell no. And then I'm just like, why was I so determined to be that, you know, strongly saying, no, there's nothing I'll miss. And I think it's because I'm a little, I, I am an extrovert. I'm not a complicated sort of extrovert, sort of introvert. I'm an extrovert. I gain my energy from, um, interactions with other people and other people can not be, um, a subset of one. [laughs] My boyfriend is amazing. That does not count for an extrovert as like refilling the tank from interactions with other people. So I think I've been a little bit like grumpy about the people who are like sad to give this up, sad to give this up because I'm like, oh my God, no, I just need, this was the worst thing that's ever happened. Let's move forward.

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Chloe Knight: It was so funny to hear Zora be named and just think about the attention that gave Page 73. Because like I knew when I worked for you, that Page 73 was cool, but I don't think I realized how cool... It wasn't like, you know, we were working on grants and we were talking about, you know, how many writers came out of Page 73 and everything. But I came here and people were like, "Oh wow, you work for Page 73? That's so awesome." Like this play, that play, this writer, that writer. And it was just kind of funny to hear people talk about plays and hear like think, oh, a lot of that actually started with Page 73 or more specifically, Michael. Like the amount of times people here are like, "Oh my God, I love the Strange Loop but I run into my closet and pull out my Strange Loop T-shirt cause I still worked for you when that.

Michael Walkup: [laughs] Yes.

Chloe Knight: -went up And I'm like, oh wow, Michael is actually at the root of a lot of things that the people that I'm now around our fan-girling about. And that was just a really fun, you know, just shameless plug for Page 73 on this little podcast we're doing.

Michael Walkup: Well, it's appreciated. And it is, it's a heck of a, it's heck of a fun gig that I have in the field that we don't speak about on this podcast.

Stefani Kuo: No, we don't speak about that. [laughs] Yeah. I mean, speaking of extroversion, I'm not an extrovert. I'm very introverted, but I feel like, I- I was telling someone this the other day, but like up until being in I73, my experience of New York was so profoundly lonely. 'Cause I was just like wandering around, writing by myself, auditioning by myself, which was fine, and I had good friends. But like there are so rarely places to like gather as a community and like being able to gather every two weeks in person back then, was so, like, changed my whole life basically. And like, and like, I will never be in, like, I'll say this I'll never be in ESTs like writers'
group, 'cause I will be 30, probably by the time I move back. But like, I'm like, being in that writer's group was like, just so... It really just like change, I feel like it changed my career by virtue of changing, how I understood living in New York.

Michael Walkup: I really love to hear that. I started at the company as a volunteer, Dramaturge running I73, two nights a month. That was the whole extent of my job description. Um, it was January of 2021 and I decided that was enough to move to New York city for. [laughing]

Stefani Kuo: [laughing] It is amazing.

Michael Walkup: Two night a week volunteer job. Uh, but as, as I started working for the company and then obviously grew with the company and grew the company, running I73 is it's, it's really like the beating heart of the whole enterprise for me. I love production. The fellowship is a very special and intimate relationship that I get to form with a writer each year. But the community and the conversation among playwrights that's fostered when you get to run a writer's group, is, uh, that's really what it's all about for me. Like that's really my favorite. Um, and you're the second 2019 I73 year that I've talked to this week, who talked about the importance of that year in that group and that just makes me really, really happy, honestly. That makes me really happy.

Stefani Kuo: It was a good group, but I just, it was a good group, I just had dinner with Jess Huang and we're like such good friends now because of the group purely because it's a group, which is just wild.

Michael Walkup: Great people. We have great people in every year, in every year we need to come [crosstalk] y'all we do. [laughs]Actually, no joke, I have I73 in four minutes.

Chloe Knight: Oh my God.

Stefani Kuo: Okay. Well, speaking of which thank you for joining us for this pod and for drinking to not talking about the industry that we're in. [laughs]

Michael Walkup: It was my pleasure. I'm glad I could join you today.

Stefani Kuo: Yeah. I hope you guys have such a great I73 meeting and, but it transitions into in-person super soon.