

# Lillian Mottern

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## EDUCATION

Columbia University MFA Playwriting 2021 - 2024

*Studied playwriting under Lynn Nottage, David Henry Hwang, and Charles Mee.*

University of California, Los Angeles BA English Literature, Minor Creative Writing 2018 - 2021

*Creative writing under Michelle Huneven & Mona Simpson and Urban Theory and Postmodern Literature under Saree Makdisi.*

## HONORS / AWARDS

Semi-Finalist Eugene O'Neill Theater's 2025 National Playwrights Conference.

Winner Foundation for New American Musicals' 2018 Showsearch Competition

## MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Dramatists Guild

## BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Lillian Mottern is a 24-year-old writer from Eastside Los Angeles, now based in New York City. She holds an MFA in Playwriting from Columbia University. At age 17 she was mentored by musical theatre writer Stephen Schwartz, during which time she began to immerse herself in theatre writing. Soon after, Lillian joined the selective North Hollywood-based playwrights' and artists' group, New Works Lab, headed by Andrew Shafer, where she continued to develop her voice and built a community of artistic collaborators and peers. She was also involved in the playwriting workshop that came out of Padua, headed by Roxanne Rogers and Wes Walker. Lillian moved to New York after finishing her undergraduate degree at UCLA where she served as the Editor-in-Chief of the university's literary journal *Westwind*. She currently writes plays, screenplays, and short fiction. Her influences are Joan Didion, Sam Shepard, and Chekhov, and she is deeply interested in the interplay between theater and film and literature. She currently co-curates a reading series in downtown Manhattan called Night Mare which deals with writing based in the absurd and surreal, and is editor-in-chief of the alt lit magazine, *Verdict*. Her play *Moonshiner* received an industry reading at Bold Elephant in London in 2025, and will be produced by Adult Film in 2026. Available references: Charles Mee, Stephen Schwartz, David Henry Hwang, Lynn Nottage, Allison Silverman.

## PRODUCTION HISTORY

***Moonshiner*** (90 min. comedy /drama)

Production, Adult Film (Winter, 2026)

Industry Reading, Bold Elephant Theatre (Summer, 2025)

Workshop Production, Columbia University (Spring, 2023)

***Koi-Coy*** (90 min. dark comedy, drama)

O'Neill National Playwrights Conference Semi-Finalist (2025)

Production, Columbia University (Spring 2024)

***Verity sits in her apartment*** (75 min. comedy/drama)

Workshop Production, The Tank (Summer, 2024)

Reading, Columbia University (Fall 2021)

***Gun Play*** (75 min. dark comedy)

Production, Chain Theatre (Winter 2023)

Workshop, Columbia University (Fall, 2023)

***Bathwater*** (90 min. comedy)

Workshop, University of California, Los Angeles (Fall, 2020)

## MUSICAL THEATRE

*You'll Always be a Guilford Girl* (Book, music, lyrics)  
Workshop, The Rockwell (Winter 2019)

*Lavender Nicholson Is Not Okay* (Book, music, lyrics)  
Winner, The Foundation for New American Musicals'  
Show Search Competition Spring, (Spring 2018)  
Production, Pasadena City College (Winter, 2018)  
Workshop, The Wallis Annenberg (Winter, 2017)

## WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE

Echo Young Playwrights (The Echo Theater Company)  
The New Works Lab (NoHo Actors' Studio)  
Michelle Huneven Workshop

## PUBLISHED ESSAYS AND FICTION

Objectum	<i>Notch</i>	2025
Clowning Around Town	<i>Currant Jam</i>	2025
The Clownish Elite	<i>Spectra</i>	2025
Goldrush	<i>Spectra</i>	2024
The Birth of the Author and the Rise of New Autofiction	<i>The Big One</i>	2024
A Proposal for the Anti-Utopia	<i>The Living Room</i>	2024
Witches	<i>Wigleaf Literary Magazine</i>	2022
Robert Mapplethorpe	<i>Westwind Journal of the Arts</i>	2021
Clifford	<i>The Foundationalist</i>	2020
Fera	<i>Waif Magazine</i>	2019

## OTHER WORK IN THEATRE

*Soon!* (East Village Basement, 2025)  
*The Witness Room* (AMT Theater, 2024)

*Associate producer*  
*Associate producer*