

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Marble Summer Arts Festival  
June 13 – 18, 2021

**Artists Bios**



**Karla Hendrick** is a NYC-based actor, voice over artist, director and teaching artist, committed to work that supports and promotes education, empathy and social justice. Karla appeared at Marble with the inaugural production of The Theatre Upstairs, downstairs@marble in the world premiere, *A Light in the Night*. As a member of The Drilling Company (TDC), Karla can be heard in the premiere season of “Good Noise”, where she was featured in the just-released audiocast *On Time*, commissioned at the heart of the shutdown ([Good Noise - On Time Audio Cast](#)). A frequent collaborator with TDC on both their Shakespeare and new works, Karla created the role

of Betty in the Off-Broadway NY Times Critic’s Pick hit *The Norwegians*, for which she was cited by the *New York Times* as one of the top 25 Magical and Quirky performances of 2013. Other TDC roles include Emilia in *Othello* with Bryant Park Shakespeare, Mistress Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Gertrude in *Hamlet*, Ellie in *Inheritance* (a play exploring reparations) and the Doctor in *Reservoir*, a modern-day retelling of *Woyzeck* (exploring PTSD). Karla appears with No Epilogue Productions in *Not So Quiet*, based on Evadne Price’s novel following British women ambulance drivers during WWII and which will soon be released on YouTube. Karla’s film appearances include *Household Accounts* and *Avow* by the late Bill C. Davis, and the animated musical feature, *The Champion*, in which she sang the role of Meg S. As a director, Karla’s productions of *Hamlet* in Bryant Park (with a female Hamlet), *All’s Well That Ends Well*, and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* have played to audiences of over 800 nightly. As a voice over artist Karla narrates audiobooks and records corporate and educational voice overs; she is a Lead Teaching Artist with the Metropolitan Opera Guild and Roundabout Theatre Company, which just completed the first season of its Refocus Project, redefining the American theatrical canon to include the voices of BIPOC and other marginalized artists, and help influence reform on the national stage. As a teaching artist, Karla works with NYC students, teachers, administrators, audiences and artists; during the past year when she wasn’t performing on Zoom, in her home studio or in a remote classroom, she conceived and produced a three-video series that explores the adaptation, music and design of Gounod’s opera *Roméo et Juliette*, served on the team of Roundabout creators partnering with the NYC Dept. of Ed to develop the city-wide Remote Arts Learning Curriculum, *Using Your Voice*, and most recently supported work at Roundabout’s inaugural remote Reverb Theatre Festival, uplifting the voices of artists with disabilities from around the world. Karla received her BA from Mount Holyoke College, an MFA in Acting from Brooklyn College and studied at the British American Drama Academy, Oxford.

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**Rene J. Navarro** is an acupuncturist, herbalist, martial artist, teacher, healer, and alchemist. His poetry and essays have been published in the US, Europe and Asia. He has taught Taoist Yang-Sheng/Nourishing Life regimen in four continents. He was a disciple of Grandmasters Lao Kim and Johnny Chiuten in Shaolin/Buddhist Kung-Fu. He is a senior student of Grandmaster Gin Soon Chu and a 6<sup>th</sup> generation practitioner of Classical Yang Family Tai chi chuan with intensive training in the 108 movement solo fist form, Dao/Broadsword (2 sets), Jian/Straight sword (2 sets), Staff-Spear, Sansou (2-person sparring set), Push

Hands and the Tai chi chuan Chang Chuan (the old form of Tai chi chuan). He is a senior instructor of the Universal Healing Tao under Grandmaster Mantak Chia certified to teach Microcosmic Orbit, Tai chi chi kung, Healing Love (Taoist sexology), Chi Nei Tsang internal organs massage, Fusion of the 5 Elements and Kan and Li (neidan/internal alchemy). His teachers include Jeffrey Yuen (Chinese medicine and classics), David Verdesi (Thunder Path), Kiiko Matsumoto (Japanese acupuncture), Yao Zhang (Chinese herbs), Johnny F. Chiuten, Guiling Tinga and Amante “Mat” Marinas (arnis de mano) and Vincent F. Chu and Chan Bun Te (Yang Family Tai chi chuan). He holds a Bachelor of Arts (MLQ University), a Law degree (University of the Philippines), a diploma in acupuncture and a certificate in Chinese herbalism (New England School of Acupuncture). He lives in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains, Pennsylvania, USA. For more information, please go to his website: [www.renenavarro.org](http://www.renenavarro.org)

-- “Rene is a magical, gentle and powerful being.” Comment from a student.

### **Joan Paylo**

Growing up in blue-collar Whiting, Indiana, Joan twirled the baton and took what the nuns told her seriously, adopting Dorothy Parker’s mantra, “I write five words and erase seven.” Educated in journalism and media at Northwestern, Syracuse, Columbia and currently at Sarah Lawrence’s Writing Institute, she’s won awards for radio writing/production and public affairs campaigns. Three years ago, her life as a Democratic District Leader on Manhattan’s Upper West Side shifted when she began writing fiction. @westsidejoanie now flies over the Hudson River with her first love Peter Pan and credits Arthur Caliendo and Mario Sprouse for keeping her hopes alive. Please pray that she can maintain her confidence as she seeks an agent for her first novel “Beltane Dew,” Book One in her “Miri D’Étoile” series.

@westsidejoanie now flies over the Hudson River with her first love Peter Pan several times a week.

***Follow me on Twitter @WestsideJoanie***