

# Ashley Griffin

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## Theater/Film/Television

### Trial

*A young woman waiting for her own judgment in the bureaucratic system of the afterlife finds herself in the role of judge and jury to determine the eternal fate of the man responsible for her death. Inspired by a true story.*

2019 – Creator Ashley Griffin and Director Lori Petty win the WellLife Network Award for their work on *Trial* and its advocacy impact.

2019 – Performance at the Tilles Center with all-star cast, directed by Lori Petty – raised over \$100,000.00 in one evening.

2018 – Sold out off-Broadway run at The American Theater of Actors directed by **Lori Petty** (*Orange is the New Black, A League of Their Own.*) The entire run had sold out by opening night. The production was widely heralded, and began to attract word of mouth attention from Broadway producers. **Heralded as: “Masterful,” “Exquisite,” “Profound,” A tour-de-force,” “If this show were on Broadway it would win the Pulitzer.”**

2018 – Developmental reading at Pacific Resident Theater directed by Lori Petty

2016 – Staff sponsored developmental reading at **Broadway’s Manhattan Theater Club**, directed by **Lori Petty** (*Orange is the New Black, The Poker House, A League of Their Own*), featuring Geneva Carr (Tony Nominee, *Hand To God*), Oona Laurence (Tony Award, *Matilda, South Paw*), Xanthe Elbrick (Tony Nominee, *Coram Boy*), Steve Hauck (*Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*) and others.

2016 – Developmental reading with The Ivy Theater Company, NYC

2014 – Developmental reading with The Red Fern Theater Company, NYC, featuring **Finn Wittrock** (*American Horror Story*)

2011 – Developmental reading with Dreamcatcher Entertainment, NYC

### Blank Paige

*A television series/novel set in an ethereal bookstore where all of the employees are fictional characters who have yet to be written. An exploration of fate vs. free will, “Blank Paige” follows Paige – the first character ever to enter the bookstore with no knowledge of who she is, threatening to destroy the very fabric of imagination.*

Currently – **In development talks with Amazon**

### Forever Deadward

Formerly “*Twilight: The Unauthorized Musical Parody*,” “Forever Deadward” is “a thinking man’s parody” of the “Twilight” franchise, and our culture of obsession. **The show became a pop culture phenomenon** when it premiered at New World Stages off-Broadway and was highly praised by **E! Entertainment, Entertainment Weekly, MTV** and others.

2014 – Developmental reading at The York Theater Company, NYC, directed by Gabriel Barre (*Amazing Grace, Broadway, Andrew Lipka’s The Wild Party*)

- Sold out concert at 54 Below, NYC

2012 - New World Stages performance featuring Meghann Fahy (*One Life To Live*) and Colin Hanlon (*Modern Family*), directed by Gabriel Barre (*Amazing Grace*, Broadway.) **Featured/highly praised by MTV, Perez Hilton, EW, E!, CNN and others.**

2010 - Sold out concert performance at the LABA Theater, NYC

### Snow

*Using a structure similar to "Cloud Atlas," and "The Hours," "Snow" follows three disparate storylines that all revolve around the fairy tale Snow White. Exploring the power and importance of storytelling, "Snow" incorporates elements of "American Gods," and storytelling techniques a la "Peter and the Starcatcher."*

Current – Semifinalist for American Shakespeare Center's Shakespeare's New Contemporaries competition

2017 – Workshop production at The Sonnet Theater in Times Square.\*

\* **Three NY Innovative Theater Award Nominations including Best New Play**

2017 – Developmental reading at **Playwrights Horizons** directed by Rachel Klein, featuring Jennifer Regan (*Born Yesterday*) and Christian Coulson (*Harry Potter*.)

2016 – Workshop production at Under St. Marks in NYC produced by A.N.O.N Productions. Heralded as: "Brilliant," "Impressive," "Darkly moving," "Innovative and ambitious."

2015 – Developmental reading with Dreamcatcher Entertainment, NYC

### The Shadowlands

*Described as: "If Lewis Carroll had written Angels in America." "The Shadowlands" is an original play dealing with the aftermath of the Orlando shooting, and set against the backdrop of the Trump election.*

2017 – Reading at La MaMa, NYC. Currently under consideration by Roundabout and LCT3.

### Silver Moon

*Commissioned by producer Mike Johnson to write the pilot for "Silver Moon" – under consideration by Fox and other networks. More info TBA.*

### Bombershay

*Drama pilot in development with Stage Network created in collaboration with Broadway artist Jeffry Denman. More info TBA.*

### Company

*Comedy pilot under consideration with Stage Network. More info TBA.*

### The Opposite of Love

*"If 'Pretty Woman' was a Black Mirror episode (sans tech.)"*

2019 – Reading at A.R.T.

### Looking For Wonderland

*Created in collaboration with Cirque du Soleil star/creator Joel Jeske "...Wonderland" uniquely combines physical comedy and dramatic narrative to explore the real life relationship between Charles Dodgson (ne Lewis Carroll) and his muse Alice Liddell. Director Gabriel Barre ("Amazing Grace,"*

*Broadway, attached.*

2015 – Under consideration by The Public Theater and Playwrights Horizons

2014 – Semi finalist for the Eugene O'Neill Festival

### **Lyra**

*Created in collaboration with Cirque du Soleil artists, "Lyra" is a dark musical retelling of the Little Mermaid story, set in a dustbowl era circus. Written with composer Evan Jay Newman (Musical Director of the Broadway "American Idiot" national tour. Director Rachel Klein ("Red Roses, Green Gold" - the Grateful Dead musical)*

2015 – Developmental reading at The Triad, NYC

2015 – Sold out concert reading at 54 Below, NYC

### **Ophelia, Descending**

*Original screenplay – a psychological thriller in the vein of "Martha, Marcy May, Marlene." After her best friend is acquitted for killing her assaulter, a traumatized grad student's friends take her on a secluded getaway to help her emotionally recover. But when her friends start dying one by one she must learn that we all must embrace the things about ourselves that scare us to defeat the enigmatic murderer before she loses everyone she's ever loved.*

2016 – Optioned by Chad Stone, releasing 2019

### **Changed For Good**

*Featuring music by **Stephen Schwartz**, "Changed For Good" explores the power of musical theater through the lens of the work of Stephen Schwartz and the dichotomy between audience and critical reception of his work.*

2006 – Began development with The York Theater Company. Director Gabriel Barre (*Amazing Grace*, Broadway) attached.

- World premier at the Playwrights Horizons Black Box Theater.

### **Untitled Hans Christian Andersen Musical**

*Written in collaboration with composer Patrick Burns, this show explores the darker, historically accurate life of fairy tale author Hans Christian Andersen.*

2017 – In talks for development

### **Untitled Kay Swift Musical**

*Commissioned to write the book and lyrics for a new musical about the life of Kay Swift – the first female writer to ever have her work on Broadway.*

2017 – Currently in development

### **A Little Princess and The Snow Queen**

*Commissioned to write children's adaptations of the classic novels.*

2017/2018 – Premier performances at the MAOR Theater upstate. Currently in talks for rights distribution.

### **The 8<sup>th</sup> Square**

*Original screenplay that sets "Alice in Wonderland," and "Alice Through The Looking Glass" in the darkly magical underbelly of NYC. Terry Gilliam meets Neil Gaiman.*

2016 – In development with Wrong Rabbit Productions. Doug Jones (“Hellboy,” “Pan’s Labyrinth”) and Pat Carroll (“The Little Mermaid”) attached.

### **The Death Of Emily Webster**

*A dark comedy that crosses Martin McDonagh with Christopher Durang. On the verge of another meaningless year, Madeline, a “queen bee” discovers that she may be partially responsible for the suicide of a friend, Emily Webster. After clandestine visits from two other friends of Emily, Ivy Eddie, the three manipulative victims of their own guilt team up to take credit for their friend’s “life work” guaranteeing them a free ride for the rest of their lives. But when an unexpected visitor from the trio’s past arrives, they must learn that the traps we set for others inevitably ensnare us all before discovering just who is the predator, and who is the prey.*

2011 – Workshop production in NYC produced by Dreamcatcher Entertainment

- Staged Reading, The Spoon Theater, NYC – produced by Dreamcatcher Entertainment.

### **Subtext**

*A dark comedy that explores the inner workings of a high school social hierarchy.*

2001 – Staged reading, Barber Theater, Chicago

2002 – Workshop production, The Santa Monica Playhouse, L.A.

## **Awards/Review Highlights**

2019 – Winner of the WellLife Network Award for work on *Trial* and its advocacy impact.

2018 NYIT Award nominee for Best New Play for *Snow*.

Recipient of 2007 outstanding playwriting commendation from the New York International Fringe Festival.

Grand prizewinner in the Los Angeles Shakespeare Festival Competition.

*“There is, I believe, ample evidence already of Ashley Griffin’s consummate storytelling abilities...What strikes me as most prominent, though, is her ability to create worlds. Owing to a rich heritage of stories past and present, Griffin’s work reflects the best elements of storytellers past and combines them in her own style. Just enough detail for the imaginations of her audience to take over.”*

*“Genius”*

*“If storytelling...is a dying art...then (Griffin) herself is in the vanguard of its resuscitation.”*

*“Griffin’s (work is) beautiful, ambitious, and original.”*

## **Music**

Forever Deadward – Composer / Lyricist. Currently in development (Gabriel Barre, dir.)

Eurydice – Composer / Lyricist – Indie pop band based in NYC.

Trial – Composer / Lyricist

- Extensive knowledge of music theory.

## Performing/Directing

- Has worked on and off-Broadway as a performer (with shows ranging from *Wicked* to a highly acclaimed, He For She inspired *Hamlet* (playing Hamlet.)) Most recently she filmed on *The Greatest Showman*, *The Deuce* and *Homeland*.

### **- The first person in history to be nominated for a major award for both playing and directing *Hamlet*.**

- Director of *Prick Perfect* which won best show at the 2017 NYC EstroGenius Festival.
- Has directed / produced multiple shows at 54 Below (and has been hired as a director / producer by head of 54 Below Jennifer Ashley Tepper.
- Attached to direct the world premier of Sara Elizabeth Brown's *Why Not Us*.
- Full performance resume available on request
- Review highlights:

*"Utterly electric."*

*"It's hard to think of many actresses who would not only put themselves through the beating this play demands of her roles – both physically and emotionally but attack everything her character must endure with utter commitment."*

*"Griffin as...Arcadia exploded in a plethora of sadness, fear and righteous indignation. A whirlwind of emotional torment, she brilliantly portrayed the myriad stages of psychological, emotional anguish and discovery."*

*"There are times when it is to the benefit of a piece to have the author take part as a cast member, Griffin clearly has a strong connection to the material, and it served the show."*

*"Griffin has magnificent chemistry with everyone else on stage."*

## Other

- First person in history to be nominated for a major award for both playing and directing *Hamlet*.
- Dramaturge for "Tick...tick...BOOM!" by Jonathan Larson, Directed by Gabriel Barre, produced at the Adirondack Theatre Festival July 2007
- NYU Ass. Faculty Member – (Has taught, and been a guest lecturer in the Theater Studies department teaching Shakespeare and Musical Theater History)
- Associate producer for the Library of Congress's Songwriter Series "Charles Sings Strouse" released December 2006, "Jonathan Sings Larson" released 2007.
- Theater critic for Theateronline.com (<http://www.theateronline.com/Showstaff.xzc?PK=20>)
- Contributing journalist to "The Curator" magazine
- Artist in Residence at Dreamcatcher Entertainment 2011-2012
- Was hired to direct *Prick Perfect* for the NYC EstroGenius Festival – which went on to win best show of the festival.
- Has been nominated for four NYIT Awards across multiple categories.
- Her short story "Such a Pretty Girl," and poem "Shadow" was recently published in "Read Me" Magazine.

- On staff as a sketch writer for Seastone Productions
- Member of the Dramatists Guild
- Member of Actors Equity Association
- Member of The League of Professional Theater Women

### **Education**

- BFA - New York University Tisch School of the Arts (*Playwrights Horizons Theater School*)
- The Boston Conservatory of Music
- Hamilton Academy Of Music (L.A's premier performing arts High School)