

## **2024 Spotlight Preliminary Acting Panel**

**Carla Renata** was last seen as Cleo Bouvier in the World Premiere of *Designing Women* and on Broadway playing Gary Coleman in the Tony Award-winning musical *Avenue Q*. Other Broadway credits include *The Lion King* (NAACP Theatre Award Nominee), *Smokey Joe's Café*, *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and *The Who's Tommy*. Ms. Renata recurred as *Janet* for five seasons on *NBC's Superstore* and is the only African American actress to recur on four episodic series on one season...TWICE. A graduate of Howard University, her book *An Actor's Guide to Self-Marketing: How to Brand and Promote Your Unique Image* is available online. As a Rotten Tomatoes approved critic, her film reviews can be heard on her award-winning podcast *The Curvy Critic with Carla Renata*. Ms. Renata is proud to be a Spotlight judge for more than ten years.

**Lee Taylor-Allan** has appeared extensively on stage and screen. NYC Off Broadway, Off-Off Broadway and repertory credits include: Ellen Stewart's *La Mama E.T.C.*; *Circle Rep*; *Young Playwright's Festival*; the NYC revival of Lanford Wilson's *Home Free*; *Theatre Off Park*; *Union Square*; *Dan Lauria's, The Vietnam Vet Theatre*. International and regional theatre include *Electric Shakespeare Company*, *Baltimore Corner Theatre*, *Yale Drama* and *Yale Cabaret* among others. She has been seen in numerous films and on TV, including *Stargate* and her reoccurring role as Katherine Thayer on *As The World Turns*. Ms. Taylor-Allan has performed at The Kennedy Center honoring Aaron Copeland, as well as appearing in numerous TV commercials. Ms. Taylor-Allan holds a degree in Theatre Arts, with post-graduate work at Yale Drama School, and studied extensively with her mentor Nikos Psacharopoulos. She has taught and lectured at high schools and colleges.

**Randolph Thompson** is an actor, voice artist, improviser, and teacher. Television appearances include: *Frankenstein's Monster's Monster* (Netflix), *Criminal Minds* (CBS), *Rosewood* (Fox), *Serious Music* (ABC), as well as several national commercial campaigns. Favorite theater productions in Los Angeles include: *Measure Still For Measure* (Boston Court), *Much Ado About Nothing* (A Noise Within), *Pericles* (New Swan Shakespeare Festival), *Ready, Steady, Yeti...Go* (Rogue Machine), *Trevor* (Circle X), *Secret in the Wings* (Coourage Theatre Company), *Henry V* (PRT). New York theater productions include: *Dancing vs. The Rat Experiment* (LaMama), *Roberto Zucco* (Ohio Theater), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Baryshnikov Arts Center), *Twelfth Night* (The Wild Project). Regional: *Or What You Will* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival Green Show), *The Winter's Tale* (San Antonio Shakespeare), *Schriebstück* (U.S. & Canadian Premieres).