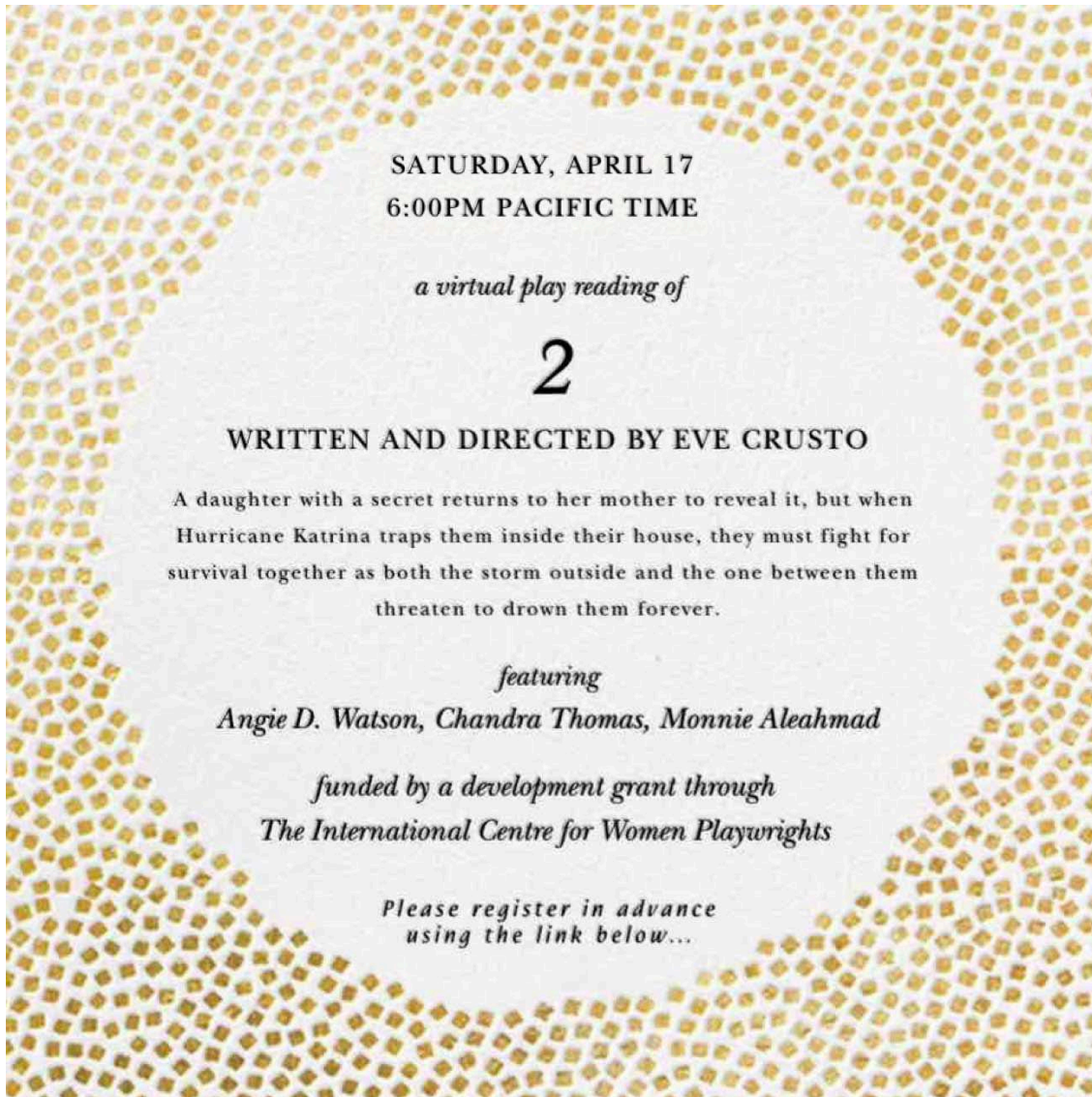
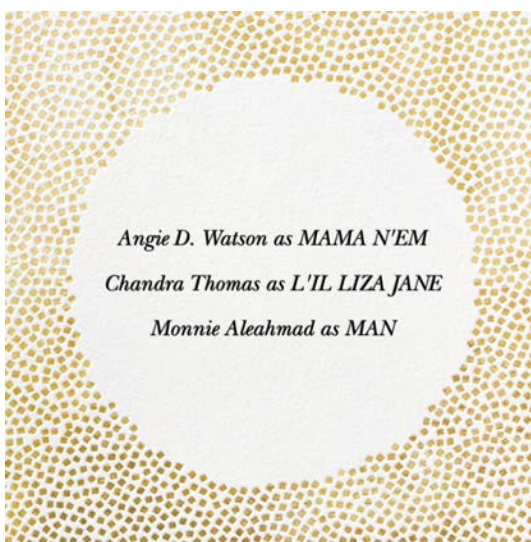
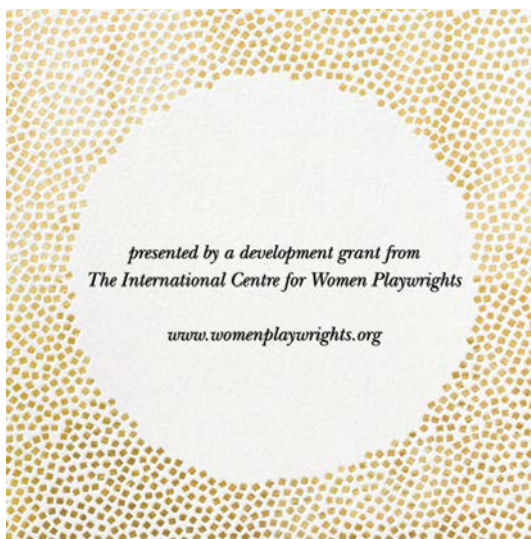
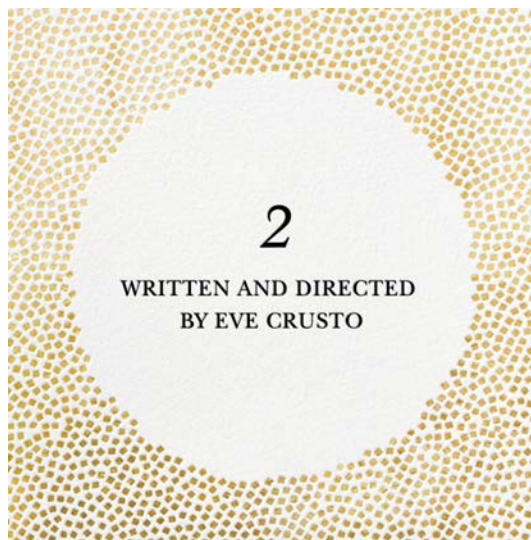


ICWP Grant Report by Eve Crusto

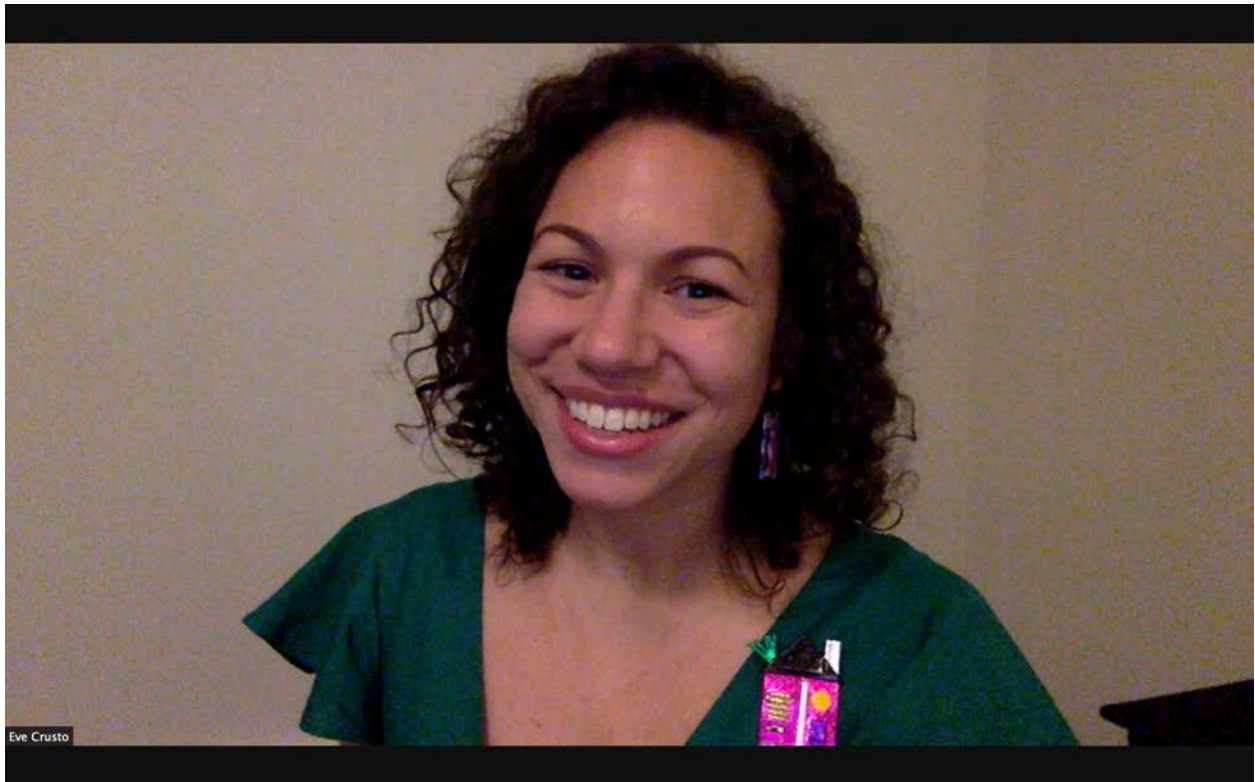
I received the International Centre for Women Playwrights' Development Grant to support a virtual reading of my play, 2. I used the grant to pay professional actors, purchase a temporary Zoom account with webinar functions, and purchase a temporary Vimeo account to share the video recording of the performance after the production. The reading took place on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 6:00pm PST. I invited theatre professionals I knew from New York City and Los Angeles, as well as my family and friends. Below is what the invitation looked like.



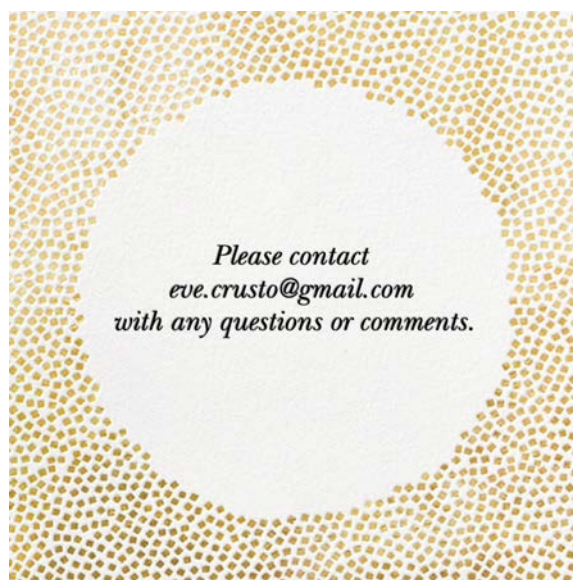
The play featured Angie D. Watson as Mama N'em, Chandra Thomas as L'il Liza Jane, and Monnie Aleahmad as Man. Monnie also read the stage directions. I was the director and also technical producer via Zoom. Below are some of the slides that were shown before the show began.



Below are photos of my introductory speech and of the Zoom reading of the play.



At the end of the show, I gave the audience the option to submit feedback to me via email so that I could connect with the audience and continue the development of the play. I am very grateful for the responses I received which included moments to work on which were unclear, questions people had about the inspiration or about the characters and the world, and how the piece had made an emotional impact on them.



I recorded the reading, which I lightly edited and then sent to people who had requested it in the event they had not been able to attend live. I didn't publish the recording publicly online because my actors did not authorize me to do so and also because I wanted to keep the play unpublished in case there would be any future opportunities to give the play a full performance. Below is the recording information.

A lot of positive outcomes occurred for me as a result of the reading supported by this grant. First and foremost, this grant validated me as a writer. It confirmed that other people regarded me and my work as important, timely, and worth telling. Another outcome is that I created a new draft of this play leading up to the reading and I am currently working on another draft using the invaluable feedback I received from my actors and the audience. Due to this grant, I received interest in the play from theatres around the country and even received representation from a theatre agent who is now assisting me in taking next steps with getting the play fully produced. A pleasant surprise outcome was that I successfully returned to directing, which I hadn't done in a long time – doing so strengthened my ability to do the job and my belief in myself that I could do it well. The showcase of the play through this reading also assisted me in getting my first professionally paid job as a writer on a television show, which has always been an extension of my playwriting dream. Lastly, the grant gave my family and friends a rare opportunity to connect with my work – this has always been difficult since everyone lives in different cities and it has been even more difficult to support theatre during the COVID-19 pandemic, but since the presentation was virtual, everyone who had always

wished they could have attended a performance of mine in the past were able to tune into this one.

The support of people I love and people I respect in the industry has really made a difference for me as a writer – it gives me the strength to continue to persevere even when it becomes difficult. I will take this strength from being given this grant and put it into creating even more stories that explore the human condition and bring different kinds of people together through showcasing our commonalities. Thank you, ICWP!



Eve Crusto is a Creole playwright, screenwriter, and mother on a mission to bring her ancestral stories about family, identity, belonging, and home to life. She holds a BA in African American Studies from Mount Holyoke College, a Louisiana Teacher Certification through Teach For America, and an MFA in Dramatic Writing from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts where she was a recipient of the Rita and Burton Goldberg Award for Excellence in Screenwriting. Her screenplays have received honors from the Chicago International Film Festival, the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival, and NYU's Fusion Film Festival. Her plays have been performed in California, Colorado, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, and New York including at Theatre for the New City, La Mama E.T.C., Theatre Row, and The Producer's Club. She is an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Screenwriting Competition Finalist, a recipient of the Theatre Masters National MFA Playwrights Award, a featured TV writer of Tisch's OTHER Showcase of Under-heard Voices and of WeForShe's 2019 WriteHer List, and the winner of the 2020 Development Grant from the International Centre for Women Playwrights. Eve was the Script Assistant for Nickelodeon's Emmy-nominated literacy show WALLYKAZAM!, the Script Coordinator for the acclaimed television series CURIOUS GEORGE, and is currently a writer for an unannounced DreamWorks TV show. Eve currently lives in Los Angeles, but New Orleans lives in her.