



the
Worth of
WATER

A NEW PLAY BY
TIRA PALMQUIST

DIRECTED BY
MÉLISA ANNIS



CLUTCH
Productions

SUBLET SERIES @HERE 2019-20 SEASON

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Welcome!

Thank you for coming to *The Worth of Water*, a SubletSeries@HERE presentation. This program provides artists with discounted space and equipment, as well as technical support.

HERE also supports the work of artists at all stages in their careers through our HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), which develops and produces the work of our 10-13 resident artists, and Visiting Artist presentations for adult and family audiences. Please check out our other performances and events at HERE.org.

Like all the work at HERE, this SubletSeries@HERE presentation was curated based on the strength and uniqueness of the artist's vision.

We hope to see you HERE again soon.

Best,

Kristin

KRISTIN MARTING
Founding Artistic Director

COMING SOON

The Black History Museum...
Nov 1-24

HERE SUPPORT

HERE is extremely grateful for the support and encouragement of an important group of Foundations, Corporations, Government Agencies, Elected Officials, and dedicated individuals. We would not be HERE without them.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

HERE'S programming is made possible with Public Funds from: National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Office of the Mayor of New York, and Speaker Corey Johnson; The Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer; and New York State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick. We are extremely grateful for the support and advocacy of all of our dedicated elected officials: Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senator Kirsten R. Gillibrand, Representative Jerrold L. Nadler, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and the Cultural Affairs Committee of the City Council, and State Senator Brad M. Hoylman.

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HERE, in partnership with Resident Playwright Taylor Mac, is a participant in the Mellon Foundation's National Playwright Residency Program administered in partnership with HowlRound. HERE is a proud member of the Hudson Sq Connection & Lower Manhattan Arts League & The National Opera America Center & TCG.

Clutch Productions Presents

the
Worth of
WATER

by
TIRA PALMQUIST

featuring

Becca Ballenger* **Christianne Greiert*** **Clare Latham*** **Kim Crow***

Michael Billingsley* **Miranda Noelle Wilson*** **Morgan Sullivan**

scenic design
JESSIE BONAVENTURE

costume design
JOHANNA PAN

lighting design
KELLEY SHIH

sound design
BRIAN HEVERON-SMITH

production stage manager
LISA R. STAFFORD*

press representative
DANIEL DEMELLO

directed by
MËLISA ANNIS

The Worth of Water is an original commission of Clutch Productions.



*Equity Member appearing with permission of Actors' Equity Association without benefit of an Equity contract in this Off-Off Broadway production.

in order of appearance

Elle.....	CLARE LATHAM*
Dusty.....	MIRANDA NOELLE WILSON*
Ethel.....	KIM CROW*
DJ.....	BECCA BALLENGER*
Rebecca.....	CHRISTIANNE GREIERT*
Vern/Nero.....	MICHAEL BILLINGSLEY*
Nix.....	MORGAN SULLIVAN

Production Stage Manager.....	LISA R. STAFFORD*
Assistant Stage Manager.....	TYLER McCOMBE
Assistant Director and Associate Producer.....	JOSIAH GRIMM
Production Manager and Associate Producer.....	SARAH MATTEUCCI

BECCA BALLENGER* (DJ) Off-Broadway: *Pussy Sludge* (HERE Arts Center, 2017 American Playwriting Foundation Award), *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Masterworks, NYT Critic's Pick), *Absolution* (St. Lukes Theatre). Regional: *Steel Magnolias* (Geva Theatre Center), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *White Lightning* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *The Mystery of Love and Sex & Papermaker* (Shadowland Stages) *Steel Magnolias & The Tempest* (Idaho Shakespeare Festival), *American Stare* (New Jersey Rep). B.A. Fordham. Becca is a proud member of Less Than Rent Theatre and Actors' Equity. www.beccaballenger.com

MICHAEL BILLINGSLEY * (Nero/Vern) is a New York-based actor and performance artist. He is currently the head of the Movement program at The Actors Studio Drama School MFA program at Pace University. During his 14 years of teaching there, he has developed a movement pedagogy designed specifically for the modern method actor. Current projects include producing *American Rot* by Kate T. Billingsley (his amazingly talented wife), and directing David Rhodes in his upcoming solo cabaret show. Michael's favorite roles include Jesus in a production of *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* at La MaMa, directed by Estelle Parsons, and Bob in *The Raft of the Medusa* with Barefoot Theater Company. Michael is a lifetime member of The Actors Studio. IG: @reverendbillz

KIM CROW* (Ethel) Emmy®-nominated actress, VO talent & coach. *Wit*, *Golda's Balcony*, *Kathy & Mo*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Travels with My Aunt*, *Ghosts* & more for FST, American Stage, Florida Rep, Alabama Shakespeare, National Players & more. On camera: Kennedy Space Center, ATT, IBM. Original AI for NATO aircraft ('Bitchin' Betty') & has

voiced 1500+ projects. Founder (1979) of Theatre Huntsville. Trained in London & Catholic U., Summa Cum Laude. A proud, 40+ year pro ‘athlete of the heart.’

CHRISTIANNE GREIERT* (Rebecca) is an actor and teaching artist. Select New York and Regional credits include: *Every Good Girl Deserves Fun* (Clutch/Walkerspace), *Othello: Divinity of Hell* (Theatre for the New City), *Foreign Bodies* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Up to Home*, *Rumplestiltskin*, and numerous others with Florida Studio Theatre and the award-winning WRITE A PLAY Program. Christianne is a founding member of Clutch and serves as the Producing Artistic Director. She holds a BA in Performance from Truman State University. Proud member of Actors’ Equity. christiannegreiert.com

CLARE LATHAM* (Elle Masters) recently appeared onstage in her New York theatre debut understudying the Off-Broadway transfer of 2019 Pulitzer Prize-winning *Fairview* at Theatre for a New Audience. Select London and International theatre include: Off West End Award-nominated performances in *Danny and The Deep Blue Sea* and *Doubt, A Parable* (both Southwark Playhouse); *My Name Is Rachel Corrie* (Lebanon Premiere); UK Premieres of *Blue Surge*, *Don’t Smoke in Bed* (Finborough Theatre); and Tennessee Williams’ *Green Eyes* (Hotel Plays). TV: “Mr Robot,” “Suspicion.” Core Ensemble member of UK theatre company The Faction. Training: NYU-Tisch (BFA), Drama Centre London (MA).

MORGAN SULLIVAN (Nix, they/them/their) is a New York City-based Actor & Director. After pursuing a career as a Shakespearian Actor, Morgan fell deeply in love with all things activism. Their work primarily focuses on feminism, mental health, and creating space for the Trans community. Recently, Morgan developed and directed *The Sisters* with SoHo Shakes at Teatro Latea, and appeared in *Aunt Jack* as Andy at Theater for the New City.

MIRANDA NOELLE WILSON* is a New York City-based actor, singer, dancer, and puppeteer appearing both onstage and onscreen, in addition to being one of the founding members of Clutch Productions. Miranda is a frequent collaborator with Ryan Raftery on his critically-acclaimed celebrity biopic musicals performing at Joe’s Pub in NYC as well as venues all across the country. Other recent credits: *Devices of Torture* (Fringe 2018); *Hysterical!* (Fringe 2016); *Jass* (New Harmony Project); *Every Good Girl Deserves Fun* (World Premiere – Clutch Productions); *Dracula* (Three Day Hangover). The short film, in which she stars, has been winning awards in multiple film festivals across the country (www.howyouaretome.com). She is also a proud member of the Treehouse Shakers, a dance-theater company that creates original works for young audiences (www.treehouseshakers.com). Miranda is a BFA graduate of The University of Evansville.

TIRA PALMQUIST (Playwright) is known for plays that merge the personal, the political, and the poetic. Her most produced play, *Two Degrees*, premiered at the Denver Center, and was subsequently produced by Tesseract Theater in St. Louis and Prime Productions at the Guthrie (among others). Her newest play *The Way North* was a Finalist for the O'Neill and an Honorable Mention for the 2019 Kilroys List. While working on *The Worth of Water* for Clutch Productions, Tira was also working on a commission for Lower Depth Theater Ensemble in Los Angeles. *Safe Harbor*, a play about sex trafficking, which will premiere in November in LA. Tira has also been commissioned to write new work for the UCI graduate acting students. Her play *Hold Steady* was workshopped at UCI in January 2019, and she is currently working on *All We Ever Wanted Was Everything*, to be workshopped in January 2020. Her other plays include *Ten Mile Lake* (Serenbe Playhouse), *Age of Bees* (NYU Stella Adler Studio, MadLab Theater, Tesseract), *And Then They Fell* (MadLab, Brimmer Street, New York Film Academy), and *This Floating World*.

MÊLISA ANNIS (Director and Dramaturg) As a director and dramaturg, Mêlisa has had the pleasure of working with and at Primary Stages, The Ambassadors Theatre Group (London), The Arcola Theater (London), Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Shadowland Stages, Tangent Theater, Queens College, Rebellious Subjects, The Playground Experiment, New York University, and Theater Masters FL. As a writer, Mêlisa's plays have been developed at and with Parity Productions, The Lark, Dorset Theater Festival at the Theresa Rebeck Writers Colony, The New School, Primary Stages, ESPA*Drills (2014), The National Arts Club NYC, The Playground Experiment, and RAL. She also had the joy of writing an episode for Amazon Studio's upcoming series for children (to be announced soon). Mêlisa is currently working on a new musical with Grammy Award Nominee Jamie Floyd (details to be announced soon). Personal essays have been published in several major publications, and she is a frequent contributor to the BBC. Mêlisa also teaches at the NYU Tisch Dramatic Writing program in NYC. She is a fluent Welsh speaker, and a total TV addict. Diolch!

JESSIE BONAVENTURE (Scenic Designer) is a New York-based scenic designer. Recent work includes: assistant on *Hadestown* (Kerr Theater) which won the 2019 Tony for Scenic Design and Best Musical; assistant on *What the Constitution Means to Me* (Helen Hayes Theater); associate on *#Dateme* (Westside Theatre); design of *FMK* (New Ohio Theatre); *Inside Danny's Box* (The Cell) nominated for best design; *The Collector* (59E59.) Aspires to be a mermaid when she grows up.

JOHANNA PAN (Costume Designer) Recent credits include *The Round Table* (Faultline Theatre/59E59); *Enlightenment of Percival Von Schmootz* (Adirondack Theatre Festival); *The Good Person of Szechwan* (Atlantic); *Between the Threads* (Jewish Women's Project); *The Seagull* and *The Sign in Sydney Brustein's Window* (Tisch Grad Acting); *Consonance, Palais Garnier, Fragments, Intimacy. Discourses.* (Tisch Dance); *James and the Giant Peach* and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Barrington Stage); *Urinetown* (LNT); *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *Delta in the Sky* (Shetler); *The Sea Concerto* (Flux/A.R.T. Gural); *Salomé: Woman of Valor* with Frank London, *Ajax in Iraq*, and *Woyzeck* (Strasberg); *Beauty Freak* and *Four Sisters* (WWTNS?); *Boom* (Stonewater Productions); *Am I? Am I? Am I?* by Ming Peiffer (Flea). www.johannapan.com, IG: @jpandesign

KELLEY SHIH (Lighting Designer) is a lighting designer for theatre, live events, and music. Recent work includes: The Internet's Hive Mind World Tour (including Sydney Opera House, Brixton O2 Academy performances), *KYLE* at Madison Sq. Garden, Syd's Always Never Home Tour, *Chinese Opera and a Modern Drama* (Columbia University), *Fast Forward to Silence* (ISSUE Project Room), *Bullet Catchers* (Clutch Productions and Josiah Grimm), *The Blast* (AmandaPlusJames), *Capriccio* (Apotheosis Opera). NYU Alum. kelleysih.com

BRIAN HEVERON-SMITH (Sound Designer) is a music director, composer, sound designer, and comedian based in Brooklyn. He has toured internationally and all over the US with comedian Chris Fleming, Second City Theater, Baby Wants Candy, Story Pirates, and with his own musical comedy shows. His soundtrack music and songs are the score to the hit web series *Gayle*, and his theme songs are featured on podcasts such as the *Thrilling Adventure Hour* and *Literati*.

LISA R. STAFFORD* (Production Stage Manager) moved to NYC in 2016 after teaching high school theatre in North Carolina. Since moving to NYC, she has been the production stage manager for *The Chekhov Dreams* (Theatre Row), *Maverick* (Connelly Theater), *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike* (Gretna Theatre), as well as shows at the WorkShop Theater and UP Theater Company. She also works as a production assistant for the Broadway Stage Management Symposium. She is a founding member of the North Carolina Theatre Arts Educators. In NC, Lisa also worked as the Managing Director/Production Stage Manager/Costume Designer for the Union County Performance Ensemble for 13 years, working on shows such as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, and *Ragtime*. Lisa received her BA in Theatre from Catawba College and her M.Ed from UNC-Greensboro. Proud member of Actors' Equity.

TYLER McCOMBE (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Stage Manager, Actor, and Singer here in New York City. He recently stage managed No Hope's production of *Once Begun* in the 2019 Fresh Fruit Festival. He has previously worked with Penny Bergman, Gretchen Cryer, and Donald Louftus. Tyler received his B.A. in Theater Performance/ Minor in Music from Western Connecticut State University. Follow Tyler on his journey in NYC @tylermccombe or www.tylermccombe.com.

JOSIAH GRIMM (Assistant Director and Associate Producer) is a New York-based theater producer, artist, and administrator. Over the last few years, he has worked on staff at Manhattan Theatre Club, The Public Theater, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. His producing credits include Jeremy Kamp's *Gutting* (National Black Theatre in Harlem), Women in Combat Theatre Project's *Bullet Catchers* (Judson Memorial Church), and */VANITAS/* (Dixon Place).

SARAH MATTEUCCI (Production Manager and Associate Producer) is an NYC-based producer, actor, educator, and vocal coach. Director of the Einhorn School of Performing Arts (ESPA) at Off-Broadway's Primary Stages, which provides community and training in playwriting, directing, and acting to emerging and established artists. Founding Member of Red Caravan, which combines theater and hands-on, community-based advocacy. Associate Producer with Caps Lock Theatre. She has performed and coached in NY and regionally, and can be heard on many cast recordings.

DAN DEMELLO (Publicist) has coordinated press campaigns across the United States and internationally – in Canada, Mexico City, Dublin, London, Berlin, and Paris. Current clients include Timothy Haskell's *I Can't See*, The Theater Center on 50th & Broadway, *The Office! A Musical Parody*, *Love Actually! The Musical Parody*, *The Cooping Theory 1969*, and NYC's longest-running play *Perfect Crime*. He began his career in 1998 at ABC News in Providence, RI and then ABC News / Good Morning America in New York City while serving as an apprentice to legendary Press Agents Max Eisen and Shirley Herz.

ACTOR'S EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsunion.org

CLUTCH PRODUCTIONS is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to creating opportunities for emerging female artists in theatre and film. By commissioning and producing original works, Clutch provides vital creative space for female writers, directors, actors, and designers to collaborate.

In 12-month cycles, Clutch fosters new, full-length plays from blank page to their world premiere on a New York stage. The commissioned play must feature a narrative driven from a woman's point of view and at least 50% of the roles in each play must be for actors identifying as women. The inaugural new play commission was the world premiere of *Every Good Girl Deserves Fun* by Heidi Armbruster (*Dairyland, Mrs. Christie*). It had a successful three-week run in December 2015 at Walkerspace. *The Worth of Water* commission began in May 2018.

Additional productions include *Bullet Catchers* by the Women in Combat Theatre Project at Judson Memorial Church, and the annual *empowHER Reading Series* that features original one-act plays and short screenplays by emerging female writers. www.clutchproductions.org

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SPECIAL THANKS

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Contributions to support our artistic mission are 100% tax deductible.

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