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FEB 23-MAR 1, 2020



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**CANNABIS!
A THEATRICAL CONCERT**

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A MEAL



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FEB 23 + 24

THE STORY BOX

A two part multi-genre storytelling event

Written and Performed by **Suzi Takahashi**
Developed with and Directed by **Kristin Marting**

Composed by **Michaela Gomez**
Set and Costume Design by **Jian Jung**
Sound Design by **Drew Weinstein**
Lighting Design by **Andrew Trent**
Production Stage Manager **Elizabeth Sophia Strauss**

Rehearsal Assistants **Rebecca Chan** and **Madeline Whitesell**

Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew is also on our creative team but will join us for later iterations of the project.

SPECIAL THANKS

Laurie Birrittella, Karin Bowersock, Rebecca & Zack Hamm, Kim Ima, David Lyons, Robert Lyons, David Shane



Approximate Running Time: 90 minutes

The Story Box has been developed with support from Alfred University, Bethany Arts Community, Bristol Valley Theatre and National Park of Women's Rights

COMPANY BIOS

SUZI TAKAHASHI (Co-Creator/Performer) is an actor, director, and theatre maker. As an actor, she's worked with directors like Richard Foreman, Richard Schechner, Tom Oppenheim, Kristin Marting, and Phil Soltanoff. Recently, she was a part of Taylor Mac's *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music* at St. Ann's Warehouse in New York City. As a director, Suzi won the 2009 Innovative Theatre Award for Best Director. She has been a Directing Fellow at New York Theatre Workshop, and a HARP Artist-in-Residence at HERE. As a theatre maker she has collaboratively created 15 original works. From 2002-10 she was the co-Artistic Director of Ex.Pgirl, an intercultural women's theatre troupe. Most recently, her collaboration *Change(e)* was presented by Boom Arts in Portland, Oregon. Suzi teaches movement and devising at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in NYC. Suzi trained with the SITl. She holds an MA in Performance Studies from NYU, and an MFA in Directing from Southampton Arts.

KRISTIN MARTING (Co-Creator/Director) is a director of hybrid work based in New York City. Over the last 25 years, she has constructed 30 stage works, including 9 original hybrid works, 7 opera-theatre and music-theatre works, 9 re-imaginings of novels, and 5 classic plays. Marting has directed 20 works at HERE and also premiered works at BAM (Opera House), 3LD, Ohio Theatre, and Soho Rep. Her work has toured to 7 Stages, Berkshire Festival, Brown, MCA, New World, Painted Bride, Perishable, UMass, Moscow Art Theatre, London, and Oslo. She has directed readings and workshops for Clubbed Thumb, EST, New Georges, Playwrights Horizons, Public Theatre, Target Margin, and others. Selected residencies include CalArts, LMCC, Mabou Mines, MASS MOCA, NACL, Orchard Project, Playwrights Center, Smack Mellon, Voice & Vision, and Williams. Marting was recently named a nytheatre.com Person of the Decade for outstanding contribution, a Woman to Watch by ArtTable, and honored with a BAX10 Award. She is Founding Artistic Director of HERE and Co-Founding Director of PROTOTYPE, the annual opera-music-theatre festival.

MICHAELA GOMEZ (Composer) is a trans, New York City-based musician who has toured extensively with the band Hazmat Modine. She has been featured on the albums *Leave Your Sleep* (Natalie Merchant), *American Music for Gypsy Souls* (Bill Barrett), and *Bahamut* (Hazmat Modine), as well as on the soundtrack for the Academy Award nominated documentary *Pina*. Michaela is a graduate of The School of The Art Institute of Chicago and The New York Studio School where she studied visual art. Michaela was a student of music with Michael Longo.

JIAN JUNG (Set and Costume Designer) is a New York-based designer. Her theatre work has been in numerous NYC theatres including Classic Stage Company, The Kitchen, The Bushwick Starr, The Flea, Abrons Arts Center, Theater Row, and Soho Rep; as well as outside of NYC in Venezuela, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Korea, and Los Angeles. Her opera work has been in Long Beach Opera (CA), Lincoln Center Juilliard School, Huntington Theatre (Boston), among many venues. Jung received an Edith Lutyens & Norman Bel Geddes Design Enhancement Award, and was nominated for 2019 Henry Hewes Design Award.

Her design was exhibited in Prague Quadrennial, the world's largest scenography exhibition. She designed sets for two upcoming productions opening in March 2020; *The Fre* by Taylor Mac at The Flea Theater and *Suicide Forest* by Haruna Lee at A.R.T./NY Theatre. Jung received an MFA in Theatre Design from NYU and an MFA in Environmental Design from Ewha Women's University in Korea. jianjung.com

DREW WEINSTEIN (Sound Designer) is a New York based theatre and sound artist. He has created original works which have been presented at venues including HERE, JACK, The Brick, The Hive, Jersey City Theatre Center, and LEIMAY's SOAK. Drew has also directed works at The New Ohio Theatre, The Wild Project, Vital Joint, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and Dixon Place, among others. As a designer, Drew's work has recently been heard around NYC and the east coast at venues including Under the Radar at the Public Theatre, Abrons Arts Center, HERE, Signature Theatre Center, BRIC, the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Corkscrew Theatre Festival, Triskelion Arts, Long Island University, Anacostia Arts Center (DC), Plays and Players (Philadelphia), and the Performing Garage.

ELIZABETH SOPHIA STRAUSS (Production Stage Manager) is best known for her work in stage & production management, show calling, tech and writing working on several Broadway & Off-Broadway productions. She is also a published essayist. elizabethsophiastrauss.com

FEB 25

MO:NIŃ

Written and Composed by **Gelsey Bell**

Costume Design by **Walter Dundervill**

Lighting Design by **Andrew Trent**

Sound Design by **Matthew Sullivan**

Production Assistant **Marianna Elizabeth Hoitt-Lange**

Costume Assistant **William McBridein**

Performed by **Gelsey Bell** (voice, daxophone),
Brian McCorkle (voice, synthesizer), **Odeya Nini** (voice, percussion),
and **Paul Pinto** (voice, metallophone)

mo:niŃ contains a mix of structured improvisation and fully scored music. The improvised sections were devised in rehearsal with the performers, who are all incredible composers in their own right. This work-in-progress showing explores the first 200 years after humans are gone. The full opera will travel (roughly) 7.6 billion years into the future.

SPECIAL THANKS

Joe White, Sarah McMillan, Daniel Fishkin, Kryssy Wright



Approximate Running Time: 30 minutes

COMPANY BIOS

GELSEY BELL (Writer, Composer, Performer) is a singer, songwriter, and scholar. She has released multiple recordings, is a current HARP Artist at HERE, and received a Foundation for Contemporary Arts award for music/sound. She is a core member of thingNY, Varispeed, and the Chutneys. Her works include *Bathroom Songs*, *Scaling*, *Our Defensive Measurements*, *shuffleyamamba* (with Yasuko Yokoshi), *Prisoner's Song* (with Erik Ruin), *This Takes Place Close By* (with thingNY), and the acclaimed adaptation of Robert Ashley's *Perfect Lives* (with Varispeed). Performance highlights also include Dave Malloy's *Natasha, Pierre, & the Great Comet of 1812* (Broadway) and *Ghost Quartet*, Robert Ashley's *Improvement and Crash*, Matthew Barney and Jonathan Bepler's *River of Fundament*, Kate Soper's *Here Be Sirens*, and Gregory Whitehead's *On the Shore Dimly Seen*. She has a PhD in Performance Studies from NYU, is the Critical Acts Co-editor for *TDR/The Drama Review*, and an Associate Editor for *The Journal of Interdisciplinary Voice Studies*. gelseybell.com

WALTER DUNDERVILL (Costume Designer) is a New York City based dance artist. He creates performance environments fusing choreography, costume, visual art, and sound design. His work has been presented at Dance Theater Workshop, New York Live Arts, MoMA PS1, The New Museum, Danspace Project, Participant Inc., Pioneer Works, and JACK. Dundervill has received Bessie Awards as a performer and designer and is a recipient of the Foundation for the Contemporary Arts Grants to Artists award. He has been an artist in residence at Movement Research, the New Museum, and New York Live Arts. Dundervill has taught as an adjunct professor at New York University and the Pratt Institute and has conducted workshops at Rhode Island School of Design. He is currently developing two collaborative projects that will premiere in 2020, with choreographer Phillip Adams in Melbourne, Australia and with artist Iki Nakagawa in NYC.

BRIAN MCCORKLE (Performer) is a composer, performer, and digital artist. He is also co-Director of the Panoply Performance Laboratory (PPL) and a founding member of Varispeed Collective. About McCorkle's music the Village Voice says "my melting ears are still recovering" and his collaborations with Varispeed have been praised by the New York Times for their ability "to unleash latent potential" and were called "impressive" - Posture Magazine calls his voice "chillingly resonant." He performs regularly as a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist, flouting genre while drawing from decades of experience as a professional musician in a wide array of contexts while also making electronic instruments combined with sculpture. McCorkle's work with PPL has been described by the Guardian as "working to distill a bevy of sophisticated ideas into word and action."

ODEYA NINI (Performer) is a Los Angeles based experimental vocalist and contemporary composer. At the locus of her interests are textural harmony, gesture, tonal animation, and the illumination of minute sounds, in works spanning chamber music to vocal pieces and collages of musique concrète. Her solo vocal work extends the dimension and expression of the voice and body,

creating a sonic and physical panorama of silence to noise and tenderness to grandeur. Odeya's work has been presented at venues and festivals across the US and internationally, such as Resonant Bodies Festival, Banff Centre, The Broad Museum, Merkin concert Hall, The LA Phil, MONA and Art Basel Miami, from Los Angeles to Tel Aviv, Australia, Mongolia, Madagascar and Vietnam. She also leads Voice Baths, seminars, workshops and retreats exploring the transformative and healing qualities of embodying the voice. odeyanini.com

PAUL PINTO (Performer) is a composer, writer and performer. He makes noises sometimes. Sometimes with thingNY and Varispeed. Other times just in his living room. Often, he writes them on paper and makes other people make the noises for him. Lately, *Patriots* with Jeffrey Young, his opera *Thomas Paine in Violence*, and the dance-theatre *15 Photos*. This year: commissions for Iktus, Baryshnikov Arts, HERE, Colgate University, Quince, Kathleen Supove, The Rhythm Method, and Shepherdess, guest artistic curator for MATA, and directing thingNY's remount of the opera *ADDDDDDDDD*. pfpinto.com

FEB 25 + 26

MARIE IT'S TIME

Written and Directed by **Julia Jarcho**

Co-Directed by **Ásta Bennie Hostetter**

Co-Composed and Musical Direction **Jeff Aaron Bryant**

Stage Manager **Michelle Lane**

Performed by **Julia Jarcho, Jennifer Seastone, and Kedian Keohan**

Creative Producer **Ann Marie Dorr**

Minor Theater is **Ásta Bennie Hostetter, Julia Jarcho, Jennifer Seastone, and Ben Williams**

Approximate Running Time:
30 minutes



COMPANY BIOS

MINOR THEATER makes plays in a minor key. With dark humor and goofball precision, we lure you into the tunnels where we feed off pop culture's sticky undergut. Our plays are written and directed by Julia Jarcho in collaboration with award-winning theater artists Ásta Bennie Hostetter, Jennifer Seastone, and Ben Williams. Shows include *Grimly Handsome* (2013 OBIE, Best New American Play), *The Terrifying* (Abrons 2017); *Nomads* (dir. by Alice Reagan, Incubator 2014); *Dreamless Land* (New York City Players/ Abrons, 2011); and *American Treasure* (13P, 2009). We tell the stories that don't fit into the stories. We are champions of weird desire.

JULIA JARCHO (Writer/Director/Co-Composer/Performer) is a playwright and director from New York City with the company Minor Theater. Her plays include *Grimly Handsome* (Incubator 2013/Royal Court Theatre 2017), *The Terrifying* (Abrons Arts Center 2017), *Every Angel is Brutal* (Clubbed Thumb 2016), *Nomads* (Incubator 2014), *Dreamless Land* (New York City Players/Abrons 2011), and *American Treasure* (13P 2009). She has won an OBIE for Best New American Play (*Grimly Handsome*), a Doris Duke Impact Award, and a Mark O'Donnell Award. She is an LCT New Writer in Residence at Lincoln Center. Her book *Minor Theater: Three Plays* is available from 53rd State Press and her writing about literature, theatre, and critical theory has appeared in *Critical Inquiry*, *Modern Drama*, *Textual Practice* (forthcoming), and in her book *Writing and the Modern Stage: Theater Beyond Drama* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). She is the Head of Playwriting at Brown University.

JENNIFER SEASTONE (Performer) works as a visual artist and actor. Along with many plays by Julia Jarcho/Minor Theater, she has performed for The Wooster Group, Daniel Fish, Lucy Thurber, Alec Duffy, Knud Adams, Clubbed Thumb, and many others. She recently made the video design for Minor Theater's *Pathetic* at Abrons Arts. She has shown her visual work in New York at The Invisible Dog's Glass House, Uncanny Valley, Dixon Place, in various group shows around town; and internationally at New Zealand's Performance Arcade. jenniferseastone.com

KEDIAN KEOHAN is [@justkedian](https://www.instagram.com/justkedian)

ÁSTA BENNIE HOSTETTER (Co-Director) is a designer. With Minor Theater: *The Terrifying* (Abrons Arts Center), *Grimly Handsome* (Incubator). Recent costume design includes *Usual Girls* (Roundabout Underground), *Dance Nation* (Playwrights Horizons), *Bobbie Clearly* (Roundabout Underground), *The Lucky Ones* (Ars Nova), *Miles for Mary* (Playwrights Horizons), *Porto* (WP Theater), *The Wolves* (Lincoln Center), *Men on Boats* (Playwrights Horizons), *10 out of 12*, *Generations* (Soho Rep). MFA Theater Design at CalArts. 2016 Obie Award for Design Collaboration for *John*. Member of Minor Theater, Target Margin Theater, The Mad Ones.

JEFF AARON BRYANT (Co-Composer/Musical Director) is a composer and sound designer living in New York. Recent theater work includes: Ann Marie Dorr and Paul Ketchum's *Good and Noble Beings* (NACL, Soho Rep Lab), Erin Markey's *Singlet* (Bushwick Starr), *Skin of Our Teeth* (Bard College), Erin Markey's *Boner Killer* (Joe's Pub). Jeff also designs for permanent installations and plays in the band Pollens.

MICHELLE LANE (Stage Manager) current: Video Department Head for *Jersey Boys* Off-Broadway. Previous credits include: *Marie It's Time* and *Pathetic* (Production Manager) with Minor Theater; *Simple Math* as part of the NYC Fringe Festival (Light Designer); Producers Club Festival 2017 & 2020 (PM) at New Ohio Theater; American AF Festival (Assistant Stage Manager); Skyline Theater's *My Fair Lady* (LD); Indiana Repertory Theater's *Christmas Carol* (ALD); *Tammy Faye and Dancing At Lughnasa* (Master Electrician) with Tantrum Theater; *Milkwhite* by Toni Kochensparger (Director); and *Big F***ing Giant* (LD) at Ohio University. Graduate of Honors Tutorial College at Ohio University.

FEB 26

THE MCCARTHY ERA

Written, Directed, and Choreographed by **Raja Feather Kelly**

Projection Design by **David Bengali**

Scenic Design by **You-Shin Chen**

Sound and Costume Design by **Raja Feather Kelly**

Performed by **Amy Gernux, Alexandria Giroux, Sara Gurevich, Amy Hoàng, Collin Kelly, Christofer Medina, AJ Tasley Parr, and Nikkie Samreth**



Approximate Running Time: 35 Minutes

The McCarthy Era is made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

COMPANY BIOS

RAJA FEATHER KELLY (Writer/Director/Choreographer) is a choreographer, director, and the artistic director of the feath3r theory and New Brooklyn Theatre. A three-time winner of the Princess Grace Award, Raja is the 2019–2020 Randjelovic/Stryker Resident Commissioned Artist at New York Live Arts, an inaugural Jerome Hill Artist Fellow, and a 2019 Creative Capital awardee. He is a current resident artist at HERE, the Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU, and a Creative Associate at The Juilliard School. Over the past decade, Kelly has created fifteen evening-length premieres with his company the feath3r theory as well as choreographing extensively for Off-Broadway theatre in New York City. In 2019 he was nominated for the 2019 Lucille Lortel Award and the Chita Rivera Award for Outstanding Choreography. His choreography has garnered a 2018 Breakout Award from the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF) and he is a 2019 SDCF Joe A. Callaway Award finalist for outstanding choreography (*A Strange Loop*, *Fairview*), *Dance Magazine's* inaugural Harkness Promise Award (2018), and the Solange MacArthur Award for New Choreography (2016). He was born in Fort Hood, Texas and holds a B.A. in Dance and English from Connecticut College.

DAVID BENGALI (Projection Designer) is a projection designer based in New York. Recent designs include: *Looking At You* (HERE / Opera On Tap); *Assembled Identity* (HERE); *Girls* (Yale Rep); *We Live In Cairo* (A.R.T.); *Einstein's Dreams* (Prospect/59E59); *The Great Leap* (Atlantic Theater Co.); *Frankenstein* (Dallas Theater Center); *Van Gogh's Ear* (Ensemble for the Romantic Century - Drama Desk Nomination); *The Temple Bombing* (Alliance Theatre); *Uncommon Sense* (Tectonic Theater Project); *Anna Akhmatova, Jules Verne From The Earth To The Moon* (BAM / ERC); *Rockin' Road To Dublin* (National Tour); *Two Point Oh* (59E59); *The Sensational Josephine Baker* (EAT); *Conference of the Birds* (Anikaya Dance / Boston Center for the Arts); MFA: NYU.

YOU-SHIN CHEN (Scenic Designer) is a New York based scenic designer for performing arts from Taiwan. As a theater practitioner, she is committed to diversity and humanity. Recent theater credits include: *UGLY* (the feath3r theory & Bushwick Starr); *Mrs. Murray's Menagerie* (Ars Nova); *Monsoon Season* (AFO Theatre); *The Night Alive* (Inis Nua Theatre Company); *We Were Everywhere* (Lewis Center for the Arts); *Messiah* (LaMama, Stonewall 50); *Rock-A-Bye* (BalletX); *Memory Retrograde* (Harunalee x Ars Nova Maker's lab, UTR incoming!); *The Hollower* (New Light Theater Project). Associate scenic designer for *Moby Dick* (A.R.T., Des. Mimi Lien.) You-Shin's scenic design for *Eclipsed* (Berlind Theater) is part of USA exhibition at 2019 Prague Quadrennial. She is the recipient of the 2019 Daryl Roth Creative Spirit Award at The Lilly Awards. youshinchen.com

AMY GERNUX (Performer) comes from Western MA; lives, performs, learns, works, thrifts, makes soap and the occasional garment in Brooklyn, NY; is very psyched to have worked with Jim Findlay, David Dorfman, Bebe Miller, and Third Rail Projects; finds great joy in costume/makeup design, dried flowers, and wool; has been a member of the feath3r theory since 2013.

ALEXANDRIA GIROUX (Performer) attended New School for the Arts and Academics. She has danced with Ashleigh Leite, Michou Szabo, and apprenticed for Stephen Petronio. She has been with the feath3r theory for a year and a half.

SARA GUREVICH (Performer) is a New York City native residing in Newburgh, NY. She began performing with Raja Feather Kelly's the feath3r theory in 2015. Gurevich holds a BFA with honors from the Ailey School/Fordham University, and an MSW from NYU's Silver School of Social Work.

AMY HOÀNG (Performer) is a dance artist originally from Amarillo, TX. She is going on 10 years of dancing since first being introduced to the art form in high school. Amy graduated from the University of North Texas with a BFA in Dance Performance and Education. In July of 2019, she relocated to Brooklyn, NY to pursue dance professionally. Her current curiosity lies in modern, breaking, and house movements and how they come together.

COLLIN KELLY (Performer) is a 6th generation Montanan, Brooklyn-based solo performance artist and dancer, 500 hour registered yoga teacher, Pilates instructor and home-cook. At 13 he dropped out of middle school to become a ballerina, later going on to study at The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. After obtaining a BFA from The University of Montana in 2012 he relocated to NYC. Shortly after, he began collaborating with Raja Feather Kelly's company the feath3r theory (current performer). Collin has shown his solo work at New York Live Arts, Triskelion Arts, Eden's Expressway, Movement Research at Judson Church, Dixon Place, Waxworks, and Latea Theater at the Clemente. In 2018, Collin earned a 2019 Fresh Tracks Artist slot at New York Live Arts. He was also a 2017 Brooklyn Arts Exchange Upstart artist. In his other life Collin works as a Sales Development Associate for Justworks.

CHRISTOFER MEDINA (Performer) is a Queer LatinX performer of Panamanian descent born and raised in Miami, FL. Medina attended New World School of the Arts where they graduated with a BFA in Dance Performance/Production. While attending NWSA, they worked with Sean Curran, Robert Battle, Rosie Herrera, and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa. Medina has performed in Berlin, DE with Luke Murphy and Company Christoph Winkler. Medina attended Springboard Danse Montreal 2019 where they worked with Parts and Labour Danse and Sasha Waltz and Guests. Medina also works with Mark Dendy and is currently based in NYC.

AJ TASLEY PARR (Performer) is a freelance dancer living in New York City. She is a San Francisco Bay Area native, and was raised in her mother's dance studio, Roco Dance. AJ is a graduate of The Boston Conservatory where she received her BFA in dance performance. Since moving to New York she has been honored to do projects with David Dorfman, Larry Keigwin, Raja Feather Kelly, Emily Schoen and Baye & Asa. She has been featured in the music videos of Jukebox the Ghost and Darius Christian, and performed with pop-artists Kimbra and MIKA. She has also performed in the works of Ohad Naharin, Kate Weare, and Peter Chu. AJ has been selected to participate in Springboard Danse Montreal in 2016 and 2017. While at Springboard, she met Montreal based company, LA TRESSE collective, and later returned to perform with the company. Recently she has been dancing with Schoen Movement Company and the feath3r theory.

NIKKIE SAMRETH (Performer) is a first generation Cambodian-American originally from Dallas, TX. Nikkie started dancing at 15 years old at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. At Booker T. Washington HSPVA, Nikkie also studied classical cello and performed works by Rennie Harris, Aszure Barton, Brittany Engel-Adams, and others. In 2016, Nikkie was named a National Young Arts merit winner in Modern Dance. After graduating with dance honors at Booker T. Washington HSPVA (class of 2016), Nikkie was accepted into the BFA dance program at New York University Tisch School of the Arts (class of 2019). Including various student works at NYU, Nikkie also had the opportunity to perform works by Merce Cunningham, Christina Robson, Anton Lachky, and Lorraine Jamieson from the Scottish Ballet Youth Exchange. In addition to training at NYU, Nikkie also studied at the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance and GALLIM.

FEB 28

CANNABIS! A THEATRICAL CONCERT

Created, Written, and Performed by **Baba Israel**
Composed and Performed by **Grace Galu**
Directed by **Talvin Wilks**
Associate Directed by **Nic Benacerraf**

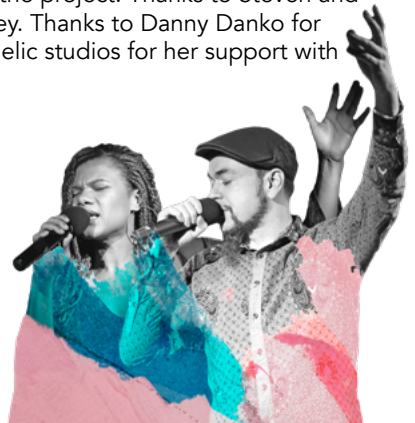
Choreography by **Camille A. Brown** and **Dance Ensemble**
Dance Captain **Chanon Judson**
Scenic Design by **Nic Benacerraf**
Lighting Design by **Andrew Trent**
Sound Design by **Asa Wember**
Production Stage Manager **Alex West**

Saxophone and Flute Performed and Arranged by **Sean Nowell**
Music Direction and Drums Performed by **Doron Lev**
Keys Performed by **Robert Knowles**
Backup Vocals Performed by **Jonathan "Duv" Zaragoza**
Dancers **Chanon Judson, Samantha Speis, Tatiana Barber, Courtney Cook,**
and **Rocka Jamez**

SPECIAL THANKS

to the team at HERE for being in the trenches and always present. Thanks to Martin Lee, author of Smoke Signals for his support, collaboration, and belief in the project and to his desire to see his words and research inspire our performance. Thanks to Paul McIsaac and Yako 440 for their support in launching the project. Thanks to Ryan, Susan, Ben and everyone at NYC Norml for the support of our activist efforts. Thanks to Brad Burgess for his support and for securing a contribution from Matt Clermont which directly invested in this workshop. Thanks to Vivian Mcpeak and the team at Seattle Hempfest. Thanks to Emerald Pharms for their support of the project. Thanks to Steven and Come Back Daily for their support of our journey. Thanks to Danny Danko for his encouragement. Thanks to Dawn at Funkadelic studios for her support with space to grow the music.

Approximate Running Time:
45 minutes



COMPANY BIOS

BABA ISRAEL (Creator/Writer/Performer) is an artist, producer, educator, and consultant raised in New York by parents who were core members of the Living Theatre. He was Artistic Director of Contact Theatre in Manchester where he developed several festivals and productions. He was a resident artist at BRIC creating his latest multimedia performance *The Spinning Wheel* in collaboration with London-based company Unfinished Business. He is a core member of Hip Hop/Soul project Soul Inscribed, which recently completed the American Music Abroad program. He holds an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College and is the Co-Artistic Director of the Performance Project based at the University Settlement. He is a proud member of HERE's HARP program and is developing his current production, *Cannabis! A Theatrical Concert*.

GRACE GALU (Composer/Performer) is a vocalist-guitarist and composer who combines the sounds of her Irish and Congolese heritage with a soulful and gritty twist. Her mixed background, combined with her New York City upbringing helped to forge her wide range of musical ability. She grew up singing musical theatre from a young age, mimicking the voices of Julie Andrews, Audra McDonald, and the operatic Kathleen Battle. She was simultaneously enveloped in the sounds of jazz, soul, and traditional African music, with influences ranging from Esther Phillips to Senegalese Ismael Lo. She works with Trusty Sidekick Theater devising new works for young audiences. She is a core member of Hip Hop fusion group Soul Inscribed.

TALVIN WILKS (Director) is a playwright, director, and dramaturg. His plays include *Tod, the boy, Tod*, *The Trial of Uncle S&M*, *Jimmy and Lorraine: A Musing*, and *As I Remember It* with Carmen de Lavallade. Major directorial projects include *UDU* by Sekou Sundiata, *The Love Space Demands* by Ntozake Shange, *The Shanteequa Chronicles* by Stephanie Berry, *This Bitter Earth* by Harrison David Rivers, *The Peculiar Patriot* by Liza Jessie Peterson, and *The Ballad of Emmett Till* and *Benevolence* by Ifa Bayeza. He is a co-writer/co-director/dramaturg for Ping Chong's ongoing series of Undesirable Elements and Collidescope: Adventures in Pre- and Post-Racial America. Dance Dramaturgical collaborations include six works with the Bebe Miller Company including *Landing/Place* for which he received a 2006 Bessie Award, Camille A. Brown and Dancers (*Mr. TOL E. RANcE*, *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play*, and *ink*), and Urban Bush Women (*Hep Hep Sweet Sweet*, *Walking with 'Trane*, and *SCAT!*).

SEAN NOWELL (Saxophone/Flute/Arrangements) Originally from Alabama, Sean received a BA in Composition from Berklee College of Music in Jazz Composition and a MA from Manhattan School of Music in Performance. He has composed and improvised film scores, music for ballet and theatre, 20th century classical music, big band, and small jazz ensembles and has pushed the timbral boundaries of the saxophone by integrating electronic effects pedals. He has traveled and collaborated with dancers, actors, painters, stilt walkers, and acrobats on multiple international tours as Musical Director for Bond Street Theatre and has represented The Akbank Istanbul Jazz Festival as their Jazz on

Campus Ambassador with the mission: convince college kids jazz is awesome. He also recorded with Stanley Clarke and George Duke for the movie *Soul Men*, co-wrote/improvised the score for the Nick Nolte movie *Off the Black* and has released the albums *Firewerks*, *The Seeker*, *Stockholm Swingin'* and *The Kung-Fu Masters* for Posi-Tone Records.

DORON LEV (Musical Director/Drums) Raised in Miami, FL on sunshine and good times, this Brooklyn-based musician does two things well: drumming and getting live on the mic. Not to mention, he does 'em both at the same time. Catch his band Uglybraine to get the full effect. With NYC jazz elites filling in seats for this band on any given night, you never know who you might see. Pristine lyrics over deft beats.

ROBERT KNOWLES (Keys) is a multi-instrumentalist, improvisational musician ranging from piano, trumpet, and cello to beatboxing and electronic music production. He has worked on award-winning films and traveled the world with different musical acts including: GZA and members of The Wu-tang Clan, Soul Incribed, Uglybraine, and his own project R0b0tr0n. The Staten Island native has built a career in the New York music community and is currently preparing a fusion project for 2020 with Jerome Jordan, Doron Lev, Sean Nowell, and Djibril Toure.

JONATHAN "DUV" ZARAGOZA (Vocals) is a soulful vocal artist from The Bronx, known for his range in sound, his capacity to harmoniously collaborate with a variety of artists and genres of music, and his human beatboxing skills. You can find him regularly gracing stages in the NYC music scene at The Nuyorican, Arlene's Grocery, and The Bowery Poetry Club. Duv is continuing his seven-year long participation in the monthly performance series Symphonics Live as a headlining act. Duv has been a featured artist on world class stages such as Joe's Pub, BAM, The Brooklyn Museum, The Blue Note, The Apollo Theater, and Highline Ballroom. Duv leads workshops in vocal technique, use of modern music technology for the voice, songwriting, performance and beatboxing, always promoting creative thinking and leadership. He currently works with educational organizations Art Works, The Door, Urban Art Beat, Arts Horizons, and others in schools and hospitals in the New York area.

NIC BENACERRAF (Scenic Designer, Associate Director) is a scenographer, director, and scholar, who uses theater to deconstruct the techniques of advertising and its seductions. He has developed 11 plays as founding co-artistic director of The Assembly, including *HOME/SICK* and *SEAGULLMACHINE*. He is grateful to have worked with Trusty Sidekick (*Up & Away*), Waterwell (*GOODBAR*), The Living Theatre (*Here We Are*), Goat in the Road (*New Orleans*), and at spaces including Lincoln Center, BAM, HERE, La MaMa, FringeArts, The Arden, The New Ohio, and The Public. As a generative artist, Nic builds systems and environments for genuine human encounters. For over a decade he has developed original techniques to create design in collaboration with performers and authors in the rehearsal environment. He is a grad of Wesleyan, CalArts (MFA), and is working towards a PhD in Theatre & Performance at the CUNY Graduate Center, where he is a PublicsLab Fellow. nicbenacerraf.com

ASA WEMBER (Sound Designer) is sound designer for The Assembly and Wolf359. Recent work includes *Selkie with Dutch Kills*, *The Russian and the Jew* with Anna&Kitty, *SEAGULLMACHINE* with The Assembly, *Temping* with Wolf359, *Am I Dead* with Flux Theatre Ensemble, and *Holidays/In* with Coyote Company. Upcoming: *The Block Association Project* with Wolf359.

CHANON JUDSON (Dancer) was part of APAP Leadership Fellow Cohort II and Director's Lab Fellow 2018. Chanon joined the critically acclaimed Urban Bush Women in 2001. She now serves alongside Samantha Speis as Associate Artistic Director and Coordinator of UBW's facilitation network BOLD – Builders Organizes and Leaders through Dance. Chanon was a member of *Taylor Mac's 24 Hour Spectacular*, *Cotton Club Parade*, and the Tony Award winning musical *Fela!* Additional credits include *Victoria Secrets Live*, *L'Oreal Live*, *Apple Watch*, and the Michael Jackson 30th Anniversary Concert.

SAMANTHA SPEIS (Dancer)

TATIANA BARBER (Dancer) is from Los Angeles, California. She began her dance training at Kashmir Blake's studio in Inglewood, California and later continued her training at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy. While attending college at the Alonzo King Lines Ballet BFA program, she was awarded the Dizzy Feet Foundation Scholarship for two consecutive years. Shortly after graduating, Tatiana moved to New York to pursue new dreams. Since being in New York she has worked with various artists. In May 2019, Tatiana became a recipient of Dance Magazine's Video of the Month for her performance in Peggy Sue's *Blues*, choreographed by Tislar Bouie. Most recently, Tatiana performed in *Porgy & Bess* at the Met Opera, choreographed by Camille A. Brown. "No one can hold you back, but yourself!"

COURTNEY COOK (Dancer)

ROCKA JAMEZ (Dancer) was born and raised in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, and is a professional dancer who specializes in a free form of creative movement with the studies of KRUMP & Contemporary. He is also a designer in the fields of Urban Fashion and NYFW. Rocka is the CEO and Founder of FireCry Designs & New Dance Event that unites all Dance Cultures, called "Roundz Of Flame." He has participated in multiple NYFW events which lead to sponsorship by Puma and Jahnkoy; magazine features in VOGUE; and the honor to perform a piece for Rihanna at The New School Awards (2017) | Parsons School Of Design with his brothers "The NUU Knynez." His dance teachings branched to the youth of Bali, Sweden, and Germany. He has worked in corporate opportunities like "Step Up 3D," The Adidas Team, and DAPLINE, while also writing screenplays and directing dance video projects of his own.

FEB 29 + MAR 1

PRIESTESS OF TWERK

Created by **Nia Ostrow Witherspoon**
Co-Directed by **Miranda Haymon**

Composition and Sound Design by **Wazi Maret**
Scenic and Lighting Design by **Tuçe Yasak** and **Roya Abab**
Costume Design by **Rashidah Amatullah Nelson**
Choreography by **Shernita Anderson**

Production Stage Manager **Lydia Faith**
Assistant Lighting Designer **Shana Crawford**

Featuring **Ana María Agüero Jahannes**, **Danielle Criss**, **Linda LaBeija***,
Ziiomi Law, **Synead Nichols**, and **Tieisha Thomas**

Tarot Reading by **Ayanna Maia** and **Desiree Mwalimu-Banks**
Custom Cocktails by **Christine Mahoney Brooks** (Obeah Womn Botanicals)
Altar Goddess **Alexis Leslie**

Isis (Queen of Upper World) **Nia Ostrow Witherspoon**
Isis Priestess **Synead Nichols** and **Tieisha Thomas**
Nephthys (Queen of Underworld) **Linda LaBeija***
Nephthys Priestess **Ana María Agüero Jahannes**, **Danielle Criss**,
and **Ziiomi Law**

Voice from the Underworld **Troy Anthony**

*co-wrote Underworld songs

[CLICK FOR SOUND CLOUD](#)

Approximate Running Time:
45 minutes



COMPANY BIOS

NIA OSTROW WITHERSPOON (Creator/Writer/Isis) is a black queer theatre maker, vocalist and composer, and cultural worker investigating the metaphysics of black liberation, desire, and diaspora. Witherspoon is the Multimedia Writer-in-Residence at Fordham University, a Creative Capital Awardee, a Jerome New Artist Fellow, an artist in residence at HERE, BAX/Brooklyn Arts Exchange, and was a 2017-18 2050 Playwriting/Directing Fellow at New York Theatre Workshop. Her work has been or will be featured by The Shed, JACK, La Mama ETC, Playwright's Realm, BRIC, HERE, National Black Theatre, BAAD, Movement Research, BAX, Dixon Place, Painted Bride, 651 Arts, and elsewhere. As a performer, Witherspoon appeared in Sharon Bridgforth's *River See*, and in Cherrie Moraga's *La Semilla Caminante/The Traveling Seed*. She holds a BA from Smith College and a PhD from Stanford University in Theatre and Performance Studies, and her writing is published in the *Journal of Popular Culture*; *Imagined Theatres*; *Women, Collective Creation, and Devised Performance*; and *IMANIMAN: Poets Writing in the Anzalduan Borderlands*. Witherspoon has held tenure-track professorships at Florida State University and Arizona State University, and, in addition to *Priestess of Twerk*, is currently at work on *CHRONICLE X: WINDOWS*, which will premiere in May 2020 at The Shed, and a book project, entitled *NATION IN THE DARK: A black femme spell for justice*. niawitherspoon.com

MIRANDA HAYMON (Co-Director) is a Brooklyn based director, writer and producer. Recent credits include *Really Really Gorgeous* (The Tank), *Everybody* (Sarah Lawrence College), *In the Penal Colony* (Next Door @ NYTW), *Mondo Tragic* (National Black Theater). Miranda is an Associate Artist at Roundabout Theatre Company, a Resident Director at The Tank, a New Georges Affiliate Artist and 2019 Audrey Resident, a Space on Ryder Farm 2019 Creative Resident, member of the Lincoln Center Theatre Directors Lab, the Wingspace Mentorship Program, a 2019/20 NYTW 2050 Directing Fellow, a Manhattan Theatre Club Directing Fellow, and a former Allen Lee Hughes Directing Fellow at Arena Stage. BA Wesleyan University. Upcoming: *Exception to the Rule* (Roundabout Underground). mirandahaymon.com

WAZI MARET (Composer and Sound Designer) is an independent multi-media artist based in Brooklyn, NY with a focus in music/sound design, visual arts, and storytelling. Through his work, Wazi explores rituals of healing through music and he encourages the reconnection of mind + body through creative expression. Wazi began singing as a young person in his family church and when he moved to California in 2013, he prioritized growing his skills in song-writing, performance, and production. In 2014, he co-founded an all Black, all queer and trans punk band named AFROFONIX and in 2018, Wazi co-founded Tender Bois Club just before relocating to Brooklyn, NY. Tender Bois Club (TBC) is a trans-owned music and creative production house that designs streetwear and curates original music and audio productions. Through their creative services and branding, Tender Bois Club does everything with a deep commitment to making the world safer by teaching themselves and other men/masculine people how to

practice love, healing and self-expression. Today, Wazi spends his time working on his creative business and building relationships with the vibrant community of artists and Black folks in Brooklyn. wazimaret.com

TUÇE YASAK (Scenic and Lighting Designer) has been following light in NYC since 2008, creating over 100 site-specific light installations for performance in the US and abroad. Yasak received the 2018 and 2019 BESSIE award for Outstanding Visual Design for her designs and has ongoing collaborations with Raja Feather Kelly / the Feath3r Theory, Contra Tiempo, Miguel Guitierrez, Ayesha Jordan & Charlotte Brathwaite, Daria Fain, Ni'Ja Whitson and Nia Witherspoon, among many others. Light, movement and architecture intertwine in her work to support space-making and story-telling.

RASHIDAH AMATULLAH NELSON (Costume Designer) is super excited to be partnering with Nia Witherspoon for a second time. Credits include *Messiah Complex* (La Mama), *The Clark Doll* (Make/Shift), *What Does Free Mean?* (Nora's Playhouse), and *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf* (Rooted Theater, 5 Towns College). She is currently pursuing her BFA in Theater Production at Montclair State University.

SHERNITA ANDERSON (Choreographer) This Brooklyn born multi-hyphenate captivates audiences with her infectious demeanor and mesmerizing aura, Shernita Anderson is a choreographer, host and actress. With 20+ years of performance experience, Anderson has worked with Beyoncé, Kanye West, Janet Jackson, Alicia Keys, Janelle Monae and Bill T. Jones just to name a few. With various guest appearances on Glee, Black Girls Rock, SNL, Happyish, Annie, The Get Down & Odd Mom Out, Teaching both nationally & internationally at various studios including Dance Academy Prague, Street Dance Academy of Slovakia, Broadway Dance Center and Peridance NYC and Hosting various events such as Arthur Ashe Kids Day, The Bessies, and Summerstage. For everything Shernita, follow her on IG @ShernitaSoFly shernitaanderson.com #shernitabe

LYDIA FAITH (Production Stage Manager) is a comprehensive theatre artist, currently working in Stage and Company Management with the hopes of helping creating impactful, thought-provoking theatre.

SHANA CRAWFORD (Assistant Lighting Designer) entangles herself with light and movement in/outside of NYC. She has collaborated in light with Audre Wirtanen, Laurel Atwell, Stephanie Acosta, and Yanan Yu, among others. She assists New York based lighting designers Tuçe Yasak and Madeline Best. She is a technician at the Chocolate Factory Theater, and works around the city at dance and performance venues.

ANA MARÍA AGÜERO JAHANNES (Nephthys Priestess/Circus) is a shapeshifting creative. She is curious, experimental and resourceful, and her works blur the line between craft, fine arts, performance, bodywork, design, and technology. She was a founding member of Body Waves, an Oakland based queer, Black acrobatic dance group. In 2019, she co-conceptualized and produced the Festival of Infinite Imagination, an incubator and multidisciplinary

merrymaking that asked queer and trans Black artists to create new genre-blending work in response to the guiding question: What does your radical and expansive imagination have to offer the Black past, present, and/or future? She designs vibrant spaces for people, places, and brands as an interior and experiential designer at her creative agency Vibe Is Bright.

DANIELLE CRISS (Nephtys Priestess/Twerk), affectionately known as Dani Criss, The Artist, is a multidisciplinary artist, cultural arts educator, and community organizer hailing from Durham, North Carolina, now based in Brooklyn, NY. With a passionate perspective driven by her roots and studies of the African Diaspora, all of her work is filled with an educational, energetic, and liberating experience for all. Dani uses movement and knowledge as the source to obtain liberation while discovering ancestral connections within their liberative practices. She trained and performed with numerous artists, companies, and festivals; her choreography and direction have been shared in various ensembles, theaters, schools, and festivals around the country. danicriss.com

LINDA LABELIJA (Nephtys) is a multidisciplinary artist, teacher and curator from the Boogie Down Bronx of New York. Through workshop facilitation and communal performances, her work explores the complexities of living as a transgender woman of color in today's America. Born out of the Iconic House of LaBeija in the underground New York City Vogue Ballroom scene, Linda's work has been articulated in both AFROPUNK and *The Fader*. She has been featured in *The New Yorker*, *Timeout New York* and *W Magazine*. She has curated performances through The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, La Mama Experimental Theater, New York Live Arts and VICE. She can also be seen in the feature film *Pariah* directed by Dee Rees and in the FX series *Pose* produced by Ryan Murphy. Currently, her work can be found archived at the Brooklyn Museum in the "Nobody Promised You Tomorrow: Art 50 Years After Stonewall" Exhibit.

ZIOMI LAW (Nephtys Priestess/Dance) is a B.A.M.F. They give big GLIT energy beyond your imagination and limitations. They're an ever evolving Blackity Black and very queer creative + movement artist who sweats glitter and smells like sweet coco mango shea butta. She stans for Black womyn. She joins this playfully erotic and expressive conjuring with her ATL lineage of TwerkStars and pole athletes leading the way. She luxuriates in the opportunity to do so as freely as she desires. Ziiomi is grateful to be able to continue collaborating, expanding, exploring, and sharing within their community.

SYNEAD NICHOLS (Isis Priestess) is a Brooklyn-born, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School Graduate, Singer/songwriter, actress, and activist who recently co-organized the Million March in New York City. Synead attended University at Marymount Manhattan and received training from Harlem School of the Arts, Alvin Ailey, William Esper Acting Studio, and The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London.

TIEISHA THOMAS (Isis Priestess) is a New York City native hailing from Queens. She discovered her love of music at a young age through the influences of her vibrant Caribbean culture. Tieisha attended Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of

the Arts for Voice and soon after received her Bachelor's Degree in Theater from SUNY Buffalo State. She was most recently seen Off-Broadway in Public Theater & Disney Theatricals' Musical Adaptation of Disney's *Hercules* as Melepomene, one of the beloved Greek chorus muses, and in Off-Broadway shows such as *Lost in the Disco* and *Midnight Mugshot*. If she is not on stage she can be seen in NYC public schools as a teaching artist and currently offers one-on-one classes for artists looking to further their discovery of themselves through theatre. @officialtieishathomas

AYANNA MAIA (Tarot Reader) is a life-stylist who specializes in self care. SelfCare Works began as a central network for the services Ayanna Maia has provided clients and organizations for over fifteen years. Originally designing and facilitating workshops, she offered interpersonal development, creative arts instruction, and community health initiatives. From music and visual art production to breastfeeding counseling and self-image workshops, self care has always been the first priority for the communities she serves. selfcareworks.com

DESIREE MWALIMU-BANKS (Tarot Reader) is a mother, artist, educator, curator, tantric practitioner and diviner whose work explores the collapse between the boundaries of art and life. She weaves together her passion for narratives of women in the African Diaspora with contemporary visual art and global anthologies of the Sacred Feminine. Through education, research, and exhibition, Desiree investigates Afro-Futurist thought, eroticism, and the politics of performance as points of inquiry into the complex identities of women of African descent. She lives with her husband and sons and works across several boroughs in New York City. themuseandtheloom.weebly.com/about.html

CHRISTINE MAHONEY BROOKS (Custom Cocktails) is a Brooklyn based Ethnobotanist, CLC, and Culinary Nutritionist studying Ayurvedic Medicine under Dr. Naina Marballi. Her work centers on exploration and reverence of the food, culture and medicine ways throughout the Afro-diaspora and Indigenous communities. Christine produces Obeah Womn Botanicals, a botanical pop-up bar featuring handcrafted herbal elixirs and small plates. @ObeahWomn obeahwomnbotanicals.nyc

ALEXIS LESLIE (Altar Goddess) is currently a student at Fordham University. She is an English Major with a minor in creative writing.

FEB 29 + MAR 1



Concept, Direction, and Design by **Ximena Garnica** and **Shige Moriya**

Choreography by **Ximena Garnica** and **Shige Moriya** with the **LEIMAY Ensemble**

Composition and Sound Design by **Thea Little**, **Jeremy D. Slater**, and **Drew Weinstein**

Costume Design by **Ximena Garnica** and **Irena Romendik**

Aquaponic System Building and Design by **Stephen Crawford**

Hydroponic System Support by **Hector Porras**

LEIMAY Ensemble **Masanori Asahara**, **Krystal Copper**, **Derek DiMartini**,
Mario Galeano, and **Andrea Jones**

Guest Performers **Fidel Brito**, **Brandon Perdomo**, **Hector Porras**, **Polina Porras**,
and **Irena Romendik**

Co-Produced by **LEIMAY Foundation**

Associate Costume and Scenic Design by **Krystal Copper** and **Mario Galeano**

Associate Lighting Design by **John Cottle**

Additional Costume and Scenic Support by **Masanori Asahara**, **Andrea Jones**,
and **Hector Porras**

SPECIAL THANKS

Shige and Ximena would like to thank HERE, their staff and board for all the support they have given us throughout the years. Thanks to all our collaborators for their continued curiosity, passion and actions. Also to their families and dear ones and our families for supporting us all in this journey of playing, questioning and transforming.

Approximate Running Time:
40 minutes



COMPANY BIOS

XIMENA GARNICA AND SHIGE MORIYA (Directors/Choreographers/Designers) are a Colombian and Japanese multidisciplinary artist duo. Their collaborative works manifest as live installations, performances, and sculptures that are presented in theatres, museums, galleries, and public spaces. Alongside their performative work, Ximena and Shige also invest their energy in critical research, printed and digital publications, and community projects. Shige and Ximena are the co-founders and artistic directors of LEIMAY and the LEIMAY Ensemble. The word LEIMAY is a Japanese term symbolizing the changing moment between darkness and the light of dawn, or the transition from one era to the other. Ximena and Shige work out of their home studio CAVE, which is located in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Their work has been presented at a number of art spaces including: BAM, The New Museum, The Brooklyn Museum, The Watermill Center, HERE, Japan Society, and The Asian Museum of San Francisco. In 2018, they were nominated for the USA Artists Fellowship and the Herb Alpert Award. They have been part of the Bessie Schonberg Individual Choreographers Residency at the Yard, the Watermill Center Residency Program, and the HERE Artist Residency Program. Ximena was a recipient of the Van Lier Fellowship for extraordinary stage directors, and she was recently a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of California Riverside. Her article 'LEIMAY, CAVE, and the New York Butoh Festival' was recently published in *The Routledge Companion to Butoh Performance*. Their work is rooted in questions of being, perception, interdependency, and coexistence. They look to expose the multiplicity of spatial and temporal intervals that exist within the body, between materials and environments. They are curious about what emerges when the stability of habits, affirmation of binaries, social norm expectations, and the crystallization of identity dissolve and expose the potentialities of being.

LEIMAY ENSEMBLE is a group of five international dancers and performers who create body-centered works around the principle of LUDUS, a practice that explores methods to physically condition the body of the performers and develop a sensitivity to the "in-between space." Ensemble members are selected through a workshop audition process. Current Ensemble members include Masanori Asahara, Krystal Copper, Derek DiMartini, Mario Galeano, and Andrea Jones. Founded in 2012 by Ximena Garnica and Shige Moriya, the group took form through the creation of the *Becoming Series* pentalogy, of which three parts have been created: *Becoming Corpus*, *borders*, and *Frantic Beauty* (Brooklyn Academy of Music, 2013-2017). The group holds a regular practice at their studio in Brooklyn where they engage in the creation of new work in addition to teaching, training, research, and distillation of years of direct transmission of embodied knowledge by Japanese Butoh pioneers, Noguchi Taiso practitioners, and Experimental Theater innovators. leimay.org

MASANORI ASAHARA (Ensemble) is a Japanese born dancer, choreographer, and improvisation artist based in Brooklyn. His choreography has been shown at Dixon place, SOAK and the undergroundzero Festival. He has worked for choreographers Kota Yamazaki, Isabel Gotzkowsky, and Nathan Trice, and has collaborated with visual artists, installation artists, musicians, filmmakers, and multimedia artists in a variety of projects. He has performed at BAM Fisher, Brooklyn Museum, Judson Church, Watermill Center, Jacob's Pillow, Teatro Jorge Eliecer Gaitan (Bogotá, Colombia), Mesa Art Center (Arizona), and Tulsa Performing Arts Center William Theater (Oklahoma). He has been a core member of the LEIMAY Ensemble since 2010.

KRYSTEL COPPER (Ensemble) joined LEIMAY as a member of the performance and research ensemble in 2016 for the premiere of *Frantic Beauty* at BAM. She is a second-generation immigrant artist born to parents from Argentina and Portugal. Krystel holds a BA in Dance from the University of Maryland. She has performed with Amanda+James, Gesel Mason Performance Projects, B3W, Anahata Dance, CircuitDebris, Caenis at Pace, Estado Flotante, and Not for ReTALE, as well as presented her own work at DNA (2012), and ECHT Vision (2019) in collaboration with Ron Copper. Krystel has been contributing to the development of LEIMAY LUDUS and is currently training to be a LUDUS teaching artist.

DEREK DIMARTINI (Ensemble)

MARIO GALEANO (Ensemble) is a visual and performance artist from Paraguay. They performed in LEIMAY's *Frantic Beauty* at BAM in 2016, and are currently dancing and training as an Ensemble Member at LEIMAY. Mario braids elements of photography, drag, theater, and dance to create visual koans. They've had the honor to work with the Eileen Fisher Leadership Institute, a program for young adults leading towards self-empowerment and activism. Art is Mario's vessel to explore the human condition, to be present, to give unconditionally, and to enjoy life.

ANDREA JONES (Ensemble) joined LEIMAY as a member of the performance and research ensemble in 2012. Since becoming part of the LEIMAY team, she has had the opportunity to study with world-renowned butoh masters and dancers such as Ko Murobushi, Moeno Wakamatsu, Sherwood Chen, Tadashi Endo, Kota Yamazaki, Yuko Kaseki, and Su-en. She is also an active contributor to the development of the LEIMAY LUDUS. Andrea is a graduate of George Mason University, where she double majored in dance and comparative literature with a focus in Asian literature. In 2016-17, she lived in Japan studying Noguchi Taiso in Osaka, Tokyo, and Aomori with teacher Mari Osanai. She is a certified yoga instructor and death doula, and is currently pursuing a Masters of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary within the field of Buddhism and Interreligious Engagement.

FIDEL BRITO (Guest Performer) is an Ixil and Achi Maya artist, from Naab'a' (Nebaj), El Quiché (Tu Tx'ich), Iximulew (Guatemala), currently living on Cahuilla, Tongva, Luiseño, and Serrano land (California). He studied archaeology at the University of San Carlos, in Guatemala, and visual art in Guatemala, México, and Cuba. Tohil considers his transdisciplinary practice – which includes painting, printmaking, sculpture, epigraphy, performance, and gardening – an obstinate insistence on existence despite centuries of ongoing colonialism, war, and genocide. tohilfidelbrito.wordpress.com

BRANDON PERDOMO (Guest Performer) is the Studio Coordinator for CAVE and an Office Assistant to LEIMAY. He is an interdisciplinary artist based in New York. Fascinated with self-reflection and alterity, the engines of his performances and images, he is also interested in contemporary politics and minorities. He also researches the intricate ways in which the body is perceived in the public sphere and has the ambition to tackle serious philosophical questions about human existence. He channels his aspirations towards social activism, as behind his impressively coherent and visually stunning work lies a healthy dose of thought and research. Perdomo also serves as the Director of Exhibitions at the Anne Frank Center For Mutual Respect and is a Representative to the United Nations for the May Peace Prevail On Earth International campaign.

HECTOR PORRAS (Guest Performer) is an agricultural engineer and water specialist by trade. Hector is performing for the first time in his life. He grew up in a small village in northern Mexico by his late teens. He had managed to travel to far places, like the Soviet Union where he met his wife and they started a life together. Hector is an innate storyteller and public speaker, lately having a strong presence in the political scene as a defender of water rights in Mexico. Hector has three daughters and two grandchildren who live around the world, so he enjoys traveling to distant places to visit them.

POLINA PORRAS (Guest Performer) has been LEIMAY's Financial Associate and Bookkeeper since 2016. She is an artist of Mexican and Russian descent who works simultaneously as a visual and performing artist. Her artwork spans multiple disciplines, including: drawing, artist books, video, photography, and performance. Polina graduated with a business management degree from The University of Texas at El Paso (1999). She has also worked as an Administrative Assistant for the Woodward Gallery in New York City (2000–2002), and as an organizer of summer art residencies in México. She received an Entrepreneurial Certification from the Queens Economic Development Corporation in 2017. She has been working as a promoter, fundraiser, and public relations official for her personal artwork and projects since 2008.

IRENA ROMENDIK (Guest Performer) arrived from Ukraine two decades ago and currently resides in Brooklyn. She holds degrees from Shevchenko Art School in Kiev, Pratt Institute, and NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Irena participated in multiple shows, made costumes for dancers, and performed herself, but that has not been the focus of her artistic career. Irena values the process of artistic creation over production. Her multidimensional interests have produced projects that cross disciplines, and sometimes are difficult to categorize. aquarelle.us

STEPHEN CRAWFORD (Aquaponic System Builder and Designer) is a dancer/visual artist. He was teaching contact improvisation in many countries for many years. For over 20 years he was building art chairs designed by theater director Robert Wilson for museum and gallery exhibitions, and is presently the personal art restorer for Robert Wilson's ancient art collection. He has built art designs for international dance artists Kenneth King, Julyen Hamilton, Kota Yamazaki, Mina Nishimura, Alessandra Palma for performances in The Netherlands, England, Belgium, and in New York at BAM, Japan Society, Judson Church, and Alvin Ailey Theater. He has exhibited work at the Williamsburg Art and Historical Center, and The Watermill Center. Stephen likes creating installations allowing simple materials to express themselves with clarity and dignity and imagination. He is currently creating a series of simple 'Temple Home' art structures that reflect the spaciousness and luminosity of calmly abiding where you are.

THEA LITTLE (Composition and Sound Design)

JEREMY D. SLATER (Composition and Sound Design) is an intermedia artist working in the areas of sound, video, computer art, performance, installation, and words. Born in Reading, England and a graduate of both SUNY College at Buffalo and School of Visual Arts with an MFA in Computer Art. Performances include sound and live performed video that is ambient and sometimes interactive/reactive. Video work includes single and multiple channel videos for screening and installations with sound and ephemeral sculpture. He was one of the 1999 recipients of the Computer Art Fellowship from New York Foundation of the Arts (NYFA) and has attended the Experimental Television Residency, and was artist in residence at Seoul Art Space_Geumcheon in Seoul, South Korea. He has exhibited and performed in the United States, Canada, England, Germany, France, Italy, South Korea, and Japan. Jeremy has collaborated with LEIMAY for over a decade creating original soundscapes for their performances and installation works. jeremyslater.net

DREW WEINSTEIN (Composition and Sound Design) is a New York based theatre and sound artist. He has created original works which have been presented at venues including HERE, JACK, The Brick, The Hive, Jersey City Theatre Center, and LEIMAY's SOAK. Drew has also directed works at The New Ohio Theatre, The Wild Project, Vital Joint, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and Dixon Place, among others. As a designer, Drew's work has recently been heard around NYC and the east coast at venues including Under the Radar at the Public Theatre, Abrons Arts Center, HERE, Signature Theatre Center, BRIC, the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Corkscrew Theatre Festival, Triskelion Arts, Long Island University, Anacostia Arts Center (DC), Plays and Players (Philadelphia), and the Performing Garage.

COMING SOON

HERE's Dream Music Puppetry Program presents

ANYWHERE

THÉÂTRE DE L'ENTROUVERT



MARCH 11-15
FIVE SHOWS ONLY!

Freely inspired by the novel *Oedipus on the Road* by Henry Bauchau, *Anywhere* evokes the long wandering of Oedipus accompanied by his daughter Antigone. The fallen Oedipus appears in the form of an ice puppet that gradually turns into water then into mist and disappears in the Erynian Forest, the place of clairvoyance.

COMING SOON

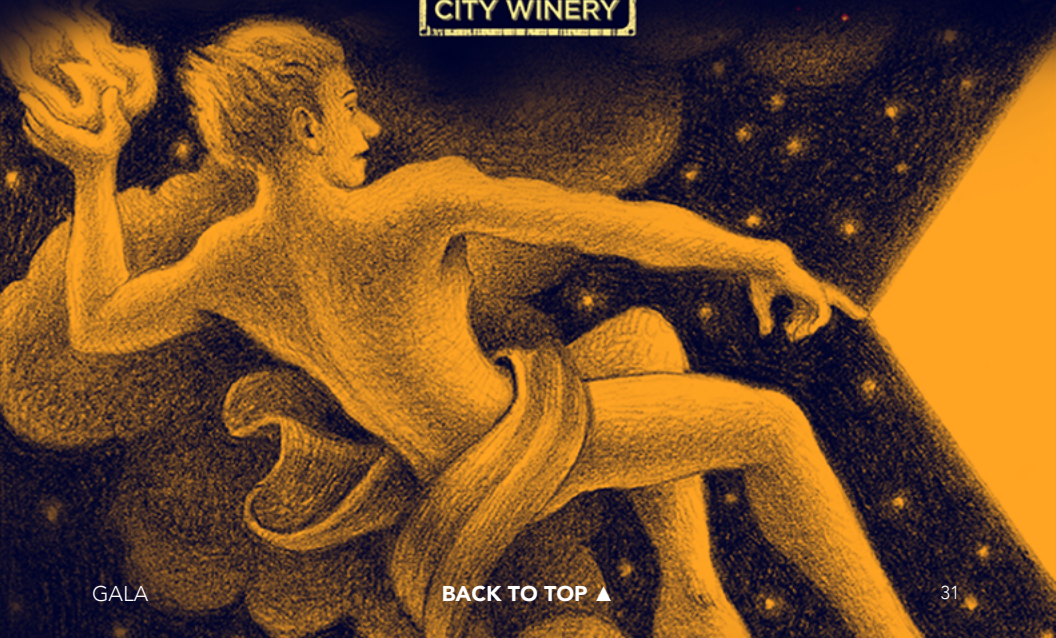
SPARK GALA

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 1

Honoring **BRIAN SELZNICK**
and **CHERYL HENSON**

in celebration of **HERE's** Dream Music Puppetry Program

HERE is where ideas are fostered from early flares to passionately-realized productions, igniting artists and audiences alike. We provide the foundation, the connections, and the resources for creative processes to **SPARK**. On June 1, we'll gather around the heat of collaboration and the power of live performance. Join us for some kickin' fare, a fiery auction, and a fiercely jubilant bash!





HERE ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Through the HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), HERE commissions and develops new hybrid works over a 2-to-3 year period. As part of the HERE community of artists and audiences, our resident artists show works-in-progress, develop workshop productions, and mount full-scale productions. Through our residency programs, HERE seeks to not only grow innovative artistic work, but also give artists the awareness and skills—in areas such as audience relations, budgeting, grantwriting, and touring—they need to continue to grow their careers. For 2019–20, HERE supports the following artists and projects:

Gelsey Bell*m:n:nj***Gisela Cardenas | InTandem Lab***The Carmen Variations***Ximena Garnica & Shige Moriya | LEIMAY***A Meal***Baba Israel & Grace Galu | Soul Inscribed***Cannabis! A Theatrical Concert***Raja Feather Kelly | the feath3r theory***The McCarthy Era***Maiko Kikuchi & Spencer Townley-Lott***9000 Paper Balloons***Minor Theater***Marie It's Time***Nia Ostrow Witherspoon***Priestess of Twerk*

HERE & BACK

HERE & Back encompasses projects produced by HERE and helmed by established artists with deep connections to HERE. For audiences, HERE & Back provides the chance to experience daring performances by high-profile multidisciplinary artists in our intimate spaces; for the artists, HERE remains a special home for their work and a space open to risk-taking. For 2019–20, the following artists are developing HERE & Back projects:

Taylor Mac, Resident Playwright*The Hang***Kristin Marting & Suzi Takahashi***The Story Box*

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Infinite Hotel (Paula Lobo)

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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.

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