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USE #TheReception

# HERE

HERE presents

# THE RECEPTION

Created by **Sean Donovan** and  
**Sebastián Calderón Bentin**,  
in collaboration with the company

Co-Directed by **Sebastián Calderón Bentin** and **Sean Donovan**

Performed by **Jane Comfort**, **Leslie Cuyjet**, **Sean Donovan**,  
**Hannah Heller**, **Ishmael Houston-Jones**

Set Design by **Neal Wilkinson**

Costume Design by **Felix Ciprián**

Lighting Design by **Amanda K. Ringger**

Sound Design by **Brandon Wolcott** and **Tyler Kieffer**

Stage Managed by **Randi Rivera**

Assistant Stage Managed by **Caroline D'Angelo**

Technical Direction by **Carl Whipple**

**A HERE Resident Artist Production**

Approximate Running Time: 60 minutes

*The Reception* is commissioned, developed, and produced through the  
HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP). Additional support provided  
by Art Matters Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Bushwick  
Starr, and the Tisch School of the Arts/NYU.



"I came to explore the wreck.  
The words are purposes.  
The words are maps.  
I came to see the damage that was done  
and the treasures that prevail.  
I stroke the beam of my lamp  
slowly along the flank  
of something more permanent  
than fish or weed  
the thing I came for:  
the wreck and not the story of the wreck  
the thing itself and not the myth  
the drowned face always staring  
toward the sun  
the evidence of damage  
worn by salt and sway into this threadbare beauty  
the ribs of the disaster  
curving their assertion  
among the tentative haunters."

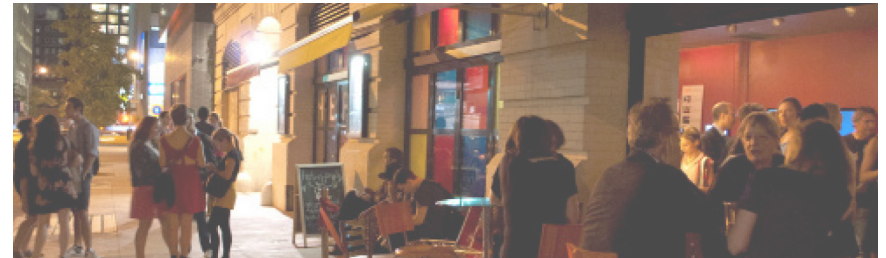
– Adrienne Rich, *Diving into the Wreck*

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## ABOUT THE CREATORS

DONOVAN & CALDERÓN have been in collaboration since 2003. Previous works include *Not Unclear* at New York University (2003); *Sublimate* at the Galapagos Art Space (2006); their improvisational film *Copy/Edit* (2007), *Se Vende* at the FAE Festival in Panama (2008); *the climate chronicles* at Incubator Arts Project; *18 ½ Minutes* at JACK (2013). They have been Resident Artists at HERE since 2014.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

**Sebastián Calderón Bentin** (Creator, Director) is a New York-based scholar and performance-maker. He has been in collaboration with Sean Donovan for the past 13 years. Their work has been presented at JACK, Incubator Arts Project, FAE Festival in Panama, Stanford University, and New York University. Sebastián has performed with the International Contemporary Ensemble, Anna Deavere Smith, John Jesurun, Witness Relocation, Ann Carlson, Faye Driscoll, Gisela Cardenas, and the Institute of Failure led by Tim Etchells and Matthew Goulsh. As part of PERFORMA 07, he appeared in Allan Kaprow's *18 Happenings in 6 Parts (Re-doing)* directed by André Lepecki at Deitch Studios which won Best Performance by the International Association of Art Critics/USA. He performs regularly with the Chicago-based theater company Every House Has a Door including most recently *The Three Matadors* (2017), *9 Beginnings: Chicago* (2014), and *9 Beginnings: Bristol* (2014, 2012). Sebastián received a BFA in Theater and an MA in Performance Studies from the Tisch School of the Arts/NYU. He holds a PhD from the Department of Theater and Performance Studies at Stanford University and currently teaches in the Department of Drama at New York University.

**Sean Donovan** (Creator, Director, Performer) is a New York-based actor, dancer, writer, and director. He has been in collaboration with Sebastián Calderón Bentin for the past 13 years. Their work has been presented at JACK, Incubator Arts Project, FAE Festival in Panama, Stanford University, and New York University. Sean was nominated for a 2014 "Bessie" Award for Outstanding Performer for his work with several artists over the past decade. He's worked with Faye Driscoll, Miguel Gutierrez, Jane Comfort, The Builders Association, Witness Relocation, Jennie Marytai Liu, and others. In New York, he has performed at such places as BAM, The Kitchen, Danspace Project, PS122, HERE, The Joyce Theater, The Duke, The Baryshnikov Arts Center, Incubator Arts Project, NYLA, La MaMa E.T.C., The Chocolate Factory, and others. Recent credits include *Thank You for Coming: PLAY* at BAM Fisher, *Thank You For Coming: Attendance* at Danspace Project, and an international tour, *Age & Beauty Part 2* at NYLA, and *House/Divided* at BAM (NY) along with a national tour. He received his BFA in Theatre from New York University's Experimental Theatre Wing. He has trained and performed internationally in France, Holland, Romania, Poland, Russia, Panama, Argentina, Croatia, Canada, Thailand, and Japan working with the highly acclaimed Ildi! Eldi of France, and Sankai Juku Butoh company of Japan. He has also performed at theaters and universities throughout the U.S.

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Visit [here.org/support/support-here](http://here.org/support/support-here) to learn more, or contact HERE Development Director Brenna Thomas at 212-647-0202 ext. 326 or email [brenna@here.org](mailto:brenna@here.org). Checks can be made payable to "HERE" and mailed to: **HERE- 145 Sixth Avenue NY, NY 10013**

**Neal Wilkinson** (Set Design) Recent set design credits include *Mata Hari* by Paul Peers and Matt Marks (PROTOTYPE Festival), The Builders Association's *Elements of Oz* (3LD), Kaija Saariaho's *Emilie* (Finnish National Opera), Ryan Elisabeth Reid's *Henri* (Smith Center Las Vegas), and Jack Hitt's *Making Up The Truth* (Spoleto Festival). Neal is also the founder of Corps Liminis, a production management and design firm working in the theater and art communities. Recent credits for Corps Liminis include Target Margin's *Mourning Becomes Electra* (Abrons), Broadway Asia's *China Goes Pop* (Chinese Tour), Tony Oursler's *Imponderable* (MoMA), Lisa Dwan's *Beckett Trilogy* (US Tour), Anri Sala's *Ravel Ravel* (The New Museum), Sankai Juku's *Umusuna* (US Tour), Live Ideas Festival curated by Laurie Anderson (New York Live Arts), Michel Gondry's *Hyperballad Wall* (part of the Björk retrospective at MoMA), Bryce Dessner's *Black Mountain Songs* (Barbican), Robert Wilson's *Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter* (Montclair Peak Performances), and Karen O's *Stop The Virgens* (Sydney Opera House).

**Felix Ciprián** (Costume Design) holds a BFA in Theater from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. He is an interdisciplinary visual artist deeply interested in history and racial identity. He aims to face the absurd political realities of the United States, his home, head-on and unbowed. Having recently returned to New York from Mass MoCA where he was an Artist in Residence, he is thrilled to be collaborating with such talented artists to create *The Reception*. His work has been exhibited at Chashama Art Space, Art Gotham, Real Art Ways, as well as the Angel Orensanz Foundation, and was twice selected to participate in the Dietch Art Parade. His theatre design and art performances have appeared on the stages of Brooklyn Arts Exchange, HERE, Ontological-Hysteric Theater, Flamboyan CSV Theater, BAAD NY, Theater of The New City, and Dixon Place. Felix currently lives in Brooklyn (but misses the Caribbean beaches of his youth).

**Amanda K. Ringger** (Lighting Design) has lived in New York since 1997, designing locally, nationally and internationally with artists such as Faye Driscoll, Doug Elkins, Cynthia Oliver, Jennifer Archibald, Antonio Ramos, LMnO3, Alexandra Beller, Deborah Lohse, Donnell Oakley, Molly Poerstel, Kota Yamazaki, Nora Chipaumire, Laura Peterson, Julian Barnett, 10 Hairy Legs, Tiffany Mills, Darrah Carr, and cakeface, among others. She received a BA from Goucher College in Baltimore, MD and an MFA in Lighting Design from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. She is the recipient of a 2009 "Bessie" Award for her collaboration on Faye Driscoll's *837 Venice Boulevard* at HERE.

**Brandon Wolcott** (Sound Design) is a NYC-based sound designer and composer. Off-Broadway: *The Profane* (Playwrights Horizons) *Venus, Everybody, Signature Plays* (Signature); *The Record, The Fever* (600 Highwaymen/Public Theater); *Coriolanus, Hit the Wall* (Barrow Street); *Kill Floor* (LCT3); *The Nether* (Lortel nomination, MCC); *Good Person of Szechwan, Titus Andronicus* (The Public); *Habeas Corpus, Kiss the Air* (Park Avenue Armory), *Equivocation* (MTC). Collaborations with Marina Abramovic, Laurie Anderson, Faye Driscoll, Nicolas Jaar, Elizabeth Streb, Woodshed Collective, Jane Comfort, Red Bull, New Georges, Clubbed Thumb, and many more.

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**Tyler Kieffer** (Sound Design) is a Brooklyn-based sound designer whose credits include *Counting Sheep* (Ruhrfestspiele Festival; Recklinghausen, Germany); *Made In China* (Wakka Wakka); *A Dog Story* (The Davenport Theatre); *Every Morning I Wake Up and Seem to Forget* (Body & Soul Music Festival, Ireland); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Berkshire Theatre Group); *The History Boys* (Palm Beach Drama Works); *I Wasn't Going to Tell Anybody and Then I Told Everybody, Buried Child, All's Well That Ends Well* (NYU: Tisch); *Deer and the Lovers, Peter Pan, and The Troublesome Reign of King John*, (Yale School of Drama); *Arcadia* (Yale Repertory Theatre); *Ain't Gonna Make It* (Ars Nova).

**Randi Rivera** (Stage Management) is a native New Yorker. She holds a BA in Theater from Hamilton College, studied Technical Theater at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, and Production Management at Universidad San Pablo CEU in Madrid. Randi is the Stage Manager & Lighting Director for Brooklyn-based theater company Half Straddle, traveling both internationally and domestically with their work since 2012. She is the Stage Manager for Phantom Limb Company, traveling both internationally and domestically with their work since 2011. Randi also works as the touring & NYC-based Stage Manager/Lighting Director for various contemporary dance companies - favorites include Keigwin + Company, Faye Driscoll Group, Sidra Bell Dance NY, LMnO3, and Doug Elkins Choreography Etc. Randi is delighted to work again at HERE, this time with Sean, Sebastián, and their wonderful team. All of her work is for her family.

**Caroline D'Angelo** (Assistant Stage Management) is thrilled to be joining the team on *The Reception!* Recent credits include: *Beardo* with Pipeline Theatre Company, *Shadowland 2* with Pilobolus Dance Theatre; Regional: *Deathtrap* (Engeman Theatre), *The Little Prince, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Henry IV (Part 1), Tartuffe* (Monmouth). Opera: *La Boheme* and *Iphigénie en Taurid* (DePaul Opera Theatre). Other favorite credits include *In the Blood*, directed by Nathan Singh; *A Free Man of Color*, directed by Phyllis E. Griffin; *Our Town*, directed by Damon Keily; *A Wrinkle in Time*, directed by Ernie Nolan; *Barrio Grrrr!!*, directed by Lisa Portes; *The Misanthrope*, directed by Marc Pinate; *Intimate Apparel*, directed by Phyllis E. Griffin.

## CAST

**Jane Comfort** (Performer) is a choreographer, writer, and director. She is a Guggenheim Fellow, and has received a "Bessie" Award, a Doris Duke Award for New Work through ADF, and multiple artist fellowships from the NEA and NYFA. Her company, Jane Comfort and Company, has toured throughout the US and abroad, and will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2018. Jane also works in theatre and opera, and choreographed the Broadway musicals *Passion* by Stephen Sondheim, and *Amour* by Michel Legrand, as well as Shakespeare in the Park's *Much Ado About Nothing* (2004) and the opera *Salome* with Deborah Voigt, among others. She is delighted to be working with the wonderful artists in *The Reception*. [janecomfortandcompany.org](http://janecomfortandcompany.org)

**Leslie Cuyjet** (Performer) is a dancer and choreographer living in Brooklyn. She has performed and collaborated formally and informally with contemporaries, legends, and counterparts on rooftops, good and bad floors, and alleyways in film, in galleries, on tour, and on the fly since 2004. Her independent work has been presented in New York by THE CURRENT SESSIONS (La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival), Gibney Dance (DoublePlus), CPR (Fall Movement), Movement Research (Fall Festival, Judson Church), AUNTS (Realness, Populous), and Danspace (Draftworks). She has a long-standing performing and touring history with Cynthia Oliver and Jane Comfort, and is currently developing work with David Thomson, Yanira Castro/a canary torsi, Kim Brandt, A.O. Movement Collective, and Stephanie Acosta and James Tate of Intrinsic Grey. She is a 2017 Artist-in-Residence at Movement Research.

**Hannah Heller** (Performer) is a New York based actor, dancer, and writer. She is so happy to be on her second project with Donovan & Calderón, having been previously seen in *The Climate Chronicles* (The Ontological/NYC). Other theater credits include The Builder's Association's *Elements of Oz* (3LD/NYC), both Nellie Tinker's *Emily Climbs: Machine Mechante* (The Brick/NYC), and *Evelyn* (Bushwick Starr/NYC), Jess Almac's *Tiger Tiger* (Dixon Place, NYC), Grand Lady Dance House's *Actress Fury* (Bushwick Starr, NYC), Ripetime's *The World is Round* (BAM, NYC), and *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan* (Old Castle Theater/VT). FILM/TELEVISION: *Lemon* (Killer Films), *Hard World For Small Things* (WEVR), *Jeff and Some Aliens* (Comedy Central). Hannah has worked with choreographers Savion Glover, Michelle Dorrance, and Jane Comfort, and she choreographed Half Straddle's *House of Dance* (Abron's Arts Center/NYC). In France, Hannah studied with the master of humanity Philippe Gaulier. The web series *Morning Chardonnay*, which Hannah created and co-wrote with Señor Donovan, will be released later this year.

**Ishmael Houston-Jones** (Performer) is a choreographer, author, teacher, and curator. His improvised dance and text work has been performed in New York, across the US, and in Europe, Canada, Australia, and Latin America. He and Fred Holland shared a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award for *Cowboys, Dreams and Ladders*. He was awarded his second "Bessie" for the revival of *THEM*, his 1985-86 collaboration with writer Dennis Cooper and composer Chris Cochrane. He curated Platform 2012: Parallels and Platform 2016: Lost & Found, both at Danspace Project. He has received a 2016 Herb Alpert, a 2015 Doris Duke Impact, and a 2013 Foundation for Contemporary Arts Artists Awards.

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## POST-SHOW HAPPENING

Following the performance on **Tuesday, June 20**, join us for a discussion with NYU Performance Studies Professor **Karen Shimakawa** and a complimentary glass of wine.

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## HEREart On View: Performing Objects



**Curated by FiveMyles**  
**NOW – Jun 26**

The exhibition shows Meridith McNeal's large watercolor and ink paintings of famous Sicilian puppets, featuring Orlando Furioso and his companions. Andres Hoyos' salvaged chairs are installed in a suspended choreography; each one has its individual personality through a lively decoration applied with postage stamps.

Image: Meridith McNeal, *Orlando Furioso*

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