

HERE Presents

HERE **R**ESIDENT
HERE **A**RTIST
HERE **W**ORKS



CANNABIS!
A VIPER
VAUDEVILLE
GRACE GALU
+ BABA ISRAEL

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Though the pandemic is still very much a reality, we are thrilled to continue supporting artists, and to offer a window into the creative process of our nationally recognized **HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP)**. The 2021 program features workshop presentations at various stages of development that blur the boundaries between theatre, music, dance, new media, and visual art. Whether you can join us physically – masked, distanced, and partially outdoors – or virtually from the comfort of your own home, we look forward to welcoming you to this year's **HERE RAW / Resident Artist Works!**

[HERE.ORG/HERE-RAW/](https://www.here.org/here-raw/)

HERE presents

CANNABIS! A VIPER VAUDEVILLE

A work-in-progress presentation for **HERE RAW / Resident Artist Works**

Created, Written, and Performed by **Baba Israel**

Composed and Performed by **Grace Galu**

Directed by **Talvin Wilks**

Associate Directed by **Nic Benacerraf**

Sound Design by **Asa Wember**

Production Stage Manager **Alex B. 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**

This production is produced in partnership with **Culture Lab LIC**, as part of the Emergence Residency Program.



Special Thanks to the team at HERE for being in the trenches and always present. Thanks to Culturelab for their support of the development. 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 Mclsaac and Yako 440 for their support in launching the project. Thanks to Ryan, Susan, 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. 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.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

HERE pays respect to the Munsee Lenape ancestors past, present, and future. We acknowledge that *Cannabis!* and *HERE RAW* are situated on the Lenape island of Manhattan (Mannahatta) and more broadly in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland.

Inspired by the words of Adrienne Wong: HERE acknowledges the legacy of colonization embedded within the technology, structures, and ways of thinking we use every day. This production is using equipment and high-speed internet, not available in many Indigenous communities. Even the technologies that are central to much of the art we make leave significant carbon footprints, contributing to changing climates that disproportionately affect Indigenous people worldwide. We invite you to join us in acknowledging all this, as well as our shared responsibility to make good of this time and for each of us to consider our roles in reconciliation, decolonization, and ally-ship.

CREATORS

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 Viper Vaudeville*.

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.

ARTISTIC TEAM and PERFORMERS

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 Shaneequa 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 (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.

HERE RAW CONTINUES...

LIVESTREAM



THE EMOTIONS

GAMIN + SACHIYO TAKAHASHI
NOW - SEP 9

Using sound, object performance and live projection, this work-in-progress presentation of *The Emotions* explores the transience of things, the deep sentiment of longing and parting.

OUTDOOR



MO:NN

GELSEY BELL
JULY 8 @ 6PM

Solo concert version of *mo:nn*, an opera by Gelsey Bell about the triumphs and legacy of an Earth devoid of humans.

INDOOR

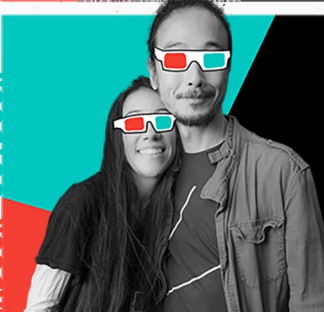


PSYCHIC SELF DEFENSE

NORMANDY SHERWOOD
JULY 8-10

Psychic Self Defense is an object focused theater piece that invites you to contemplate endlessness, endings and the nature of attention through that most basic of theater machineries – the curtain reveal.

INDOOR+OUTDOOR



A MEAL

XIMENA GARNICA + SHIGE MORIYA
JULY 8-10

An indoor video portrait exhibit running parallel to an outdoor series of encounters with guests speakers, artists and community members to reflect on our post-industrial relationship with food.

MORE PERFORMANCES

TO BE ANNOUNCED FOR AUGUST + SEPTEMBER!

TICKETS @ [HERE.ORG](https://www.here.org)



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. For 2020–21, HERE supports the following artists and projects:

Gelsey Bell
moxiij

Gisela Cardenas | InTandem Lab
The Carmen Variations

Shayok Misha Chowdhury
Rheology

Ximena Garnica & Shige Moriya | LEIMAY
A Meal

Grace Galu & Baba Israel | Soul Inscribed
Cannabis! A Theatrical Concert

Maiko Kikuchi & Spencer Townley-Lott
9000 Paper Balloons

Minor Theater
Marie It's Time

Normandy Sherwood
Psychic Self Defense

Sachiyo Takahashi & gamin
The Emotions

Imani Uzuri
Songs of Sanctuary of the Black Madonna

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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Cole Bonenberger, PRODUCTION MANAGER

Sam Ticker, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT MANAGER

Ayumu "Poe" Saegusa, RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER

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Richard Stauffacher, AUDIENCE SERVICES MANAGER

PROTOTYPE

Melanie Milton, FESTIVAL PRODUCER

Victoria Preis, MARKETING MANAGER

HERE SUPPORT

HERE is extremely grateful for the support and encouragement of the following group of foundations, corporations, government agencies, elected officials, and dedicated individuals. We would not be HERE without you.

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Kristin Marting
Randy Rollison

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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; the Offices of the Mayor of New York, Speaker Corey Johnson, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, New York State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick, and State Senator Brad M. Hoylman. 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, State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick, 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.

PROTOTYPE: Opera | Theatre | Now receives major funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and other leadership support from the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. Additional support is provided by The Amphion Foundation, BMI Foundation, Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, Fresh Sound Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts, Antonia & Vladimir Kulaev Cultural Heritage Fund, Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation, OPERA America, The Reed Foundation, and The Ted Snowdon Foundation. Additional support is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

HERE is extremely grateful to the many generous individuals who support our programming! (includes donors as of 2/8/21)

A NOTE ABOUT THE NEW STRUCTURE OF OUR DONOR LIST:

Community-Centric Fundraising is a fundraising practice that is grounded in equity; it calls on all non-profits to bring principles of racial and economic justice into our development strategies. As one small step towards aligning HERE with this model, we have removed giving levels from our donor list. We hope to celebrate and raise up all of our supporters no matter the size of their contribution and recognize the generosity of our community as a whole. We would like to thank the team of Community-Centric Fundraising for their leadership and their call to action; more information on CCF can be found on their [website](#).

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