HERE Presents

RESIDENT ARTIST WORKS

CANNABIS! A VIPER VAUDEVILLE
GRACE GALU + BABA ISRAEL
TABLE OF CONTENTS
Click on any section below to jump to the page.

ABOUT HERE RAW
SHOW INFO
BIOS
OTHER EVENTS
RESIDENCY PROGRAM
HERE STAFF
FUNDING
MEMBERSHIP
FOLLOW US
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/
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 McIsaac 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 Inscribed, 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 SEAGULL MACHINE. 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, SEAGULL MACHINE 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...

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.

MO:NIN
GELSEY BELL
JULY 8 @ 6PM

Solo concert version of mōnin, an opera by Gelsey Bell about the triumphs and legacy of an Earth devoid of humans.

PSYCHIC SELF DEFENSE
NORMANDY SHERWOOD
JULY 9–10

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.

A MEAL
XIMENA GARNICA + SHIGE MORIYA
JULY 9–10

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
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
mɔːnɪŋ

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
HERE STAFF

FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Kristin Marting

PRODUCING DIRECTOR
Meredith Lynsey Schade

DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Brenna C. Thomas

PROGRAMMING
Amanda Szeglowski, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Basil Twist, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, DREAM MUSIC PUPPETRY
Barbara Busackino, PRODUCER, DREAM MUSIC PUPPETRY
Pete McCabe, RESIDENT DRAMATURG
Dan Halm, RESIDENT HEREART CURATOR
Elyse Durand, Ricardo Delgado Garcés, Tianding He, and Emma Richmond, PROGRAMMING ASSISTANTS

GENERAL MANAGEMENT
Cierra Cass, GENERAL MANAGER
Alex West, FINANCE CONSULTANT
Kristen Hoffman, PRODUCING INTERN

MARKETING
Amanda Szeglowski, MARKETING DIRECTOR
Amanda Szeglowski, MARKETING DIRECTOR
Julia Levine, MARKETING MANAGER
Alex M. Lee, MEDIA AND BRANDING MANAGER
John Wyszyniewski, Everyman Agency, PUBLIC RELATIONS
Matt Ross PR, PUBLIC RELATIONS

DEVELOPMENT
Wei-ming Liu Egelman, INSTITUTIONAL GIVING MANAGER
Isabella Rivera Ruiz, INDIVIDUAL GIVING MANAGER
Jessica Ashleigh Pomeroy, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

PRODUCTION
Cole Bonenberger, PRODUCTION MANAGER
Sam Ticker, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT MANAGER
Ayumu “Poe” Saegusa, RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER

AUDIENCE SERVICES
Richard Stauffacher, AUDIENCE SERVICES MANAGER

PROTOTYPE
Melanie Milton, FESTIVAL PRODUCER
Victoria Preis, MARKETING MANAGER

STAFF
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.

FOUNDERS
Barbara Busackino
Tim Maner
Kristin Marting
Randy Rollison

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Erin Wegner Brooks
Michael Champness
Abigail Gampel
Fred Harris
Tim Maner
Kristin Marting
Kevin Matthews
Helen Mills

EX-OFFICIO
Barbara Busackino

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.

PRIVATE AND CORPORATE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

Private and Corporate Support Provided by:

Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
Edison Properties
Fund for the City of New York
Howard Gilman Foundation
Jerome Foundation, Inc.
Jim Henson Foundation
JKW Foundation
Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts
Leon Levy Foundation
mediaThe Foundation
Mental Insight Foundation
Mertz Gilmore Foundation
New York Community Trust
New York Foundation for the Arts
Royal Little Family Foundation
Select Equity Group, Inc.
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation
The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation
The Jane Henson Foundation
The Scherman Foundation
The Shubert Foundation
Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation
Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation

HEREn receives generous support from:

[Logos]

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.

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.

Anonymous (20)
Afshaneh Ayani
Noah Aberlin
Laura Abrams
Cassie & David Ackerman
Mary Adrales
Carrie Ahern
Hawa Ahmed
Vignesh Aier
Noora Al Qassimi
Vicky Abrash & Bruce Allardice
Paul An
Craig Anderson
Jessi Anderson
Alexander Anikul
Anthony Annunziata
Ed Anselm
Jessa Applebaum
Patrick Aquilina
Josh Aronson
Casey Atre
Tyler Ashley
Jennifer Austin
Amanda Ayo
Josh Babbitt
Sarah Babski
Suzanne Bachenor
Suzanne Bachner
David Arthur Bachrach
Greg Backstrom
Cezanne Baghdadian
Deborah Balandini
Martha Ballenger
Elizabeth I. Banks
Franca Sofia Barchiesi
Tony Barkan
Judy Barker
Jennifer Barrack
Clare Barron
Jecca Barry
Ann Bartek
Maree Johnson Baruch & Jason Baruch
Nina Beatty
Jeanne M Beaumont
Liz Beck
James Beckett
Melissa Bell
Warrick Bell
Jennifer Belt
Nicolas Benaceraf
Jamie Bennett
Patrick Benson
Svante Bergstrom
Theatre Foundation
Tony Berkman
Susan Bernfield & Claude Millman
Laurie Bernhard
Mariliz Bezerra
David Birch
Roslyn Biskin
Gavin Black
Lynn & Steve Blackledge
Francie Swift Blumefeld
Brian Bolton
Jade Bonica
Anthony Borelli
Louis Borodinsky
Joseph Bosco
Carolyn Bost
Caition Boston
Marc Bovino
David Brady
Bill Bragin
Danita Branam
Dawn Brandes
Timothy Braun
Moira Brennan
Joel Brenner
Pam Breuter
Julia Brines
Joan Brittingham
Brooke Bristow
Eugene Brodach
Daniel Brooks
Erikn Wegner Brooks & Duncan Brooks
Nicole Brovuk
Kathleen Brown
Olga Stein & Andrew Brown
Karen Browning
Danjo Brownlee
Linda Brumbaugh
Bear Brummel
Vincent Brooks
Anya Budy
Robert Buford
Samuel Buggeln
Emily Bunning
Donal Burke
Terrence Burnett
Christopher Burney
John Burk
Barbara Busakino
Mallory Campbell
William Carden
Gisela Cardenas
Vienna Carroll
Barbara Carswell
Amy Case
Julia Cassinelli
MeeAe Caughhey
Rory Centannini & Stephen Rojas
Nancy & Joseph Champness
Lesley & Michael Champness
Hunter Chancellor
Nishika Chandrasoma
Joanie Chapin
Andrew Chapin
Gabriel Charvat
Cindy Chen
Shuyun Cheng
Robert Cherill
JoAnne Chernow
Steven Cheslik-DeMeyer & Chan Casey
Emmanuelle Chiche
Phyllis & Daryl Chun
Sona & Rohit Chopra
Jody Christopherson
Michele Clair & Michael F. Thomas
Patricia Clair
Janet D. Clancy
Thomas Clark
Nick Clarke
Sandy Cleary
Christen Diane Clifford
Stephanie & Daniel Cobleigh
Alex Coffey
Amy L. Cohen
Gregory Cohen
Geoffrey Cohen
Elisa Coker
Alison Colby
Patricia Coleman
Jennifer Coleman Reilly
Paul Collins
Terry Collins
Jane Comfort
Craig Comstock
Zach Cone
Nita Congress
Nina Conn
James Conte
Anita Contini & Stephen Van Anden
Jennifer Wright Cook
Amanda Cooper
Barbara Cooper
Felice Mendell & Marc Cooper
Ruth Coppersmith
Keila Cordova
Kendall Cornell
Margery Cornell
Jerome Corrado
Ashton Correa
Austin Costello
Suesan Cota
David Cote
Ellie Covan
Simone Craig
Amy Crandell
Laedre Edie
Suzanne G Cusick
Michael Cuyjet
Catherine Greenman & Richard D’Albert
Julia Darden
Darlene Darrow
Seth Davis
Mary Davis
Stephanie Dean
Lear DeBessonet
Madeleine Deurbur
Dino DeConcini
Mashuq Deen
Lenora Degen
Nicholas DeMaison
Eliete Demoura
Deepa Desai & Sumit Rajpal
Sabrina DeWeerdt
Robin Dibrouse
Nitin Desai
Jean Dommermuth
Robert M. Donaldson
Peter Donnelly
Courtney Donner
Kate Donovan
Mary Donovan
Lisa Dote
Michael Downey
Pamela Drexel
Janice Driesbach
Alec Duffy
Sarah Dunn
Claire Dunn
Jamie Dunn
Marguerite Durret
Mallika Dutt
Karen Eckhoff
Alison Economy
Andrew Edelbrock
Dana Edell
Seych Edie
Catherine Edwards
Jennifer Egan & David Herskowitz
William Egelman
Julienee Ehre
Jack Eidson
Marie Tartar & Steven Eilenberg
Edward Einhorn
Diane Eisenstat
HERE IS GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY.
We’re trying to raise $150,000 before our big reopening celebration on September 12, 2021.

YOUR GIFT WILL...
• Ensure artists and audiences come together safely at HERE in September 2021 again
• Give life to four exciting world premieres created by outstanding artists
• Launch a new program dedicated to Black, Indigenous and People of Color

Contact Brenna Thomas:
212.647.0202 x 326
brenna@here.org
OR
visit here.org/support
For more information

Make a Gift. Tell your Friends. Share your HERE story.
FOLLOW US ON

HERE ARTS CENTER
@HEREARTS
HEREARTS
#HERERAW2021