



# ISLANDER

Created by Liza Birkenmeier + Katie Brook / Televiolet  
A New Georges Supported Production

# SUBLET SERIES @HERE

2021-22 SEASON

#HERE  
@HEREARTS



## Welcome!

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

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

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

We hope to see you HERE again soon.

Best,

**KRISTIN MARTING**

Founding Artistic Director

**COMING SOON**

THE STORY BOX

Sep 11 – Oct 9

### HERE SUPPORT

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

### GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

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

### PRIVATE AND CORPORATE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

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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 HowRound. HERE is a proud member of the Hudson Sq Connection & Lower Manhattan Arts League & The National Opera America Center & TCG.

# ISLANDER

Created by **Liza Birkenmeier + Katie Brook / Televiolet**

Compiled by **Liza Birkenmeier**

Directed by **Katie Brook**

**A New Georges Supported Production**

with

MAN **David Gould**

OTHER MAN **Dick Toth**

JOHN **Aksel Latham-Mitchell**

set and lighting design **Josh Smith**

sound design **Ben Williams**

choreography **Katie Rose McLaughlin**

stage manager **Katiana Rangel**

production manager **David Beller**

assistant stage manager **Adira Rosen**

master electrician **Aja Anderson**

associate producer **Hayley Isaacson**

press representation **John Wyszniowski**

ISLANDER is 75 minutes long and performed without an intermission. strobe lighting effects will be used during this performance. patrons that may suffer from epilepsy & other visual light stimulation effects are advised to contact the front of house staff, prior to entering the theater

thanks to **Daniel Allen-Nelson, Leigh Walter,** and **Preston Bowman** for their work on ISLANDER in 2020

special thanks to

costume consultant **Trish Harnetiaux**

projections consultant **Josh Gelb**

lighting programmer **Teddy Sonsa**

**“Sparkling Waters Part One”**

by **Mammatus**

used with permission of the artist

[Mammatus.bandcamp.com](http://Mammatus.bandcamp.com)

ISLANDER is primarily compiled from verbatim commentary on the 2017-2018 New York Islanders NHL season. It also uses material from Jordan Peterson's 2018 bestselling book, *12 Rules For Life*.

ISLANDER was developed in a New Georges Audrey Residency and participates in the company's Supported Productions program, which provides mentorship, resources, and an institutional platform to affiliated artists who produce their work independently.

## the company

**David Gould** (MAN) is a performer living in Brooklyn, previously appearing in Televiolet productions *Tragedy in Spades* and *Lady Han*. Other recent collaborators include Meghan Finn, Sarah Hughes, and Julia May Jonas. His work has been seen at LaMaMa, The Kitchen, The New Museum, The Signature Theater, Dixon Place, The Bushwick Starr, Abrons Arts Center, and The Ontological Incubator among others.

**Dick Toth** (OTHER MAN) recent New York theatre credits include *Charlises* (The Brick), *I'll Never Love Again* (The Bushwick Starr), *Heartbreak* (New Georges/The Bushwick Starr), *Dreamless Land* (NYC Players). Recent film and TV: *Hedgehog*, *The Blacklist*, *Billions*, *House of Cards*. Other performance work includes traveling the country as a clown with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and as a puppeteer with Hudson Vagabond Puppets. As a playwright he has developed and produced work with HERE Arts Center, Perseverance Theatre, California Theatre Center, Irish Repertory Theatre, Misery Loves Company (Prague) and The Weasel Festival.

**Aksel Latham-Mitchell** (JOHN) is a rising fifth grader at PS 11 in Brooklyn, where he plays in the drumline and rock band. He enjoys skateboarding and making YouTube gaming videos. The role of John Tavares in *Islander* is his first professional performance.

**Liza Birkenmeier** (creator/writer) was the 2019-2020 Tow Playwright-in-Residence at Ars Nova, where her play *Dr. Ride's American Beach House*, directed by Katie Brook, premiered in 2019. Her most recent work includes *Please Welcome Our Guest*, commissioned by MTC for their Snapshot Series, and *Honestly Sincere* with Theater in Quarantine. She is a recent member of the Emerging Writers Group at The Public Theater. She is a Macdowell Colony and Yaddo fellow and received her MFA in playwriting from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama.

**Katie Brook** (creator/director) is a director of new experimental plays and performance and makes original work collaboratively with her theatre ensemble, Televiolet. Her work has been presented at various venues in New York City and beyond. In the fall of 2019 she directed the premiere of Birkenmeier's *Dr. Ride's American Beach House* at Ars Nova. During the pandemic she created *The MS Phoenix Rising*, a new fiction podcast with Trish Harnetiaux and Playwrights Horizons. Brook has also worked as a creative producer at The Foundry Theatre, The Builders Association, and New York City Players, and is the Director of Production at StoryCorps. She received her BFA from NYU's Experimental Theater Wing and her MFA from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama. [katiebrook.net](http://katiebrook.net)

**Katie Rose McLaughlin** (choreographer) is an NYC-based choreographer and director originally from Minneapolis, MN. Katie Rose is the Associate Choreographer of the Tony award-winning Broadway show *Hadestown* and recently she has been creating work as the Co-Creative Director for the Drama League Award-winning Theater in Quarantine. Notable theater credits include *Orlando* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Indecent* (Weston Playhouse), *Bear Slayer* (Ars Nova), *Triplight* (Joes Pub), *SEAGULLMACHINE* (La Mama ETC), and *The Black Crook* (Abrons Arts Center). She is a 2021 artist-in-residence at La Mama and CultureHub's Experiments in Digital Storytelling program. In 2013, she co-founded and became the Artistic Director of Designated Movement Co. Visit [katirosemlaughlin.com](http://katirosemlaughlin.com) for more information.

**Josh Smith** (set and lighting designer) is a New York-based set and lighting designer. Recent projects include: *Owen Wingrave* (LOTNewYork), *R&J* and *Our Town* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *The Power of Emotion* (Abrons Arts Center), *Bear Slayer* (Ars Nova), *Boy at the Edge of Everything* (Lincoln Center), *Million Dollar Quartet* (Cape Playhouse and Bucks County), *The Power Of Emotion* (The Public Theatre: UTR), *...Ichabod Crane* (Park Avenue Armory), *Feeling* (New Ohio Theatre), *Lady Han and Party in the USA* (Incubator Arts). [www.josh-smith.com](http://www.josh-smith.com)

**Ben Williams** (sound designer) recently worked with Katie and Liza on *Dr. Ride's American Beach House*. He is a member of Elevator Repair Service and a founding member of minor theater with Julia Jarcho. He produces category : other, a platform for experimental audio. Awards for sound design: Obie, Lucille Lortel, Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, and Third Coast International Audio Festival's inaugural Audio Unbound Award (for Jillian Walker's *Songs of Speculation*). [benwilliamsdotcom.com](http://benwilliamsdotcom.com)

**Katiana Rangel** (production stage manager) is a performer, director and translator from Brazil based in NYC. They founded the theater and performance research group Untitled 29, and have been a long term collaborator of New York City Players and Tele violet. They recently conceived, with the anthropologist Jasmine Pisapia, the project *The Vessel*, directed by Richard Maxwell. Katiana's main collaborators are Jim Fletcher, Katherine Brook and Lori Goldston. Translations include works by Samuel Beckett, Sarah Kane and Richard Maxwell.

**David Beller** (production manager) is beyond excited to be bringing a show to a LIVE audience, in a theater, after a far too long worldwide hiatus. David is a Production Manager, Event Manager & AEA Stage Manager who has worked on a variety of projects ranging from theatre to opera to corporate events. He has worked in New York, Pittsburgh, and Chicago, and more recently, digitally across the entire country. He is also thrilled to get to work with some of his Carnegie Mellon University cohort again.

**Aja Anderson** (master electrician) has worked in the NYC Off-Broadway theater and events scenes for the past 7 years. She graduated from James Madison University—'Go Dukes!' Shoutout to her amazing dog, Sefi, who keeps her sane. Most of the time.

**Adira Rosen** (assistant stage manager) is a director, actor, and producer born and raised in San Diego, currently based in NYC. This May, Rosen graduated, with honors, from the John Wells Directing Program at Carnegie Mellon University. In March of 2021, Rosen originated the role of Krista in Alec Seymour's new play *Pass It On*, which premiered in the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama New Works Festival. Rosen is also the founder of the Mount Everest Academy Theatre Company, a youth theatre company based in San Diego, CA. For more information, visit [www.adirarosen.com](http://www.adirarosen.com)

**Hayley Isaacson** has been working in the entertainment industry as a producer and creator for over 10 years, with recent projects including collaborations with Ars Nova, Roundabout Theatre Company, New York Theatre Workshop, New Georges, Atlantic Theater Company, and Prospect Theater Company amongst others. She often works between the sectors of arts and advocacy, and champions stories that work to challenge the dialogue, dissect policy, and promote change. She is a graduate of The Bandier Program at Syracuse University.

**Tele violet** is a theater and performance ensemble led by director Katie Brook that uses dramatic texts and real-world content to experiment with acting and dramatic form. Tele violet works created in collaboration with Liza Birkenmeier include *Tragedy in Spades* (developed at University Settlement Performance Project) and *American Realism* (Invisible Dog and The San Diego Museum of Art). Tele violet has also been featured at Prelude, Little Theater, Catch, Under the Radar, and Abrons Arts Center, where their most recent production, *The Power of Emotion: The Apartment*, premiered in 2017.

At **New Georges**, founded in 1992, we launch and sustain artists of assertive imagination—individually, as collaborators, and as a community—and advance their exuberantly theatrical new plays. As producers, we cultivate an influential aesthetic in a nimble, collaborative production environment. As artist platform, we serve the largest ongoing working community of women and gender-expansive theater artists in NYC (270 strong) with The Room, our indispensable workspace for women+ artists, and a slate of artist-driven programs (of which New Georges Supported Productions is one). Through community offerings, 48 premieres of new American plays, and countless works in development, we have provided an artistic home for playwrights and directors now visible throughout the American theater and in every corner of our culture. Honors for New Georges, its plays and its people include the National Theatre Conference's Outstanding Theatre Award, 3 Obie Awards, The Lilly Award, the Susan Smith Blackburn and Kesseling prizes.

[Make a tax-deductible donation to ISLANDER here.](#)

This production of ISLANDER has a \$40,000 budget that has been generously supported by the organizations and patrons listed below. More than half of this budget goes directly to pay the artists. ISLANDER was originally slated to open in March of 2020, and was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the postponement, our production has incurred additional costs to allow for the performance you are about to see. We are still fundraising to make sure that everyone is compensated fully, and that our costs are covered. We are short \$2,000 of our fully realized budget, so if you have the means to contribute beyond the price of your ticket, we greatly appreciate any additional donations to the project.

ISLANDER is made possible in part with public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by LMCC, with support from Ars Nova and the Tow Foundation, a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant, and by the New York City Artist Corps.

ISLANDER is the recipient of a Restart NY: Rapid Live Performance Grant, made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



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