



BE HERE NOW.

DIGITAL PROGRAM

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DJ Angela Di Carlo

PRODUCTION TEAM

Line Producer **Tianding He**

Lighting Designer **Ayumu "Poe" Saegusa**

Stage Manager **Mariko Takizawa**

Assistant Stage Manager **Aoife Hough**

Sound Engineer **Eamon Goodman**

Lighting Operator **Steven Zhang**

FOOD AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED BY



Flowers by Danielle Kim, *Flowers & Such*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

HERE pays respect to the Munsee Lenape ancestors past, present, and future. We acknowledge that HERE is situated on the Lenape island of Manhattan (Mannahatta) and more broadly in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We invite you to join us in acknowledging 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.

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- Give life to four exciting world premieres created by outstanding artists
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Contact Brenna Thomas:
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PERFORMERS

EMILY HOPE PRICE (*Water Cooler Siren Song*) is a New York-based freelance cellist, singer, film composer, songwriter, arranger, performer, writer and illustrator. She was cellist and one of three singer-songwriters in the Brooklyn-based indie band Pearl and the Beard, proudly releasing 5 albums of work. As a solo performer, cellist and vocalist she has performed, collaborated, and toured with notable artists all over the world including D'Angelo, Sting, Ani DiFranco, Roger Waters, Kishi Bashi. Much of her solo work resonates with cinematic intensity and imagery - using voice, effects, and layered instrumental composition. She is an active solo performer, coach, and freelancer in NYC. She also plays regularly on Broadway and held the cello chairs in the Tony award-winning Broadway musical *Tootsie* and Sting's *The Last Ship*. In addition to music, she is acting in and producing 2 one-character web series: *Darling Please Understand* and *Look, Honey, I Know*; and is publishing a book of odd illustrations and irrational fears - *Backhanded Illustrated*.

SPENCER LOTT (*Water Cooler Siren Song* / *9000 Paper Balloons*) is a puppeteer and director whose credits include *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (starring Tom Hanks), *Sesame Street* (HBO/PBS), *The Relationtrip* (Hulu), and *Melvin the Birder* (Amazon Prime). As a consultant, he's recently worked with HBOMAX, Bleacher Report, Nickelodeon and the LaGuardia School of Performing Arts. Lott is a four-time recipient of the Jim Henson Foundation grants for his original theatrical work including the world premiere of *Blossom* ("vivid", "lovely, aching scenes..." - *Village Voice*). Lott was the first recipient of the Jim Henson Foundation Puppetry Residency at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center with collaborator Liz Hara. He has been a Works in Progress Artist at the Children's Museum of the Arts, and a Guest Artist for Theater Development Fund's Stage Door program. He is the Associate Artistic Director of Trusty Sidekick Theater Company.

MAIKO KIKUCHI (*9000 Paper Balloons*) received her MFA in Sculpture from Pratt Institute in 2012. She is a multidisciplinary artist working in illustration, painting, drawing, collage, sculpture, animation and puppetry/performance. Her object theatre pieces include *DAYDREAM TUTORIAL* (Work in Progress) as part of Under The Radar Festival 2020 (INCOMING! Program) at The Public Theatre, LaMaMa and FiveMyles Gallery, *PINK BUNNY* at Japan Society and St. Ann's Warehouse, *ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE* at Dixon Place, *NO NEED FOR A NIGHT LIGHT ON A LIGHT NIGHT LIKE TONIGHT* at LaMaMa, *DAYDREAM ANTHOLOGY* at St. Ann's Warehouse. She co-curates the Object Movement Festival at The Center at West Park in NYC with Rowan Magee and Justin Perkins, and is currently in the HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP) collaborating with Spencer Lott.

LAKE SIMONS (*Sorry About the Weather*) is a director, designer, puppeteer, physical performer, and a maker of things. She has collaborated with many artists creating theatre productions from the ground up. These productions utilize puppetry, movement, & live music. Most importantly, Lake relies on the power of make-believe. Lake has received multiple Jim Henson Foundation grants in support of her original puppetry productions. She was the Associate Puppetry Director for *Warhorse* on Broadway as well as for the National Tour. Lake has created productions for various institutions including Miller Theater at Columbia University, Texas Woman's University, and Dixon Place in New York City. She has been a resident artist at The Carriage House and HERE. Her productions have been seen at many New York theaters including HERE, La MaMa, Dixon Place, One Arm Red, and Theatre for a New City. Lake is the Managing Artistic Director of the Hip Pocket Theatre in Fort Worth, Texas and a co-director for the Puppet Lab at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn. She is an adjunct professor for the theatre department at Sarah Lawrence College where she teaches puppetry. Lake attended Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris, France and North Carolina School of the Arts.

RIMA FAND (*Sorry About the Weather*) is a Brooklyn-based composer, musician and educator. An innovator who is also strongly drawn to folk traditions, she creates on an edge where the traditional meets the experimental. Since 2018 she has been composing an object-theater/ chamber opera entitled *Precipice*, currently in development with American Opera Project, and is the recipient of a 2020 Opera America Commissioning Grant for this production. Earlier projects include Farm Arts Collective's *Shakespeare on the Farm* (2019), NACL's *Courage*, an outdoor spectacle presented on a farm in 2016 and Governors' Island in 2017, a workshop production of *A Footnote In History*, a rock band-infused exploration of the life of Sally Ride, presented in the 2017 ICE FACTORY festival, and *Don Cristóbal, Billy-Club Man*, a Lorca-inspired musical puppet play created in the HERE Artist Residency Program and produced at the Abrons Arts Center (2013). She is grateful to have been a part of the HERE community for many years, and is delighted to be performing with the wonderful Lake Simons in celebration of the re-opening.

QUEEN ESTHER (*The Hang*) Described as "...a Black Lucinda Williams..." and "...a brutal, original, explosive singer..." (*Vanity Fair*), Queen Esther is a writer, vocalist, solo performer, producer, songwriter and musician. She has toured and recorded with harmelodic guitar icon James "Blood" Ulmer in many incarnations, including a recent European stint with his seminal band Odyssey. Others include Speedball Baby, Mona's Hot Five, Eyal Vilner Big Band, Burnt Sugar Arkestra, Richard

Barone (The Bongos), Elliot Sharp (as the alt-blues duo Hoosegow), Swingadelic, LaLa Brooks (The Crystals), The New York Jazzharmonic and The Dirtbombs, amongst others. Her self-penned solo shows include *The Moxie Show*, *Queen Esther: Unemployed Superstar* and *The Big Payback*. *Blackbirding*, a solo show about America from a Black feminist perspective, is currently under development, along with the musical *The Billie Holiday Project* and *The Tears of a Megyn*. Called "...a minor masterpiece..." (LIRA), her self-produced 2021 Black Americana release *Gild The Black Lily* is garnering stellar reviews and airplay worldwide as her TED Talk -- *The True Origins of Country Music* -- continues to reverberate throughout the Americana community. A member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA, she is a playwright in residence at New Perspectives Theater Company's Women's Work Short Play Lab 2021.

WESLEY GRAHAM OLIVER GARLINGTON (*The Hang*) graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in May of 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music, Theatre, and Film. An experimental musical theatre composer and drag performer, Wes performs gender non conforming drag as Klondyke in Brooklyn while working on his second musical, *Scarecrow*. Their first musical, *Elsewhere*, had a reading, followed by a workshop production mounted at Sarah Lawrence during their senior year. They are currently rehearsing for a new work by Taylor Mac and Matt Ray for HERE. Some of their previous credits include; A Vocalist in *Queer Icons* (by Taylor Mac @ Lincoln Center, 2021); Background Vocalist for *Treya Lam in Concert* (Lincoln Center, 2021); Chance in *America's Favorite All-Boy Band* (The Tank, 2018); Countee in *the Crocus Eaters* (Trans Lab); Kitt in *Beasts of Warren* (The Syndicate, 2018).

MATT RAY (*The Hang*) is a Brooklyn-based pianist, composer, arranger, singer, songwriter, and music director. His arrangements have been called "wizardly" (*Time Out NY*) and "ingenious" (*NY Times*), and his piano playing referred to as "classic, well-oiled swing" (*NY Times*) and "to cry for" (*Ebony*). For his work on Taylor Mac's show *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music* he and Mac shared the 2017 Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired By American History. Notable live performances include Carnegie Hall with Kat Edmonson, the Hollywood Bowl with reggae legend Burning Spear, the Théâtre de Chaillot with Justin Vivian Bond, and touring the Caribbean and Central America as a US Department of State Jazz Ambassador. His show *Matt Ray Plays Hoagy Carmichael featuring Kat Edmonson* premiered at Lincoln Center's American Songbook series in 2018. Other work includes music directing Queen Esther's *The Billie Holiday Project* at the Apollo Theater's Music Café (2012), music directing Taylor Mac's Obie award winning play *The Lily's Revenge* at HERE (2009), and co-writing songs for and performing in Bridget Everett's one-hour Comedy Central special *Gynecological*

Wonder (2015) as well as Everett's hit show *Rock Bottom* (2014). Matt has done musical arrangements for a large number of TV shows and films including *Nurse Jackie* (2014), *Blue Night* (2018), and the Oscar nominated *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* (2018).

GRACE GALU (*Cannabis! A Viper Vaudeville*) 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.

BABA ISRAEL (*Cannabis! A Viper Vaudeville*) 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*.

LAURA PETERSON (*Stupid Dances for a Serious Time*) is a NYC-based dance artist creating works that challenge the limits of physicality and reframe performance spaces. Influenced by the visual art of the 1960's and '70's, she creates visually arresting installations animated by rigorous choreography. Laura Peterson's dances have been produced as part of the Museum of Modern Art's exhibition *Judson Dance Theater: The Work Is Never Done*, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, and internationally in Europe and South America. Peterson has been awarded commissions and residencies for over a decade throughout NYC, as well as nationally and internationally. Including HERE, Hartford Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, Queens Museum of Art, Dance New Amsterdam, and many others. In April 2021, Peterson started Open Arts Studio, a new non-

profit arts organization supporting multidisciplinary arts through the low cost rehearsal space, a place for active exchange of artistic ideas and accessible movement experiences for all levels of people. Open Arts Studio is the artistic home of Laura Peterson. openartsstudio.org Open for ALL.

BASIL TWIST (*Sheep*) A native of San Francisco, Basil Twist is a third generation puppeteer now living in New York. He is the sole American to graduate from the École Supérieure Nationale des Arts de la Marionnette in Charleville-Mezieres, France. Basil's showmanship was spotlighted in New York by The Jim Henson International Festival of Puppetry with his award winning *The Araneidae Show*. Coupled with the critically & popularly praised and multiple award-winning *Symphonie Fantastique*, Twist was revealed as a singular artist of unlimited imagination. Highlights of Twist's subsequent work have included *Petrushka* (commissioned by Lincoln Center) and *Dogugaeshi* (The Japan Society), *Behind the Lid* (Silver Whale Gallery) with Lee Nagrin and *Arias with a Twist* (HERE) co-created with nightlife icon Joey Arias. *Symphonie* and these productions have toured throughout the world. Basil has taught at leading Universities such as Stanford, Duke, New York University and Brown and as a guest lecturer of the US State Dept in Russia. He has received an Obie, Drama Desk Award, five UNIMA Awards, two Bessie Awards, New York Innovative Theatre Award, Henry Hewes Award, Guggenheim, USA Artists fellowship and a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award. Basil was also honored with a MacArthur Fellowship. He lives in NYC, where he guides The Dream Music Puppetry Program at HERE.

ANGELA DI CARLO (DJ) is a New York based performer (Attention Deficit Disorder Cabaret) and DJ spinning 1970's AM Gold and late 70's/early 80s new wave on vinyl. Pre-Pandemic gigs include DJing the monthly Mattachine party at Julius Bar with Amber Martin and John Cameron Mitchell for the past 11 years. Other past residencies include Cafe Dancer, The Ace Hotel and gigs at The Spiegeltent on BARD Campus, GLAAD, New Year's Eve at Balthazar, Club Cumming, MAC Cosmetics & the *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* on Broadway TONY Awards party.

ALSO AT HERE



HERE presents

The Story Box

Sep 11 – Oct 9

The Story Box by Suzi Takahashi and Kristin Marting is a multiple location storytelling event using Japanese kamishibai theater, original music, and experiential learning to explore the importance of safeguarding our civil rights through the lens of Japanese American history and identity.

here.org/shows/the-story-box/



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 2021–22, HERE supports the following artists and projects:

Gelsey Bell
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Cannabis! A Theatrical Concert

Maiko Kikuchi & Spencer Townley-Lott
9000 Paper Balloons

Minor Theater
Marie It's Time

Normandy Sherwood
Psychic Self Defense

gamin & Sachiyo Takahashi
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 2021–22, 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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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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HERE'S programming is made possible with Public Funds from: National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts; 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.

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HERE is extremely grateful to the many generous individuals who support our programming! (includes donors as of 8/6/21)

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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