HERE

From a SPARK to a BLAZE...
It starts HERE.
SPARK GALA

JUNE 6, 2022

Honoring

CHERYL HENSON

and

BRIAN SELZNICK

EMCEE
Basil Twist

FEATURED PERFORMANCES
Joey Arias & Basil’s RED DEVILS
PERFORMED BY Joey Arias, Rosa
Douglas, Ben Elling, Jonathan Lyons and
Rachel Schapira, PUPPETRY BY Basil Twist

Nick Lehane’s CHIMPANZEE
PERFORMED BY Rowan Magee, Andrew
Manjuck, Emma Wiseman, SOUND
DESIGN BY Avery Orvis, PUPPETRY BY
Nick Lehane

Selections from Ryan Scott Oliver and
Brian Selznick’s HUGO
PERFORMED BY Kerstin Anderson and
Daniel Yearwood, ACCOMPANIED BY
Jason Wetzel

Processional Arts Workshop

DIRECTOR
Kristin Marting

TOY THEATRES BY
Great Small Works -
  John Bell and Trudi Cohen
Ben&Rosa -
  Ben Elling and Rosa Douglas
Tau Bennett
Robin Frohardt
Spencer Lott
  with Stephen Selman
Nekaa Lab / Sachiyo Takahashi
Lake Simons
  with Erin K. Orr
Brian Selznick

DJ
Angela Di Carlo

LIGHTING DESIGN
Ayumu “Poe” Saegusa
SPARK GALA

CENTERPIECES GRACIOUSLY LENT BY
Kate Brehm
Chinese Theatre Works
Cheryl Henson
Dan Hurlin
Maiko Kikuchi
Ralph Lee
Jonathan Lyons
Erin K Orr
Joseph Silovsky
Basil Twist
Christopher Williams

CENTERPIECE DISPLAYS BY
Rachel Schapira

GALA PRODUCTION TEAM
ALC Management, EVENT PRODUCER
Jessica Pomeroy, AUCTION COORDINATOR
Alex M. Lee, PROGRAM AND INVITATION DESIGNER
Hunter Canning & Lee Rayment, PHOTOGRAPHERS
Danielle Onsoon Kim, FLORIST
Cole Bonenberger, PRODUCTION MANAGER
Patrick Egan, STAGE MANAGER
Aoife Hough, ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

David Glista, Kathe Mull, Shahiem Jackson, and Dan Hernandez, PRODUCTION CREW
Mariana Newhard, Liz Oakley, Yana Landowne, Christina Marks,
Nathaniel Marvin, Chris Green, and Sarah Bellin, VOLUNTEERS
Dear HERE friends and family,

We are thrilled to welcome you to HERE’s 2022 SPARK Gala! We began working on this event more than two years ago, months before the pandemic began. When the world stopped in spring 2020, we sadly realized that our desire to celebrate our beloved Dream Music Puppetry Program would have to wait, like so many other things. We are so pleased to have finally made it to this event tonight—and we are so grateful to have you with us.

Over the past two years, we have been fortunate to have so many friends who believe in HERE’s mission to nurture a diverse array of artists, creating and producing innovative performance in every artistic discipline. Tonight, we finally have the chance to toast the work and contributions of two of those essential friends: award-winning author and illustrator, Brian Selznick, and passionate partisan of contemporary puppetry, Cheryl Henson.

As one of the originating puppeteers in Basil Twist’s original 1998 production of Symphonie Fantastique, Brian Selznick, our 2022 Avant-Guardian, has long been an important part of our community. HERE has been thrilled to watch Brian’s career flourish through his creation of imaginative and beautiful books, transformed and brought to life on stages and on the big screen (with thrilling films like Hugo and Wonderstruck).

We are also proud to celebrate Cheryl Henson with the HEREmanitarian Award for her long-time support of Dream Music. As President of the Jim Henson Foundation for a remarkable 30 years and a leading advocate for high quality puppet theatre, Cheryl has had a deep impact on our field and so many artists in our community. In addition to overseeing the Foundation’s achievement of making more than 1,000 grants to over 350 artists, she has been a true partner to HERE and Dream Music, generously supporting countless puppeteers who have graced the stages of HERE over the past 28 years.

Both of these individuals have been true partners over the past two years and provided generous support enabling us to work with artists even when our doors were closed and to be ready to welcome audiences again as soon as it became possible. For Cheryl, Brian, and you, our community of artists and audience members, we are deeply grateful. Our fire kept burning, and we are ecstatic to spread that flame with all of you tonight!

Kristin Marting
Founding Artistic Director
To me, BRIAN SELZNICK is a modern-day Leonardo da Vinci, a gifted artist with a myriad of other talents from novel and screenwriting to set design and of course, puppetry! Over the course of our 25+ years working together, I’ve had the great pleasure and privilege of watching Brian challenge himself creatively in ways I’ve never seen before in another artist. The seeds of his success were evident in his early award-winning picture books The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins by Barbara Kerley and When Marian Sang by Pam Muñoz Ryan. But it was his first solo novel in words and pictures, The Invention of Hugo Cabret—a genre-defying tour de force which broke open the novel form and created an entirely new reading experience—that put the scope of his genius on full display. It won the 2008 Randolph Caldecott Medal, became an international bestseller translated into over thirty-five languages, and was adapted into the Oscar-winning film “Hugo,” directed by Martin Scorsese. Between then and now, four more groundbreaking books followed, cementing Brian as one of the most innovative storytellers of our time. His latest book promises to be his crowning achievement! – Tracy Mack

BRIAN SELZNICK can do anything and do it well. He is a polymath’s polymath. His amazing books are complex and stunningly innovative explorations of the electric relationship between language and image. His breathtaking toy theater shows are elegant, tiny doorways into the gigantic lives of heroic, though sometimes half remembered figures. His illustrations range from the adorable to the hilarious to the erotic, while his abstractions in paint/pencil combine artistic virtuosity with deep longing. His puppeteering skills are both nuanced and precise, and as if that weren’t enough, he has recently taken to writing plays, musicals, and ballets. Is there nothing this man can’t do? I wish he’d take up archery or skeet shooting or something. It would be refreshing to see him be lousy at something. (Although knowing him, he’d have a shelf full of trophies in a matter of weeks.) – Dan Hurlin
The magical mind of **Brian Selznick**, his mercurial eye, his rhapsodic pencil. Just a few of the extraordinary gifts present in a man I am lucky enough to call a collaborator. Our work began together on a new ‘Nutcracker’ for The Joffrey Ballet which yielded many delightful discoveries. One of them also proved a challenge yet a true testimony to his boundlessly cascading imagination. When I approached Brian to write a synopsis for the ballet, his first proposal was a story over twenty pages long. It was so full of fun, adventure and detail, that a trilogy akin to Wagner’s *Ring Cycle* perhaps may have been more appropriate. How was I possibly going to stage the delights he imagined. In all reality, two or three pages for a ballet synopsis for a ballet is already pushing it, and I am certainly not someone who shy’s away from telling a hearty tale through dance. I challenged him and told him that if possible, we would need to try to get it on one page, then we could begin fleshing it out. The joy, sense of whimsy, but also deep rooted humanity that leapt from those cut early Nutcracker pages are worthy one day of a full book or indeed a movie. Somehow with great grace Brian reduced it to a manageable length and the Chicago *Nutcracker* was born.

Brian Selznick is a man of abundance. An abundance of gift, an abundance of kindness and generosity. He leaves love out in the world like a trail of stars leaping off the page every time a child opens a copy of ‘Hugo Cabret’ or *The Marvels*. That love washes over us cantankerous grown-ups as we read these stories to our children, or happen to pick up one of these magical titles in a book store. Art is love, and Brian’s gift is to be able access that in so many ways, and share it through his writing, drawing and painting. And in person who isn’t entranced by that bright twinkle in his eye. The twinkle that seems like tinkerbell herself leading us to a place deep in our own imagination.

– Christopher Wheeldon
BRIAN SELZNICK is the author and illustrator of many books for children, including *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, winner of the Caldecott medal and the basis for the Oscar-winning movie *Hugo*, directed by Martin Scorsese.

He’s also the author and illustrator of *Wonderstruck*, which was made into a movie by Todd Haynes with a screenplay by Brian and is currently being developed for the stage.

Other books include *The Marvels* (currently being developed for film and theater), *The Doll People* trilogy by Ann M. Martin and Laura Godwin, and *Baby Monkey, Private Eye*, a 158 page beginning reader written by Brian’s husband Dr. David Serlin.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the beloved *Harry Potter* series, Brian created new covers and a box for all seven books.

He wrote the story for a new version of *The Nutcracker* at the Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, choreographed by Tony Award winning choreographer Christopher Wheeldon (*An American In Paris*). Christopher and Brian are currently collaborating with Ryan Scott Oliver on a musical of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*.

His first for an adult audience, *Live Oak, With Moss*, is based on twelve poems by Walt Whitman and is published by Abrams.

Brian’s newest book, the *New York Times* bestseller *Kaleidoscope*, was published in September, 2021 by Scholastic.

Brian graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1988. He got his start in children’s books as an independent bookseller at Eeyore’s Books for Children on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. He was in the original cast of Basil Twist’s *Symphonie Fantastique* and *Petrushka*, and has worked extensively on puppet productions with Dan Hurlin.

Brian and his husband divide their time between San Diego, California and Brooklyn, New York.
WE LOVE CHERYL HENSON

CHERYL HENSON is my spirit guide to all things puppet. She is a long-time supporter of P.S. 122 and Under the Radar, Dixon Place, La MaMa and of course HERE. Cheryl is truly one of the most lovely human beings on this planet. Though some wonder whether she is actually on this planet, considering her ethereal post-modern hippie style - but I assure you she is. She can come right down to earth when needed. Cheryl is incisive, caring and fierce in her love and support of Puppetry and its community. She makes dreams happen for people, dreams that would not be possible without her encouragement and support. I knew her husband Ed, when he was called Duke. Dukes marry princesses and that is the case here – Cheryl Henson, the “Princess of Puppetry,” long may she reign. – Mark Russell

Unlike all the other arts puppetry has few cannons to keep it honest. But fortunately, the field has CHERYL who presides over the Jim Henson Foundation. And through the foundation she sets standards for an art that is so immensely diverse in its practices and attitudes. Here is Cheryl in her own words, writing to the board prior to a meeting on dealing with grant proposals:

“We fund excellence in puppet theater. This means excellence in performance, puppet construction and presentation. Excellent Puppet Theater. No matter how charming and emotionally sensitive something might be: Is it professional and excellent?”

This spells out Cheryl’s total commitment and importance to this field; and it is also why I am committed to Cheryl and the foundation. – Hanne Tierney

There are those in the world who are caring and those who are not. There are those in the world who are loving and those who are not. There are those in the world who are life-affirming and those who are not. In this terrible time of the pandemic, of war, of racial hatred, of divisiveness, these three qualities are urgently needed in so many different ways. Tonight we are honoring someone who has chosen in her life to be caring, loving, and affirming of art, specifically of the art of puppetry. If each and everyone of us could be caring, loving, and life-affirming in our respective interests, what a world we would be living in now. It is with gratitude that we honor tonight a champion of the art of puppetry, CHERYL HENSON, who has gone the extra mile to support so many artists in this time of need. I wish I could be there tonight to honor you, Cheryl. Congratulations! – Ping Chong
CHERYL HENSON has been the President of The Jim Henson Foundation since 1992. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of The Jim Henson Company and The Center for Puppetry Arts. The Jim Henson Foundation is a grant making organization founded by Jim Henson in 1982 to support the art of puppetry in America. Over the past forty years, the foundation has made over 1000 grants to over 350 different artists. Cheryl is an advocate for high quality puppet theater. From 1991 – 2000, Cheryl executive produced the award winning biennial Henson International Festival of Puppet Theater. These five festivals presented 136 different productions in 24 theaters throughout New York City, including both theaters at HERE. During this time, Cheryl also worked with Sesame Street and Sesame Workshop, co-wrote the book Muppets Make Puppets and worked on a range of other projects. In 2005, she edited a book of her father’s philosophy for Hyperion, It’s Not Easy Being Green and Other Things to Consider. Cheryl was a puppet builder and designer and worked on many productions including The Dark Crystal, Labyrinth, The Muppet Show, The Storyteller, Bunny Picnic and Song of the Cloud Forest. Cheryl is a graduate of Yale and has a degree from F.I.T. She has two children, a wonderful husband, and a new puppy named Misty. She is proud to support the creation and presentation of innovative contemporary American puppet theater through The Jim Henson Foundation. To learn more, please visit hensonfoundation.org.
PERFORMER BIOS

BASIL TWIST (Emcee) A native of San Francisco, Basil Twist is a third-generation puppeteer. He is the sole American to graduate from the École Supérieure Nationale des Arts de la Marionnette in Charleville-Mézières, France. Basil’s showmanship was spotlighted in New York by The Jim Henson International Festival of Puppetry with his award winning *The Araneidae Show*. This recognition coupled with the ground-breaking and multiple award-winning *Symphonie Fantastique*, Twist was revealed as a singular artist of unlimited imagination. Highlights of subsequent work have included *Petrushka* (commissioned by Lincoln Center) and *Dogugaeshi* (The Japan Society), *Behind the Lid* (Silver Whale Gallery) with the late Lee Nagrin and *Arias with a Twist*, co-created with nightlife icon Joey Arias. *Symphonie* and these productions have now toured throughout the world. Broadway credits include puppetry design for *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*, *Oh, Hello!, The Addams Family*, and puppetry direction for the beloved *Pee-Wee Herman Show*. His work has received an Obie, Drama Desk Awards, UNIMA Awards, Bessie Awards, a New York Innovative Theatre Award, and a Henry Hewes Award. He has been honored with a MacArthur, the “Rome Prize” from The American Academy in Rome, a Guggenheim Fellowship, USA Fellowship, a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award and his productions have received numerous grants from the Jim Henson Foundation. Twist guides the internationally recognized Dream Music Puppetry Program at HERE.

JOEY ARIAS is an American artist based in New York City, best known for work as a performance artist, cabaret singer, and drag artist, but also as a published author, comedian, stage persona and film actor. He also goes by the names Joseph Arias and Joe Arias. In 2003, Arias moved to Las Vegas, Nevada to star in Cirque du Soleil’s *Zumanity* at the New York-New York Hotel & Casino. In addition to starring in the show, he co-wrote two of the show’s songs. After six years, Arias returned to New York where he starred in *Arias with a Twist*, a collaboration with puppeteer Basil Twist at HERE. Produced by Barbara Busackino and Tandem Otter Productions, the show received positive reviews and has toured to Los Angeles and Paris and spawned a “docufantasy” film of the same name which premiered at the TriBeCa Film Festival in 2010. Arias continues to perform in venues such as Joe’s Pub and Feinstein’s/54 Below.
RYAN SCOTT OLIVER was called “the future of Broadway… a major new voice in musical theatre” (Entertainment Weekly). He wrote the music and lyrics for Jasper in Deadland; 35mm: A Musical Exhibition; We Foxes; Darling; Mrs. Sharp; and others, and is the winner of a Larson Grant, Rodgers Award, New Musicals Awards from Weston Playhouse, Pace University, and the recipient of a Lortel Award Nomination as well as numerous fellowships, residencies and ASCAP awards. He’s currently at work on an adaption of Hugo; Tethered with Adam Chanler-Berat; Party of the Century (commissioned by FourthWall Theatricals); Tomorrow, the Island Dies (commissioned by Samford University); and Heart and Souls with Kirsten Guenther for Universal Theatricals. @ryanscottoliver on all platforms.

CHIMPANZEE (by Nick Lehane) premiered at HERE, presented by the Dream Music Puppetry Program. It was made possible through the unwavering support of Cheryl Henson and the Jim Henson Foundation. Chimpanzee was the recipient of the 2019 Jim Henson Foundation Residency at the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center, and received work-in-progress presentations at Puppetry at the Carriage House and The Puppet Lab at St Anne’s Warehouse. Chimpanzee made its European premiere at the World Puppet Theater Festival in Charleville-Mézières, thanks to the generous support of The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Cheryl Henson, Basil Twist, and Barbara Busackino. It has since been presented by Hamilton College, by Casteliers at Théâtre Aux Écuries in Montreal, The London Mime Festival at the Barbican Center and by the Chicago International Puppetry Festival.

PROCESSIONAL ARTS WORKSHOP (PAW), led by Alex Kahn and Sophia Michahelles, works with communities to create site-specific, human-powered, art parades and Carnivalesque performances. PAW involves volunteers at every stage of production, resulting in collaborative works that evoke local narratives through pageant puppetry, illuminations, ceremonial architecture, and masking. Since 1998, their performances have led NY’s Village Halloween Parade. Their work has appeared at Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, the High Line, Socrates Sculpture Park, Miami’s Vizcaya Museum, and the Obamas’ White House. Outside of traditional venues, they have engaged communities ranging from the streets of Kyiv to Trinidad Carnival to the South Bronx.
BEN&ROSA: Ben and Rosa Elling are puppet artists based in NYC. You can find out more about their work by visiting www.itfigurespuppetcompany.com. Rosa and Ben are beyond grateful to HERE for their world class puppetry programming and for being an awesome community space. Thank you for inviting us to honor the wonderful Cheryl Henson and hugely talented Brian Selznick. What fun! With special thanks to Rachel Schapira and Nat Marvan.

TAU BENNETT is a Brooklyn-based puppeteer who has been creating since the age of ten. Over the years, he has gathered a group of friends he can call upon to help actualize his many artistic visions. For this particular project, he recruited such people as Toria Sterling to build the puppet based on Tau’s design. Toria has worked on Broadway, Disney, and is currently a builder in the Henson shop. Another close collaborator is Sebastiano Ricci, who assists Tau in manipulating the puppet; performing the hands while Tau does the head, feet and body. Sebastiano has also worked in the Henson shop and is currently a puppeteer in the live Winnie the Pooh stage show. And then there’s Rattleshake, the band who provided the music for the piece. Their music can be found on such major platforms as Spotify, Soundcloud and Bandcamp.

ROBIN FROHARDT: Known for her rich aesthetic and highly detailed constructions, Robin Frohardt is an award-winning theater and film director. Her narrative based film, puppetry and sculpture, use recognizable materials, often trash, to create richly detailed worlds that make magic of the mundane and highlight the trivialities of daily life. Her theatrical work has earned her a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Creative Capital Award and multiple Jim Henson Foundation Grants. Her HERE Artist Residency Program production The Pigeoning, hailed by the New York Times as “a tender, fantastical symphony of the imagination,” debuted in 2013 and continues to tour at home and abroad. Her follow-up project The Plastic Bag Store premiered in Times Square in 2020 and has since toured to Los Angeles, Chicago, Adelaide and Austin. Her films have been official selections at The Telluride Film Festival, Aspen Shortsfest, The One Earth Film Festival and BAM.
**GREAT SMALL WORKS**: Trudi Cohen and John Bell are theater makers, puppeteers, festival organizers, musicians, teachers and founding members of Great Small Works, a visual theater collective created in 1995 in New York City, whose six members share roots in Bread and Puppet Theater. The company is now dispersed, with outposts in Brooklyn, NY’s Hudson Valley, Montreal, and Cambridge, MA. Bell and Cohen anchor the Massachusetts base. John is Director of the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry and an Associate Professor of Dramatic Arts at the University of Connecticut. Together they received New England Foundation for the Arts’ 2018 Rebecca Blunk Award.

**SPENCER LOTT** is a puppeteer, creator and director. In addition to playing Julia’s brother Samuel on *Sesame Street*, his puppetry credits include *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (starring Tom Hanks), *Helpsters* (Apple+), Disney’s *The Muppets* and the upcoming *Hello Tomorrow!* (Apple+). Spencer’s original work has been presented at LaMaMa, Dixon Place, HERE, Lincoln Center Education and more. He’s a Creative Producer, Public for Trusty Sidekick Theater Company and the co-founder of Simple Mischief Studio working on projects for HBOMAX, and Nickelodeon. HERE Artist Residency Program alum.

**LAKE SIMONS** is a director, designer, puppeteer, physical performer, and a maker of things. She has collaborated with a wide range of artists creating theatre productions from the ground up utilizing puppetry, movement, & live music. But most importantly Lake relies on make-believe. Lake has received multiple Jim Henson Foundation grants in support of her original puppetry productions. Lake has created productions for various institutions including Miller Theater at Columbia University, Texas Woman’s University, and Dixon Place. Most recently Lake took the helm of her family’s 46 year old theatre, Hip Pocket Theatre in Fort Worth, Texas, in the role of Managing Artistic Director. For over 25 years she has contributed as a director, performer, and designer with Hip Pocket. Lake is a co-director for the Puppet Lab at St. Ann’s Warehouse in Brooklyn. She teaches puppetry in the theatre department at Sarah Lawrence College. HERE Artist Residency Program alum.
SACHIYO TAKAHASHI is a composer, musician, and artist whose work centers around storytelling. Compositing sensory elements in a minimalist manner, she explores the border between narrative and abstraction to generate fables for the subconscious. Sachiyo founded Nekaa Lab in 2006 together with other “lab members” (stuffed toys and tiny figurines). She has been producing performances and installations while observing human nature from alternative perspectives. Sachiyo is also an accredited master of Okamoto school Shinnai-bushi, a traditional Japanese song-storytelling, and performs as Okamoto Miya. She is an awardee of The Jim Henson Foundation grants and a current resident artist at HERE.

GRACE GALU is a vocalist, actor, guitarist and composer. She combines the sounds of her Irish and Congolese heritage and her LES upbringing in a soulful and gritty twist. Grace was featured in Buskerball, and recorded “Firelight” with Fearless Music. Her composition, “Ordinary Sentiment” was featured in the Ed Burns film, “Purple Violets” which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. Grace devised The Mendelssohn Electric with Trusty Sidekick, and was cast as the lead in their production, The Gospel Electric, commissioned by the Park Avenue Armory. She is a core member of the band Soul Inscribed, and was twice selected as a cultural ambassador for the American Music Abroad program. She has been selected as a cultural ambassador for their next residency program (2022). Grace is also a recipient of the NEFA NTP grant. Soul Inscribed has recently been signed to the music label Tokyo Dawn and just released their EP, Tune UP. Grace is an artist in residence at HERE and the composer for Cannabis! A Viper Vaudeville. Grace voiced Wisdom in Nia Witherspoon’s production The Dark Girl Chronicles (2021 at The Shed).

BABA ISRAEL 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 previous 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. Soul Inscribed released Tune up on Tokyo Dawn records in 2020. He is the winner of a Gramophone for his work on From the
Ground Up: The Chaconne by Hugo Ticciati and o/modernt. He holds an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College and is the 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. He was a recipient of the 2020 Map Fund and NEFA NTP Grant.

ANGELA DI CARLO (DJ) is a New York based performer (ADD Cabaret) and DJ spinning 1970’s AM Gold and late 70’s/early 80s new wave on vinyl regularly every month at the Mattachine party at Julius Bar with Amber Martin and John Cameron Mitchel for the past 11 years. Other past residencies include Cafe Dancer, The Ace Hotel. Independent events & parties include New Year’s Eve At Balthazar & Augustine, The Spiegeltent on BARD Campus, GLAAD, Club Cumming, MAC Cosmetics, Opening night party for Hedwig and the Angry Inch on Broadway at Tao Nightclub, Hedwig and the Angry Inch on Broadway TONY Awards party and closing night party.

AYUMU POE SAEGUSA (Lighting Designer) started stage lighting design in 2000 in Tokyo. He moved into NYC in 2005 and became resident lighting designer of HERE. He also works as a Freelance lighting designer for various type of shows from NY Fringe festival to Lincoln Center Festival in various countries from Japan to Europe. He is a good collaborator for multimedia opera shows and all sorts of puppet shows. His credits include Looking At You (HERE Mainstage, 2019, NY) by Kristin Marting, and Rite of Spring (White Light Festival at Lincoln Center, 2014, NY) by Basil Twist.

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Grace Galu
Abigail Gampel
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Andrea Gift
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Special thanks to the following individuals. We couldn’t do it without you!

Special thanks to Emily Piuggi, Matthew Schwalm, Lindsey “Z” Briggs, Melanie Milton, and Glow Motion Technologies.

We would like to express our gratitude to our Dream Music Puppetry Program leaders, Basil Twist and Barbara Busackino. Their partnership in planning this Gala and their ongoing support of our amazing puppeteers is immeasurable.
ABOUT HERE

HEREmission
From our home in Lower Manhattan, HERE builds a community that nurtures artists as they create innovative new performances in theatre, dance, music, puppetry, media, and visual art. HERE strives to provide genre-blending artists with an adaptive, flexible home for developing and producing their work, and to serve curious audiences as a welcoming accessible destination to witness groundbreaking performances, responsive to the complex world in which we live.

HEREstory
Founded in 1993 by four artists — Kristin Marting, Tim Maner, Barbara Busackino, and Randy Rollison — HERE was envisioned as a welcoming, safe environment that could attract and launch a variety of artists. Over the past 29 years, HERE has been home to such acclaimed artists and works as Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues, Basil Twist's Symphonie Fantastique, Taylor Mac's The Lily's Revenge, as well as works by Founding Artistic Director Kristin Marting. We have produced and presented over 1,200 original works; served over 15,000 artists; and welcomed over 1,000,000 audience members. Work and artists at HERE have received 16 OBIE Awards, 2 OBIE Grants and a CUNY Booth Award for artistic achievement, 2 Berilla Kerr Awards, 4 NY Innovative Theatre Awards, 2 Bessie Awards, 6 Drama Desk nominations, 2 Pulitzer Prizes, 2 MacArthur “Genius Grant” Fellowships, and most recently, a Tony nomination. HERE remains on “Best Off-Off Broadway” theatre lists across New York City. In 2005, with the support of the City of New York and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, HERE purchased its 9,000-square-foot longtime home with two performance spaces, a lounge, and gallery. With full-scale renovations completed in 2008 and 2011, thanks to significant support from the City of New York, HERE continues to stand as a pillar of the thriving Hudson Square neighborhood.

Launched in 1998, our celebrated HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP) offers comprehensive multi-year residencies to 8-10 artists from all disciplines. This $100,000 per artist program, which provides a commission, development funds and resources, and a production is the only program of its kind in the country. Our Dream Music Puppetry Program develops and presents wildly unique new puppet works and introduces New York audiences to ambitious local and international puppeteers. Through SubletSeries@HERE, we provide a home and creative workspace at subsidized rates to dozens of the City's most ambitious, but “homeless” theatre artists and ensembles. Finally, our PROTOTYPE Festival, launched in 2013 and co-produced with Beth Morrison Projects, showcases and furthers the careers of pioneering opera-theatre and music-theatre artists from New York and around the world. HERE provides a broad spectrum of activity 365 days a year.
HERE’s Board of Directors

HERE’s Board of Directors is a diverse group of individuals who are artistically curious and endlessly passionate about supporting artists and artistic life in New York City.

A circle made up of both artists and arts advocates, the Board is not only charged with fiscal oversight, but with ensuring that HERE continues to live its mission and values. Deeply invested in HERE’s commitment to anti-racism and justice work, this group of individuals engage in deep conversations to steer the organization forward and contribute to a culture conducive to our goals.

They support HERE’s vitality in numerous ways and are essential leaders in our City. We celebrate their work tonight.

If being a part of this important circle of our community is of interest to you or someone you know, please feel free to reach out to Producing Director Meredith Lynsey Schade at meredith@here.org.
BAM

Congratulates

Cheryl Henson

on receiving the
HEREmanitarian Award

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PRODUCING DIRECTOR
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DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Brenna C. Thomas

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Remi Harris, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - SUBLET SERIES AND OUTDOOR PROGRAMS
Basil Twist, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, DREAM MUSIC PUPPETRY
Barbara Busackino, PRODUCER, DREAM MUSIC PUPPETRY
Dan Halm, RESIDENT HEREART CURATOR
Haley Fragen, PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

GENERAL MANAGEMENT
Cierra Cass, GENERAL MANAGER
Viktoria-Isabella King, COMPANY MANAGER
Emma Richmond, GENERAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT
Enoch Parmar, PRODUCING ASSISTANT

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Matt Ross PR, PUBLIC RELATIONS
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Isabella Rivera Ruiz, INDIVIDUAL GIVING MANAGER
Chiaoyi Chang and Sophia Torres, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANTS

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Cole Bonenberger, PRODUCTION MANAGER
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Ayumu “Poe” Saegusa, RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER
Zoey Jones, PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

AUDIENCE SERVICES
Richard Stauffacher, AUDIENCE SERVICES MANAGER

PROTOTYPE
Sarah Bellin, 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.

FOUNDERS
Barbara Busackino
Tim Maner
Kristin Marting
Randy Rollison

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Aluminum Ostruff
James Scruggs
Amy Segal
Robert Walport
Jennifer Suh Whitfield
Tommy Young

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 the Office of the Governor 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, Mayor Eric Adams, 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:

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The Association of Performing Arts
The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation
The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation
The Jane Henson Foundation
The Roy Cockrum Foundation
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HERE’S YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMMING INCLUDES:

The HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP)
HERE & Back
Dream Music Puppetry Program
PROTOTYPE: Opera | Theatre | Now
SubletSeries@HERE
HEREart

HERE’S 2021-22 RESIDENT ARTISTS

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Shayok Misha Chowdhury
Ximena Garnica & Shige Moriya | LEIMAY
Grace Galu & Baba Israel | Soul Inscribed
Maiko Kikuchi & Spencer Lott
Taylor Mac
minor theater
Normandy Sherwood
Sachiyo Takahashi & gamin
Nia Ostrow Witherspoon
Imani Uzuri