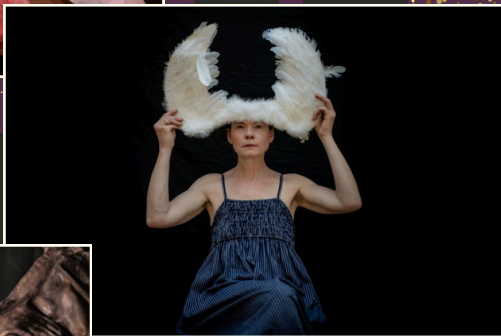


HERE's Dream Music Puppetry Program presents:

# PUPPETOPIA

2025



MAY 21 - JUNE 1

DIGITAL PROGRAM

SCROLL TO CONTINUE

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

*Click on any section below to jump to the page.*

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**ABOUT DREAM MUSIC PUPPETRY**

**THE HARLEM DOLL PALACE**

**RHYNOCERON**

**VARIATIONS ON (THE) WATER**

**THIS SEASON AT HERE**

**HARP**

**ABOUT HERE**

**HERE STAFF & BOARD**

**SUPPORT**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**CONNECT WITH HERE**

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

---

HERE Arts Center acknowledges that the land beneath us, this place, this community, owes its vitality to generations who have come before. Some were brought forcibly to this land, some came here in search of ownership or simply a better life, and some have lived and stewarded this land for countless generations. In a spirit of making erased histories visible, we acknowledge that we are standing on the ancestral and occupied lands of the Munsee Lenape peoples. The Shinnecock, Matinecock, Canarsie, and Haudenosaunee peoples have also cared for this land. The peoples are not relics of the past, but they continue to steward this land today with care, vitality, and tradition. Their relations are numerous throughout Turtle Island, and they are continuing to grow. We pay respects to their elders' past, present, and future. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

# ABOUT DREAM MUSIC PUPPETRY

---

One of few programs in the country to grow and commission contemporary, adult puppet works, Dream Music provides performance opportunities to puppet artists, and encourages multidisciplinary collaboration to develop new puppetry techniques. This program was inaugurated with the premiere of Basil Twist's OBIE-award-winning *Symphonie Fantastique* in 1998. Under the artistic direction of Twist, and produced by HERE co-founder Barbara Busackino, the Dream Music aesthetic is geared toward puppet works that feature live music as a collaborative element.

Puppetry is the original multi-disciplinary art form therefore Dream Music artists if they so choose, have a place in the HARP program to develop their work alongside artists of other disciplines. Dream Music curates regular Puppetry Parlors to showcase excerpts from developing works both from within Dream Music and the puppetry community at large. Each year, Dream Music commissions new full-length puppet works; develops new puppet works by emerging puppet artists through Puppetry Parlors and at CULTUREMART; provides educational outreach through its partnership commissions for the legendary Village Halloween Parade; and offers national and international touring/presenting opportunities. Touring commissions include Lake Simons' *What's Inside the Egg?*, Kevin Augustine's *Animal*, Erin Orr's *Savage Nursery*, and Erik Sanko's *The Fortune Teller*.

The program is principally centered around the intimate Dorothy B. Williams Theatre, specifically configured for puppet works. Puppetry is a unique art form which takes many roots, and so our methods for crafting the program change with each artist who passes through our doors. Displayed outside of the Dorothy B. Williams Theatre is the Griff Williams Marionette Collection.

DREAM MUSIC PUPPETRY is made possible through the generous lead support of Cheryl Henson and The Jim Henson Foundation with the additional support of Brian Selznick & David Serlin, Elissa Auther, Stephanie D'Abruzzo, Andrea Kihlstedt, Hanne Tierney, and many other individual puppet fans.



# THE HARLEM DOLL PALACE

---

**Written by**

Alva Rogers

**Directed by**

Ash Winkfield

**Performed by**

Mecca Akbar, Thalya David, Charlotte Lily Gaspard, Marcella Murray, Alva Rogers, Ash Winkfield

**Music, Lyrics, and Scoring by**

Bruce Monroe

**Sound Design**

Dave Pascal

**Lighting Design**

Milner Sommers

**Costume Design**

Mark Ruffin & Ash Winkfield

**Production Design**

Ash Winkfield

**Carpentry**

Chris Flanagan

**Stage Manager**

Emily Grierson

**Production Assistant, Sewist, Props**

William PK Carter

**Workshop Director & Set Designer**

Jessica Simon

## **Puppet Design**

Amanda Card - Shadow Puppets

William PK Carter - Butterfly Puppets

Rosa Elling - Army Talking Doll

Charlotte Lily Gaspard - Costumes for Army Talking Doll  
& Aunt Len Doll

Dorothy James - Brown Nurse Doll, Grace Kelly Doll, Ninon  
French Fashion Doll (In collaboration with Rowan Magee),  
Hidden Shadows

Sono Kuwayama - Hannah, Early, Sarah, Topsy Turvies

Leah Levine - The Missus

Rowan Magee - Brown Nurse Doll, Grace Kelly Doll, Ninon  
French Fashion Doll (In collaboration with Dorothy James)

Brenna Ross - Crochet Gobo

Esme Roszel - Izannah Walker Doll, Aunt Len Doll

## **Documentarian and Video Design**

Samira Gibson, ardd.tech | saga44

Welcome to Aunt Len's Doll and Toy Museum! Behind the pink door of a three story Harlem brownstone lies a world created by Lennon Holder Hoyte – affectionately known as Aunt Len. The dolls from her “dollection” seek to keep Aunt Len, their beloved museum founder, alive before the outside world can invoke its realities of life, ashes and dust. As Harlem deteriorates around her beloved doll museum, the dolls recreate their journeys to the museum in an effort to keep Aunt Len's memory alive. Enter the world of The Harlem Doll Palace.

Run time: 80 min

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Ash Winkfield** (xe/xem/xyr) is a multi-disciplinary artist working primarily in theater and the puppetry arts. Winkfield specializes in new and devised work presented in New York City, and has toured domestically and internationally with Basil Twist (Rite of Spring, Sister's Follies, Book of Mountains and Seas), The Walk with Little Amal (NYC, Toronto, US Tour), and most recently Yaa Samar Dance Theater's world premiere of "Gathering". Winkfield is passionate about creating work that speaks to the emotional experience of humanity in the face of injustice.

**Alva Rogers**, the Artistic Director of ALVA PUPPET THEATER, is a dramatist, puppeteer, and multidisciplinary artist. The company's most recent work, Topsy-Turvy, was presented at The 2024 Brooklyn Academy of Music's Gala at the request of Creative Trailblazer honoree, Solange Knowles and The Museum of Modern Art in 2023. Her work with Rodeo Caledonia High Fidelity Performance Theater ignited an early career as a performance artist and film actor (School Daze, Daughters of the Dust). Later, she concentrated more on writing, earning MFAs in Musical Theatre Writing (NYU/Tisch) and Playwriting (Brown); she also holds an MAT in History (Bard).

**Bruce Monroe**, a Dramatists Guild member, has been writing music and lyrics for Alva Rogers since they first met at NYU's Musical Theatre Writing Program (including the musicals Sunday, Mermaid, and nightbathing) as well as the score for the puppet play/installation Topsy Turvy at MOMA (2023). A Seattle-based composer, lyricist, librettist, orchestrator, dance arranger, music director, and conductor, his Northwest projects include Opera commissions, (Surfer, a comic book odyssey, Command Performance), independent film scores (credits on [imdb.com](https://www.imdb.com)) and audio series scores, for John Longenbaugh's Battleground Productions (most recently

Moonlight and Love Songs). Special Thanks, as always, to the engineering prowess of Dave Pascal. Bruce is married to Seattle Times Arts Writer, and novelist, Moira Macdonald (Storybook Ending).

**Charlotte Lily Gaspard** "Part celestial creature, part sophisticated human" is how Charlotte Lily Gaspard has been described by Faerie Magazine when contemplating the ethereal artist and her work in one of their features. Shadow puppet artist, educator, entertainer, and "bona fide fairy princess" (DUMBO Living), Charlotte's mission is to activate imaginations and celebrate playfulness wherever she goes.

Charlotte is the founder, artistic director and "fanciful mastermind" (Broadway World) behind Midnight Radio Show, a shadow puppet sci-fi fairytale theater company based in Brooklyn, NYC. Charlotte and her collective are known for devising innovative avant-garde enchantments, infused with puppets, poetry, music and dance, for the stage and beyond.

Midnight Radio Show is pleased to announce "The Origin of Puccini the Cat", an illustrated children's book based on Charlotte's shadow puppetry and silhouette artwork, is now available from Cool Grove Press.

More at: [www.MidnightRadioShow.org](http://www.MidnightRadioShow.org)

**Dave Pascal** is a Seattle-based musician, producer, and sound designer. He performs as a bassist in theater orchestras, studios, and other music venues. His playing with multiple bands includes several European tours. His work as a composer, producer, sound designer, and music director includes Emmy-winning TV projects, award-winning educational multimedia, and theatrical productions around the U.S.

**Emily Grierson** (they/them) is a Seattle-based stage manager originally from Western New York. As a stage manager, Emily has had the pleasure of working with artists on theater, dance, and puppetry productions across the country. Recent credits: *Songs of the Moon* (5th Avenue Educational Tour), *Kayfabe* (Josh Rice Projects/Chicago International Puppet Festival), *Guards at the Taj* (ArtsWest), *Henry V* (Shake on the Lake), *DIALOGUE* (Spectrum Dance Theatre). They are excited to join the *Harlem Doll Palace* team!

**Marcella Murray** is a New York-based theater artist from Augusta, Georgia. She is a playwright, performer, collaborator, and puppeteer. Murray's work is heavily inspired by the observed ways in which people tend to segregate and reconnect.

Performances include *The Slow Room*, by Annie Dorsen at Performance Space NY; *I Don't Want to Interrupt You Guys*, with Leonie Bell and Hyung Seok Jeon at Mabou Mines; *Shoot Don't Talk* at St. Ann's Warehouse/Puppet Lab by Andrew Murdock; *Our Bodies Like Dams* by Sarah Finn at Mabou Mines; workshop reading of *Loom Troll* by Karin Keithley Syers at New Dramatists; *Rent Party* by Amina Henry and *Drama of Works*; *SmithSchmidtSmith* by Leonie Bell at The Brick; *Sunflower* by Sifiso Mabena; *Fire in the Head* by Christopher Myers with FIAF; *Swann*, an opera by Tamar-Kali and Carl Hancock Rux; and *Other Atlantas: A Prologue* created by Marcella Murray at La MaMa.

Along with David Neumann and Tei Blow, Murray recently co-created *Distances Smaller Than This Are Not Confirmed* (Obie Special Citation 2020) and *Primer for an Impossible Conversation*, a digital theater piece which premiered in 2021 at MCA Chicago. They recently premiered the *Southern Futures* commissioned *Rich with History* at UNC Chapel Hill's Center for Performing Arts. Murray is a co-curator of the Object Movement Puppetry Residency. She has been an Artist in Residence at LaMaMa

ETC as well as a participant in the EiO Writer's Room. She is a guest professor of theatre at Sarah Lawrence College.

**Mecca Akbar** has starred in off-Broadway productions of Pinocchio with New York Children's Theatre, Tree Haus with the New York Drama Company, as well as the original cast of Sesame Street: The Musical with Rockefeller Productions. She trained at New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts in Chelsea Manhattan, as well as the British Academy for Dramatic Arts' Midsummer Shakespeare program at Oxford University. Mecca is a rotating marionettist at the Swedish Marionette Theatre in Central Park as well as teaches seasonal puppetry residencies for Lower Manhattan Arts Academy high school. Akbar is also a traveling Product Specialist with Toyota. Fall of 2025 Akbar will rejoin Concrete Temples PACKRAT at the Festival Mondial Desthéâtres de marionettes in Charleville-Mézières, France.

**Thalya I. David** (she/her) is a Haitian-American actress from Florida with a BA in Fine Arts at Broward College. She moved to New York (2017) to continue to pursue an acting career and received her BFA in Acting at Marymount Manhattan College (2020). Performed on stage here and there, she debut as a puppeteer in Maria Camia's Healing Shipment at La MaMa Puppet Festival (2022 & 2023). She has the pleasure to work with Alva Roger's Doll's Palace at Dixon Place (2023 & 2024). Performed twice at Object Movement Puppetry Festival performed in From Darkness Gilt by Lim (2022) and The Hood Babies' Tapes by Beyonce (2025). IG: basiiiq

**William PK Carter** is a quilter and puppet artist based in Central Valley, New York. They bridge the puppet and fine art worlds by fabricating wondrous creatures that exist at the intersection of queerness and blackness. They received their Bachelor of Science in Studio Art from Skidmore College in 2023, and their work has been exhibited and performed in theaters, galleries, and museums across the east coast. Notable venues include

Puppet Showplace Theater (Brookline, MA), La Mama Experimental Theatre Club (New York, NY), Dixon Place (New York, NY), The Old Stone House of Brooklyn (Brooklyn, NY), The Ritz Theatre (Newburgh, NY), and The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery (Saratoga Springs, NY). Carter is the recipient of Skidmore College's President's Racial Justice Award (2021), the Van Dewater Memorial Award (2022), and the John P. Heins Award: Outstanding Senior Thesis Exhibition (2023). They are a part of the 2025 cohort of Puppet Showplace's Creative Residency for Black Puppeteers, and is an upcoming resident artist at Ma's House (Southampton, NY). [WilliamPKCarter.com](http://WilliamPKCarter.com)

# RHYNOCERON

---

Directed and designed by  
KT Shivak

Puppeteers  
Chih-Jou Cheng, Jacky Kelsey, and KT Shivak

Music and Composition  
Ben Zucker

Puppets/Stage designed and built by  
KT Shivak

The world premiere of a puppetry show that traces the true events surrounding the arrival of a one-horned rhinoceros to Renaissance Europe, sparking an obsession that continued for hundreds of years. Through acts of hunting and collecting, Shivak's life size rhino puppet transforms in front of our eyes from a natural inspiring wonder to an object of human greed. Shivak and company hail from Chicago where this show was created with support from The Chicago International Puppetry Festival and this mark's their New York Debut.

Run time: 45 min

## BIOGRAPHIES

**KT Shivak** is a builder, puppet designer, and puppeteer working in Chicago. Her puppets have appeared in the Chicago International Puppetry Festival, the New York Times, Puppetry International, the Chicago Tribune, and at the Chicago Cultural Center. As one of the first members of the Chicago Puppet Studio she has designed for numerous theater and film productions including Jeff Award winning *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* (Lookingglass Theater), Jeff Award nominated *Pinocchio* (House Theater), and *Vancouver* (Ma-Yi Theater Company). Her works “Rhynoceron” and “Derelict Devils” have been supported by DCASE grants and residencies at High Concept Labs, the National Puppetry Conference, and the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival. She studied sculpture and performance at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where a love for wood carving and simple machines led her to start working for a puppet theater for the first time. [www.ktshivak.com](http://www.ktshivak.com)

**Ben Zucker** uses music to speculate on the systems and shapes of change, which has led to a wide-ranging career as a composer, multi-instrumentalist improviser, producer, and cultural worker, with contributions to experimental scenes across North America and Europe. Acclaimed as a “master of improvisation” (IMPOSE Magazine), and “more than a little bit remarkable” (Free Jazz Blog), his work includes “stirring compositions...built on a lifetime of musical curiosity” (Chicago Reader), and performances on vibraphone, brass, keys, voice, and electronics across styles. This intentionally diverse, constantly engaged practice has included highlights such as compositions featured at the Berlin Philharmonie, London Roundhouse, and in PBS documentaries, residencies with OneBeat and the Stockholm EMS, and collaborations with groundbreaking musical figures ranging from Anthony Braxton to Sudan Archives. They live in Chicago, working as a freelance musician, lecturer at Roosevelt University, President of New Music Chicago, and curator for Elastic

Arts' Improvised Music Series. More information and music can be found at [www.benzuckersounds.com](http://www.benzuckersounds.com).

**Jacky Kelsey** is a nonbinary soft sculptor, costume designer, and puppeteer based in Chicago. Their work deals with themes of body, comfort, neurodivergence, and queer identity. Motivated by a belief that play is necessary for life, Jacky treats the multimedia collaborative potential of puppetry as a playground.

Their puppets were recently shown at the Chicago Cultural Center's 2025 "Potential Energy" exhibition. In 2022 they were granted an Artist in Residency position at the Chicago Puppet Studio, during which they designed sculptural dance costumes for Hedwig Dance's \*META | MOR | PHOS\* in collaboration with Bauhaus Dessau. In 2023 they created \*Fidget\*, a surreal show about giant restless hands, in participation with the Chicago Puppet Studio's eight month Puppet Lab workshop. They designed and performed for \*Little Fears\* as part of Steppenwolf's 2025 Lookout Project. They remain active in the local physical theater and puppetry scene, working with theaters such as Roughhouse, Manual Cinema, and Steppenwolf.

**Chih-Jou Cheng** is a Taiwanese physical theatre creator, movement artist, and puppeteer currently based in Chicago. She has performed in productions such as The Dream King (Teatro Vista), The King and I (Drury Lane), and A Chorus Line (Metropolis), also worked with Chicago Shakespeare Theater and Chicago Puppet Studio. Her recent works, including "Above the Water," "Unfinished Island Songs," and "Arriving at Dawn," delve into themes of migration, identity, and healing, aiming to foster compassion and promote collective healing through innovative, interdisciplinary physical theatre. Her work has been supported by Chicago Cultural Center Dance Studio residencies, Ragdale residency, and DCASE. She has been awarded the Chicago Arts & Health Pilot for Creative Workers and the 2024 Princess Grace Honoraria. For more of Cheng's work: [www.chihjou-cheng.com](http://www.chihjou-cheng.com)

# VARIATIONS ON (THE) WATER

---

Created by  
Lake Simons and John Dyer

Music Composed by  
John Dyer

Variations on (the) Water is experimental by design. It breaks down puppetry to its most simple base, devoid of expected form and asks the viewer to imagine. Together, the audience and the performer bring forward image and story, giving equal energy to nurture a personal yet shared story. Empathy blossoms and through the abstracted imagery we find a shared story and experience. An exploration of Simons & Dyer's Raft Project (My Shapes Are In Turmoil) a full length wordless puppet theatre work.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Lake Simons** is a Texas raised, Brooklyn based director, designer, puppeteer, and physical theatre performer. Her original theatre productions utilize movement, puppetry, and live music to create stylized visual storytelling for the stage. She is a believer in the childhood ability to play “make-believe” and her creations encourage the viewer, of any age, to rediscover their own ability to do so. Lake has collaborated with a multitude of musicians, performers, designers, and artists throughout her lengthy, 30 plus year, career. She has received seven Jim Henson Foundation grants in support of her original puppetry productions. Lake is the Managing Artistic Director of Hip Pocket Theatre in Ft Worth, TX. Her productions have been seen at HERE Arts Center, La MaMa, Dixon Place, One Arm Red, Miller Theatre, and Hip Pocket Theatre. Career highlights: Puppet Designer for Have You Met Jane Goodall and Her Mother? (Ensemble Studio Theatre), Associate Puppetry Director for Warhorse (Lincoln Center), Puppetry Coach for Wolf Play (MCC), and co-director for the Puppet Lab at St. Ann’s Warehouse in Brooklyn, NY. Lake teaches puppetry at Sarah Lawrence College and is a teaching artist with Arts Connection in NYC. She is an alum of Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris, France and North Carolina School of the Arts.

**John Dyer** is a musician, composer, songwriter, lyricist / librettist, theatre-maker, and visual artist based in New York City. Founder of Texas band Drama Tiki (1992-1998), Music director for North Carolina’s Paperhand Puppet Intervention (1999-2001), half of roots duo Hawke & Owl (2008-2012), and Papa to Cy (2016-present). Solo albums include One Among (2000), Phantom Fire (2003), and GoStayPlay (2004). He is the recipient of multiple ASCAP Plus Awards, Meet The Composer grants, and Dallas Fort Worth Theatre Critic’s Forum Awards. Works produced by Culture Hub include music for puppeteer Tom Lee’s The Return (2014), and Dyer’s lyrical arrangement of a text by playwright Erik Ehn, 7 Wanders

To Hollow (2022). He appeared onstage in Hero's House (with Deana, Matt, and Esa Acheson) at Dixon Place's Puppet Blok (2016) and provided live musical accompaniment for the exhibition performance Richard Tuttle: What Is The Object? (2022). Scores for short film include Ben Elling and Rosa Douglas' Qualified Alien (2020), and Eric Wright's The Moon Is Cheese (2021). He provided music for playwright Johnny Simons' Up In Auntie's Attic (2003) and Sitting On The Lake (2024) and for choreographer Takemi Kitamura's Tsunami (2024). Dyer's theatrical co-creations with Lake Simons, presented at Hip Pocket Theatre, and in New York at St. Ann's Warehouse, HERE, and La MaMA, include Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (2003), White Elephant (2009), Wind Set-up (2011), Moby Dick (2012), Tree Pop (2015), Loop The Loop (2018), Arcadia Darling (2019), Pixie Posy (2021), When We Were Very Young (2022), and Raft Project (2024)

# THIS SEASON AT HERE



QUEER

@ HERE

HERE Presents:  
**QUEER @ HERE**  
JUNE 3 - 27 at HERE

[BUY TICKETS](#)



NATIONAL QUEER THEATER'S

**Criminal Queerness Festival 2025**

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH HERE

JUNE 11 - 28

HERE & National Queer Theater Present:  
**CRIMINAL QUEERNESS FESTIVAL**  
JUNE 11 - 28 at HERE

[BUY TICKETS](#)

# HERE ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM



Through the HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), HERE commissions and develops new hybrid works over a two to three 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 2024-25, HERE supports the following artists and projects:

**Angélica Negrán**

*Chimera*

**The Hawtplates | Jade Hicks, Justin Hicks, Kenita Miller-Hicks**

*Dream Feed*

**Janani Balasubramanian**

URHERE - *Rogue Objects*

**Joshua William Gelb**

URHERE - Theater In Quarantine: *[Untitled Miniature]*

**nicHi douglas**

*ONLY I*

**Piehole**

*For You Alone*

**Same As Sister (Hilary Brown-Istrefi and Briana Brown-Tipley)**

*Upstairs, In Our Bedroom*

**Shayok Misha Chowdhury**

*Rheology*

**Ximena Garnica & Shige Moriya | LEIMAY**

*A Meal*

The HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP) is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; the New York City Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment. Additional support provided by Alliance of Resident Theatres/ART NY; Café Royal Cultural Foundation; Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, Inc.; Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation; Doris Duke Foundation; Foundation for Contemporary Arts; The Fund for the City of New York; Howard Gilman Foundation; The Mertz Gilmore Foundation; IRT Theater; The Jim Henson Foundation; Jerome Foundation; JKW Foundation; The Leon Levy Foundation; Lucille Lortel Foundation; Mellon Foundation; The Mental Insight Foundation; Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation; National Performance Network; New England Foundation for the Arts; New York Community Trust; New York Foundation for the Arts; OPERA America; Puffin Foundation; Royal Little Family Foundation; The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; The Scherman Foundation; Select Equity Group; The Shubert Foundation; The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation; Tow Foundation, and HERE's generous community of individual donors.

# ABOUT HERE

---

From our home in Lower Manhattan, HERE builds an inclusive community that nurtures artists of all backgrounds as they disrupt conventional expectations to create innovative performances in theatre, dance, music, puppetry, media, and visual art. By providing these genre-blending artists with an adaptive, flexible home for developing and producing their work, we share a range of perspectives reflective of the complexity of our city. HERE welcomes curious audiences to witness groundbreaking performances, responsive to the world in which we live, at free and affordable prices.

Under the leadership of Co-Directors Jesse Cameron Alick, Annalisa Dias, Lanxing Fu, and Lauren Miller, HERE continues to evolve as a home for artists and audiences alike. Appointed by the Board in 2024, the Co-Directors collaboratively lead the artistic and executive functions of the organization, shaping its vision, programming, and community engagement.

HERE strives to create an equitable, diverse, and inclusive home in which all people have fair access to the resources they need to realize their visions. We acknowledge structural inequities that exclude individuals and communities from opportunities based on race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, class, age, and geography, and seek to counter those inequities in our work. Through mindful actions on sustainability and regenerative practices, we work toward climate justice, and a safe, livable planet for present and future artmakers and audiences. 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. Since its inception, HERE has been home to such acclaimed artists and works as Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, Taylor Mac's *The Lily's Revenge*, Trey Lyford & Geoff Sobelle's *all wear bowlers*, Young Jean Lee's *Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven*, James Scruggs' *Disposable Men*, Corey Dargel's *Removable Parts*, Robin Frohardt's *The Pigeoning*, Basil Twist's *Symphonie Fantastique*, and *Looking at You* by Rob Handel, Kristin Marting and Kamala Sankaram. We have produced and presented over 1,200 original works; served over 15,000 artists; and welcomed over 1,000,000 audience members. HERE's work and artists have received 16 OBIE Awards, two OBIE Grants and a CUNY Booth Award for artistic achievement, two Berilla Kerr Awards, four NY Innovative Theatre Awards, two Bessie Awards, two Pulitzer Prizes, one Pulitzer nomination, six Drama Desk nominations, two MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowships and most recently, seven Tony nominations. 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 now burgeoning Hudson Square neighborhood.

HERE's core annual audience consists of approximately 30,000 20-40 somethings. We produce work that is affordable, challenging and alternative—offering our audiences the opportunity to feel that they are part of something new and fresh. Key elements of our performance programming are designed to allow the public to have as many access points to the development of original art as possible through work-in-progress showings, workshop productions, post-show artist talkbacks, informal discussions in our café and full productions.

# HERE BOARD

---

## CO-DIRECTORS

Jesse Cameron Alick  
Annalisa Dias  
Lanxing Fu  
Lauren Miller

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Champness, TREASURER  
Justin Deabler  
Abigail Gampel  
Charles Garrett  
Tim Maner  
Setareh Mirhosseini  
Alan Ostroff  
Christina Pan  
Teresa Woods Pena  
Kamala Sankaram, SECRETARY  
Amy Segal  
Brenna Thomas  
Robert Walport, VICE CHAIR  
Brian Warren  
Jennifer Suh Whitfield, CHAIR  
China Young  
Tommy Young

## EX-OFFICIO

Barbara Busackino

## BOARD EMERITUS

Kristin Marting, FOUNDING  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
Jason Baruch  
Jamie Bennett  
Bethany Haynes  
Kevin Matthews  
Helen Mills

## FOUNDERS

Barbara Busackino  
Tim Maner  
Kristin Marting  
Randy Rollison

# HERE STAFF

---

## PROGRAMMING

Basil Twist, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, DREAM MUSIC PUPPETRY  
Barbara Busackino, PRODUCER, DREAM MUSIC PUPPETRY  
Haley Fragen, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Sabine Decatur, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & CULTURE  
Rhys Luke, INTERIM GENERAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATE  
Arts FMS, FINANCE

## MARKETING

Sonia Kiran, MEDIA AND BRANDING MANAGER  
Natalie Graves Tucker, MARKETING SPECIALIST  
Emily Owens, PUBLICIST  
Maria Baranova, RESIDENT PHOTOGRAPHER  
Moti Margolin, RESIDENT VIDEOGRAPHER

## DEVELOPMENT

Ann Hamada-McLaughlin, GRANT WRITING CONSULTANT

## PRODUCTION

Alex White, PRODUCTION MANAGER & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
Brandon Schock, ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
Ayumu "Poe" Saegusa, RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER  
Zoey Jones, TECH SUPER  
Juan Coronado, TECH SUPER  
Kristina Gramlich, TECH SUPER  
Vini Tabarini, TECH SUPER

## AUDIENCE SERVICES

Richard Stauffacher, AUDIENCE SERVICES MANAGER

## FRONT OF HOUSE

Charles Shipman  
Kristen Hoffman  
Benjamin Snyder  
Chloe Fauber-Lyle  
Jack Ventimilia  
Alyrie Silverman

## FACILITIES

Robert Spicer

# HERE SUPPORT

---

## OUR SUPPORTERS

We are deeply grateful to all of the following, who support the work of our artists. We would not be HERE without you!

## PUBLIC SUPPORT

HERE's programming is made possible with Public Funds from the National Endowment on the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Kathleen Hochul and the New York State Legislature; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; and the Offices of Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Eadie Adams, and New York State Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick. We are grateful for the support and advocacy of all of our dedicated elected officials: Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senator Kirsten R. Gillibrand, Representative Daniel Goldman, Governor Kathleen Hochul, State Senator Brian Kavanagh and Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick, Mayor Eric Adams, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, Council Member Christopher Marte, and the Cultural Affairs Committee of the City Council.

## FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

American Opera Project  
Svante Bergstrom Theater Foundation  
Bloomberg Philanthropies  
Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation  
for the Arts, Inc.  
Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation  
FJC - A Foundation of Philanthropic  
Funds  
Foundation for Contemporary Arts  
Howard Gilman Foundation  
Mertz Gilmore Foundation  
Frances Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts  
Agnes Gund Foundation  
The Jane Henson Foundation  
Jim Henson Foundation  
JKW Foundation  
The Leon Levy Foundation  
Lucille Lortel Foundation  
MacMillan Family Foundation  
Mellon Foundation  
The Mental Insight Foundation  
National Performance Network  
New England Foundation for the Arts  
New Tamarind Foundation  
New York Community Trust  
New York Foundation for the Arts  
OPERA America  
Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation  
Silverman Foundation  
Steven Phillips & Isabel Swift  
Foundation  
The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels  
Foundation  
The Scherman Foundation  
Select Equity Group, L.P.  
The Shubert Foundation  
Studio Institute  
TDF TAP Plus Grant  
Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation  
Tow Foundation

## PARTNERS

ART/NY (Alliance of Resident  
Theaters)  
Theatre Communications Group  
OperaAmerica  
The Association of Performing  
Arts Presenters  
Hudson Square Business  
Improvement District

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

HERE is extremely grateful to the many generous individuals who support our programming! (as of Mar 16, 2025)

Anonymous (35)  
Kathleen Akerley  
Bruce Allardice & Victoria  
Abrash  
Carl Alvarez  
Layla Amjadi  
Duncan Amos  
Aj Annunziata  
Christos Apartoglou  
Miriam Baigorri  
Samantha Baker  
Elizabeth Banks  
Ken Barnett  
Jason Baruch & Maree  
Johnson-Baruch  
The Sunny Bates Charitable  
Fund  
El Beh  
Alice Bennahmias  
Jamie Bennett & Udai Soni  
Jane Bernard  
Susan Bernfield  
Randi Berry  
Roslyn Biskin  
Robert Brennan  
Pam Brewster  
Nicholas Brooke  
Aileen Brophy  
Aileen Brophy  
Vince Bruns  
Kayleigh Butcher  
Isaac Byrne  
Christina Campanella  
Bruce Cannon  
Chan Casey  
Michael Champness  
Chiaoyi Chang  
Kelsey Chapman  
Sarah Chen  
Steven Cheslik-DeMeyer  
Anthony Chiang  
Michael Chinworth  
Michele Clair  
Virginia Clark  
Douglas Clayton  
Jane Colgan  
Gina Collecchia  
Cynthia Colon  
Ryan Conarro  
Nita Congress  
John Conklin  
Tyler Convery  
Amanda Cooper  
Elyse & Doug Benedicto

Christina Crampton  
Bray Creech & Dustin  
Rhodes Fund  
Tomas Cruz  
Edward J. Curtis  
Mary Jo Dales  
Sylvia Davis  
Liz Davito  
Justin Deabler  
John Del Gaudio  
Richard diAlbert  
Phillip Dias Mandoly  
Shannon Dohar  
Jean Domermuth  
John Clinton Eisner  
& Jennifer Dorr White  
Barbara Eisold  
Tanya Elder  
Cara Elliott  
Michael Emerson  
Dina Emerson  
Eve Ensler  
Emily Erstling  
Barbara Farah  
Susan Feder  
Bertie Ferdman  
Valeria Fishelman  
Jeanne Fleming  
Eli Forsythe  
Michael Francis  
Catherine Gallant  
Abigail Gampel  
& David Bornstein  
Sandra Garner  
Ximena Garnica  
Charles Garrett  
Tere Geckle  
Graeme Gillis  
Shomari Gilyard  
John Glover  
Alice Gorelick  
Jonathan Graham  
Andrea Gramatica  
Fell Gray  
Jonathan Harrison  
Greenwood  
Sue Gronewold  
Irma Grossman  
Jane Gullong  
Alexandra Haddad Angulo  
Sarah Hallacher  
& Mary Jean Tims  
Robin Hamilton  
Michael Handy

Holli Harms  
Kaylie Hatos  
Bethany Haynes  
Bethany Haynes  
Laurence Heinemann  
Cheryl Henson  
David Herskovits  
Rachel Hills  
Evelyn Hoffman  
Judy G. Honig  
Paul Hough  
Jed Howbert  
Tess Howsam  
Gordon Hui  
Odette Ieyoub  
Linda Incantalupo  
Ryutaro Ishikane  
Ted Jack  
Bob & Jill Jaffe  
Bob Jaffe  
Adam Johnston  
Bakari Jones  
Vida Jong  
Mary Beth Jowers  
Yvan Greenberg  
& Chris Kam  
Laura Kane  
Kata Kane  
Beth Kaplan  
Oliver Karlin  
Matthew Karr  
Marie Christine Katz  
Andrea Kihlstedt  
Kay Kilkuskie  
Minji Kim  
Chiara Klein  
Marian Klein  
Fred Kolo  
Gyongy Laky  
Jason Lanyard  
Jessica Lappin  
Ben Lasser  
Ellen Lauren  
Harry Layman  
Trent Lethco  
Stephen Levine  
Sarah Lewitus  
Sam Linden  
Anna Linder  
Sandy Liotta  
Cara Lonergan  
Howard Long  
Christina Lowe  
Shaya Lyon

Robert Lyons  
Darragh M  
Lauren M Halvorsen  
Ouida Maedel  
Jane Malmo  
Tim Maner  
Marjorie Marciano  
Leeda Marting  
Kristin Marting  
Kevin Matthews  
Marianne Mattran  
Peter McCabe  
Katrina McCann  
Patrick McEvoy  
Bret McGowen  
Ann Hamada-McLaughlin  
Megan McQuillan  
Blair & Ben Patton  
Casey Miller  
Miller Family Legacy Fund  
Helen Mills & Gary  
Tannenbaum  
Jesse Mintz-Roth  
Setareh Mirhosseini  
Wm Mitchell  
Emma Montoya Hills  
Clay Moodey  
Samuel Morreale  
Brian Mountford  
Michael Nam  
Hemmendy Nelson  
Judy Nemzoff  
Mariana Newhard  
Valerie O'Riordan  
Becca Orton  
Alan Ostroff  
Jonathan Palmer  
Christina Pan  
Sally Ann Parsons  
Sanjay Patel  
Seolhee Patel  
Esther Perel  
Carole M. Pesner  
Max Petersen  
Steven Phillips  
& Isabel Swift  
Kesone Phimmasone  
Janet Pines  
Paul Pinto  
Migdalia Pizarro  
Jessica Pomeroy  
Catherine Porter  
Brittany Proia  
Ishrat Rafi  
Amrita Ramanan  
Marlène Ramirez-Cancio  
Jessica Rocca  
William J Rockwell  
Jessica Rodwick

Brian Rosen  
Allegra Rosenbaum  
Lynne Rosenberg  
Barry Rowell  
Erin Rubin  
Dave Ruder  
Tommy Russell  
Claudine Ryan  
Kathryn Sanders  
Kamala Sankaram  
Jack Saul  
Madeline Sayet  
Meredith Lynsey Schade  
Joan Schimke  
Mark Schubin  
& Karen McLaughlin  
Corinna Schulenburg  
& Heather Cohn  
Alli Hickerson  
& Gary Schwartz  
Catherine Scibelli  
Gavin Scotti  
Amy Segal  
Judith Seidel  
John Seroff  
Peggy Stafford  
& Mike Shapiro  
Aneesa Sheikh  
Mary Jo & Ted Shen  
Tommy Shimko  
Yoko Shioya  
Philip Shneidman  
Cynthia Silver  
Elizagrace Siobhan Madrone  
Niegel Smith  
Christie Snyder  
Ellen Staller  
Scott Stangland  
Marie-Monique Steckel  
Carlo Steinman  
Greg Stern  
Christine Stodolski  
Maria Striar  
Hanna Stubblefield-tave  
R. Lee Stump  
Jennifer Suh Whitfield  
Rachel Sussman  
Suzi Takahashi  
Ivan Talijancic  
Cameron Taylor  
Brenna Thomas  
Helen Thurston  
Ezra Tozian  
Jack Trinco  
Lizz Tubbs  
Zishan Ugurlu  
Steven Usdan  
Dax Valdes  
Susan Van Dolsen

Isaac & Terry VanDuyn  
Charles Walker  
Carol Walport  
Robert Walport  
Brian Warren  
Cheryl Webster Miller  
Micky Weller  
Ben West  
Kim Whitener  
Jennifer Suh Whitfield  
& Benjamin Whitfield  
Eleanor Whitney  
Regina Wickham  
Penny Fujiko Willgerodt  
Aaron Wilson & Amy Doty  
Blair Winston  
Teresa Woods Pena  
John Wyszniowski  
Karen Yaeger  
Michelle Ybarra  
Stephanie Ybarra  
Mia Yoo  
Casey York  
Cassie York  
Thomas Young  
Valerie & Tom Young  
Moe Yousuf  
Anton Yu  
Ed Zakreski  
Megan Zammit  
Lee Zevy  
Rachel Ziemba  
Aaron Zimmerman  
Jindra Zitek

# HERE MEMBERSHIP

**HERE welcomes you to join us as a member!** Members receive benefits for your generous support, including free tickets, exclusive member events, and insider access to HERE artists and their works-in-development. By choosing a gift that's right for you, you can enjoy the benefits of HERE membership all season long!

## **HUNDREDAIRE**

*\$100 Annually (\$9/month)*

2 Flex Tickets for the HERE Produced and Presented performances of your choice  
2 complimentary drinks  
3 Months of Unlimited Access to URHERE  
Waived ticket fees and free exchanges

*\$50 of your annual membership is tax-deductible*

## **DOWNTOWN DARLING**

*\$500 Annually (\$42/month)*

4 Flex Tickets for the HERE Produced and Presented performances of your choice  
4 complimentary drinks  
Invitations to HERE Patron Nights and other Insider Events  
6 Months of Unlimited Access to URHERE  
Waived ticket fees and free exchanges

*\$400 of your annual membership is tax-deductible*

## **TOAST OF SOHO**

*\$1000 Annually (\$84/month)*

2 Complimentary Tickets to Every HARP Production (excludes benefit performances)  
4 Flex Tickets for the HERE Produced and Presented performances of your choice  
4 complimentary drinks  
Invitations to HERE Patron Nights and other Insider Events  
1 year subscription to HERE Member Newsletter with advance sale to HARP productions  
1 Year of Unlimited Access to URHERE  
Waived ticket fees and free exchanges  
A HERE Mug or Tote Bag (must schedule pickup at our theater, pending availability)

*\$850 of your annual membership is tax-deductible*

## **HERE HEROES LEAGUE**

*\$5000 Annually (\$417/month)*

4 Complimentary Tickets to Every HARP Production (excludes benefit performances)  
4 Flex Tickets for the HERE Produced and Presented performances of your choice  
4 complimentary drinks  
Exclusive access to HERE Opening Nights (subject to availability)  
Insider access to special invited rehearsals and meet and greets with HERE artists  
Invitations to HERE Patron Nights and other Insider Events  
Listing in HERE Heroes League in HARP Production playbills, website, and annual report  
1 year subscription to HERE Member Newsletter with advance sale to HARP productions  
1 Year of Access to URHERE  
Waived ticket fees and free exchanges  
A HERE Mug or Tote Bag (must schedule pickup at our theater, pending availability)

*\$4,750 of your annual membership is tax-deductible*

You can sign up as an [annual member](#) at this link, or set up a [monthly recurring donation](#) at this link, and receive all the same benefits all season long!

HERE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization, and contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Contact [developmentdept@here.org](mailto:developmentdept@here.org) OR visit [here.org/support](https://here.org/support) for more information.

# CONNECT WITH HERE

---

 **HERE ARTS CENTER**

 **@HEREARTS**

**#PUPPETOPIA 2025**

**Thank you for coming to PUPPETOPIA 2025!**



---

## PARTNERS



&



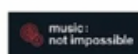
&



&



&



**BACK TO TOP**

**26**