

# DREAM FEED

by  
The  
HawtPlates  
directed by  
Phillip Howze



UNDER  
RADAR

January 9 - 25

HERE

DIGITAL PROGRAM

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# 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.

# DREAM FEED

**Written and Performed by The HawtPlates: Jade Hicks, Kenita Miller-Hicks, Justin Hicks**

**Directed by Phillip Howze**

Scenic Designer: **Kent Barrett**

Assistant Scenic Designer: **Michelle Gabrielle**

Lighting Designer: **Tuçe Yasak**

Sound Designer: **Sean Davis**

Production Stage Manager: **Sydneii Colter**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Nia Blizzard**

Audio Engineer: **Robin Margolis**

Audio Technician: **Sky Sherer, Chikadibia Ebirim**

Production Manager: **Cheyenne Williams**

"Mustard Anthem" written by Dawn Meredith  
Smith arr. by The HawtPlates

*A 2023 HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP)  
commission with additional co-commissioning  
support by Under the Radar, this psychedelic live  
concept album makes its world premiere at the  
2026 Under the Radar Festival.*

## HERE CO-DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“This place is a dream. Only a sleeper considers it real. Then death comes like dawn, and you wake up laughing at what you thought was your grief.”

Rumi knew all there was to know about dreams. Shakespeare had a lot to say about them as well - and Langston Hughes wisely warned us about what happens to dreams deferred. Throughout history poets and troubadours have spoken to us about the visions they see at night, hoping that when we tell ourselves these little stories at night, we may find some truth, some advice, some finger pointing us in a new direction.

In DREAM FEED, The HawtPlates inhabit the space between sleep and waking - the place where we are at once the closest we can be to death, and the closest we can be to immortality. The space where possibility has an endless horizon. What does it mean to dream in this time of nightmares? What does it mean to get lost in our own imagination when AI is happy to conjure new worlds, built from the smallest prompt? It's our belief that the human mind still has something to show us - and that prophecy springs from the most unexpected moments.

## HERE CO-DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What an honor it is to work with artists who share this belief. The HawtPlates boldly continue this artistic tradition of offering us access to the most intimate corners of their psyches, and by doing so, they gesture towards a thing that can be difficult to capture in our modern era; possibility. The Co-Directors have worked with this brilliant band on various projects over the years at various theaters, and as they graduate from HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP) it's been a wonderful full circle moment to usher in this production as it asks questions we all believe in: What is possible? What can we dream together? What happens if we resist the urge to forget the dream when morning arrives?



Jesse Cameron Alick and Lauren Miller,  
Co-Directors

# DREAM FEED

## Biographies

**The HawtPlates** is a Grammy award winning singing group that creates live vocal performances by breaking down vernacular musical forms and reconstituting them through improvisation and composition. Their works - or “sonic one-pots”- honor their lineage and personal histories while outwardly reporting an ultimately human experience. The HawtPlates work with numerous organizations and artists across disciplines including Meshell Ndegeocello, Abigail DeVille, Kaneza Schaal, Hilton Als, Helga Davis, Steffani Jemison, Reggie “Regg Roc” Gray and The D.R.E.A.M. Ring, National Black Theater, Charlotte Brathwaite, The Public Theater, Performance Space New York, and The Park Avenue Armory among many others. The HawtPlates is comprised of drama desk-nominated composer/performer Justin Hicks, his sister, singer/songwriter Jade Hicks, and his wife Tony-nominated actor/singer Kenita Miller-Hicks.

## Biographies

**Justin Hicks** is a Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter and sound artist whose work spans music, art, and theater. He's been featured at SF Jazz, Baryshnikov Arts Center, JACK NY, The Public Theater, festival Steirischer-Herbst, MoMA among many other institutions. His collaborators include Kaneza Schaal, Mei Ann Teo, Stefani Jemison, Truth Evelyn, Gelsey Bell, and Abigail DeVille. He was a member of Kara Walker's 6-8 Months Space. He tours extensively as a featured vocalist with Meshell Ndegeocello and is vocalist and co-songwriter on Ndegeocello's *No More Water: The Gospel of James Baldwin*. He has worked with Lizz Wright, Immanuel Wilkins, Joan As Policewoman, Joan Osborne, and Christian McBride. Hicks' album *Man Of Style* will be released in early 2026.

**Jade Hicks** (composer, vocalist) is a songwriter, and performer who has worked in several spheres of music and theatre. She has toured internationally with the Broadway show *Rent*, and with Queen Esther Marrow and The Harlem Gospel Singers. She was a featured vocalist on Meshell Ndegeocello's *Omnichord Real Book* and *The Magic City: Red Hot and Ra*.

## Biographies

**Kenita Miller-Hicks** is a Tony-nominated, AUDELCO and Drama Desk Award-winning actor who has performed on stage in Broadway the productions *For Colored girls...*, *Once On This Island*, *The Color Purple* (Celie, original cast), and *Xanadu*, On screen she has appeared in *The Black List*, *Tick Tick Boom*, and others. Her work spans experimental offerings by directors such as Charlotte Brathwaite, Kaneza Schaal, and Lars Jan, to major Broadway productions and concerts. Kenita is featured on Linn Manuel Miranda and Eisa Davis' *Warriors* concept album.

**Phillip Howze** is a Brooklyn-based playwright, director, and educator whose theatrical works include *Six Characters* (Lincoln Center Theater/LCT3), *Self Portraits* (BRIC-Arts Media) and *Frontieres Sans Frontieres* (Bushwick Starr). Currently he's writing original play commissions for the American Repertory Theater and Playwrights Horizons. He is on the Board of Trustees at BRIC Arts-Media and MacDowell, as well as the inaugural Associate Senior Lecturer in Theater, Dance & Media at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His book of plays, *Rarities & Wonders* is published by Tripwire Harlot Press. Prior to becoming a theater maker, he worked primarily in international human rights advocacy.

## Biographies

**Kent Barrett** is a multidisciplinary designer and artist who has developed a wide-ranging body of work that spans collaborative, contemporary performance, experimental theater, and new media. Kent is currently an Associate Professor of Scenic Design at Carnegie Mellon, A former company member with The Wooster Group and recipient of an NEA grant, Kent often engages in long-standing collaborations with a variety of ensembles and artists such as the HawtPlates. His designs and creative work have been featured at venues throughout the United States including The Park Avenue Armory, The Whitney Museum of Art, The Public Theater, La MaMa, La Jolla, Harlem Stage, Signature Theatre, The Hippodrome, Geva Theatre, and The Kennedy Center, as well as internationally in multiple festivals and performance spaces around the world. Beyond live performance, Kent's interdisciplinary work extends to independent films, gallery installations, and with architectural lighting firms. He is a founding member and Co-Artistic Director of Valley Traction Arts Collective, a contemporary performance group dedicated to producing radical, design-driven, new work.

## Biographies

**Michelle Gabrielle** is a multidisciplinary designer originally from Miami, FL. Trained in the fine arts and architecture, Michelle approaches every design challenge as an opportunity for learning and furthering her craft. She has assisted shows for the Jerry Herman Ring Theater and Actor's Playhouse in Miami. Michelle has been recognized by the YoungArts Foundation, Counterclock Literary Journal, and NFFTY for her work in film and writing. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from the University of Miami and is currently an MFA Scenic Design graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University.

## Biographies

**Tuçe Yasak** has been following light since her move from Istanbul to New York in 2009, creating over 100 site-specific light installations for performance in the US and abroad. Yasak received the 2018 BESSIE (...Memoirs of a... Unicorn by Marjani Forte-Saunders) and 2019 BESSIE (Oba Qween Baba King Baba by Ni'Ja Whitson) for Outstanding Visual Design with her lighting design. Among her recent collaborations: The Absolute Future, Wednesday, UGLY, HYSTERIA and BLUE by Raja Feather Kelly & the feath3r theory, NOTHING series by Autumn Knight, Force! by Anna Martine Whitehead, Black Life Chord Changes by Angie Pittman, This Bridge Called My Ass by Miguel Gutierrez, Haint Blu by Urban Bush Women, Malady of Death by Hague Yang. Light, Movement and architecture intertwines in Yasak's work to support space-making and story-telling. Her Light Journals were presented in March 2021 by Ars Nova. She was one of the 2021 resident artists at JACK Brooklyn. Her first solo installation "light is generous" was presented by Five Myles Gallery in July 2022. Yasak was one of the 2023 Resident Artists of Watermill Arts Center where she created "The light comes through the heart of darkness" -an installation as a homage to the lives lost in the February 2022 earthquake in Turkey. Her installation "Strings" was presented by Five Myles Gallery in May 2025 and by Re-venue NYC in July 2025.

## Biographies

**Sean T. Davis**, (sometimes known as) theHalfStyle, is a sound designer, mixing engineer, and producer whose work stretches from the Met, Whitney, Smithsonian, and Jeu de Paume to Telly Award-winning pieces for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Broadway & West End runs of Lynn Nottage's "Clyde's," and major collaborations with heavy-hitters like Ricky Reed and Mark Batson on projects touching Netflix, Apple, and HBO, with his sonic (and literal) fingerprints even sneaking into the chaotic universe of "The Real Housewives of Atlanta," all in the service of designing impossible worlds and mining gold from gravel to make museums, theatres, and TV screens hum with their own strange magic.

**Sydneii Colter**, Stage Manager (she/they) Off-Broadway: JOY: A New True Musical (Laura Pels Theater), Bad Kreyol (Signature Theatre), Bernarda's Daughters, Evanston Salt Costs Climbing, Black No More (The New Group), Covenant (Roundabout Theater). Other recent credits include: SLAMDANCE garage, Self-Portraits (The Bushwick Starr), Sweet Chariot (Under The Radar).

## **Biographies**

**Nia J. Blizzard** Proud Georgia native turned New Yorker! Broadway: Tina: The Tina Turner Musical. Off Broadway: Jordans ( The Public Theater); Kimberly Akimbo (Atlantic Theater Company). Regional: Jersey Boys (Paper Mill Playhouse); Working Girl (La Jolla Playhouse). Touring: Jesus Christ Superstar (Worklight Productions). Grateful to my family and friends for all of their love and support. @nia\_blizzard1

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### **Special Thanks**

*Kaneza Schaal, GB's Jukejoint, Meshell Ndegeocello, Chris Bruce, Nova, Zenzi Williams, Vicki Shaghoian, Amanda Szeglowski, Lori Minor, Mary Lee, Breck Omar Brunson, Colin Mohnacs, Graham Johnson, 5OHM, Kristin Marting, Adam Thabo*

## Track List

*Artistic Inspiration by Charles White*

1. How could you wait...

2. Teeth

**3. Recit**

4. Dawn 1

5. Rest Stop

6. I did the deed.

7. Greasy Dream



8. Hymn

**9. 2 hrs**

10. Dawn 2

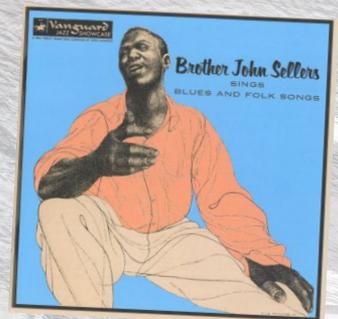
11. What Seems To Be



12. Oldsmobile

13. Willow

**14. Mustard Anthem**



# 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 V'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 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 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 in Partnership with the City Council; and the Office of 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.

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# MEMBERSHIP

HERE now welcomes you to join us as an annual or monthly member! By choosing the recurring gift that's right for you, you can enjoy the benefits of membership all season long. Memberships remain active for 365 days from purchase. PLEASE NOTE: Membership tickets are subject to availability and do not include tickets to special engagement performances.

*All Memberships are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.*

## **HUNDREDAIRE**

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

- 2 discounted tickets (15% off) to every performance in HERE's 2025-2026 season
- 2 complimentary drinks
- 1 year subscription to HERE Member Newsletter
- 3 Months of Unlimited Access to URHERE
- Waived ticket fees and free exchanges

## **DOWNTOWN DARLING**

*500 Annually (\$42/month)*

- 4 Complimentary tickets to the performance of your choice in HERE's 2025-2026 season
- 2 discounted tickets (15% off) to every performance in HERE's 2025-2026 season
- 4 complimentary drinks
- Invitations to HERE Patron Nights and other Insider Events
- 1 year subscription to HERE Member Newsletter
- 6 Months of Unlimited Access to URHERE
- Waived ticket fees and free exchanges

## **TOAST OF SOHO**

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

- 2 Complimentary Tickets to every performance in HERE's 2025-2026 season
- 4 complimentary drinks
- Invitations to HERE Patron Nights and other Insider Events
- 1 year subscription to HERE Member Newsletter with
- Advanced access and special access to HERE productions, events, and openings
- 1 Year of Unlimited Access to URHERE
- Waived ticket fees and free exchanges
- A HERE Tote Bag

## **HERE HEROES LEAGUE**

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

- 4 Complimentary Tickets to every performance in HERE's 2025-2026 season
- 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 production playbills, website, and annual report
- 1 year subscription to HERE Member Newsletter
- Advanced access and special access to HERE productions, events, and openings
- 1 Year of Access to URHERE
- Waived ticket fees and free exchanges
- A HERE Tote Bag

# HERE PROGRAMS

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## **HERE Develops**

HERE Develops genre-defying new work from the spark of an idea to a full production and beyond. We have multiple pathways for multidisciplinary creators.

## **HERE Produces**

HERE supports the creation of new performance works through commissioning, residency, co-productions, and original productions. Full productions of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary performance works at HERE that emerge from our HARP program, Performance Lab, and other pathways rooted in relationship with our community.

## **HERE Hosts**

An annual performance series of new work from extraordinary artists, ensembles, and independent companies working in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary forms. We engage artists with whom we share values alignment and demonstrate high creative kinship. We offer a range of options that include different levels of technical and marketing support, space rental fees, presenting fees, and box office splits - tailored to the needs of each group.

**[Learn more about our programs here.](#)**

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