

New Ohio Theatre presents



created by

VELANI DIBBA, ILANA KHANIN, ELIZAGRACE MADRONE, STEPHEN CHARLES SMITH

and the ensemble

HILARY ASARE, ALEX BARTNER, CHIWEN CHANG, SAM GONZALEZ, ALICE GORELICK, JULIA GREER, NILE ASSATA HARRIS, ANNIE HOEG, SAM IM, BRI WOODS

> Part of Ice Factory 2020 newohiotheatre.org

VELANI DIBBA is a Polynesian-West African director and multidisciplinary artist. Her work focuses on the collision of different cultures through design-focused and ensemble-driven work, both new and classical. Recent directing credits include *Terrorism* (Columbia University), *Falling & Loving* (Asst. Director to Anne Bogart, SITI Company & STREB Extreme Action), *Patience* (Corkscrew Festival), *Apologies to the Bengali Lady* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, The Tank), *Space Odyssey* (Columbia University) and *I Pledge Allegiance* (TCG Conference, ITI World Theatre Congress). She was an inaugural fellow both at the Laboratory for Global Performance & Politics and at the University of Edinburgh's Global Cultural Institute. Currently an Artistic Associate & Archive Fellow at SITI Company, she holds a degree from Georgetown University in International Relations and a Directing MFA from Columbia University.

ILANA KHANIN is a director based in New York and Toronto. Directing: Ars Nova ANT Fest, HERE, Theaterlab, Exquisite Corpse Company, Judson, Joust Theater Company, Samuel French, Center at West Park, Primary Stages, The Brick, The Tank, Dixon Place, Atlantic Stage 2, among others. She has been an associate director for Lila Neugebauer, Lee Sunday Evans, Annie-B Parson, and works for Big Dance Theater. 2019-2020 Artist-in-Residence at Montclair State University/ New Works Initiative. BFA & MA: NYU, current PhD at the University of Toronto. <u>www.ilanakhanin.com</u>

ELIZAGRACE MADRONE is a theater-maker and lyricist based in New York and California. Her work as a theatrical writer includes plays, collaborations with composers, and odd combinations of the two - strange dissonance (an ongoing multi-media collaboration with composer Elsa Nilsson and artist/photographer Bettie Hu) and Wool Sucker (a band/performance piece with Alex Minier). Elizagrace is currently an MFA candidate in Dramaturgy at Columbia University. Selected credits - Writer: *Ribbon About A Bomb* (Exquisite Corpse Company), the audio-immersive experience Stranger, and Bufo Boreas (Random People Productions). Dramaturg: *The Copper Children* (assistant dramaturg, Oregon Shakespeare Company), Ancient Greek Corn (HERE), LORDES (Ice Factory), *Black Garden* (Théâtre de l'Opprimé), *Slow Field* (TheatreLab).

STEPHEN CHARLES SMITH is a New York based theatermaker. He seeks stranger forms by colliding playwriting, emergent technology, scenography, and generative dramaturgy. Writing: Semi-Finalist 2020 Ars Nova Play Group, Nominee 2019/2020 Cherry Lane Mentor Project (Julia Jarcho) and Finalist 2018/2019 Bushwick Starr Reading Series. Story Editor/ Dramaturg: *The Raven* -- Official Selection of the 2019 New York Film Festival. *26 Seconds* -- "Symposium: Culture in a Changing America" at Park Avenue Armory. Acting: *Police and Thieves* by Richard Maxwell & New York City Players at The Performing Garage. B.A. in Dramatic Literature from NYU. MFA in Dramaturgy from Columbia University. <u>stephen-charles-smith.com</u>

HILARY ASARE is a Ghanaian-American actress, writer, and New York Neo Futurist. She is most frequently seen in the New York Neo Futurist's weekly show *The Infinite Wrench*. You can also hear her work on Hit Play, a New York Neo Futurist podcast. She is delighted to return to the Ice Factory Festival after appearing in *Icons/Idols: Outside of Eden* last summer. <u>Hilaryasare.com</u>

ALEX BARTNER (he/him) is a New York City based artist. His passion is sharing stories and experiences with the community that are provocative while also expanding perspectives. He is a recent graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a B.F.A. in Drama. He has trained at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting, International Theatre Workshop in Amsterdam, and the Stonestreet Film/TV Studio. Recent work includes the roles of The Caterpillar in the immersive production *The Unbrunch* and Jonah in the Harold Clurman Laboratory Theater production of *What's Wrong With You*. www.alexbartner.com Social: @alexbartner

CHIWEN CHANG (she/her) is a theater artist based in New York and if she was a vegetable she'd be a stalk of celery. She believes in art that believes in humanity. ChiWen has worked and performed with The Public Theater, Playwrights Horizons, The Dance Cartel, Tectonic Theater Project, Clubbed Thumb, and Pipeline Theater Company. BFA: NYU Tisch Playwrights Horizons, Experimental Theatre Wing. IG: @chiwen_____www.chiwenchang.com

NILE HARRIS is a New York based artist. Her most recent work has included workshopping and developing an adaptation of *Frankenstein* with fellow artists and detainees at the Manhattan Detention Center, acting in shows such as *Sun Club*, *Dreamboat* (both in Dixon Place's Hot Fest) and *Dreams in Black Major* at Ars Nova's ANT Fest, as well as directing a one man show, *Untitled #2*, at Playwrights Downtown. She is extremely excited and feeling overwhelmingly lucky to be working with exciting and incredibly intelligent new collaborators in this virtual production of *we need your listening*! She would like to thank the cast and crew, as well as the essential workers who are keeping our country functioning. She would also like to give a huge thank you to the audience members for being willing to listen!

ANNIE HOEG Select credits include *What A World! What A World!*, I *Was Unbecoming Then* (ANT Fest), *Slow Field* (Theaterlab), *Ancient Greek Corn* (HERE), *12th Night...* (The Brick), *Gobstopper* (The Tank) and Witness Relocation's *The Loon* (Abrons / JACK). BFA: NYU

\$AM GONZALEZ is an actor, dancer, and producer based in New York City. He is an alum of the Atlantic Theater Company Acting School through NYU Tisch where he now is a member of the faculty. He is the artistic director of The Joust Theatre Company. Recent acting credits include *Twenty-Six Seconds* (Columbia) *Big Green Theater* (The Bushwick Starr) *Salt Kid Watches Brooklyn Burn* (Joe's Pub), *Little Match Girl Passion* (Met Breuer), *Sammy Spider's First Mitzvah* (92Y), *Lulu is Hungry*, *Blue Plate Special* (Ars Nova), and *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Atlantic Theater Company). <u>thesamgonzalez.com</u> **ALICE GORELICK** is a Brooklyn-based actress. Previous New York credits include: *Ding Dong it's the Ocean* (JACK), *The Seagull* (Columbia Stages), *The Rover* (Prospect Park), *Ancient Greek Corn* (HERE), and *Blood Bag* (The Flea). She also writes artists' grant applications at the Bushwick Starr. Thank you Zoom and Optimum for the opportunity.

JULIA GREER is an actor, writer and co-artistic director of The Hearth where she was last seen in *The Commons* at 59E59 Theaters and *Athena* at JACK prepandemic. Other theater credits include Lincoln Center Directors Lab '19, readings/ workshops at Playwrights Horizons, Ensemble Studio Theater, BAM, The Joust Theatre Company, The Tank; and productions at Theaterlab, Primary Stages/ Fordham, Columbia University, Lucid Body House, Dixon Place among others. Film credits: *Marriage Story* (Netflix), *Human Capita*l (TIFF '19 /Amazon), *Lady Liberty* (Tribeca Film Festival '19). More at juliagreer.co

SAM IM is a Brooklyn-based actor/director. NY stage credits include: *the hollower* (New Light Theater Project), *Romeo and Juliet* (The Woolgatherers), and John Jesurun's *Distant Observer* (La MaMa). BFA: NYU, currently pursuing an MFA at The Juilliard School.

BRI WOODS cultural creative. NEW YORK: *Floyd Collins* (Lenfest Center for the Arts). REGIONAL: KCRep: A Christmas Carol, School girls; or, the African Mean Girls Play, Welcome to Fear City, Between the Lines, A Raisin in the Sun, Who's Your Baghdaddy, or how I started the Iraq War (The Unicorn); Lefty and Crabbe (the living Room Theatre); Garfield: A Musical with Cattitude (The Coterie); Big River (Musical Theater Heritage). Regional: Harvey, Angel Street (Kansas Classical Rep). Awards: Recipient of the Jon T. Eicholtz and Barbara Eden Full-Ride Performance Scholarship. Training: Yale Summer Acting Conservatory 2018. Education: University of Kansas, Theatre and Voice 2018. AEA Member.

DAVID GIBBS (Press Representative) is the founder of DARR Publicity, a boutique press agency specializing in theater, dance, music-driven shows and unique theatrical experiences. Clients include The Amoralists, Company XIV, Ice Factory Festival, La MaMa, Molière in the Park, New Ohio Theatre and PTP/NYC. David has publicized shows at many Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway venues throughout NYC. His clients have won Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, Obie and Off Broadway Alliance Awards. <u>www.DarrPublicity.com</u>

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS: Hannah Stoffer, Dennis Ngoc Ho PRODUCTION INTERNS: Ryan Henry, Priyanka Kedia GRAPHIC DESIGN: Caila Gale

SPECIAL THANKS: Abby Awe, Joe Awe & TechBldrs, Jake Benassi & Anna Nilles, Caila Gale, Hunter Gause, Shoshanah Tarkow

A NOTE FROM THE ETHER

We have been forced out of our beloved theatres by a global pandemic. The theatre's core relationship of physical bodies in a shared space is not currently available to us. And yet... artists continue to make art, and storytellers still have stories to tell.

The artists in this summer's Ice Factory have all embraced our current terms-of-engagement and committed themselves to a rigorous and playful investigation of digitally-mediated, live-streamed shared time. Because that is what artists do: they work with the resources at hand to make something radically new. Each of the different artists in IF2020 take different approaches - foregrounding, exploding, and exploiting different qualities of this new medium. They are joyful and fearless in the face of this new and uncharted territory. And that is why we follow them with such giddy anticipation.

Enjoy!

Robert Lyons, Artistic Director, New Ohio Theatre

ICE FACTORY 2020 FESTIVAL LINEUP

July 24-26 SOCIETY BEGINNING DAYS OF TRUE JUBILATION

A visionary vows to create a life-changing product, with the smartest minds of her generation ecstatically on board. What could possibly go wrong? A satirical journey through the cult-like, group-think of winnertake-all capitalism, from the early euphoria of a new start-up through its epic crash and burn. Written by Mona Mansour, and directed by Scott Illingworth.

July 30-Aug 2

DIBBA/KHANIN/MADRONE/SMITH we need your listening

An empty theater lit by glowing blue screens. Phone

ABOUT NEW OHIO THEATRE

New Ohio Theatre serves Manhattan's most adventurous audiences by developing, curating and presenting bold work by New York's independent theatre community. We believe the best of this community, the small artistic ensembles and the daring producing companies who operate without a permanent theatrical home, are actively expanding the boundaries of what theatre is and what it can be. From our home in the West Village's historic Archive Building, the New Ohio strengthens, nurtures, and promotes this community, providing a professional, high-profile platform for downtown's most mature, ridiculous, engaging, irreverent, gut-wrenching, frivolous, sophisticated, foolish, and profound theatrical endeavors.

Help us develop and present the best of New York's independent theatre scene by making a taxdeductible contribution at <u>newohiotheatre.org</u>

calls after dark. Spinning confessionals. In a shifting theatrical landscape, individual audience members enter a dim space between digital and analog reality and are taken through a series of intimate, one-onone exchanges with performers - discovering and rediscovering the act of listening as radical engagement.

Aug 4-8

THE TRANSIT ENSEMBLE WHO'S THERE?

A Black American influencer accuses a Malaysian bureaucrat of condoning blackface. A Singaporean-Indian teacher launches an Instagram feud calling out racial inequality at home, post-George Floyd. A privileged Singaporean-Chinese activist meets a compassionate White Saviour, and an ethnically ambiguous political YouTuber takes a DNA test for the first time. This cross-cultural encounter involving artists based in Singapore, Malaysia, and the United States uses Zoom as a new

medium to explore the unstable ground between us and "the other." In this pandemic contact zone, lines along race, class and gender bleed into one another, questioning the assumptions we hold of ourselves and the world around us.

NEW OHIO THEATRE STAFF

Artistic Director
Producing Director
Associate Producer
Ice Factory
Associate Producer
Box Office Manager
Ice Factory Crew
Press Representative

Robert Lyons Marc Stuart Weitz Jaclyn Biskup Rachel Denise April

Antonio Miniño Ryan Henry, Priyanka Kedia David Gibbs/DARR Publicity

ARCHIVE RESIDENCY COMPANIES

The Archive Residency offers artists a two-year commitment of space, artistic support, and institutional continuity for the development and presentation of a new work. In partnership with IRT Theatre, our neighbors in the Archive Building, we provide independent theatre companies with that most elusive and invaluable resource: an artistic home.

Aug 13-15 LEVINGSTON/HARE/LUCKETT A BURNING CHURCH

A kaleidoscopic new musical tracing the lives of church leaders and congregants amid political movements, tragedies, and spiritual rebirth, *A Burning Church* is about an American institution fighting to survive a crisis of faith. This iteration will be presented as a virtual religious service, weaving in performances of songs from the show with sermons, commentary, and moments to hold spiritual space together -- space to imagine the role of the church in movements for liberation, as well as the form that church and theater can take when gathering is not possible.

NEW OHIO THEATRE BOARD

Scott Budlong Chris Dickey Margaret B. Grossman, *Chair* Erich Jungwirth Robert C. Lyons Vanessa Sparling Margaret Weber

Current Archive Residency Artists Byzantine Choral Project (2019-21) Radical Evolution (2019-21) Kareem M. Lucas (2020-21) Levingston/Hare/Luckett (2020-21)

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The artists of *we need your listening* and New Ohio Theatre stand in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. We commit to fighting against those inflicting violence on Black communities, to wrestling with new questions, and holding ourselves more accountable as we move forward to a better future. If you would like to donate to support the fight for justice and equality, please <u>click here</u> to learn about one of our favorite organizations supporting Black trans lives.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

New Ohio Theatre is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta). We pay respect to Lenape peoples and ancestors past, present, and future, and acknowledge our reliance on the land and waters of Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland.

Ice Factory 2020 is supported, in part, by grants from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; Howard Gilman Foundation; Mental Insight Foundation; and New York Community Trust.