La Mama Experimental Theatre Club

2018 Regional Theatre Tony Award Recipient

in association with

Ping Chong + Company

presents

GENERATION

8 performances only!
Jan 24–Feb 3, 2019

NY Times Critics’ Pick!
“"A gentle, humane, powerfully moving work of documentary theater.”

Ellen Stewart Theatre
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
January 24 - February 3, 2019
Undesirable Elements
GENERATION NYZ

Conceived by Ping Chong
Directed by Sara Zatz and Kirya Traber
Written by Sara Zatz and Kirya Traber,
in collaboration with the performers

CAST
Edwin Aguila, Mónica Victoria Tatacoya Castañeda,
Syl Egerton, Mohammad Murtaza,
De-Andra Pryce, Porscha Polkahantis Rippy,
Rafael Rosario

Understudy: Zakaria Khafagy

PRODUCTION TEAM FOR GENERATION NYZ
Lighting Designer: Marika Kent
Projection Designer: Katherine Freer
Production Associate: Courtney Golden
Projections Design Assistant/Projection Supervisor: Hao Bai
Projection Operator: Katherine Teed-Arthur
Sound Designer: Ernesto Valenzuela
Graphic Design: Manuel Miranda Practice
Press Representative:
John Wyszniewski, Everyman Agency
Promotional Videos Director and Cinematographer:
Delia Flores
Promotional Videos Editor: Kristina Varshavskaya
Photo Credit: Adam Nadel

Generation NYZ is part of Ping Chong + Company’s Undesirable Elements series. It was originally commissioned by The New Victory Theater where it premiered in January 2018.

Please join us for talk backs with the creative team and special guests after performances the Saturday, January 26th and Sunday, February 3rd.
CAST BIOS

**Edwin Aguila** is a Nuyorican from Brooklyn, NY. Alongside acting, he is a rapper/songwriter under the alias Jabir Farooq. Acting credits include *As You Like It* (Touchstone/Audrey). He is ready to take the stage again for *Generation NYZ*. He hopes to one day meet Lin-Manuel Miranda and become a part of the Arrowverse.

**Mónica Victoria Tatacoya Castañeda** is a Mexican woman from Brooklyn. She currently lives in Far Rockaway. She is a student majoring in Theatre. She is an actress and a poet on the side. She is excited for this second chance at *Generation NYZ*. She hopes to become a published poet, and to be on both Broadway and in at least one Marvel movie.

**Syl Egerton** is a queer French writer making a home in Queens, NY. With a love for acting he has been in high school productions of *Urinetown, RENT, The Importance of Being Earnest, A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and directed his own play *Dear Ana*. As a queer historian, he still hopes to one day do work as a voice actor or get the chance to direct and star in his own Oscar Wilde plays.

**Zakaria Khafagy** (understudy) is a New York City based multimedia artist, actor and performer. His work can be seen through his Instagram @Kazthealien. Currently Zakaria is pursuing his BA in Sociology at The City College of New York.

**Mohammad Murtaza** is a performing artist working in theatre, film, and music. He has worked with Ping Chong + Co, Keen Company, and the Drama League Off-Broadway. He’s been in *Generation NYZ* (2018), *And.. Action* (Dean/2017), and *The Glass Menagerie* (Tom Wingfield/2017). Recently he performed in his debut work as a playwright and director called *SHARUM* at Hunter College. His career is starting to pivot into film and music as he begins to produce and publish music under the stage name “Murtaza.” His dreams are to be a PEGOT winner and to compose his own Broadway musical. He will be releasing his first mix-tape early this year.

**De-Andra Pryce** is nineteen years old and was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. You are most likely to find De-Andra on a field playing soccer or binge watching *Twilight*. She hopes to one day record a duet with Kehlani. With aspirations of one day becoming Director of the FBI, De-Andra plans to change the world’s perspective on law enforcement.

**Porscha Rippy** is a graduate of Queensborough Community College with an A.S. Degree in Acting. She has done previous work with Opening Act and in her school such as *Musical Comedy Murder of the 1940’s*. She is happy to be a part of *Generation NYZ* again. She’d like to thank Ping Chong + Company. for the amazing opportunity. She’d also like to thank her
directors Kirya, Sara and cast for the amazing collaboration and being so open to sharing such a big supporter in her life. Big thanks to her cousin Addie and the rest of her family for supporting her for being herself.

**Rafael Rosario** is a New Yorker from Puerto Rico. He’s a writer, a model and an actor. He writes poems and stories. Through acting, he can be different versions of himself. That makes him feel free. His work is inspired by several personal experiences combined with his imagination. He has never been so ready to do something for the second time as getting on stage to perform *Generation NYZ* at La MaMa. Rafael wants to not only be seen, but to also be heard. He does not want to be like someone else, he wants to be himself so others can get inspired by him and what he does.

**PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS**

**Sara Zatz** (Co-writer and Co-director) is the Associate Director of Ping Chong + Company where she oversees the company’s community engagement and training programs, and is the lead-artistic collaborator with Ping Chong on the interview-based *Undesirable Elements* series, exploring issues of culture and identity in the lives of individuals in specific communities. Since joining the company in 2002, she has led the production of dozens of original works in the series, working with partner organizations ranging from regional theaters to community-based arts organizations. She has had the privilege of interviewing hundreds of individuals from all over the world. She is the writer and director of *Secret Survivors*, a work in a series which explores the experiences of survivors of child sexual abuse. Most recently, she co-created *Undesirable Elements: Generation NYZ* (New Victory Theater), *Undesirable Elements: Dearborn* (Arab American National Museum), *South of the Eight* (La Jolla Playhouse) and *Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity* (national touring). Upcoming is *(Un)Conditional* at Profile Theatre in Portland, Oregon. She has spoken and presented workshops on community-engaged theater at many conferences and universities. She holds an M.Phil in Irish Theatre Studies from Trinity College, Dublin, and an AB from Bryn Mawr College.

**Kirya Traber** (Co-writer and Co-director) is a nationally awarded writer and performer. She is co-host of the PBS series, First Person, and the Lead Community Artist in Residence with Lincoln Center Education. Her plays include the NY Times Critic’s Pick *Generation NYZ* (2018), *Music in Color: The Legacy of Florence Price*, commissioned by the Orchestra of St Luke’s (2017), *Both My Grandfathers*, developed at Lincoln Center Education (2015), and *The Life of Belle da Costa Greene*, commissioned by the Morgan Library & Museum (2013). Kirya is the recipient of the California Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts, Robert Redford’s Sundance Foundation award for Activism in the Arts, and an Astrea Foundation award for Poetry. Throughout her ambitious performance and writing career, Kirya has continuously worked as a teaching artist, and cultural worker.

Marika Kent (Lighting Designer) is a New York City based designer of new and classic plays, musical theater, opera, dance, experimental theater, puppetry and site-specific performance. Also with Ping Chong + Co: *Beyond Sacred; Alaxsxa/Alaska*. Recent / Upcoming: *Peter and the Starcatcher; Memphis* (Cape Fear Regional Theater), Ashley Fure’s *Filament*, for The NY Philharmonic’s Opening Gala (David Geffen Hall), *Skinnamarink; Now is the Time...* (Little Lord), *Ajijaack on Turtle Island* (IBEX/New Victory), *Perp; Abigail’s Party* (The Barrow Group), *Albert Herring; The Snow Maiden* (Manhattan School of Music Opera). Proud member of Wingspace. www.marikakent.com

Ernesto Valenzuela (Sound Designer) is an audio engineer, sound designer, music producer, and composer. Some of his most notable work includes Ping Chong + Company’s *ALAXSX A / ALASKA* and the award-winning Mexican production of *El Eco de Antigona*, where he was honored with the award to the best original music in 2018. In addition, Ernesto has worked as a sound designer and audio engineer for multiple productions such as NYU’s *Tales of the Lost Formicans* and *The Miracle Worker*. Ernesto holds a master’s degree in Music Technology from the New York University as well as a bachelor degree in Mechanical-Electrical engineering from the Tec de Monterrey.

Ping Chong + Company produces theatrical works addressing the urgent social justice issues of our times, striving to reach the widest audiences with the greatest level of artistic innovation and social integrity. Led by National Medal of Arts Recipient Ping Chong, the company produces original works by a close-knit ensemble of affiliated artists. A resident theater of La MaMa ETC since 1978, the company is committed to artistic innovation, collaborative practice, community engagement, and amplifying unheard voices on stage. For more information visit www.pingchong.org / social media: @pingchongco.
ABOUT UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS

Undesirable Elements is an ongoing series of community-specific interview-based theater works examining issues of culture and identity of individuals who are outsiders within their mainstream community. It’s not a traditional play or documentary-theater project performed by actors. Instead, Undesirable Elements is presented as a chamber piece of story-telling; a “seated opera for the spoken word” that exists as an open framework that can be tailored to suit the needs and issues facing any community. Each production is made with a local host organizations and local participants. The development process includes an extended community residency during which Ping Chong + Company artists conduct intensive interviews with potential participants and get to know the issues and concerns facing that community. These interviews form the basis of a script that weaves cast members’ individual experiences together in a chronological narrative touching on both political and personal experiences. The script is performed by the interviewees themselves, many of whom have never before spoken publicly. Since 1992, over 60 productions have been made in communities around the country and the world, exploring issues and themes such as the experience of refugees in the U.S, the disability experience, Native American identity, and the experiences of survivors of sexual violence. Ping Chong + Company has also created accompanying documentaries, toolkits, training workshops, and in-school arts education programs for communities who wish to use the arts to address social justice and community dialogue in their own work.

Ping Chong + Company STAFF LIST

Ping Chong, Artistic Director
Bruce Allardice, Executive Director
Sara Zatz, Associate Director
Jane Jung, Planning and Operations Director
Ryan Conarro, Artistic Collaborator In Residence | Community Projects Associate
Kristina Varshavskaya, Company Manager
Christina Bixland, Education Director
Chaesong Kim, Communications Associate

Ping Chong + Company FUNDERS


SPECIAL THANKS

Cora Cahan, Mary Rose Lloyd, Courtney Boddie, and the staff of the New Victory Theater; Mia Yoo and the staff of La MaMa; Emmanuella Murat, Devin Madden, Amy Dawson and the NYC DOE Office of School Wellness Programs; Steph McLeod; Adam and Raya Nadel.
Generation NYZ: Additional Information and Resources

**Atlas DIY**
http://www.atlasdiy.org/
Legal services and programs for and led by immigrant youth

**Girls for Gender Equity (GGE)**
https://www.ggenyc.org/
Promotes the physical, psychological, social and economic well-being of girls, women and ultimately the entire community. Programs for boys and girls ages 8-19.

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 24/7 Crisis Hotline**
Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
Online chat: Lifeline Crisis Chat
Text line: Text “Start” to 741-741
https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**
Free and confidential information in English and Spanish for individuals and family members, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Helpline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)
TDD Helpline: 1-800-487-4889
https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline

**New York City Department of Homeless Services**
https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dhs/index.page

**The Jed Foundation**
Promoting emotional health and preventing suicide for teens and young adults

**Sanctuary For Families**
https://sanctuaryforfamilies.org/
Counseling and services for survivors of domestic abuse and gender-based violence

**Ali Forney Center**
https://www.aliforneycenter.org
An organization dedicated to protecting LGBTQ youths from the harms of homelessness and empower them with the tools needed to live independently

**The Door**
https://www.door.org/
Services and programs for LGBTQ, homeless and runaway youth
La MaMa’s historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld
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Marketing Consultant

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47 Great Jones Reception

Armando Arias
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January 24 - February 3, 2019
Ellen Stewart Theatre

La MaMa Kids
Workshop with Ping Chong + Co.
January 27, 2019 at 12:30
The Downstairs

The Magic Agency | Chapter 6: Behind The Red Curtain
January 31 - February 3, 2019
The Downstairs

City of No Illusions
February 8 - 24, 2019
The Downstairs

China Fringe Theater Festival
The Dictionary of the Soul
February 8 - 9, 2019
Ellen Stewart Theatre

COMING SOON

China Fringe Theater Festival
Two Dogs
February 10 - 11, 2019
Ellen Stewart Theatre

China Fringe Theater Festival
The Story of Xiaoyi
February 15 - 16, 2019
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Brooklyn United Live!
February 21 - March 3, 2019
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Dying in Boulder
February 28 - March 17, 2019
The Downstairs

55 Shades of Gay: Balkan Spring of Sexual Revolution
March 7 - 17, 2019
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