LA MAMA
PRESENTS
CANNABIS!
A VIBRATIVE VAUDEVILLE
A HERE PRODUCTION
JULY 14 — 31, 2022
DIGITAL PROGRAM
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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Manhattan has always been a gathering and trading place for many Indigenous peoples. La MaMa and HERE pay respect to all of their ancestors past, present, and future. We acknowledge that this theater, and this work, is situated on the island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta) traditional lands of the Lenape, the Manahatin, the Canarsie, the Shinnecock, the Haudenosaunee and the Munsee. We respect that many Indigenous peoples continue to live and work on this island and acknowledge their ongoing contributions to this land. We offer our care, gratitude and welcome.

Inspired by the words of Adrienne Wong: HERE also acknowledges the legacy of colonization embedded within the technology, structures, and ways of thinking we use every day. This production is using equipment and high-speed internet, not available in many Indigenous communities. Even the technologies that are central to much of the art we make leave significant carbon footprints, contributing to changing climates that disproportionately affect Indigenous people worldwide. We invite you to join us in acknowledging all this, as well as our shared responsibility to make good of this time and for each of us to consider our roles in reconciliation, decolonization, and ally-ship.
ABOUT THE SHOW

LA MAMA presents

CANNABIS!
A VIPER VAUDEVILLE

A HERE production

Produced by HERE and presented by La MaMa, CANNABIS! A VIPER VAUDEVILLE is a theatrical concert exploring the history of cannabis using music, dance, and spoken word grounded in the Hip Hop tradition of the remix and mashup.

The team includes Grace Galu as composer/performer/music director, Baba Israel as writer/performer/co-director, Talvin Wilks as dramaturg/co-director, and Nic Benacerraf as environment designer/associate director, in collaboration with hip hop and spoken word collective, Soul Inscribed including Robert Knowles, Sean Nowell, Juan Carlos Polo, Osei Kweku, and Jonathan “Duv” Zaragoza and an ensemble of dancers that includes members of the revolutionary Urban Bush Women – Courtney Cook, Chanon Judson and Mame Diarra (Samantha) Speis, dance sensation Tatiana Barber, and mesmerizing street dancer Twice Light. The design team includes Nic Benacerraf, David Bengali, Kate Fry, Asa Wember and Tuce Yasak. Stage management by Alex West.

Inspired by Martin A. Lee’s book Smoke Signals: A Social History of Marijuana, CANNABIS! A VIPER VAUDEVILLE weaves the music of icons such as Bob Marley with the stories of grassroots activists Dennis Perron and Brownie Mary with personal narratives. From Congo Square to the speakeasies of the jazz age, from the revolutionary happenings of the ’60s to the AIDS activism of the San Francisco buyers club, our time traveling tale invokes a tradition of rebel spaces — sites of music, healing, and resistance.

CANNABIS! A VIPER VAUDEVILLE was commissioned and developed in the HERE Artist Residency Program. It was originally planned to premiere during HERE and BMP’s Prototype Festival on January 7, 2022. Due to COVID, the 2022 Festival and our original run was postponed to now. We are thrilled to finally be premiering this work with La Mama.
CANNABIS! 
A VIPER VAUDEVILLE

A HERE production

CONCEIVED BY
Baba Israel

CREATED BY
Grace Galu and Baba Israel

COMPOSED AND MUSIC DIRECTED BY
Grace Galu

LIBRETTO AND CO-DIRECTION BY
Baba Israel

DRAMATURGY AND CO-DIRECTION BY
Talvin Wilks

ASSOCIATE DIRECTION AND ENVIRONMENT DESIGN BY
Nic Benacerraf

FEATURING
Soul Inscribed including Robert Knowles, Sean Nowell, Juan Carlos Polo, Osei Kweku, and Jonathan “Duv” Zaragoza

Commissioned, developed, and produced by HERE

RUNNING TIME | 120 MINUTES WITH INTERMISSION
No smoking permitted inside the venue.

CANNABIS! A VIPER VAUDEVILLE is sponsored by the Cannabis Education and Research Institute (CERI), Dr. Bronner’s, and The Living Theatre. Additional support for CANNABIS! A VIPER VAUDEVILLE is provided by the MAP Fund; The W Foundation; the New England Foundation for the Arts; and made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.
 COMPANY

SATIVA DIVA
Grace Galu

MAGICAL MYSTICAL MC (3MC)
Baba Israel

TRICKSTER HIPSTER
Jonathan “Duv” Zaragoza

CO-CHOREOGRAPHERS* / DANCERS
Chanon Judson, Courtney Cook (backup vocal), Mame Diarra (Samantha) Speis, Twice Light and Tatiana Barber.
*Additional choreography by Rocka Jamez

KEYS / MUSIC TRANSCRIPTION
Robert Knowles

SAXOPHONE / FLUTE
Sean Nowell

DRUMS
Juan Carlos Polo

BASS
Osei Kwaku

ENVIRONMENT DESIGN
Nic Benacerraf

SOUND DESIGN
Asa Wember

COSTUME DESIGN
Kate Fry

VIDEO DESIGN
David Bengali

LIGHTING DESIGN
Tuce Yasak

LINE PRODUCERS
Amanda Szeglowski and Remi Harris

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Sarah Chandler

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
Alex B. West
ASSOCIATE PROJECTION DESIGN  Jacqueline Reed
ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGN  Raul Luna
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  Cesar Renero
PLANT ARTISAN AND ASSISTANT SET DESIGN  Helen Ran
FRAN MCCRANN  Disco Leaf Fabrication
MASTER ELECTRICIAN AND PROGRAMER  Matt Lazarus
LIGHTING PROGRAMMER  Roya Abab
ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER  Rachel Blackwell
VIDEO ENGINEER  Julia Frey
VIDEO OPERATOR  Katerina Vitaly
WARDROBE SUPERVISER  Kathie Mull
CULTURAL COORDINATOR  Sam Morreale

Special thanks and recognition to previous Cannabis! team members:
Marq Gonzalez, Head Electrician & Programmer
Carly Levin, Production Manager
Katerina Vitaly, Stage Manager
Ryan O’Hare, Technical Director
Matthew Deinhart, Video Engineer
Kathy Karadza, Wardrobe Supervisor
Rocka James, Additional Choreography
GRACE GALU | CREATOR, COMPOSER, MUSIC DIRECTOR, SATIVA DIVA
is a vocalist, actor, guitarist and composer. She combines the sounds of her Irish and Congolese heritage and her LES upbringing in a soulful and gritty twist. Grace was featured in Buskerball, and recorded “Firelight” with Fearless Music. Her composition, “Ordinary Sentiment” was featured in the Ed Burns film, “Purple Violets” which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. Grace devised The Mendelssohn Electric with Trusty Sidekick, and was cast as the lead in their production, The Gospel Electric, commissioned by the Park Avenue Armory. She is a core member of the band Soul Inscribed, and was twice selected as a cultural ambassador for the American Music Abroad program. She has been selected as a cultural ambassador for their next residency program (2022). Grace is also a recipient of the NEFA NTP grant. Soul Inscribed has recently been signed to the music label, Tokyo Dawn and just released their EP, Tune UP. Grace is an artist in residence at HERE and the composer for Cannabis! A Viper Vaudeville. Grace voiced Wisdom in Nia Witherspoon’s production, The Dark Girl Chronicles (2021 at The Shed).

BABA ISRAEL | CREATOR, LIBRETTIST, CO-DIRECTOR, MAGICAL MYSTICAL MC (3MC)
is an artist, producer, educator, and consultant raised in New York by parents who were core members of the Living Theatre. He was Artistic Director of Contact Theatre in Manchester where he developed several festivals and productions. He was a resident artist at BRIC creating his latest multimedia performance The Spinning Wheel in collaboration with London-based company Unfinished Business. He is a core member of Hip Hop/Soul project Soul Inscribed, which recently completed the American Music Abroad program. He holds an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College and is the CoArtistic Director of the Performance Project based at the University Settlement. He is a proud member of HERE’s HARP program and is developing his current production, Cannabis! A Viper Vaudeville.

TALVIN WILKS | CO-DIRECTOR
is a playwright, director and dramaturg based in Minneapolis and New York City. Directing Credits: The White Card/This Bitter Earth/Benevolence/The Ballad of Emmett Till (Penumbra Theatre), The Peculiar Patriot (NBT/Woolly Mammoth), Parks (History Theatre), and The Till Trilogy (Mosaic Theatre). Dramaturgy Credits: for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enough (Broadway Revival), Dreaming Zenzile (New York Theatre Workshop), Between the World and Me (The Apollo), Scat!/Walkin’ with ‘Trane (Urban Bush Women), ink/Black Girl: Linguistic Play/ Mr. TOL E. RanCE (Camille A. Brown and Dancers), In a Rhythm/Necessary Beauty/ Landing-Place/Verge (Bebe Miller Company). He is a tenured Associate Professor in the Theatre Arts and Dance Department, University of Minnesota/Twin Cities.
NIC BENACERRAF | ENVIRONMENT DESIGNER & ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
is a creative director, scenographer, and public scholar. He specializes in highly collaborative processes that incorporate design from the get-go. Nic was co-Artistic Director of The Assembly (Seagullmachine, HOME/SICK), and recently co-founded [[ edge effect ]], a transdisciplinary group that playfully deconstructs the techniques of mass persuasion in our everyday lives. His collaborators include Trusty Sidekick (Up & Away), The Living Theatre (Here We Are), Waterwell (GOODBAR), HERE (Looking At You), The New Wild (Everybody Is Gone), as well as arts/activist groups: The Brooklyn Commune, Calling Us In, and The Yes Men. Nic’s learning communities include Wesleyan (BA), CalArts (MA/ MFA), and the CUNY Graduate Center, where he is a Mellon PublicsLab Fellow and is finishing a PhD in Theatre & Performance.

PERFORMER BIOS

TATIANA BARBER | CO-CHOREOGRAPHER & DANCER
is a young Black Woman originally from Los Angeles, CA. She began her dance training in Inglewood, CA under the direction of Ms. Kashmir Blake until age 6 then began training at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy until graduating Highschool in 2012. Soon after, she attended Dominican University of CA/ Alonzo King Lines Ballet where she achieved a BFA in Dance. After graduating in 2016, she spent a year in a professional dance company and completed her certification as a Classical Pilates instructor. Tatiana is now living in New York continuing to pursue her professional career on and off the stage. She is a multi-talented artist who has worked as a dancer, actress, choreographer, and creative director (music videos, tv series, movie scenes, etc). Some of her accomplishments include performing on The Metropolitan Opera stage, as a dancer, in the cast of Porgy & Bess choreographed by Camille Brown, and being awarded video of the month in Dance Magazine for her lead role in Tislarm Bouie’s Peggy Sue’s Blues. At the beginning of 2020, Tatiana revamped the choreography for P R I S M, an opera, to be performed at The Kennedy Center in DC which was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then she has launched a wellness brand and continues to work as a professional movement artist. All things movement are her life!

COURTNEY COOK | CO-CHOREOGRAPHER & DANCER
A Virginia Native now residing in Brooklyn, NY. She began her formal movement and vocal development at family reunions and her home church. She is a graduate of the Virginia Governor’s School of the Arts and holds a B.F.A in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is now a company member and BOLD facilitator with Urban Bush Women, a company member with MBDance, and was a featured artist with Marguerite Hemmings (we free). She is honored to be a recipient of the 2018 “Bessie” Award for Outstanding Performance for her work with all three of these organizations. As a creator, she has had the privilege of performing her solo work, PoolPITT, as a featured artist in ModArts Dance Collective’s Collective Thread ‘17, the Estrogenious Festival ’17, curated by Maura Donohue, and BDAC’s Creative Emancipation Collaboration, curated by Ebony Noelle Golden. She also has
been able to create in collaboration with interdisciplinary artists Tendayi Kuumba and Greg Purnell (UFlyMothership) exploring movement, sound, theater, and visual art.

ROCKA JAMEZ | ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY
Born & raised in Crown Heights Brooklyn NY. Professional Dancer who specializes free form contemporary infused with the studies of KRUMP. He’s also a designer in the fields of Urban Fashion & NYFW. Playing a big role as a Street Dance Community Leader, he created a Dance platform that unites all Dance Cultures, called “Roundz Of Flame”. He participated in multiple NYFW events and achieved dance awards, features in The New York Times, VOGUE magazine and sponsorship by PUMA. Rocka was also honored to perform a dance piece for Rihanna at Parsons School Of Design | The New School Awards (2017) | with his brothers (Dance Trio) “The NUU Knynez”. As a person who likes to inspire the children, Rocka taught dance to the youth abroad, in places like Bali, Indonesian, Africa, Sweden & Berlin, Germany just to name a few. His goal is to open Schools that specializes in all of the different street dance styles, fundamentals and history.

CHANON JUDSON | CO-CHOREOGRAPHER & DANCER
has been growing with the acclaimed Urban Bush Women (UBW) since 2001, as performer and now Co-Artistic Director. She’s a director’s fellow with New Perspective Theatre and Chicago Director’s Lab. Projects include The Invention of Tragedy (Flea Theatre), It’s Not so Bad in My Brain (New Perspective Theatre), Prometheus Bound (The Tank), Chronicle X (The Shed), Brett and Ashley (New Perspective Theatre). Original projects include Nurturing the Nurturer, a performance ritual/gathering for mothers (Black Women’s Blueprint) and Family Arts (FAM) - Alongside her husband they offer spaces for families to explore and create (Bric, Bailey’s Cafe, MS 35 Family Dynamics, Stoops). Chanon has worked with Mickey Davidson, Kwame Ross, Barak adé Soleil, Talvin Wilks, Sita Frederick, Allyn Gartrell, and Sandra Burton. Performance credits include A 24-Decade History of Popular Music (Taylor Mac), God’s Trombone (Craig Harris), Cannabis (Baba Israel), Cotton Club Parade, Michael Jackson 30th Anniversary Concert, and the Tony Award-winning musical Fela!

ROBERT KNOWLES | KEYS & MUSIC TRANSCRIPTION
is a multi-instrumentalist, improvisational musician ranging from piano, trumpet, and cello to beatboxing and electronic music production. He has worked on award-winning films and traveled the world with different musical acts including: GZA and members of The Wu-tang Clan, Soul Inscribed, Uglybraine, and his own project R0b0tr0n. The Staten Island native has built a career in the New York music community and is currently preparing a fusion project for 2020 with Jerome Jordan, Doron Lev, Sean Nowell, and Djibril Toure.

OSEI KWEKU | BASS
is a Los Angeles born bassist, rapper and self diagnosed Keeper of the Funk. Having grown up in Los Angeles, oldies/throwback radio was staple in his life, so much of his major influence comes from the likes of Sly and the Family Stone, Parliament-Funkadelic, Curtis Mayfield, Sam Cooke, Aretha Franklin….you know
Kweku attended The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music from 2012-15 and has since traveled the world as a freelance bass player. Playing on shows like Michael Jackson tribute shows I Am King and Invincible, Rennie Harris’s Funkedified, Oya Festival in Norway, hosting a jam session in NYC and has made a couple on screen appearances in Vinyl, The Irishman, The Only Living Boy in New York.

TWICE LIGHT | CO-CHOREOGRAPHER & DANCER
Twice Light was born in the Bronx and raised throughout Brooklyn. He is a founding member of dance trio, The Nuu Knynez. He has shared the Webster Hall stage with Michael Jackson and has performed on the Apollo Theater stage, winning 1st place at Amateur Night with The Nuu Knynez. His dance style is ELEMENTAL: Infusing The Elements Of Earth, Wind, Fire, Water. Through his craft, he hopes to inspire others in and out of the field to live the higher version of themselves in the skin they were born in. He aims to allow his dance to stay truthful to the source of light.

SEAN NOWELL | SAXOPHONE/FLUTE
Originally from Alabama, Sean received a BA in Composition from Berklee College of Music in Jazz Composition and a MA from Manhattan School of Music in Performance. He has composed and improvised film scores, music for ballet and theatre, 20th century classical music, big band, and small jazz ensembles and has pushed the timbral boundaries of the saxophone by integrating electronic effects pedals. He has traveled and collaborated with dancers, actors, painters, stilt walkers, and acrobats on multiple international tours as Musical Director for Bond Street Theatre and has represented The Akbank Istanbul Jazz Festival as their Jazz on Campus Ambassador with the mission: convince college kids jazz is awesome. He also recorded with Stanley Clarke and George Duke for the movie Soul Men, co-wrote/improvised the score for the Nick Nolte movie Off the Black and has released the albums Firewerks, The Seeker, Stockholm Swingin’ and The Kung-Fu Masters for Posi-Tone Records.

JUAN CARLOS POLO | DRUMMER
is a Peruvian drummer, composer, and educator based in New York City. Since his arrival to the United States in December 2016, Juan Carlos has worked and collaborated with prominent musicians such as the multiple Grammy Award-winner, pianist, and composer Arturo O’Farrill; tenor saxophonist Daniel Blake; acclaimed tap dancer and activist Ayodele Casel; cellist and composer Akua Dixon, and Hip-hop legend Grandmaster Caz. He holds a bachelor’s degree in classical percussion from the National University of Music in Peru and a master’s degree in Jazz Studies from The City University of New York. Juan Carlos chooses to let his music be influenced by his own experiences rather than to adhere to strict cultural tradition. His playing is an unconscious tendency grounded in multiple styles and regions. His music is thus an extension of his own life.

MAME DIARRA (SAMANTHA) SPEIS | CO-CHOREOGRAPHER & DANCER
Mame Diarra (Samantha) Speis, Co-Artistic Director of Urban Bush Women, is a mother and movement improviser intrigued with rigor, risk, and experimentation. She has worked with Gesel Mason, The Dance Exchange, Jumatatu Poe, Deborah Hay (as part of the Sweet Day curated by Ralph Lemon at the MoMA),
Baba Israel, Marjani Forte, and Liz Lerman. Speis was the recipient of the Alvin Ailey New Directions Choreography Lab and was awarded a Bessie for Outstanding Performer. Her work has been featured at the Kennedy Center, Long Island University, Joyce SoHo, Hollins University, BAAD, Danspace Project, BAM, Dixon Place, BRIC, Dance Place, and The Kelly Strayhorn Theater. Speis has developed a teaching practice that explores pelvic mobility as the root of powerful locomotion and as a point of connection to the stories, experiences and lineages that reside in each of us. She has been a guest artist and teacher throughout the U.S., South America, Senegal, and Europe. Recent projects include Walking with Trane co-choreographed with Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and her collaboration with Chanon Judson-Johnson and Raelle Myrick-Hodges on Hair and Other Stories.

JONATHAN “DUV” ZARAGOZA | VOCALS, TRICKSTER HIPSTER
is a soulful vocal artist from The Bronx. Known for his range in sound, his capacity to harmoniously collaborate with a variety of artists and genres of music, and his human beatboxing skills. You can find him regularly gracing stages in the NYC music scene at The Nuyorican, Arlene’s Grocery, and The Bowery Poetry Club. Duv is continuing his seven-year long participation in the monthly performance series Symphonics Live as a headlining act. Duv has been a featured artist on world class stages such as Joe’s Pub, BAM, The Brooklyn Museum, The Blue Note, The Apollo Theater, and Highline Ballroom. Duv leads workshops in vocal technique, use of modern music technology for the voice, songwriting, performance and beatboxing, always promoting creative thinking and leadership. He currently works with educational organizations Art Works, The Door, Urban Art Beat, Arts Horizons, and others in schools and hospitals in the New York area.

**ARTIST BIOS**

**DESIGN TEAM BIOS**

**DAVID BENGALI | VIDEO DESIGN**
is a projection designer based in New York. Recent designs include: Looking At You (HERE); Assembled Identity (HERE); Only You Will Recognize the Signal (HERE); Here There Are Blueberries (La Jolla Playhouse / Tectonic Theater Project); Twilight, Los Angeles: 1992 (Signature - Drama Desk Nom.); The Visitor (The Public Theater - Lortel Nom.); 1776 (A.R.T.); Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical (Seaview - Drama League Nom.); Bhangin It (La Jolla Playhouse); Bollywood Kitchen (Geffen Playhouse); Circle Jerk (Fake Friends - Drama League Nom.); Einstein’s Dreams (59E59 - Drama Desk Nom); We Live In Cairo (A.R.T), Girls (Yale Rep), The Great Leap (Atlantic Theater Co.); Frankenstein (Dallas Theater Center); Van Gogh’s Ear (ERC - Drama Desk Nom); The Temple Bombing (Alliance Theatre); Uncommon Sense (Tectonic Theater Project); Anna Akhmatova
(BAM); Jules Verne From The Earth To The Moon (BAM); Rockin’ Road To Dublin (National Tour); Conference of the Birds (Anikaya Dance); In The MOment (Kennedy Center / Ephrat Asherie Dance); MFA: NYU. Proud member: USA-829.

KATE FRY | COSTUME DESIGN
Kate Fry is a costume designer and scenographer for stage, screen, and themed entertainment. Spanning across different media, recent productions include The Antelope Party (NY Times Critic’s Pick), a music video for Mike Africa Jr. of HBO’s documentary 40 Years a Prisoner, the Pulitzer Prize winning opera Angel’s Bone (Poly Theatre, Beijing), a Neiman Marcus commercial featuring Rachel Brosnahan, and an immersive experience for Santander Bank at the Oculus in NYC that brought awareness of domestic violence to millions of pedestrians in the World Trade Center hub. As a scenographer, Fry designed both the set and costumes for The Wreck, an immersive, devised opera, hailed as “ingenious” by the Wall Street Journal. Fry was also scenographer on the dance film Coronation, for which she won multiple Scenic and Costume Design awards. Fry made her Broadway debut as Associate Costume Designer for Burn This (Hudson Theatre), and designed costumes for Rapper Tierra Whack’s music video Mumbo Jumbo, which was Grammy Nominated for Music Video of the year. Fry’s work has also been shown at BAM Harvey, The Public Theatre, NY City Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall, REDCAT, SF MOMA, Spoleto Opera Festival, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Sydney Festival, Divine Comedy Festival Poland, Prague Quadrennial, Tribeca Film Festival, and the Venice Film Festival. MFA: California Institute of the Arts. katefry.com

ASA WEMBER | SOUND DESIGN
is a sound, media, & technical systems designer for theatre, installation and live events. His last show at HERE was Goodbye New York, Goodbye Heart with the Production Company. Additional design work includes Temping & The Block Association Project with Wolf 359, StageCast with Stanford University, HOME/ SICK and SeagullMachine with the Assembly, The Sister and Selkie with Dutch Kills, Wyoming with Lesser America, brownsville song (b-side for tray) at LCT3, and KlaxAlterian Sequester for free online (asawember.com). Asa is a founding member of KlaxWorks, and a company member of Wolf 359, The Assembly, and Dutch Kills Theater Company.

ALEX B. WEST | PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
is a theatre artist based in Brooklyn. New York City credits include Lady in the Dark with Master Voices; This Time with Rising Circle Theatre Collective; Genet Porno, Chang(e), Science Fair (Tour), CasablancaBox, Stairway to Stardom, Thomas Paine in Violence, and Looking at You with HERE, and many more. @westieproductionsnyc

TUCE YASAK | LIGHTING DESIGN
has been following light in NYC since 2008, 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 at Collapsible Hole and NYLA) and 2019 BESSIE (Oba Qween Baba King Baba by Ni’Ja Whitson at Danspace) for Outstanding Visual Design with her lighting design. She has
ongoing collaborations with Raja Feather Kelly / the Feath3r, Ana Maria Alvarez / Contra Tiempo, Ni’Ja Whitson, Nia Witherspoon, Justin Hicks. Among her recent collaborations Hysteria by Raja Feather Kelly at New York Live Arts, The Bridge Called My Ass by Miguel Gutierrez (The Chocolate Factory/ NY, Montpellier Dance Festival/ France, The Walker Center/ Minneapolis, PICA/ Portland) Skinfolk: An American Show written by Jillian Walker/ directed by Mei Ann Teo (The Bushwick Starr, NYC), We’re Gonna Die written by Young Jean Lee, directed by Raja Feather Kelly (2nd Stage Theater/ NYC) - all three have recently been reviewed on New York Times-, M—ER by Autumn Knight (On The Boards), JoyUS JustUS by Contra Tiempo (national tour), Patch the Sky with 5 Color Stones by Daria Fain at the Chocolate Factory among many others. Light, movement and architecture intertwine in Yasak’s work to support space-making and story-telling.

SPECIAL THANKS
To the team at HERE for being in the trenches and always present. Thanks to Martin Lee, author of Smoke Signals for his support, collaboration, and belief in the project and to his desire to see his words and research inspire our performance. Thanks to Paul McIsaac and Yako 440 for their support in launching the project. Thanks to Ryan, Shellise, and everyone at NYC Norml for the support of our activist efforts. Thanks to Brad Burgess for his support and for securing a contribution from Matt Clermont. Thanks to Vivian McPeak and the team at Seattle Hempfest. Thanks to WeedFeed for their support. Thanks to Steven and Come Back Daily for their support of our journey. Thanks to Danny Danko for his encouragement. Thanks to Dawn at Funkadelic studios for her support with space to grow the music. Thanks to Camille A. Brown for early vision and inspiration. Thanks to White Feather Farm, Bethel Center for the Arts, Telluride Theater Company, Culturelab, and Emerald Pharms for their support with space for rehearsal residencies.
CERI CONGRATULATES

CANNABIS!
A VIPER VAUDEVILLE

The Cannabis Education and Research Institute

Advancing Research and Knowledge of Medicinal Cannabis
### SPECIAL GUESTS

#### SPEAKERS

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ARTIST TALKBACK: A LOOK INTO THE MAKING OF CANNABIS! A VIPER VAUDEVILLE WITH THE CREATORS
JUL 17, FOLLOWING THE 4PM PERFORMANCE

Kristin Marting (moderator) - HERE Founding Artistic Director  
Baba Israel - Librettist, Creator, Co-Director, and Performer  
Grace Galu - Composer, Performer and Music Director  
Talvin Wilks - Dramaturg, Co-Director

CANNABIS: THE UNIQUE HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF ONE OF THE MOST WIDELY GROWN PLANTS
JUL 23 @ 8:00 PM

Martin A. Lee - Author of Smoke Signals  
Colleen Mairéad - Deputy Director, NYC NORML, President, TRAEHNY Partnership & Development Corp  
Esther Lelievre - CEO Canna Equity Group

CANNABIS: UNDERSTANDING THE PHARMACOLOGY AND THE BENEFITS OF CONSCIOUS CONSUMPTION
JUL 27 @ 8:00 PM

David Knowlton - Chariman and CEO, Cannabis Education & Research Institute (CERI)  
Sephida Artis - President | National Cannabis Party  
Shellise Rogers (moderator) - NYCNorml ED  
Jessica Naissant - CEO of Wake and Bake Cafe & Co-Founder of Cultivated Community Foundations
FOLLOW THE COMPANY

SHOW ACCOUNT: @cannabis_a_viper_vaudeville
GRACE GALU: @graceface_killah
BABA ISRAEL: @babaisrael

SOUL INSCRIBED: @soulinscribed
ROBERT KNOWLES: @r0b0tr0n
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FOR CANNABIS! RESOURCES
Through the HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), HERE commissions and develops new hybrid works over a 2-to-3 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 2021–22, HERE supports the following artists and projects:

**Gelsey Bell**  
*morning//mourning*

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**Ximena Garnica & Shige Moriya | LEIMAY**  
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*The Emotions*

**Imani Uzuri**  
*Songs of Sanctuary of the Black Madonna*

**Nia Ostrow Witherspoon**  
*Priestess of Twerk*

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**HERE & BACK**

HERE & Back encompasses projects produced by HERE and helmed by established artists with deep connections to HERE. For audiences, HERE & Back provides the chance to experience daring performances by high-profile multidisciplinary artists in our intimate spaces; for the artists, HERE remains a special home for their work and a space open to risk-taking. For 2021–22, the following artists have developed HERE & Back projects:

**Taylor Mac, Resident Playwright**  
*The Hang*

**Kristin Marting & Suzi Takahashi**  
*The Story Box*
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HERE is extremely grateful for the support and encouragement of the following group of foundations, corporations, government agencies, elected officials, and dedicated individuals. We would not be HERE without you.

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

A circle made up of both artists and arts advocates, the Board is not only charged with fiscal oversight, but with ensuring that HERE continues to live its mission and values. Deeply invested in HERE’s commitment to anti-oppression and justice work, this group of individuals engage in deep conversations to steer the organization forward and contribute to a culture conducive to our goals. They support HERE’s vitality in numerous ways and are essential leaders in our City. If being a part of this important circle of our community is of interest to you or someone you know, please feel free to reach out to Producing Director Meredith Lynsey Schade at meredith@here.org.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT:
HERE’s programming is made possible with Public Funds from: National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; the Offices of the Mayor of New York, Speaker Corey Johnson, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, New York State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick, and State Senator Brad M. Hoylman. We are extremely grateful for the support and advocacy of all of our dedicated elected officials: Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senator Kirsten R. Gillibrand, Representative Jerrold L. Nadler, Mayor Eric Adams, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and the Cultural Affairs Committee of the City Council, State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick, and State Senator Brad M. Hoylman.

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HERE, in partnership with Resident Playwright Taylor Mac, is a participant in the Mellon Foundation’s National Playwright Residency Program administered in partnership with HowlRound.
A NOTE ABOUT THE NEW STRUCTURE OF OUR DONOR LIST:
Community-Centric Fundraising is a fundraising practice that is grounded in equity; it calls on all non-profits to bring principles of racial and economic justice into our development strategies. As one small step towards aligning HERE with this model, we have removed giving levels from our donor list. We hope to celebrate and raise up all of our supporters no matter the size of their contribution and recognize the generosity of our community as a whole. We would like to thank the team of Community-Centric Fundraising for their leadership and their call to action; more information on CCF can be found on their website.

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PROTOTYPE, a co-production between HERE and Beth Morrison Projects, receives major funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and other leadership support from the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. Additional support is provided by The Amphion Foundation, BMI Foundation, Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, Fresh Sound Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts, Antonia & Vladimir Kuliev Cultural Heritage Fund, Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation, OPERA America, The Reed Foundation, and The Ted Snowdon Foundation. Additional support is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts.
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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