

Friend:

Your support is felt every day in our theater, from the artists creating work in our spaces to the audiences who gather to experience it. Thank you for being part of what makes it possible.

I'm writing to ask for your renewed support of The Chocolate Factory Theater's Spring campaign to raise \$45k before June 30th. These funds will directly support our commissions and a fair hourly wage for the lead artists and performers working within our spaces.

I'm not sure you've caught on to the pattern of my fundraising letters yet, but they always seem to arrive as stories - real moments I've experienced within these four walls in Long Island City. So here's another one. I promise I'll try to keep it short.



Ruth Childs - *Blast!* November 2025 (co-presented with L'Alliance New York's Crossing The Line Festival). Pictured: Ruth Childs.

I hop off my bike outside our beloved Chocolate Factory Theater and see the roll gate wide open. Box office to the left, as usual. Everything else has been transformed, as usual.

This time, platforms and marley flooring are scattered throughout the performance space. A few chairs are available, but most of the audience is left to choose their own path through the room. Naturally, I choose one of the platforms, hoping to get as close to the action as possible.

The performers enter through the roll gate from outside and, almost immediately, collapse one by one.

I instantly know what we'll be investigating together over the next two hours.

The performers rise. They begin banging, scraping, and tapping objects throughout the room, creating more noise than I've ever heard within these walls. The sound is relentless. The movement is extreme and physically demanding. And though abstract, risky, and experimental, the work feels unmistakably connected to the world beyond the theater doors. It mirrors the uncertainty, chaos, and pressure that so many of us are carrying right now.

And yet, sitting among strangers, I sensed that everyone understood why we were there.

We were there to witness how our bodies absorb the world around us. How we endure so much alone. And how, somehow, gathering together can make that private burden into a shared one.



Autumn Knight - *NOTHING: more*, January 2026 (co-presented with Under The Radar). Pictured: Jasmine Hearn, Kayla Farrish, Dominica Greene.

Moriah Evans' work reminded me in real time that there is power in staying present with one another through uncertainty. There is power in still paying attention when it all feels too heavy. There is power in recognizing that none of us are carrying these experiences in our bodies alone - whether we're aware of it or not.

This is what artists at The Chocolate Factory Theater do. They take risks before there is consensus. They ask questions before there are answers. They create spaces where we can encounter ourselves, our neighbors, and our changing world in entirely new ways. These works are not reflections on the past. They are investigations unfolding in the present, revealing possibilities for the future. They help us make sense of what it means to be alive, connected, and accountable to one another right now.

Your support makes these moments possible. It allows artists to experiment, fail, discover, and ultimately create the kinds of experiences that stay with us long after we've left the theater. By making a gift today, you're investing in artists whose work is actively shaping how we see, feel, and understand the world around us.

Thank you for being part of this community and for helping ensure that artists continue to have the resources, space, and freedom to create work that changes our lives in real time.

Please support [The Chocolate Factory Theater](#) with a gift of any size that feels meaningful to you.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Regine Pieters". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Regine" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Pieters".

Regine Pieters  
Director of Development  
The Chocolate Factory Theater