

# THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER FALL 2023 / SPRING 2024

Wanjiru Kamuyu A disguised welcome... September 22-23, 2023

Second Annual Gala September 27, 2023

Takahiro Yamamoto NOTHINGBEING October 5-7, 2023

Antonio Ramos and the Gangbangers

CEREMONIA

(at Abrons Arts Center)

October 19-21, 2023

chameckilerner Aging Prelude October 20-28, 2023

Michelle Ellsworth Evidence of Labor and The Post-Verbal Social Network November 9-11, 2023

> Jen Rosenblit + Phil Hayes Creative Residency November 2023

Brian Rogers Small Songs December 6-9, 2023

Animals and Giraffes December 12, 2023

Hannah Krafcik + Emily Jones Creative Residency December 2023

Juliana May Family Happiness (reprise) January 11-14, 2024 Hilary Clark Creative Residency January 2024

Stina Nyberg + Kaki King Creative Residency January 2024

> Kim Brandt Creative Residency February 2024

Ursula Eagly Dream Body Body Building March 5-9, 2024

> Stacy Grossfield metamorphosis 2 March 20-30, 2024

Leslie Cuyjet For All Your Life April 10-13, 2024

Heather Kravas overly merry May 2024

Alex Romania Face Eaters May 17-25, 2024

Angie Pittman Black Life Chord Changes June 5-8, 2024

> jess pretty call and resopnse June 26-29, 2024



## **PRESENTS**

Alex Romania
Face Eaters

May 17-25, 2024

Approximate Run Time: 1 hour 50 minutes, including an intermission with light refreshments

Concept & Direction by Alex Romania

Choreography by Stacy Lynn Smith & Alex Romania

Dramaturgy by Stacy Lynn Smith

Produced by Psychic Wormhole (Stacy Lynn Smith + Alex Romania)

Live Performances by Nazareth Hasan (bass, synth, movement, vocals), Shane Jones (guitar, no-input, saw, theremin), Alex Romania (drums, movement, vocals), Stacy Lynn Smith (flute, movement, vocals), Glenn Potter-Takata (no-input)

Film Muse: Arthur Romania

Filmmaking & Editing by Alex Romania

Video Tech: Glenn Potter-Takata

A1: Sky Parnes

Lighting Design by Wesley Bryon

Additional Supertitle Design by **Lena Hawkins** Al Animations by **Sam Zimmerman** 

Costumes, Objects & Set Design by **Alex** Romania

Ash Guitar & Bass Handmade & Designed by **Erik Hokanson** 

Materials/Design Build Team: Val Debenedet, Shane Jones, Sky Parnes, Ariana Swei, Stacy Lynn Smith.

Merch Design by Alex Romania

Merch Print Collaboration by Sky Parnes & Alex Romania

Stage Management by Ariana Swei

Production Manager: John-Philip Faienza

Administrative Steward: Ella Dawn W-S

Ash House Design & Construction by Alex Romania & Andrew Braddock

Including contributions by **Sebastian Cocco** (1987 – 2010) - music track, **Taylor Sakarett** (1989 – 2020) - video art, **Zachary Romania** (1988 – 2022) - drawings, rap performance, **Marguerite Cocco** (1930 – 2022) - performance

Additional Camera Operation by Jade

Donaldson, Shane Jones, Stacy Lynn Smith

Video Performances by Marguerite Cocco, Hegemonix, Shane Jones, Jarva Lund, Alex Romania, Arthur Romania, Zack Romania,

# Stacy Lynn Smith, Kirk Windsor

Text & Music Composition by Alex Romania

Additional Music Composed & Improvised by Nazareth Hasan, Shane Jones

Musical Arrangement for Dead in My Head by **Hegemonix** 

### **FUNDING CREDITS**

Face Eaters is 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, as well as through a grant from the Jerome Foundation.

Many thanks to the Center for Performance Research Artist in Residence program, Chez Bushwick RECESS program, and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) for support in developing this project. Thank you as well to Movement Research at Judson Church, and Grace Exhibition Space where work-in-progress iterations of this project took place.

#### SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to the cast & crew, Jill McDermid, Christopher Unpezverde Nunez, Stan Wholfarth, Marc Crousillat, Stephanie Crousillat, Elton, Carolyn Cocco & Arthur Romania, Daria Fain, Justin Cabrillos, Denise Delaney, cast & crew of KLUTZ, cast & crew of junkhead, The Chocolate Factory.

Dedicated to:

Sebastian Cocco (1987 – 2010)
Taylor Sakarett (1989 – 2020)
Zachary Romania (1988 – 2022)
Marguerite Cocco (1930 – 2022)

#### **BIOS**

**ALEX ROMANIA** is a multidisciplinary artist, filmmaker, and performer, who has held residencies with MacDowell, Djerassi, Movement Research, Old Furnace Artist Residency, Tofte Lake Center, The Center for Performance Research, Chez Bushwick, and the Brooklyn Arts Exchange. Romania's upcoming projects include the feature film 'RECKONING' based on Stacy Lynn Smith's memoir co-directed with Smith, experimental documentary 'Patch the Sky with Five Colored Stones' conceived by choreographer Daria Fain, a collaborative short film with Daniela Fabrizi and the Re Hecho community in the LES entitled 'Mira, Mira, Mira', and an ongoing film project entitled 'The Philosophy of Whatever' featuring their father Arthur Romania. Romania has created original live and film work which has been presented internationally at spaces such as Grace Exhibition Space, Abrons Arts Center, Encuentro, Casa Viva, UV Estudios, Sub Rosa Space. In addition, Romania has performed in various projects by Kathy Westwater since 2013, in addition to Simone Forti, Eva Mag, Eddie Peake, Andy de Groat, Catherine Galasso. Romania came up dancing with De Facto Dance and George Russell who extended practices from their work with improvisational choreographer Richard Bull. Romania has had several multidisciplinary designs featured within the works of Antonio Ramos, and has worked in varied filmmaking roles with Marin Media Labs, TAAMAS / Sarah Riggs, Trixie Films / Therese Shechter, Christopher Unpezverde Nuñez, Martita Abril, and Sarah White-Ayòn. After over a decade of making primarily experimental live work, Romania looks forward to focusing on projects in film and TV as a filmmaker and actor, as well as touring live works such as 'Face Eaters' (2024, The Chocolate Factory Theater), 'junkhead' (2019, Brooklyn Studios for Dance), 'KLUTZ' (2018, Abrons Arts Center) and the reprisal of the internationally toured solo work 'JERK' (2017). Romania is an alumni of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts (BFA in Drama, class of 2013), having studied at the Atlantic Acting School,

the Experimental Theatre Wing, The International Theatre Workshop, in addition to a semester with Headlong in Philadelphia.

As a complete amateur and lover of the arts, **ARTHUR ROMANIA** made his debut performance at age 75 in 'KLUTZ' in 2018. Since, Arthur has participated in several live projects directed by his son. Arthur is pleased to be a part of this new production, 'Face Eaters', in various video performances throughout the piece.

**STACY LYNN SMITH** is a neurodivergent, Black multiracial performing artist, choreographer, director and Green Circle Keeper at Hidden Water (by and for those affected by childhood sexual abuse) whose practice synthesizes various lineages of improvisational forms, somatics, experimental theater and butoh. Dedicated to collaboration, Smith creates, devises, improvises and performs across disciplines and genres with an array of talented artists: DeForrest Brown Jr., Anna Homler, Karen Bernard, Thaddeus O'Neil, Rakia Seaborn, Vangeline Theater (2008-2017), Michael Freeman, Saints of an Unnamed Country, Salome Asega, GENG, Donna Costello, Bradley Bailey, Michele Beck, Jasmine Hearn, mayfield brooks, Jill Sigman, Kathy Westwater, Josephine Decker, Emily Johnson, Peter Born, Okwui Okpokwasili and more. Smith's work has been presented at Movement Research at the Judson Church, Socrates Sculpture Park, 92StY, Performance Mix Festival, Snug Harbor Dance Festival, CAVE, St. Augustine's Church via Abrons Arts Center, Rosekill, Glasshouse and more. Psychic Wormhole (their research platform & production company with Alex Romania) reckons with the devastations of trauma and its relationship to memory and the body through the development of their abstract memoir, RECKONING, a feature film being created in collaboration with Alex Romania. Smith is a 2022-2024 Movement Research Artist-in-Residence and 2024 Djerassi AIR.

**NAZARETH HASSAN** is a writer, director, musician, and performer. Performance works include Untitled (1-5) at The Shed (text published by 3 Hole Press), VANTABLACK at Theatretreffen Stuckemarkt in Berlin, Slow Mania 009 at Center for Performance Research in Brooklyn, and Memory A at Museo Universitario del Arte Contemporaneo in Mexico City. Their first collection of poetry and photography, Slow Mania, will be published in 2025 by Futurepoem. They have released 4 singles, available on all platforms. They

were the 2022 resident dramaturg at the Royal Court Theatre in London. They are a 2023-25 Jerome Hill artist fellow and and the Tow Playwright in Residence at The Vineyard Theatre. @naznaznazznaznazzazzaznaznazz @paratheat.er

artist, and educator based in Brooklyn. With a background in experimental theatre and visual art, Ariana is committed to both fucking shit up and building community. Ariana works as the Education and Community Programs Coordinator at Ping Chong and Company, teaches at various silly institutions across the city, and continues to sit in rehearsal rooms with people for extended periods of time in an attempt to create something good. They hold a BA in Studio Art and English Literature from Washington University in St. Louis.

**VALERIE DEBENEDET** is a multidisciplinary artist whose main focus is noise perversion and collaborative performance. Shane Jones' ex.

**WESLEY BRYON** is a New York lighting designer, production stage hand, producer, musician, and resident Brooklyn transexual nightlife goon.

**SHANE JONES** is a musician whose work centers intentional dissonance as a natural phenomena, utilizing continuous glissando. Their anti-capitalistic visual art practice actives found objects into such things as cartoons, animation, nunchucks, cassette tapes, T-shirts, paintings and sculpture. Shane has been in a bunch of different bands as well as having had stints as a farmer, a cook, a union organizer and a factory worker/impromptu noise artist in a teddy bear sweatshop.

**ERIK HOKANSON** is a co-director at Grace Exhibition Space and a performance artist and instrument maker. He designed and built the bass and guitar featured in Face Eaters He also is a gardener in the Hudson Valley.

**JARVA** land is a multi dimensional artist stringing together her own universe of interrelated art media; poet musician physical and performance artist her work is a life art installation & layered media collage seen on Instagram @jarvaland and streaming in life art documentary form @ jarvatown on YouTube.

JOHN-PHILIP FAIENZA is a Canadian theatre and video artist living and working in NYC. His work has been included in the SummerWorks and Rhubarb festivals for performance in Toronto, and the Exponential Festival in Brooklyn. He's worked to support new artistic works as a technician and Production Manager, including as an Associate Producer for the Performa Biennial, Production Coordinator for LMCC's River to River Festival, Technical Coordinator at Rooftop Films, and currently Production Manager at JACK.

media designer and artist working in performance. His work and designs have been shown at places like Mabou Mines, Grace Exhibition Space, Center for Performance Research, Abrons Art Center, Gibney Dance Center, Dixon Place, and Triskelion Arts, among other places. Glenn has been an artist-in-residence with Movement Research, Gibney Dance Center, CUNY Dance Initiative at Lehman College, and Rogers Art Loft, where his first solo gallery exhibition opened in January of 2023. He is the recipient of the MAP Fund Award, Bronx Cultural Visions Award, and Bronx Dance Fund Award. Glenn received his MFA from Sarah Lawrence College, where he is currently a teacher of sound and video design for live performance.

**HEGEMONIX** is a trash-humping boof junky whose work explores nothing in particular. Born a young lad singing surf skiffle in a vat of sewage, England's latest hitmaker is hard at work trying not to work. Decide for yourself @ hegemonix.bandcamp.com

**JADE DONALDSON** is an interdisciplinary artist and fine landscape gardener living in a small coastal town of Rhode Island. She is an alumna of the Brown-RISD Dual Degree Program and a former teaching fellow with Filmmakers Without Borders. When she is not rooting around in the earth, she may be found painting, drawing and making cyanotypes.

**KIRK WINDSOR**, originally from the suburbs of Boston, MA, is a multi-instrumentalist and musical artist whose genre-fluid work is meant to evoke the fractured totality of the human psyche. Having performed with many free improv groups, he's thrilled to find himself now playing a part in the Face Eaters experience.

**LENA HAWKINS** beamed to earth in 1987 and decided to stay a while. Their early years were lived in

the Pacific Northwest and since 2007 as a NYC dweller. She lives as an artist; art is work & work is art. She likes to make things, peculiar paintings and prints are their signature. Don't be surprised to see them dipping a toe in other pools to play. She has shown art in many basement venues of their friends over the years, also in spaces including Flux Factory, chashama, Triskelion Arts, and the former Silentbarn. Lena inherited Taylor Sakarett's life's work in 2020 and organizes and archives it as part of their studio practice. DON'T Dream it Be IT. lenahawkins. com Taylor's Ongoing Archive: https://linktr.ee/nypublicpool

**ELLA DAWN W-S** is a dancer, choreographer, and gymnastics teacher living in Brooklyn. She presents work under the name Dancews. Her dances consider the relationship between internal and external body conditions, investigating the interplay of structure and aspiration. As a performer, she's had the honor of working with Malcolm Betts, Josie Bettman, Lu Yim, Vita Taurke, Lavinia Eloise Bruce, SECT, inc., Erik Thurmond, Phoebe Berglund, and Kiera Bono.

Base switching between New York and Buenos Aires, **SKY PARNES** is a Records Producer and Sound designer, constantly seeking for the new, unheard cultural outcomes taking place in the post internet era. Relying on technology to produce and enhance new sonic experiences, Elements from Dub, Noise, Pop and Latin music can be traced throughout their work.

Please visit youwillconsumeus.com/face-eaters to find out more information about how you can support the artists with a tax deductible donation and/or merch orders.



Make a tax deductible donations to the project (Psychic Wormhole via NYLA fiscal sponsorship):



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that The Chocolate Factory Theater is situated on the unceded ancestral lands of the Munsee Lenape and Canarsie people. We pay respect to the past, present and future stewards of these lands. The Chocolate Factory Theater respectfully offers this acknowledgment as a small step on a path towards recognition and repair, with the understanding that acknowledgment is not a substitute for action.



The Chocolate Factory Theater is an artist-centered organization, built by and for artists. Co-founders Sheila Lewandowski and Brian Rogers began making work together in 1995 and quickly saw the need for a creative home to support their work and the work of fellow experimental performance-based artists. The Chocolate Factory therefore has grown and developed within and through a creative process that centers the development of new work, as guided by makers.

The Chocolate Factory Theater exists to encourage and support artists in their process of inquiry. We engage specifically with a community of artists who challenge themselves and, in doing so, challenge us. We believe that by supporting the labor of artists and the public presentation of their work, we contribute to elevating New York City as a thriving and more equitable wellspring of ideas.

The Chocolate Factory embraces artistic practice as an integral part of the artist's whole life, an essential component of the life of our community and a key element of a larger national and international artistic dialogue. As such, we host artists as our equal partners with shared autonomy, trust and appreciation. While we seek to make big ideas and extended relationships possible, we commit to working at a small, intimate and personal scale, with few artistic compromises or boundaries.

We achieve all of this by creating a vessel for artistic experimentation through a residency package serving the whole artist - salary, space, responsive and flexible support for the development of new work from inspiration to presentation.

MAJOR SUPPORTERS: Lily Auchincloss Foundation, CATES Tutoring NYC, Con Edison, Howard Gilman Foundation, Harkness Foundation, The Henry Luce Foundation, the Willem de Kooning Foundation, and Teiger Foundation through the Coalition of Small Arts New York, Jerome Foundation, jetBlue, Lambent Foundation, M&T Bank, National Endowment for the Arts, New York Community Trust, New York Foundation for the Arts, NYC Council Member Julie Won, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, The Chocolate Factory Theater Trustees, The McGue Millhiser Trust, Mental Insight Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Jr., Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Rise Light and Power, Select Equity Group Foundation, Shubert Foundation, Emma A. Sheafer Charitable Trust, Shine Electronics, Trust for Mutual Understanding, and our many individual donors.















#### **STAFF**

Sheila Lewandowski Co-Founder/Executive Director
Brian Rogers Co-Founder/Artistic Director
Madeline Best Director of Operations

Regine Pieters Associate Director of Development
Gerard Minaya Assistant to the Executive Director
Peter Pichards House Videographer

Peter Richards House Videographer Michael Reardon Graphic Design Shana Crawford Production Manager

Yuby Hernandez Marketing and Outreach Consultant

#### **TRUSTEES**

Chris Ajemian, Diane Eisenstat (President), Daniel Fish, Vallejo Gantner, Neil Greenberg, Jonathan Kratter (Treasurer), Jerry Laspisa, Sheila Lewandowski, Diana Manalang, Angie Pittman, Antonio Ramos, Brian Rogers, Jimmy Van Bramer (Secretary), Frank Wu, Moe Yousuf.

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL SUPPORTERS: Jennifer Adjali, Madani & Jen Adjali, Chris Ajemian, Stan Aleshin, Roya Amirsoleymani, Anonymous Anonymous, Sarah Atwood, Linda Austin, Richard Aviles, Angel Ayon, Regina Bain, Ivy Baldwin, Jordan Barbour, Meg Barnette, Chloe Bass, Peter Bellamy, Jodi Bender, Margaret Bennett, Ted Berger, Karen Bernard, Hannah Berson, Alice Berstein, Madeline Best, David Binder, Philip Bither, Gavin Black, Nancy Black, Suzanne Bocanegra, Agnes Borinsky, Tammy Bormann, Peter Born, Chuck Bracken, Rob Bralow, Karen Brooks Hopkins, Carol Bryce-Buchanan, Stormy Budwig, Richard Burdon, Patrick Burke, Aimee Campbell, Tymberly Canale, Carianne Carleo-Evangelist, Leah Carrell, Robin Carson, Gonzalo Casals, Amy Cassello, Yanira Castro, Don and Katha Cato, Irene Chaldaris, Travis Chamberlain, Rosane Chamecki, Miles  ${\it Chapin, Rachel Chavkin, Meilan Chen, Peggy Cheng, Amy Chin, Hilary Clark, Christen}$ Clifford, Michelle Coffey, Laura Colby, Jane Comfort, Liana Conyers, Marc 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