

# THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER

## FALL 2025 / SPRING 2026

CATCH 79!  
September 13, 2025

Netta Yerushalmy, Tuçe Yasak,  
Mieke Ulfig, Katherine Profeta,  
Paula Matthusen, Alla Kovgan  
*nothing personal, just everything*  
October 30 - November 2, 2025

Ruth Childs  
*Blast!*  
(with L'Alliance New York)  
November 12-14, 2025

Juliana F. May  
*Optimistic Voices (reprise)*  
(with Live Artery | New York Live Arts)  
January 8-10, 2026

Autumn Knight  
*NOTHING: more*  
(with Under The Radar Festival)  
January 16-18, 2026

Saturday Salons  
Curated by Jennifer Krasinski  
March 7 + May 16, 2026

Karinne Keithley Syers  
*Your Ghost Body*  
March 13-14, 2026

Neal Medlyn  
*Made In Heaven*  
March 25, 2026

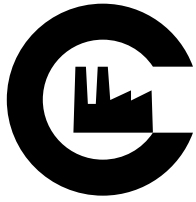
Steven Wendt + Wes Day  
*Plato Caves: Screens vs Shadows*  
March 27-29, 2026

Ayano Elson  
*Control*  
April 23-25, 2026

Moriah Evans  
[.../+\*^%<>€£¥\$&@!!!!^^^]  
(with Walker Art Center)  
June 5-13, 2026

Jasmine Hearn  
*Memory Fleet*  
(with New York Live Arts)  
June 11-13, 2026

Early Stage Creative Residencies:  
*Crackhead Barney, Jesse Bonnell, lily gold,*  
*Amanda Horowitz, Kashia Kancey, Joanna Kotze,*  
*Maya Lee-Parritz, Kimiko Tanabe,*  
*Zerina Tye, Lu Yim*  
Fall 2025 - Spring 2026



## THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER PRESENTS

**Ayano Elson**  
***Control***

April 23-25, 2026

Created by **Ayano Elson** in collaboration with the performers: **Cayleen Del Rosario, Amelia Heintzelman, Owen Prum,** and **evan ray suzuki**

Music by **Matt Evans**, performed with **isa crespo pardo** and **David Leon**

Lighting by **Madeline Best**

Costumes by **Kate Williams**

*Control* is developed with residency support from the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and support from the New York State Council on the Arts Support for Artists Grant.

### SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to The Chocolate Factory, Brian, Shana, Madeline, Regine, and Sheila, for inviting me here and programming experimental dance for 20+ years!! Please support CF and dance venues like it.

My dance is made alongside and in conversation with my friends—my artists, my teachers, and my greatest sources of encouragement. Thank you Ella for hauling ass to CF twice. Thank you to John. Thank you to everyone who has supported this dance and its making.

Thank you to my life-affirming collaborators. Thank you to my dear dancers, Amelia, Cayleen, evan, and Owen. For the care, presence, and devotion to keep searching. Thank you to Kate. Thank you to Madeline.

Thank you to isa and David. Thank you to Matt. I am thankful we all found each other.

### BIOS

**Ayano Elson** is an Okinawan–American dancer and choreographer. Her choreography has been presented by the Kitchen, The Chocolate Factory, Danspace Project, Pageant, and Roulette, among others. She is currently dancing for Kim Brandt, Jesi Cook, and Melinda Ring, and has danced for Milka Djordjevich, Simone Forti, Niall Jones, Gwendolyn Knapp, Ella Dawn W-S, Juli Brandano, and Alexa West at museums, galleries, and theaters in Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York City.

**Amelia Heintzelman** is a performer and teacher. [ameliakh.com](http://ameliakh.com)

**Cayleen Del Rosario** is a dancer, choreographer, and psychoanalyst based in New York City.

**evan ray suzuki** is a choreographer, dancer, and proud owner of a 2012 Honda Fit. Go Knicks!

**Owen Prum** is a dancer and choreographer living in New York City. He has shown his work across the city at Sundays on Broadway, Pioneers Go East Collective, Under St. Marks and Pageant. Owen has performed in the works of Neil Greenberg, Anna Sperber, Yoshiko Chuma, Jordan Lloyd, Ayano Elson, among others. He is the co-founder and co-director of Pageant, an artist-run performance space in Brooklyn, NY.

**Matt Evans** is a drummer, composer, and producer based in Brooklyn. His performances and recordings collage together drum-driven improvisations, playful synthesized sound-organisms, and various musical collaborators to create brightly-hued electroacoustic sound worlds. His compositions draw inspiration from millennial esoterica, surreal natural phenomena, and science fiction, resulting in hypnotic soundscapes that have been described as "hyperreal and phantasmal" (Wire Magazine), and "a form of chill complexity" (New York Times). Matt is a life-long collaborator, frequently working with other musicians, choreographers, artists, and filmmakers in both precise compositions and intuitive, improvisatory projects. He has presented solo projects at the Guggenheim, The Kitchen, Roulette, and 2220

Art+Archives and has released records with AKP Recordings (forthcoming), Moon Glyph, Whatever's Clever, Cantaloupe, New Amsterdam, Dinzu Artefacts and others.

**David Leon** is a Cuban-American saxophonist, woodwinds player, composer and improviser living in Brooklyn, New York. His practice is guided by a persistent search for vitality through autonomy, contradiction, hyperbole, and humor and has been described as “unlike anything else” (PostGenre). His work has been recognized by Roulette Intermedium, The CINTAS Foundation and the ASCAP Foundation among others.

**isabel crespo pardo** is an NYC-based interdisciplinary artist working across sound, performance, text, and visual art. Captivated by the realms of memory, spirit and ephemerality, they create rituals of transformation that center improvisation as a bridge to the subconscious. Described as “an electrifying figure” (The Wire), crespo has been presented by Pioneer Works, Big Ears Festival, and Lincoln Center Atrium, and supported by Loghaven Artist Residency, Roulette Intermedium Residency, and the Van Lier Fellowship.

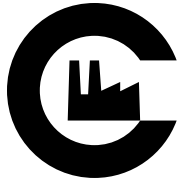
**Madeline Best** is a Lighting Designer, Performer, and Managing Director at the Chocolate Factory Theater in New York City. Recent artists she has worked with include Brian Rogers, Heather Kravas, Michelle Ellsworth, Aki Sasamoto, Moriah Evans, Yve Laris Cohen, Anna Sperber, Neal Medlyn, Ursula Eagly, Milka Djordjevich, Efrían Rozas, Luciana Achugar, Andrea Kleine, Anne-B Parson/Big Dance Theater, and more. Madeline grew up in Durham, North Carolina, studied at Bennington College ('07) and currently lives in Long Island City, Queens.

**Kate Williams** is a movement artist and seamstress based in New York City. She explores identity and ‘origin’ stories through movement improvisation and choreography. A self-taught seamstress, Williams incorporates clothing as a sculptural element within her performances, making her own costumes. Her performances have shown at the Park Avenue Armory, Performance Space New York, Centre For Performance Research and Issue Project Room. She is also a commissioned seamstress; her garments appeared in performances at SculptureCenter, Pioneer Works, and Judson Church. Williams is

co-founder of performance duo Star & Stan with Reed Rushes, who have toured internationally to Les Urbaines (Lausanne), Moulin Rouge (Paris), CREAMCAKE (Berlin), and BENTA Gallery (Istanbul). She graduated from Bard College in 2020, receiving the Ana Itelman Prize for Choreography and a degree in Dance and Human Rights.

## **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.**



## ABOUT THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER

Founded in 2004, The Chocolate Factory Theater (CF) supports the creation of new work by interdisciplinary performance artists from its post-industrial facility in Long Island City, Queens. We encourage risk-taking and innovation within the experimental performing arts community by responding to artists' needs with space, time, money and administrative support throughout their careers. As an artist-founded, artist-run institution—and one of the few remaining spaces wholly devoted to experimental performance in New York City—we believe that the ideas generated within our walls have the potential to improve the lives of New Yorkers, shape broader cultural movements, and inspire change.

Each year, CF builds a robust Artistic Program comprising 8-10 commissioned premieres by interdisciplinary artists; 6-8 early stage creative residencies; a number of contextually-relevant interdisciplinary events (organized by guest curators) including cinema, music, and literature-focused gatherings; and organizational partnerships intended to deepen and expand connections between specific interdisciplinary artist communities.

As a team of practicing artists themselves, CF staff engages with its artist community from a place of direct understanding, as partners in a shared endeavor—making the process of developing new work within our spaces incredibly unique. Artists receive exclusive 24/7 access to our spaces and technical equipment for a period of 1-6 weeks, culminating in premiere performances for the public. We literally hand artists the keys and—in addition to substantial financial, administrative and technical support—provide a level of flexibility, trust, autonomy and appreciation that is rare in New York City. CF has earned a strong reputation—among its artist community, its peer institutions, and the field at large – as an organization that is truly “by artists, for artists”.

**MAJOR SUPPORTERS:** Booth Ferris Foundation, Con Edison, Harkness Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, The Henry Luce Foundation, the Willem de Kooning Foundation, and Teiger Foundation through the Coalition of Small Arts New York, jetBlue, Lambent Foundation, M&T Bank, New York Community Trust, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, NYC Council Member Julie Won, The Chocolate Factory Theater Trustees, Mental Insight Fund at San Francisco Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Jr., Rise Light and Power, Select Equity Group Foundation, Shubert Foundation, Shine Electronics, Tiger Baron Foundation, and our many individual donors.

## STAFF

Brian Rogers	Co-Founder / Artistic Executive Director
Madeline Best	Managing Director
Regine Pieters	Director of Development
Shana Crawford	Production Manager
Peter Richards	House Videographer
Michael Reardon	Graphic Design
Sheila Lewandowski	Co-Founder / Executive Director Emerita

## TRUSTEES

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THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL SUPPORTERS: Martita Abril, Madani and Jennifer Adjali, Chris Ajemian, Stan Aleshin, Roya Amirsoleymani, Sarah Atwood, Linda Austin, Richard Aviles, Angel Ayon, Regina Bain, Ivy Baldwin, Jordan Barbour, Meg Barnette, Chloe Bass, Maria Bauman, Peter Bellamy, Jodi Bender, Margaret Bennett, Ted Berger, Karen Bernard, Rachel Bernsen, 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, Kim Brandt, Collette Brennan, Rebecca Brooks, 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 Chapin, Rachel Chavkin, Natalia Chefer, Meilan Chen, Peggy Cheng, Amy Chin, Janet D Clancy, Hilary Clark, Christen Clifford, 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