

THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER

FALL 2022 / SPRING 2023

Jasmie Hearn
(creative residency)
July 2022

Jessie Young with Iris McCloughan
(creative residency)
July 2022

Phil Soltanoff and Steven Wendt /
The Institute of Useless Activity
THIS AND THAT
(co-presented with The Bushwick Starr)
September 7-24, 2022

Efraín Rozas
An Ocean of Forgiveness
(creative residency)
September 18, 2022

The Chocolate Factory's First Annual GALA
Honoring Donovan Richards Jr., Lucy Sexton
and Yoko Shioya
September 28, 2022

David Thomson
VESSEL
October 26-29, 2022

Dion TYGAPAW McKenzie
Devil Woman (Obeah Woman)
co-presented with ISSUE Project Room
and Queens Museum
November 12, 2022

Andrea Kleine
The End Is Not What I Thought It Would Be
November 4-5, 2022

Martita Abril
Huevos a la Mexcla (creative residency)
November 14-19, 2022

Ivy Baldwin
Folds
December 7-17, 2022

Linda Mary Montano
An Interactive Life And Maybe No Art Experience
co-presented with ISSUE Project Room
February 9, 2023

Aaron Landsman
Night Keeper
March 27 - April 8, 2023

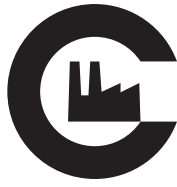
Kathy Westwater
Revolver + Choreomaniacs
April 20-29, 2023

Juliana F. May
Family Happiness
co-presented with Abrons Arts Center
May 3-13, 2023

Annie Dorsen
Prometheus Firebringer
co-presented with Media Art Xploration
+ New York Live Arts
May 11-13, 2023

Yanira Castro / a canary torsi
I came here to weep
June 2023

Mallory Catlett / Restless NYC
DECODER: Nova Express
July 2023



THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER PRESENTS

Kathy Westwater
Revolver + Choreomaniacs

April 20-29, 2023

Revolver

Conceived and directed by **Kathy Westwater**
Choreographed by **Kathy Westwater** with **Lance Gries**
Performed by **Lance Gries** and **Kathy Westwater**
Commissioned music by **Ava Mendoza**
Art direction and set design by **Seung Jae Lee**
Costumes by **Claire Fleury**
Lighting design by **Madeline Best**
Dramaturgic input by **Clarinda Mac Low**

In Memory of Jay Westwater

Intermission

Choreomaniacs

Conceived and directed by **Kathy Westwater**
Choreographed by **Kathy Westwater** with **Alex Romania, Rakia Seaborn, Stacy Lynn Smith,** and **Nattie Trogdon**
Performed by **Alex Romania, Rakia Seaborn, Stacy Lynn Smith, Nattie Trogdon,** and **Kathy Westwater**
Music composed by **Ava Mendoza** and **Mike Baggetta**
Art direction and set design by **Seung Jae Lee**
Costumes by **Claire Fleury**
Lighting design by **Madeline Best**
Dramaturgic input by **Clarinda Mac Low**

Floor Construction: **Matt Shalzi**
Set construction: **Shane Jones, Val Debenedet,** and **Lu Yim**
Costume Management: **Hollis Bartlett**
Administrative assistance: **Ella Wasserman-Smith**

Run Time: 80 minutes plus 10-minute intermission

SPECIAL THANKS

My deepest gratitude goes to all the collaborating artists without whom this work would not exist.

Special thanks to Brian Rogers, Sheila Lewandowski, Madeline Best, Shana Crawford, and the entire staff and crew at the Chocolate Factory Theater who together provide among the most artist-centered support possible for risk-taking live performance.

Gratitude to Alexander Thompson and the staff of Foundation for Contemporary Arts; Alejandra Duque Cifuentes and the staff of Dance/NYC; and Christy Williams and the staff of Yaddo.

Thanks to Matt Shalzi, also to Shane Jones, Val Debenedet, and Lu Yim.

Deep thanks to Ella Wasserman-Smith and Hollis Bartlett.

FUNDING CREDITS

Theatrical performances of *Revolver + Choreomaniacs* were commissioned and given creative residency support by The Chocolate Factory Theater. *Revolver + Choreomaniacs* were supported by Dance/NYC's Coronavirus Dance Relief Fund in 2020 & 2022, and by a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant and the FCA Emergency Grants COVID-19 Fund. They were developed as part of the Yaddo Residency program.

Lastly, these works would not be possible without the support of and donations from individuals, including Nellie Westwater, Patti Bradshaw & Thomas Ross, Wendy Whelan, Tere O'Connor, Sondra Loring, Estelle Woodward Arnal, Karen Bernard, Patricia Westwater, Lynn Parkerson & Allen Kraus, Aurora Donzelli, Marsi Burns, Rachel Lehrer, Keith Malley, Glenn Potter-Takata, E.J. McAdams, Chisa Hidaka, Jay Westwater & Ginny Kraus, Seung & Young Mi Lee, Martin Marciano, Jennifer Shanahan, and Yehuda Hyman.

All the materials of the set will be repurposed, and not landfilled.

BIOS

KATHY WESTWATER has pursued radical dance approaches since 1996. Her work responds to the social landscape in which it manifests, often by taking up our most challenging experiences such as pain, as in her Bessie-nominated work *Rambler, Worlds A Part* (2019). With other major works she has explored the built environments of monuments (*Anywhere*, 2016) and landfills and parks (*PARK, PARK Ephemera, Wanderings, Moundscapes*, 2008-present); war and pain (*Macho*, 2008); intersections of human and animal culture (*twisted, tack, broken*, 2005); psycho-physical states of fear (*Dark Matter*, 2002); and interactive virtual environments (*The Fortune Cookie Dance*, 1999).

Developed in New York City, her dances have been seen at Gibney, New York Live Arts, Brooklyn Studios for Dance, Temple University, Danspace Project, 92nd Street Y Harkness Center, Movement Research at Judson Church, Dance Theater Workshop, Joyce SoHo, Franklin Furnace, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Dixon Place, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Performance Space 122, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Pratt Institute, Reed College, and many parks and public spaces, among others. Her work *The Fortune Cookie Dance* is cited in *The Drama Review* and the *Guerrilla Guide to Performance Art* as an early example of online interactive dance and archived in the Walker Art Center's Mediatheque Archive.

Westwater is the recipient of the Solange MacArthur Award for New Choreography, the first woman to receive the prize.

She has received commissions from Lumberyard, Temple University, Dance Theater Workshop, and Danspace Project; and awards from National Endowment for the Arts, CUNY Dance Initiative, Dance NYC, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New Music USA, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Puffin Foundation, Franklin Furnace Fund, Meet the Composer, and New York Foundation for the Arts.

Westwater was artist in residence in 2022 at the Arts Center on Governors Island; in 2021 at both Snug Harbor and Yaddo; in 2019 at Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography; and in 2018, one of three inaugural artists in residence at Petronio Residency Center. She has been the recipient of numerous other

residencies, among them, Brooklyn Studios for Dance, Temple University, Djerassi, Movement Research, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, iLAND, Dance Theater Workshop, The Field, Millay Colony for the Arts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, and Pratt Institute. Westwater is a Mellon Anchor Artist of the Joyce Theater Foundation.

AVA MENDOZA is a Brooklyn-based guitarist, singer, songwriter and composer. Born in 1983, she started performing her own music, and as a sidewoman and collaborator in many different projects as soon as she was legally allowed into venues. As a guitarist, Mendoza has received acclaim for her technique and viscerality. In any context she is committed to bringing expressivity, energy and a wide sonic range to the music. Mendoza has toured throughout the U.S. and Europe and recorded/performed with musicians including Carla Bozulich, Malcolm Mooney (CAN), Steve Shelley, Mike Watt, Adele Bertei, Mick Barr, William Hooker, Nels Cline, Matana Roberts, John Zorn, Jamaaladeen Tacuma, Fred Frith, William Parker, Hamid Drake, Object Collection (Travis Just), ROVA, Negativland, the Violent Femmes, and members of Caroliner. She has received composition commissions from film distributor Kino Lorber, new music duo The Living Earth Show, the Jazz Coalition, and John Zorn's Stone Commissioning Series at National Sawdust. Recordings are available on labels Tzadik, Astral Spirits, SGG, Pyroclastic, Clean Feed, Resipiscent, and New Atlantis.

Guitarist, singer and composer MIKE BAGGETTA has performed or recorded with David Torn, Mike Watt, Jim Keltner, Nels Cline, Rev. Fred Lane, Henry Kaiser, Jeff Coffin, Psychic Temple, Ava Mendoza, Donny McCaslin, Darcy James Argue's Secret Society, Viktor Krauss, Tim Berne, David Wax Museum, Tom Harrell, Joseph C. Philips' Numinous, Imani Uzuri, Jon Irabagon, Eivind Opsvik, Jeremy Udden, and Ruth Brown among many others. He can be found as a leader or sideman on record labels BIG EGO, Fresh Sound New Talent, Striped Light, ECM, Joyful Noise, New Amsterdam, Ear Up and Nomad Eel. Baggetta leads the band mssv (Main Steam Stop Valve) with drummer Stephen Hodges & bassist Mike Watt, and is an endorsing artist for Koll Guitars, Benson Amps and D'Addario Strings and Accessories.

SEUNG JAE LEE has designed stage sets for dance for over two decades. He's a licensed architect

working in New York City, and has worked with numerous firms including Peter Marino Architect, where he practices currently since 2013, m-USE Architects which he co-founded in 2003, and Jeffrey Beers International, where he was a director of architecture and interior design for over ten years. His architectural practice and encounters with everyday materials inspire his designs for performance.

CLAIRE FLEURY manipulates fabric and other materials into multidimensional, colorful garments that are an invitation to move, play, and dance. She spent twenty years directing, writing, and performing for theater, before moving to New York City from Amsterdam in 2011 when she started designing costumes and fashion for nightlife performers like Susanne Bartsch, and various dance companies. Her first three collections were sold at Patricia Field, the eponymous shop of the famed Sex and the City stylist. Fleury has created shows for Fashion Week Brooklyn, The Phluid Project, DapperQ at the Brooklyn Museum, VERS BK, at Tic Tac Art Centre in Bruxelles, and for Yoshiko Chuma, Judith Sanchez Ruiz & the Trisha Brown Dance Company, Antonio Ramos, and many others.

MADELINE BEST is a Lighting Designer, Performer, and the Director of Operations at the Chocolate Factory Theater. Recent artists she has worked with include Moriah Evans, Yve Laris Cohen, Anna Sperber, Heather Kravas, Ursula Eagly, Milka Djordjevich, Efrin Rozas, Luciana Achugar, Andrea Kleine, Anne-B Parson/Big Dance Theater, and more. Madeline grew up in Durham, North Carolina and currently lives in Long Island City, Queens.

CLARINDA MAC LOW started out working in dance and molecular biology in the late 1980s and now works in performance and installation, creating participatory events that investigate social constructs and corporeal experience, and as a professor in digital arts, and a former HIV/AIDS medical journalist. In addition to work with Westwater, Mac Low has also “performed” dramaturgy for Katy Pyle’s Ballez, David Thomson’s he his own mythical beast and Gender/Power (Maya Ciarrocchi and Kris Grey).

LANCE GRIES has been a New York-based dance artist for almost forty years. He has taught and shown his choreography in many NYC venues and around the world, He has received numerous grants and

awards, including a Bessie award for his dancing with The Trisha Brown Company and a nomination for his solo, Etudes for an Astronaut 2011. These days, he mostly engages in and relates to dance practices as another resource to explore life. The Covid pandemic led him into a new career of service as a life coach, combining his interests in somatic awareness, neuroscience, mindfulness and spirituality. He is currently revisiting The FIFTY Project, a video collection of fifty improvisational duets, with fifty colleagues that celebrated his fiftieth birthday in 2013, formatting it as an accessible online archive. He is thrilled to be collaborating and dancing with Kathy in this creation.

In addition to dancing with Kathy Westwater since 2013, ALEX ROMANIA is a generative artist who has held residencies with Movement Research, MacDowell, and Djerassi. Romania’s current multidisciplinary work spans the evening-length work Face Eaters, to premiere at the Chocolate Factory Theater in May 2024, the feature film RECKONING (in production) created together with memoirist Stacy Lynn Smith, and co-directing the soon to be released experimental documentary feature Patch the Sky with Five Colored Stones conceived by choreographer Daria Fain.

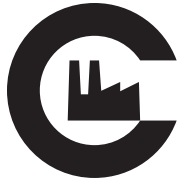
A native of Detroit, RAKIA SEABORN is a writer, choreographer, and performer whose work has appeared at JACK, Dixon Place, La Mama E.T.C., The Tank, AUNTS, chashama, and Brooklyn Studios for Dance. Seaborn has worked with Kathy Westwater, Dianne McIntyre, Rashaun Mitchell, Jodi Melnick, and Meta-Phys Ed. She teaches Movement at Trinity/La Mama, ETC. Seaborn’s latest work, A RUIN, had its world premiere at JACK in 2022.

STACY LYNN SMITH is a neurodivergent, mixed race/Black performance artist, choreographer, director, and Green Circle Keeper at Hidden Water (by and for those affected by CSA). They are currently developing their abstract memoir, RECKONING, a film created in collaboration with Alex Romania. Other current collaborations are with Emily Johnson, Peter Born and Okwui Okpokwasili. Smith is a 2022-2024 Movement Research Artist-in-Residence.

NATTIE TROGDON is a performer, choreographer, and educator residing in Brooklyn, NY. Part of a collaborative duo with her life and creative partner, Hollis Bartlett; she creates dance works, films and research-based practices aimed to disrupt assumptions of performance and personhood. Born and raised in rural North Carolina, she is a graduate of the high school program at UNC School of the Arts and received her BFA with honors from SUNY Purchase.

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

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, Harkness Foundation, The Henry Luce Foundation, the Willem de Kooning Foundation, and Teiger Foundation through the Coalition of Small Arts New York, New York Community Trust, New York State Parks, NYC Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer, NYS Assemblywoman Catherine T. Nolan, Plaxall, The Chocolate Factory Theater Trustees, The McGue Millhiser Trust, Mental Insight Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Carl and Laurie Rogers, Select Equity Group Foundation, Emma A. Sheaffer Charitable Trust, Shine Electronics, Shubert Foundation, The Trust for Mutual Understanding, and our many individual donors.



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Brian Rogers	Co-Founder/Artistic Director
Madeline Best	Director of Operations
Regine Pieters	Development Associate
Peter Richards	House Videographer
Michael Reardon	Graphic Design
Shana Crawford	Production Manager
Yuby Hernandez	Marketing and Outreach Consultant
Lydia Sloan	Front of House
Lillie De, Ben Demarest,	Technicians
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Serena Wong	
Pamela M. Golinski, Esq.	Legal Counsel

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