

## ABOUT THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

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.

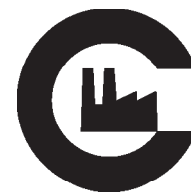
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## CHOCOLATE FACTORY STAFF and TRUSTEES

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Brian Rogers	Co-Founder/Artistic Director
Madeline Best	Director of Operations
Regine Pieters	Development Associate
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Michael Reardon	Graphic Design
Shana Crawford	Production Manager
Julie Brandano	Front of House
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# THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER 2021 / 2022

Yanira Castro

Aya Ogawa  
(with Japan Society)

AUNTS  
(with NYU Skirball)

Flux Factory

Sibyl Kempson /  
7 Daughters of Eve Thtr & Perf. Co.  
(with Abrons Arts Center and NYU Skirball)

Luciana Achugar  
(with PICA and NYU Skirball)

ISSUE Project Room

Kristen Kosmas (with On The Boards)

James Allister Sprang

Justin Allen

Jon Kinzel

Justin Cabrillos

Laurie Berg

Donna Uchizono  
(with Baryshnikov Arts Center)

Abigail Levine

Larissa Velez-Jackson



**THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER PRESENTS**

**Laurie Berg**  
**FOMO:DIPTYCH**

**May 19-21, 2022**

Created by **Laurie Berg** in collaboration with **Matt Romein** (technical design); **Madison Krekel** and **Omar Zubair** (sound); **Jodi Bender, Laurie Berg, Ayano Elson,** and **Marion Spencer** (performance); **Myssi Robinson** (trainview designer); **Charlie Welch** (sports bar design); **Stephanie Acosta** (dramaturgy); **Shomit Barua** (technical associate) and **Shana Crawford** (lighting design); **Lori E. Seid** and **Heidi Dorow** (legendary bartenders).

*FOMO:DIPTYCH* is a densely layered performance installation to study the diptych: as a form, a way of viewing, listening, feeling, and consuming. A place where missing something is guaranteed (and ok).

*FOMO:DIPTYCH* asks if performance – as an inherently ephemeral experience – can help us recognize our capacity to hold multiple perspectives at once, and when considered collectively, reveals the cacophonous jumble of inputs we piece together to make meaning. Our eyes move independently of the eyes of our neighbor, each of our brains collecting only the objects we choose to let in. And where we sit affects what we encounter.

Grab a drink. Write notes for your next great novel on a bar napkin (pens provided). Thank you for being here with us.

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THANK YOU to this dream team of collaborators: Matt, Myssi, Madison, Omar, Jodi, Ayano, Marion, Stephanie, Charlie, Shana, Shomit, Lori, Heidi. I am in awe of your insights and talents. I am so grateful to finally come together and make this work. Thank you Brian, Madeline, Sheila, Shana, Peter and Lydia for the time, space and support. Thank you Meredith Boggia, Amy Khoshbin, Anna Frenkel, and Bessie McDonough-Thayer for your conversations and guidance! To the Office Party: Lori, Lucy and Heidi (I wouldn't be here without you). Love to my family: Zelda, Jay, Rachel, Jake, baby Sam, Liz. Thank you Dede and Cary for taking care of Zelda these past two weeks so I can make some art. Thank you to Marion, Ayano, Blaze and Anna for rehearsal space at the beautiful Studio 44. To every person who donated in support of this work (personal thank you's coming soon). Thank you Mark and The High Dive bar in Park Slope. To Judy: thanks for your wit, your art and your name :) To the audience: thank you for being here with us.

**Madison Krekel** is a dancer, performer, writer, rock n' roll singer of their band Snatch Attack, and an end of life doula and healthcare clown in training. They were born in Ohlone land (Oakland, CA), their spirit was raised in Lenapehoking land (NYC), and they now reside in beautiful Bulbancha (New Orleans, LA). Some of the amazing folks they have had the pleasure of performing and creating with include Third Rail Projects, Ballez, Ishmael Houston-Jones and Miguel Gutierrez, Young Jean Lee's Theater Company, Vanessa Walters, Dancenoise, and the inimitable Laurie Berg.

After writing his first book *Disorientation Therapy* in 2007, **Omar Zubair** found that the closer to the core of being he looked, the more blurry it became; so, he began to listen to it, instead. And ever since, listening has become his primary compositional technique – whether creating a theatrical score for The Wooster Group or building a sound installation for a national historic landmark, whether sound designing for a blind choreographer so that she can continually orient toward the audience or improvising with a dance class at Julliard to coax authentic movement out of each student, whether making music to help people grieve at a funeral or celebrate at a wedding. He lets the ear hear twice before acting once. He has helped found composer collectives across multiple countries in order to promote radical empathy and empower active listening.

**Matt Romein** is an artist, designer, and performer based in Brooklyn, NY. His performance design work includes *Knot in My Name* by Ita Segev, *King* by Neal Medlyn, *Turning Towards a Radical Listening* by James Sprang, and *Protec/Attac, While You Were Partying,* and *[50/50] old school animation* by Peter Mills Weiss + Julia Mounsey. He has created visual and interactive installations that have been shown at Sundance's New Frontier Program in Park City, Utah, IDFA's Doclab in Amsterdam, and SXSW in Austin, Texas, among others. He has had artist residencies and received grants from Pioneer Works, Google, CultureHub, Signal Culture, NEW INC, NYU, and more. He is a full time faculty member at NYU's ITP. Website: matt-romein.com

**Jodi Bender** is a NYC-based performer/dancer who has appeared frequently in the work of Laurie Berg, Vicky Shick, and David Thomson (*he his own mythical beast*, Bessie Award for Best Production 2018). She has also collaborated with choreographers Rebecca Brooks, Rebecca Davis, K.J. Holmes, Sam Kim, Jillian Sweeney and Tara O'Con amongst others, and shown her own work at Mondays at Roulette, THROW at The Chocolate Factory Theater, AUNTS, the Flic-Fest After-Hours Cabaret at Irondale and at Luis Lara's Not Festival.

**Shana Crawford** entangles herself in dance and light across New York City as a dance artist, lighting designer, production manager and educator. Her work in all forms create structures for acts of togetherness and celebration. Recent lighting collaborations are with Jessie Young, Juliana May, Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, Laurie Berg, Madeline Best, Stephanie Acosta, and Yanan Yu, among others. She has worked with Body Cartography, danceBARN and Hyp-ACCESS, and was a guest teaching artist with Young Dance's 20-21 season. She organized with AUNTS, produced two years of the River to River Festival with LMCC and continues to produce events alongside her role

as TD at the Chocolate Factory Theater. . Shana orchestrates the Sometimes Together group and her work has been shared in NYC, MN, VT, HA, PA, MA, Italy, Hungary and Spain.

Whether working with dance and performance, collage, or jewelry, **Laurie Berg** draws on her interest in iconography, detail, humor, and absurdity to cultivate a collaborative, creative space that allows for rigorous play. Working across, under, around and through different mediums, she creates performances that feel like living collages. Recent works include *superposition* (Roulette Intermedium 2021), *EZ Pass* (Roulette Intermedium 2019), *scape: Times Square* (co-commission by Times Square Arts and Danspace Project 2018), *Ziegfeld Goes Down* (as part of Charles Atlas Presents: The Kitchen Follies 2018), *Terrifying Times Call For Terrifying Jewelry* (Dixon Place 2017), and *The Mineralogy of Objects* (Danspace Project 2015/2016). Berg was a 2020–2021 Movement Research Parent Artist Resident supported by The Sustainable Arts Foundation, was a 2016–17 LMCC Workspace Artist-In-Residence, the 2016 recipient of the Tom Murrin Performance Award, a 2013 New York Live Arts Studio Series Artist and a 2010 Movement Research Artist-In-Residence. Berg is a co-organizer of AUNTS, an underground platform for dance and performance. In the summer of 2021, the AUNTS organizing cohort produced *AUNTS Goes Public!* (three large scale outdoor events as part of the OPEN Culture NYC Program) and *AUNTS Triple Threat* (a three-way collaboration between the Chocolate Factory Theater and NYU Skirball Center).

**Myssi Robinson** is a performer and maker from Powhatan lands (Richmond, VA). She has interpreted many dances and is currently reorienting to authorship and the intrinsic space that it needs. Myssi's practice involves creative archiving, mixed-media marking and spatial/material design. Intuition and empathy play with maximalist instinct to give life to the art that she makes. Gratitude to Carolyn Johnson and Darrin Robinson for her life and ability to create freely within it.

**Ayano Elson** is an Okinawan–American choreographer and performer based in New York. Her choreography has been presented by the Chocolate Factory, Gibney Dance, ISSUE Project Room, Knockdown Center, Movement Research, and Roulette. Ayano was a 2018 Movement Research Van Lier Emerging Artist of Color Fellow, a 2020 Art Cake Dancer-in-Residence, and a 2021 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council at Governors Island Artist-in-Residence. She has performed in works by Kim Brandt, Jessica Cook, Milka Djordjevic, Simone Forti, Kyli Kleven, Abigail Levine, and Haegue Yang at venues including Danspace Project, ISSUE Project Room, MCA Chicago, MoMA, MoMA PS1, Movement Research at Judson Memorial Church, New York Live Arts, Pioneer Works, REDCAT, Roulette, and the Shed. Ayano is currently an artist-in-residence at Abrons Arts Center and Center for Performance Research. [ayanoelson.com](http://ayanoelson.com)

**Shomit Barua** is an intermedia artist specializing in ecoacoustics, responsive environments, and emergent narratives. His work is rooted in poetry and architecture, reflecting their shared tenets of contained space, economy

of materials, and movement that is both physical and emotional. Combining novel technologies with esoteric programming languages, he blurs the line between installation and performance by employing sound, object, and image. Digital and analog techniques are fused to investigate his core subject: the presence of the mind and body in physical space. Having collaborated with sculptors, dancers, musicians, architects, and visual artists, he believes that exploration of a motif is amplified – made "robust" and "thick" – through dialogue between disciplines. He holds an MFA in Poetry from Bennington College and teaches writing at Arizona State University while completing his doctoral research at ASU's School of Arts, Media, and Engineering. [www.shomitbarua.com](http://www.shomitbarua.com)

**marion spencer** is an interdisciplinary dance artist living on the unceded land of the Munsee Lenape and Canarsie people. Amidst a creative process including movement, vocalization, writing, photography, drawing and collaging – both rigorously researched and rigorously intuitive – marion dances and makes dances as portals to dream and make dreams alive, inviting you to journey terrains of her imagination. Her work has been presented by Danspace Project, Gibney, CPR, Movement Research at Judson Church, New Dance Alliance, BKSD, Triskelion Arts and Dance HOLO, among others. She has held residencies at The Chocolate Factory Theater, The Field Center, Mana Contemporary, the Catwalk Institute and Amherst College, among others. As a performer, she has collaborated with Joanna Kotze, Tyler Rai, Larissa Velez-Jackson, BAND|portier, Laura Peterson, Michelle Boulé, Athena Kokoronis and Laurie Berg. She teaches at Sarah Lawrence College, Gibney, MOtiVe and DIY spaces around Brooklyn.

**Stephanie Acosta** is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, curator and organizer who places the materiality of the ephemeral at the center of her practice, questioning meaning-making and manufactured limitations. Blending performance with practice-based and studio research. Engaging ensembles in facilitated processes, she creates fleeting performance works that examine site, space, and perception in shared experiences. Acosta has presented her works with and for Museum of Art and Design, Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago, The Chocolate Factory Theater, Knockdown Center, the Current Sessions, Miami Performance International Festival, Anatomy Collective, IN>Time Symposium, Abrons Arts Center, the Chicago Park District, the Performance Philosophy conference, AUNTS, Read/Write Library, No Media, and Radius. Acosta has collaborated with artist Miguel Gutierrez, on multiple projects including *Cela nous concerne tous (This concerns all of us)* commissioned for the Ballet de Lorraine in Nancy, France, and *This Bridge Called My Ass* premiered 2019 American Realness with a dynamic cast of Latinx performers. The collaborative curatorial experiment Sunday Service ran live for 6 seasons co-created by Alexis Wilkinson at Knockdown Center. Recently Acosta redirected their multi-platform work *Good Day God Damn* at The Chocolate Factory Theater LIC, NY, into a solo exhibition curated by Alexis Wilkinson in May 2021 which was accompanied by a mini-series talk show titled *Apocalypse Talks*, speaking with artists on themes of multi-crisis making and radical hope found in art practices. [stephanieacosta.org](http://stephanieacosta.org)

**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.