

## 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.

MAJOR SUPPORTERS: Con Edison, Howard Gilman Foundation, Harkness Foundation, jetBlue, Kaufman Astoria Studios, Lambent Foundation, M&T Bank, The McGue Millhiser Trust, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Mental Insight Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York Community Trust, New York State Council on the Arts, New York State Parks, NYC Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYC Office of Media and Entertainment, NYS Assemblywoman Catherine T. Nolan, Plaxall, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Carl and Laurie Rogers, Royal Waste Services, Select Equity Group Foundation, Schubert Foundation, Emma A. Sheaffer Charitable Trust, Shine Electronics, The Trust for Mutual Understanding, The Chocolate Factory Theater Trustees, and our many individual donors.



## CHOCOLATE FACTORY STAFF and TRUSTEES

Sheila Lewandowski	Co-Founder/Executive Director
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
Julie Brandano	Front of House
Lydia Sloan	
Lillie De	Technicians
Ben Demarest	
Sophie Sotsky	
Pamela M. Golinski, Esq.	Legal Counsel

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Chris Ajemian, Diane Eisenstat (President), Stephen Facey, Daniel Fish, Vallejo Gantner, Jonathan Kratter (Treasurer), Sheila Lewandowski, Alton Murray, Antonio Ramos, Brian Rogers, Mary Torres (Secretary)

[chocolatefactorytheater.org](http://chocolatefactorytheater.org)



# 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

Martita Abril



## THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER PRESENTS

luciana achugar  
**PURO TEATRO: A Spell for Utopia**

Co-Commissioned with PICA  
and NYU Skirball Center for the Performing Arts

November 11-15, 2021

In memory of Santiago Achugar & Bo Flasschoen

*"Hoy que es tiempo de sanar  
las heridas del tiempo,  
hoy que es tiempo de ser luz."  
Cuatro Pesos de Propina  
(Uruguayan Rock Band)*

Conceived and Directed by luciana achugar  
Created and Performed by luciana achugar, Molly Lieber,  
Antonio Ramos & Sarah White-Ayón  
Music by Efrain Rozas  
Lighting Design by Madeline Best  
Associate Lighting Designer Shana Crawford

*PURO TEATRO: A Spell for Utopia* was co-commissioned with PICA and NYU's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. It was made possible through a Movement Research Residency, funded by the Scherman Foundation's Katharine S. and Axel G. Rosin Fund. luciana achugar is a Movement Research Artist supported by the Rosin Fund. This project has been made possible in part by the Rauschenberg Artists Fund, a program of the Artist Fund of the New York Foundation for the Arts; and the Doris Duke Foundation Performing Artist Recovery Fund in The New York Community Trust.

I feel deep gratitude to The Chocolate Factory Theater for trusting us with this crazy endeavor of getting back to live performances after such a traumatic collective experience! Thank you especially to Sheila Lewandowski, Madeline Best, Shana Crawford, Juli Brandano, Lydia Sloan and most of all to Brian Rogers who has been an advocate for my work for many years now and who helped me gather enough support to make this project happen; without his support this would not have happened. Thank you also to Erin Boberg for supporting and curating the beginning of this process at a time when there was no live theater, and to Jay Wegman for providing the extra support to make this happen. Thank you also to Peter Richards for his amazing skills at documentation and his beautiful heart. Thank you again to Madeline Best for getting my way of working and staying open and curious and always experimenting and helping us find another possible world. Thank you to Shana for doing an amazing job at running the show and for getting invested in the work and participating with us enough to become part of it! Thank you to Barbara Bryan and Movement Research for providing this process with the perfect home for this work as we ventured out of our lockdown. Thank you also to FCA, NYFA, the Rauschenberg Foundation and the Doris DUke Foundation for providing Artists with Emergency and Recovery Funds in order not to have to quit our careers entirely and stay afloat during the Pandemic.

Thank you to Maria Hassabi for your support and to Michael Mahalchick, Natalia Gomensoro and Melanie Maar for your love and your insight. Thank you to Chase Granoff and my beloved Nacho and to my Achugar family. Thank you to Cassie Peterson for kindly, compassionately and wisely holding space and shining the light for me and my healing.

Thank you to Saúl Ulerio who was part of the beginning of the process and to Oren Barnoy, Jennifer Kjos, Rebecca Wenders, Jmy Leary, Hilary Clark, Shantelle Jackson, Gillian Walsh, Nikima Jagudajev, Nicole Daunic, Marya Wethers, Malcom X Betts, Michael Mahalchick, Rachel Berman, Joey Kipp, Eugenia Silveira, Florencia Martinelli and all the other dancers that have been part of my work and who live within this work and within these costumes on this stage.

Super special thank you to Efrain Rozas for his love and devotion to music and to this process and our dialogue about music and dance and art in general. Thank you for being such a dedicated above and beyond collaborator and friend!

I cannot even begin to describe how grateful and blessed I feel for getting to rehearse and dance and perform with the amazingness that are Molly Lieber, Antonio Ramos and Sarah White-Ayón. Words fail me to describe the magic that is working with you all and how in awe I am about each one of you and us all together (and you too Efrain!!) Thank you!! Thank you!! Thank you!!! Thank you for trusting and believing and for being willing to sit in the discomfort of the unknown for long enough to let the magic appear!

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luciana achugar is a Brooklyn-based choreographer from Uruguay who grew as an artist in close dialogue with the NY and Uruguayan contemporary dance communities. She has been making work in NYC and Uruguay independently and collaboratively since 1999. Her work is concerned with the post-colonial world, searching for an undoing of current power structures from the inside out. She is a two-time "Bessie" Award recipient, and was nominated for Epilogue for OTRO TEATRO: True Love (2016). She has received many accolades such as the Guggenheim Fellowship, Creative Capital Grant, Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grant, MAP Funds, Jerome Foundation, 2017 Alpert Award and NYFA Artist Grants amongst other accolades. She was one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch" in 2012 and her Bessie Award winning work PURO DESEO was named one of 2010 TimeOUT NY's "Best of Dance". The Pleasure Project, an ongoing space intervention project, has been seen since 2014 in NYC as guerrilla performance and through LMCC's Paths to Pier 42 Program, at Le Mouvement-Performing the City Festival in Biel/Bienne, Switzerland, the American Realness Festival in NYC and at the Seattle Art Fair. She received the 2015 Austin Critic's Award for Best Touring work for OTRO TEATRO, after being presented at the Fusebox Festival, and having premiered in 2014 at the Walker Art Center and NYLA. Her previous work "Brujx" premiered in October 2018 at NYU's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts during the Karl Marx Festival and toured to Hamburg for the HALLO: Festspiele in May 2019.

Madeline Best is a Lighting Designer, Performer, Mother and The Director of Operations at the Chocolate Factory Theater. Recent artists she has worked with include Heather Kravas, Ursula Eagly, Milka Djordjevich, Efrain 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.

Shana Crawford entangles herself in the dance and performance scene across NYC. Multimodal, she jumps in as a lighting designer, production manager, artist and educator. Recent collaborations include Ella J Meir, Jaamil Kosoko, Juliana May, Madeline Best, Stephanie Acosta, AUNTS, and Ante Mag. She co-orchestrates the Sometimes Together group and her work has been shared in NYC, MN, VT, HA, PA, MA, Italy and Spain. You can often find her and her yellow glasses at the Chocolate Factory Theater or at [sortofhere.com](http://sortofhere.com)

Molly Lieber has performed in work by luciana achugar since OTRO TEATRO, 2014. She was also in works by Barnoy, Wally Cardona, Keely Garfield, Neil Greenberg, Maria Hassabi, Emanuelle Huynh, Jennifer Lacey, Juliette Mapp, Melinda Ring, Brian Rogers, and Donna Uchizono. She received a 2016 New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award for Outstanding Performance. Recent works of Molly Lieber and Eleanor

Smith: Gloria (Abrons Arts Center, 2021), Body Comes Apart (New York Live Arts, 2019), Basketball (PS122 and Baryshnikov Arts Center for COIL 2017), and Rude World (PS122 and The Chocolate Factory Theater for COIL 2015). Molly teaches at Movement Research and is a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC), supporting new dyads in NYC. She has two daughters, Ruby, 4 years, and Gloria, 9 months.

Antonio Ramos was born and raised in Puerto Rico where he trained in jazz, salsa and African dance. He later received a B.F.A. in Dance from SUNY Purchase. Antonio began his career performing with Ballet Theatre of Puerto Rico, Ballet Hispanico of New York, Ballet Concierto and Ballet Municipal (Puerto Rico). More recently, Antonio has performed with choreographers Mark Dendy, Neil Greenberg, Kari Hooas, Luciana Achugar, Luis Lara Malvacias, John Jasper, Jeremy Nelson, Stephen Petronio, Merian Soto, Kevin Wynn, Ori Flomin and Donna Uchizono, among others. His choreography has been produced at Hostos College, The Kitchen (Work and Process), New York Live Arts (Studio Series), Dance Theater Workshop (Fresh Tracks and Split Stream), SUNY Purchase, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD!), Dixon Place, P.S. 122, Joe's Pub, Taller Pregones, Danspace Project, Lexington Center for the Arts in New York, DanceNow Downtown, Princeton University, Movement Research at the Judson Church, BAX / Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Galapagos Art and Performance Space, Williamsburg Art Nexus, Fringe Festival 2000 at Theatre La Chappelle (Montreal, Canada), The Painted Bride (Philadelphia, PA), Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) and CPR/Center For Performance Research (Brooklyn.) Papatian also produced his work in the Bronx at BAAD!/ Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance and Pregones Theater/Teatro Pregones, American Realness dance festival at Abrons are center, JACK in Brooklyn, The high lines, the Ruben Museum and recently at The chocolate fact. He received a grant from the Edward and Sally Van Lier Fund through Movement Research and was recently a nominee for the United States Artist Fellowship. Antonio was an Artist-in-Residence at El Museo del Barrio 2011-12. He was a 2011-12 National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures Award Recipient. He was a guest artist at by Postmodern-Latin/African festival at Columbia university of Chicago, Illinois in 2014.

Efraín Rozas Peruvian interdisciplinary artist, researcher and robotics maker. His work was described as "A heady confluence of technology, culture and cognition" by The New Yorker, and "A deep psychonautic dive" by Wire Magazine. He was a resident at The Kitchen on 2021 (click here). He is recipient of the NY State Council on the Arts/ Wavefarm Media Arts Assistance Fund, Jerome Foundation/Harvestworks New Works Commission, and Knockdown Center (NYC) residency for time based art. He has performed at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Brooklyn Museum, Queens Museum, Levitation Festival, Museum of Contemporary art of Lima and Central Park Summerstage Fania Records 50th anniversary. His album Roza Cruz with his Latin American experimental project La Mecánica Popular was named one of the best Latin American albums of the decade by Zona Suscia and Estereofonia. Featured at CNN, BBC, Washington Post, Daily News, and NPR. He holds a PhD (NYU) on new integrations of body, mind and technology through ritual and rhythm. He published the book "Fusión: a soundtrack for Peru", and released albums via Names You Can Trust (NYC), Futura Resistenza (Amsterdam) and Buh Records (Lima), and has created music for choreographer luciana achugar. He produces the radio show "La Vuelta al día en 80 mundos" nominated to best "World Sounds" by Mixcloud.com. He was a professor at NYU music department and directs Tangible: Sound Research Lab (Lima). Based in Lima and NYC.

Sarah White-Ayón is an artist working across the disciplines of dance/ performance, video, sculpture, sound and collage. Her work has been presented through various organizations and in venues throughout the US including Roulette, Movement Research at the Judson Church, Strange Loop Gallery; SVA's Visual Arts Gallery; SVA's Gallery 136; AUNTS; The Philadelphia Fringe Festival; Movement Research Studies Project; Dance on Camera, Kinetic Cinema; iLAND's iLAB residency; Highways

Performance Space and Gallery. She holds a B.F.A in dance from UMKC and is a 2011 graduate of the School of Visual Art's M.F.A Photo, Video and Related Media Program. In addition to her own work, she has performed and/or collaborated in the work of such artists as Walter Dunderwill, Jessica Hutchins, Eve Sussman and Simon Lee, robbinschilds, Isabel Lewis, Felicia Ballos, Nancy Garcia, Flora Weigman, Rebecca Brooks, Jennifer Monson, Levi Gonzalez, Alex Escalante, Simone Coutu, Jeanine Olsen, architect, Angel Ayón and 3D photographer, Gerald Marks among others. She currently dances with Antonio Ramos and The Gangbangers and Luciana achugar. She feels blessed, honored, held and grateful to Luciana, Molly, Antonio and Efraín...to be in this work, in this time, dancing with such beautiful, transformative beings. She dedicates these performances to the memory, love, light and spirit of her brother Bo Flasschoen.

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PORTLAND INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art while fostering the creative explorations of artists and audiences. PICA's programming supports the experiments of the most vital and provocative artists of our time. Our vision is international, intergenerational, interdisciplinary, and decidedly forward thinking (even when those explorations look back in history). PICA is unique among institutions for working right alongside artists at the increasingly blurry boundaries between forms and at the edge of new ideas. Throughout the year, audiences have myriad opportunities to interact with artists, curators, critics, and cultural visionaries in a direct, in-depth way. From performances to exhibitions to lectures to the annual Time-Based Art Festival, our programs catalyze conversations about contemporary culture.

ABOUT NYU SKIRBALL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
NYU Skirball holds close James Baldwin's dictum that "artists are here to disturb the peace." Our mission is to present adventuresome, transdisciplinary work that inspires yet frustrates, confirms yet confounds, entertains yet upends. We proudly embrace renegade artists who surprise, productions that blur aesthetic boundaries, and thought-leaders who are courageous, outrageous, and mind-blowing. We are NYU's largest classroom. We want to feed your head.