

THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER

FALL 2024 / SPRING 2025

Yanira Castro

Exorcism = Liberation

September - November 2024

Tess Dworman

Everything Must Go

December 12-21, 2024

CATCH!

September 14, 2024

Big Dance Theater

Dance History(s):

Imagination as a Form of Study

October 2, 2024

Malcolm-x Betts + Nile Harris

Temporary Boyfriend

(with Ping Chong & Co. + Under The Radar)

January 11-16, 2025

Anna Sperber

Currently Untitled

May 2025

Daniel Fish + Brian Rogers

Anonymous Cathedral / Small Songs

October 11-12, 2024

Chloe Alexandra Thompson + DB Amorin

SHINE: tending the glow

May 2025

DD Dorvillier

Dance is the archeologist, or an idol in the bone.

(with L'Alliance New York)

October 17-19, 2024

Martita Abril

Tacos de Lengua

June 2025

Levi Gonzalez

Hoary

November 13-16, 2024

Early Stage Creative Residencies:

*Maria Baranova, Dahlak Brathwaite, Maxi
Hawkeye Canion, Sharleen Chidiac, Jessica
Cook, Ayano Elson, Ethan Philbrick, Anh Vo*

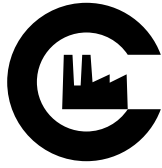
Spring 2025

Anna Martine Whitehead

FORCE! An Opera In Three Acts

(with Vera List Center for Art & Politics)

November 22-23, 2024



THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER
PRESENTS

Malcolm-x Betts + Nile Harris
Temporary Boyfriend

January 11-16, 2025

Commissioned and Presented by
The Chocolate Factory Theater, Under the Radar
Festival and Ping Chong and Company



Please Note: This production incorporates loud noises, haze effects, bright and flashing lights, explicit sexual language and partial nudity. A blank-firing gun will be discharged.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

For the world premiere of *Temporary Boyfriend*, artists **Malcolm-x Betts** and **Nile Harris** stage the nuanced poetics of their long-term collaboration. Drawing from past performances in each others works including *Niggas at Sundown* at New York Live Arts and *this house is not a home* at Abrons Arts Center, Harris and Betts render the friction and intrigue at the pith of their connection in this improvisatory duet. As the pair traverses the barren architecture of The Chocolate Factory, they journey across various touch points of relationality between Black gay men. From the kinship of ancestors lost to the AIDS epidemic, to contemporary manifestations of ephemeral gay brotherhood, *Temporary Boyfriend* is an intimate portrait of the aesthetics of proximity and estrangement.

CAST AND CREW

Performers: **Nile Harris** and **Malcolm-x Betts**
Scenic and Technical Director: **Dyer Rhoads**
Sound Designer: **Geng PTP**
Costume Designer: **Malcolm-x Betts**
Production Coordinator/Board Operator: **Ariana Swei**

BIOS

Nile Harris is a performer and director of live art. He has done a few things and hopes to do a few more, God willing.

Malcolm-x Betts is a New York based visual and dance artist who believes that art is a transformative vehicle that brings people and communities together. His artistic work is rooted in investigating embodiment for liberation, Black imagination, and directly engaging with challenges placed on the physical body. He has a community engagement practice allowing artistic freedom and making art accessible to everyone. He is the Founder and Co-Curator of Black Aesthetics, a monthly arts program showcasing experimental Black dance and performance at Judson Memorial Church.

Dyer Rhoads is an artist, director, writer, teacher, and performer. Dyer is a collaborator. Dyer facilitates a residency/project space currently known as the Walpole Ontological Lab and Farm (W.O.L.F), in Walpole, ME.

Geng PTP is a NYC-born and based sound practitioner (DJ, producer, lyricist), educator (sampling history & sonic lineage, rap linguistics & world building), archivist, organizer, writer, sound engineer, visual artist, and physical trainer. Since 2017, he has been making music as King Vision Ultra, as well as partaking in a handful of collaborative projects – Centennial Gardens (w/ Dreamcrusher), Sour Vision (w/ Sour Spirit), Other Icon (w/ YATTA & Via App), Wormwatcher (w/ Jeremy Toussaint-Baptiste). Much of Geng's work as King Vision Ultra deals with memory, archiving, self-actualization, and trauma.



ABOUT UNDER THE RADAR

Under the Radar is the United States' premier festival of experimental theater and performance art. Produced by ArKtype with Festival Director Mark Russell, UTR has been reimagined in its 20th annual season as a city-wide celebration that incisively speaks to our moment. Rather than being tied to a single host institution, Under the Radar's current iteration is curated collaboratively with an array of renowned arts organizations and curators, each harnessing the connective nature of the festival format to introduce some of the world's most innovative multidisciplinary voices to wider audiences. The 2025 edition of UTR will include over 33 distinct programs at 24 theater spaces, presenting more than 250 performances in only 16 days from January 4 to 19. The depth, breadth and excellence of this year's festival serves as proof that collaboration can power the American theater through this era of existential crisis into a reinvigorated future of conjoined artists ready to embrace diversity, challenge and reinvention.

Staff Festival Founder + Director: Mark Russell
Co-Creative Director/Producer-in-Residence: Meropi Peponides
Co-Creative Director/Artist-in-Residence: Kaneza Schaal
Festival Producer: Thomas O. Kriegsmann & Sami Pyne | ArKtype

ABOUT PING CHONG AND COMPANY

Ping Chong and Company creates works of theater and art that reveal beauty, invention, precision, and a commitment to social justice. Founded by Ping Chong, the company is a welcoming home and site of experimentation for multigenerational artists. The company creates original interdisciplinary, community-specific work; and cultivates artistry through training and education programs.

www.pingchong.org
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ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP TEAM: Nile Harris, Jane Jung, Mei Ann Teo, Talvin Wilks, Sara Zatz

Managing Director: Jane Jung
Senior Director of Engagement: Sara Zatz
Education Director: Christina Bixland
Operations Manager: Stacy Waring
Operations and Communications Coordinator: Christie Zhao
Strategic Planning Consultants: Leading Changemakers
Development Consultant: Kelly Kuwabara
Financial Manager: Arts Financial Management Services

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

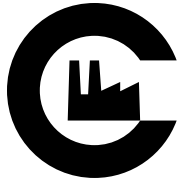
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Ping Chong and Company is grateful to receive support in 2024-2025 from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Mellon Foundation, The Ford Foundation, The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Hyde and Watson Foundation, The Howard Gilman Foundation, The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Leon Levy Foundation, The Lily Auchincloss Foundation, New York Community Trust, The Lucille Lortel Foundation, and many generous individual donors.

This production of *Temporary Boyfriend* was supported by a grant from the Jerome Foundation. Commissioned and Presented by The Chocolate Factory Theater. Co-produced with Ping Chong and Company.

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 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. Sheaffer 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	Marketing + Administrative Manager
Peter Richards	House Videographer
Michael Reardon	Graphic Design
Shana Crawford	Production Manager

TRUSTEES

Chris Ajemian, Diane Eisenstat (President), Daniel Fish, Vallejo Gantner, Neil Greenberg (Secretary), Jerry Laspisa, Sheila Lewandowski, Diana Manalang, Brian Rogers, Jimmy Van Bramer (Vice President), Frank Wu (Treasurer), 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 Carlo-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, Meilan Chen, Peggy Cheng, Amy Chin, Hilary Clark, Christian Clifford, Michelle Coffey, Laura Colby, Jane Comfort, Liana Conyers, Marc Cooper, 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Yamamoto, Lingling Yang, Matvei Yankelevich, Jon Yanofsky, Netta Yerushalmy, Lu Yim, Moe Yousuf, Lucien Zayan, Karl Zielaznicki, Liz Ziemiński, Cathy Zimmerman (as of December 31, 2023).

