



**THE BUSHWICK STARR and  
THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER  
PRESENT**

**The Institute of Useless Activity's  
THIS AND THAT  
co-created by Steven Wendt and  
Phil Soltanoff**

**Performed by Steven Wendt  
Directed by Phil Soltanoff**

**September 7 - 24, 2022  
Wednesdays - Saturdays at 7pm**

SPECIAL THANKS: *THIS AND THAT* is made possible by a Henson Foundation Workshop Grant, Brilliant Classics, Steph Richards, Hanne Tierney, Z. Briggs, The Bushwick Starr, The Chocolate Factory Theater, Aurelien Bory, Florence Meurisse, Katherine Donahue and Aaron Vinton.

Board Operator: **Joseph Distl**

## **BIOS**

**Phil Soltanoff's** recent projects include OYSTER at Roulette Intermedium (Brooklyn), Sanctuary for Independent Media (Troy), Skidmore College M-Docs (Saratoga Springs); AN EVENING WITH WILLIAM SHATNER ASTERISK featured in the Coil Festival (NYC), Fusebox Festival (Austin), PuSh Festival (Vancouver), Mass Live Arts (Great Barrington) and Live Arts Exchange (Los Angeles); SITSTANDWALKLIEDOWN on Governors Island (SITELINES) and The Williamstown Theatre Festival; The Soltanoff/Findlay Project commissioned by the Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles; I/O created in collaboration with sound artist Joe Diebes was featured in Festival Novelum at Theatre Garonne (Toulouse). L.A. PARTY, premiered at PRELUDE09 was featured in UNDER THE RADAR (NYC), Fusebox Festival (Austin), PS122 (NYC), Segerstrom Center for the Arts (Orange County), the Hopkins Center (Hanover), The Flynn Center (Burlington), PuSh Festival (Vancouver) and Mass Live Arts (Great Barrington) among others. Mr. Soltanoff has created two works in collaboration with CIE111 (Toulouse, France). PLAN B and MORE OR LESS, INFINITY have performed around the world including Kampnagel (Hamburg), Eurokaz Festival (Zagreb), Trafo (Budapest), Vidy Theatre (Lausanne), Centro Belem (Lisbon), Pina Bausch's NRW International Dance Festival (Dusseldorf), Maison de la Danse (Lyon), Queen Elizabeth Hall (London), Theatre de la Ville (Paris), BITEF-42 (Belgrade) and the New Victory Theatre (NYC) among others. TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, performed in a vacant Wall Street office building in NYC was also featured at BITEF-31 (Belgrade). Co-founded five miles with Hanne Tierney. Mr. Soltanoff was nominated for a Moliere Award in 2007, recipient of The Doris Duke Creative Exploration Fund Award and the 2020 Herb Alpert Award in Theatre. [www.philsoltanoff.net](http://www.philsoltanoff.net)

**Steven Wendt** has been a member of BLUE MAN GROUP since 2012, he presently performs the show at The Astor Place Theater in New York City. BLUE MAN performances include Mexico, Canada, Jamaica, France, Italy, Spain and four United States National Tours. Steven was part of developing the recent (2022) BLUE MAN GROUP North American Tour. His work as a puppeteer has appeared on Cartoon Network and Kids W.B. Other performance credits include: GROUND TO CLOUD (RedCat Disney Hall Los Angeles), THE SOLTANOFF/FINDLAY PROJECT (The Center Theater Group in Los Angeles), and GROWING UP LINDA by Marsian De Lellis (Edinburgh Fringe Festival). Steven received a BFA from The California Institute of the Arts and he is also a musician and goldsmith. [www.studiowendt.com](http://www.studiowendt.com) & [www.stevenwendt.com](http://www.stevenwendt.com)

A note from the director:

I had a storage unit full of old electronic gear from past productions. And rather than just letting it rot, I decided to use it. I moved all of it into my studio, the goal being to see if any of it worked. I invited Steven to collaborate with me. We didn't have a plan for a production—we just met in the studio and tried things out. An aesthetic approach evolved from our long research and experimentation.

We're like minded in our take on theatre. We're both interested in mixing old forms to create new forms, deep play, lo-fi technology, and the possibility of communicating something beautiful and human.

We call ourselves The Institute of Useless Activity. Our principles are these:

- 1) We are committed to discovering what we don't yet know about something. To that end, we engage in extended research and development. Each rehearsal starts from a blank page (metaphorically speaking). We investigate something---e.g. an object, process or convention--- without knowing where we are going or where we will end up. We have faith and confidence we will stumble upon something interesting along the way.
- 2) We're swimming in technology in our daily lives. Consequently, we use technology to build our work. We don't, however, use the technology in the way it was intended.
- 3) We are committed to discovering and using what we call the "facts" in the space. We are not trying to hide the truth of any object, process or space. We acknowledge their truth. And by doing so, we explore the honest transformations possible when we create work by juxtaposing the facts as they are.
- 4) We avoid slickness by rediscovering the poetry in simple objects.
- 5) We are interested in creating new forms by combining and juxtaposing familiar forms.
- 6) We believe in what John Cage calls "purposeful purposelessness". Our work does not have to be useful politically or socially---just playful and naïve; curious and full of wonder. Useless art is very useful.

Lastly, everything you see and hear is a result of our research. We use some samples and pre-recorded music. But we don't use any video recording or computer effects. Everything visual in THAT is a result of video feedback, created spontaneously and fluctuates according to how much light is in the room.

## 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.

## STAFF

Sheila Lewandowski	Co-Founder/Executive Director
Brian Rogers	Co-Founder/Artistic Director
Madeline Best	Director of Operations
Shaniyat Chowdhury	Director of Development
Regine Pieters	Development Associate
Peter Richards	House Videographer
Michael Reardon	Graphic Design
Shana Crawford	Production Manager
Lydia Sloan	Front of House
Lillie De, Ben Demarest,	Technicians
Andres Santiago, Will	
Scott, Serena Wong	
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THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL SUPPORTERS: Luciana Achugar, Gerrilea Adams, Madani Adjali, Noel Allain, Robert Altman, Claude Antonelli, Paul Bader, Regina Bain, Ivy Baldwin, Maria Bauman, Jodi Bender, Rachel Berman, Karen Bernard, Philip Bither, Nancy Black, Suzanne Bocanegra, Rob Bralow, Betsey Brock, Nicholas Brooke, Chloe Brown, Barbara Bryan, Asli Bulbul, Nicola Bullock, Johnny Butera, Michael Cairl, Kim Calichio, Aimee Campbell, Carianne Carleo-Evangelist, Yanira Castro, Mallory Catlett, Don and Katha Cato, Solana Chehtman, Peggy Cheng, Michelle Chivu, Janet Clancy, Hilary Clark, Laura Colby, Jane Comfort, Donna Costello, Juan Cruz, Shoshona Currier, William Cusick, Leslie Cuyjet, Lane Czaplinski, Amela Demirovic, Maggie Dick, Lisa DiClerico, Laura Diffenderfer, Annie Dorsen, Nelson Downend, Joanne M. Doyle, Ursula Eagly, Hilary Easton, Carter Edwards, Robert Flam, Mary Fleischer, Robert Flynt, Jack Frost, Catherine Galasso, Michael Logan & Susan Garabedian, Beth Garrett, Beth Gill, Justin Goldbach, Neil Greenberg, Marcus Hagenbarth, Patricia Carrick & David Hagenbarth, Evie Hantzopoulos, Clay Hapaz, Yusuke Hashimoto, Cynthia Hedstrom, Kendal Henry, Sami Hopkins, Abeer Hoque, Asa Horvitz, Owen Hughes, Irene Hughes, Nene Humphrey, Paul Januszewski, Mikeah Jennings, Chai Jindasurat, Allison Kahn, Lyndsey Karr, Rachel Kauder Nalebuff, Kathryn Kaufmann, Charles Kerr, Nunally Kersh, Charles Kessler, Sam Kim, Drew Klein, Heather Kravas, Thomas Kriegsmann, Peter Ksander, Aaron Landsman, Paula Lawrence, Paul Lazar, Rebecca Lazier, Sarah Leonard, Abigail Levine, Eva Lewandowski, Pooches LIC, Lynn Lobell, Danielle Luscombe, Melanie Maar, Sisto Martello, Kristin Marting, Meridith Maskara, Juliana May, Megan Mayer, Julie Mayo, Dylan McCullough, John McGregor, Jeff McMahon, Charles Meara, Michele Melnick, JoAnne Meyers, Amey Miller, Virginia Millhiser, Jennifer Monson, Elisabeth Motley, Mio Nakamura, David Neubert, David Neumann, Jennifer Newman, Mina Nishimura, Magnus Nordberg, Eric & Elaine Ohlson, Mr. Pancks, David Parker, Annie-B Parson, Nicholas Paul, Carla Peterson, Amadeo Plaza, Danielle Porcaro, Barbara Pryor, Tony Quinn, Charles Rice-Gonzalez, Melissa Riker, Melinda Ring, Ramon H. Rivera-Servera, John Robinson, Carl & Laurie Rogers, Paul Rogers, Alexandra Rosenberg, Jonah Rosenberg, Jeffrey Rosenstock, Jessica Rutherford, Moitri C. Savard, Chris Schlichting, Matthew Shalzi, Helen Shaw, Victoria Shick, Howard Silver, Phil Soltanoff, Nick Spanos, Anna Sperber, George L. Stamatiades, Jeffrey Steinman, Tina Stipanovic, Jason Stuart, Ryan Suda, Kay Takeda, Leyya Tawil, R. Taylor, Tatyana Tenenbaum, David Thomson, Mira Todorova, Garrick Trapp, Donna Uchizono, Laurie Uprichard, Rachel Valinsky, Dan Van Note, Aynsley Vandenbroucke, Matthew Wallace, Marya Warshaw, Martin Wechsler, Philippa Wehle, Cathy Weis, Julie Weprin, Kathy Westwater, Phyllis Whitehouse, Maureen Whiting, Frank Wu, Matvei Yankelevich, Jon Yanofsky, Judith Zangwill, Cathy Zimmerman (as of June 30, 2022).





## ABOUT THE BUSHWICK STARR

The Bushwick Starr is an Obie Award winning non profit theater that presents an annual Season of new performance work. We are an organization defined by both our artists and our community, and since 2007, we have grown into a thriving theatrical venue, a vital neighborhood arts center, and a destination for exciting and engaging performance. We provide a springboard for emerging professional artists to make career-defining leaps, and we are a sanctuary where established performance companies come to experiment and innovate. We are also a neighborhood playhouse, serving our Bushwick, Brooklyn community's diverse artistic needs and impulses. Our past Seasons have included new work from groundbreaking artists such as Whitney White, Jeremy O. Harris, Heather Christian, Diana Oh, The Mad Ones, Clare Barron, Daniel Fish, Haruna Lee, and the TEAM.

## The Bushwick Starr Board of Trustees

Michael Contini, Gita Deo, Jeff Griffin, Robin Griffiths, David Herskovits, Oliver Kramer, Tom McMillan, Keanu Reeves, David Ringer, Elizabeth Sorrell, Rachel Viola

## The Bushwick Starr Staff

NOEL ALLAIN - Co-Founder / Artistic Director  
SUE KESSLER - Co-Founder / Creative Director  
LAUREN MILLER - Development Director  
LUCY JACKSON - Interim Producing Director  
CASSANDRA BROWN - Education Director  
MACHEL ROSS - Associate Artistic Director  
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ITZEL AYALA - Production Manager  
JAY MAURY - Technical Director  
ALICE GORELICK - Development Associate  
MODESTO FLAKO JIMENEZ - Community Programmer

The Bushwick Starr's 2022-23 season will take place off-site with partner theaters around the city while we build our new permanent venue in Bushwick, to reopen in 2023.

To learn about the Starr's Campaign for a Permanent Home and Flourishing Future, please visit [thebushwickstarr.org/campaign](https://thebushwickstarr.org/campaign)



## THANKS TO ALL THE STARRS IN OUR GIVING GALAXY:

Orbiting Starrs: Anonymous, John and Susan Allain, The Abramowitz Family, Laure Bender, Susan Bernfield & Claude Millman, Suzie Bolotin & John Rothman, Thomas & Jessica Rothman, Steve Coats, in memory of Alma Becker; Sara & Mark Billings, Rachel Chavkin, Heather Christian, Michael Contini, Noel Cyr, Max Dana, Nadine Daniels, MaryBeth Delgaudio & Barry Walsh, Gita Deo, Jason Eagan & Zach Shaffer, Freddy Edelhart, Jody Falco & Jeffrey Steinman, Sandra Garner, Caroline Gart and Justin Nestor, Richard and Deborah Geltman, Alice & Robin Griffiths, Caleb Hammons, Allison Heim, David Herskovits, Mac Ingram, Maria Portman Kelly, Annie & Charles Kessler; Jane, Marty, and Joyce Kessler; Maxandra & Oliver Kramer, Alia McKee & Tim Walker, JR Lederer, Katherine Matheson, Mercury Paint Corp, Renee McGarry, Sheldon McLeod, Thomas McMillan, Miller Family Legacy Fund, David Miner, David Jeffrey Ringer, Jessica Jelliffe and Jason Craig of Banana Bag & Bodice, Julia Salkin, Justin Samoy, Elizabeth Sorrell & Jamie Buckner, Nicole Sundell, Jack Trinco, Rachel Viola, Corinne Woods

Shooting Starrs: Anonymous, Leah Abrams, Matilda Bailey, Garth Bardsley & Michael Morgenfruh, Gabe Bettio, Marissa Beringer, Jeremy Blocker, Marc Bovino, Lance Braunstein, Dominique Bravo & Eric Sloan, Vince Bruns, The Carbone Family, Theodora "Dorie" Clark, Jane Comfort, Elizabeth Cunningham, Lisa Van Curen, Benjamin Darnell & Juliet L Moser, Nadine Daniels, Bonnie Davis, Celine De-clayre, Diana DiMenna, Alyce Erdekian, Stephanie Fantino, Frances Felske, Mark Foggin, Rachel & Adam Fوسفeld, Naomi Gardner, Zoë Geltman, Madeleine George, David Greenspan, Megan Hill, Karen Brooks Hopkins, Matt Hopkins, Allen & Lucas Hubby, John Michael DiResta & Michael Holtzman, Julia Jarcho & Cody Carvel, Sara Juli & Chris Ajemian, Melinda & Peter Kaminsky, Jason Kemper, Mary and Casey Kemper; B.D. Radley-Kingsley and Gordon F. Kingsley; Thuy Kieu & Justin Hohn, Brad Krumholz, Josh Levin, Elliot Lane Lowell, Janet Pines in honor of Sasha Lukashok, Douglas Remington, Betsy Mallow & Jeremy Robbins, Eric Marlin, Jill Hunter Matichak, Kaitlyn Meade, Ian Mundorff, Mio Nakamura, Stowe Nelson & Meredith Ries, Lizzie Olesker, Anastasia Olowin, Joshua Phillips, Ben Pomeroy, Cate Owren & Zac Hall, Lindsey and Michael Sag, Jaynie & Chad Saunders Tiller, Deborah Stein & Andy Horwitz, Sea Change Strategies, Emily Shooltz, Jeremy Smith, Phil Soltanoff, Isadora Tang, David Townsend and Liza Zapol, Mary Salter and Mel Kendrick, Marc Kirchner, Jay Wegman and Stephen Facey, Robin Williams, Jeanne Willis, Gary Winter, Workman Publishing, Lucien Zayan

Capital project funding has been provided by generous institutional funders: The Dorothy Strelsin Foundation; Booth Ferris Foundation; Gillespie Glant Family Foundation; Howard Gilman Foundation; JKW Foundation; Nancy Friday Foundation; Prospect Hill Foundation; Revada Foundation; Sea Change Strategies; the Steven Roth Fund; the Sands Family Foundation; Workman Publishing; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, with the support of Mayor Bill de Blasio, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, and New York City Council Members Darma Diaz and Antonio Reynoso; New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature

2022-23 season funding has been provided by generous institutional funders: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Axe-Houghton Foundation; Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation; Faro Foundation; New York Community Trust; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, with the support of Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Council; New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; Revada Foundation; Seth Sprague Educational & Charitable Trust

The Starr Campaign Committee:  
Elizabeth Sorrell (chair), Rachel Chavkin, Michael Contini, Max Dana, Denise Dickens



# 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

Efrain 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  
October 1 / 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

Dana Michel  
*TRUST STUDIES* (creative residency)  
January 2023

Leslie Cuyjet  
*(Untitled)*  
March 2023

Aaron Landsman  
*Night Keeper*  
March 2023

Kathy Westwater  
*Choreomaniacs + Revolver*  
April 2023

Juliana F. May  
*Family Happiness*  
co-presented with Abrons Arts Center  
May 2023

Mallory Catlett / Restless NYC  
*DECODER: Nova Express*  
May 2023

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

Raymond Pinto and Angie Pittman  
*With a Little Warmth to Light the Way*  
June 2023