

THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER

FALL 2023 / SPRING 2024

Wanjiru Kamuyu
A disguised welcome...
September 22-23, 2023

Second Annual Gala
September 27, 2023

Takahiro Yamamoto
NOTHINGBEING
October 5-7, 2023

Antonio Ramos and the Gangbangers
CEREMONIA
(at Abrons Arts Center)
October 19-21, 2023

chameckilerner
Aging Prelude
October 20-28, 2023

Michelle Ellsworth
Evidence of Labor and The Post-Verbal Social Network
November 9-11, 2023

Jen Rosenblit + Phil Hayes
Creative Residency
November 2023

Brian Rogers
Small Songs
December 6-9, 2023

Animals and Giraffes
December 12, 2023

Hannah Krafcik + Emily Jones
Creative Residency
December 2023

Juliana May
Family Happiness (reprise)
January 2024

Hilary Clark
Creative Residency
January 2024

Stina Nyberg + Kaki King
Creative Residency
January 2024

Kim Brandt
Creative Residency
February 2024

Ursula Eagly
Dream Body Body Building
March 2024

Stacy Grossfield
metamorphosis 2
March 2024

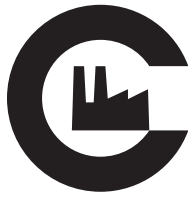
Leslie Cuyjet
For All Your Life
April 2024

Heather Kravas
overly merry
May 2024

Alex Romania
Face Eaters
May 2024

Angie Pittman
Black Life Chord Changes
June 2024

jess pretty
call and response
June 2024



**THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THEATER
PRESENTS**

**Takahiro Yamamoto
NOTHINGBEING**

Created in collaboration with
David Thomson
and **Anna Martine Whitehead**

October 5-7, 2023

Thought Partner: **Samita Sinha**

Physically engaged by **David Thomson, Anna Martine Whitehead** and **Takahiro Yamamoto**

Sound Design by **Coast2c**

Costume Design by **Alison Heryer**

Lighting Design by **Jeff Forbes**

NOTHINGBEING is supported by the Japan Foundation through the Performing Arts JAPAN program. It is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creative Fund Project co-commissioned by Portland Institute for Contemporary Art in partnership with The Chocolate Factory Theater, On The Boards, and NPN. The Creation Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). Takahiro Yamamoto is a 2021 NDP Finalist Grant Award recipient. Support was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to address continued sustainability needs during COVID-19 and in

support of NOTHINGBEING. The development of this project is also supported by Portland Institute for Contemporary Art and the Dance Center at Columbia College Chicago. The presentation at The Chocolate Factory Theater is supported by funds from the Oregon Arts Commission and a Foundation For Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant.

Artist Statement

Dear audience members:

This work is a practice and experience.

Your presence and attention matter in this space with us.

Take this time to turn off your cell phones.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am learning how valuable it is to consciously acknowledge the feeling of gratitude in order to cultivate relationships in my life. First, I'd like to thank my core collaborators David, Martine, and Samita for trusting me with this new way of working and living, to which I am recently venturing on. It is changing my life in the most adventurous and fulfilling ways. Sofia, Jeff, and Alison have been amazing to work with: it has been so gratifying to trust you all in every way during the development process. I'm also extremely grateful for all the institutional supports I have received, especially from individuals like Erin Doughton, Brian Rogers, Rachel Cook, and Ellen Chenoweth even though the initial proposition -with indistinct concepts like nothingness and being- was aesthetically vague and philosophically profound without any concrete vision. Your trust means a lot to me. Thank you to Lu Yim and Kennis Hawkins for opening up your house for us to stay for this week in New York. And thank you for the Chocolate Factory staff and crew for making this happen with so much last-minute adjustments: I felt supported with your willingness and openness. Importantly, I'm extending my gratitude for my close friends who continuously make time for coffee and/or phone dates to let me talk about nothingness and vent out about my life: Lu, Allie, key, Ro, Ems, Jess, G, sid, Ben, Jmy, and many more. And lastly THANK YOU for the each audience member for making the time to be here with us. Your presence and your attention as witnesses in this space are extremely important for us to engage in this work. It's an honor to share this time with you.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Composed of several short essays, this small book *NOTHINGBEING* is an avenue for me to map language to the thinking that went into this project: my research, reflections of my past memories, and my current perception/construction of reality. Thinking about and theorizing ideas often get my motor running, and it is a huge part of my artistic and personal life. Therefore, in this compilation, I use ideas from thinkers like Hayao Kawai, Michel Serres, and Kitaro Nishida to process my own construct of reality. At the same time, in some

writings, I made a point to look inside—my feelings, emotions, needs, and wants—without the enticing coaxings of theory and logic by others, in order to experience the unfiltered self. This required a deep contemplation of my childhood, my upbringing, and my relationship to spirituality and existence.

In addition, it includes a fragmented transcription of a group conversation between the participating artists (Sinha, Thomson, Whitehead, and myself) as well as writings by the three artists who physically engage in the live presentation on how they approach their individual sections, called “Solo” (Thomson, Whitehead, and myself).

Commissioned by On The Boards, this book was designed by Jayme Yen. Copyediting was done by Van Pham.

ARTIST BIOS

Artist and composer **Samita Sinha** creates multidisciplinary performance works that investigate origins of voice. She synthesizes Indian vocal traditions and embodied practices to create a decolonized, bodily, multivalent language of vibration and transformation.

David Thomson is an interdisciplinary collaborative artist who has worked with Bebe Miller, Trisha Brown, Ralph Lemon, Sekou Sundiata, Marina Abramović, Deborah Hay, Kaneza Schaal, Meg Stuart, Alain Buffard, Yvonne Rainer, Okwui Okpokwasili and Matthew Barney among others. Thomson's artistic practice centers on the interrogation of presence and absence in the performance of identity. Awards and fellowships include US Artist, New York Foundation for the Arts, Yaddo, MacDowell, Rauschenberg and Foundation for Contemporary Art. Thomson is a Mabou Mines Associate Artist and Danspace Research Fellow. In 2017, he founded The Artist Sustainability Project to expand the practice and discourse of financial, artistic, and personal empowerment for artists.

Anna Martine Whitehead -- child of Tony Larry and Karen Marie, sister of Malcolm, granddaughter of Mattie and Ginny, aunt to Mattie and Miles -- is a loving partner, community member, educator, performance-maker, artist, and writer. She is

currently studying freedom.

Takahiro Yamamoto is a multidisciplinary artist and choreographer based in Portland, Oregon. He primarily creates live movement-based performance while expanding his outlets to publishing, sculpture, photography, and installation. His current conceptual investigations revolve around the phenomenological effects of time, embodied approach to the presence of nothingness, and the social/emotional implications of visibility. He has received support from New England Foundation for the Arts, Bogliasco Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, MacDowell, NCCAkron, National Performance Network, Japan Foundation, and others. His performance and visual art works have been presented at Portland Art Museum, PICA, Contemporary Arts Center Cincinnati, the Henry Art Gallery, GoDown Arts Centre Nairobi among other venues. He co-directs the performance company madhouse with Ben Evans, and is part of the Portland-based support group Physical Education with Allie Hankins, keyon gaskin, and Lu Yim.

Sofia Acosta is a multidisciplinary artist and technologist. Under the alias Coast2c, she is a DJ and composes electronic music that oscillates between acid, drone and techno. Fluent in a multitude of rhythmic styles, her DJ sets are eclectic and highly energetic, ranging from techno, acid house and synth punk. In 2018 with the help of a Career Opportunity grant provided by the Oregon Art Commission, she studied synthesis at Elektronmusikstudion (EMS) and helped produced a series of synth educational workshops for female and non-binary students at Superbooth Berlin and The Synth Library, Prague.

Jeff Forbes is a Portland based lighting designer working primarily in theatre and dance. He is a 10 time winner of the Willie and Drammy Awards for theatre for such companies as Artists Repertory Theatre, Broadway Rose, Imago Theatre, the Musical Theatre Company, Storefront Theatre, and Tygres Heart Shakespeare Co. He has also designed for American Repertory Theatre (Cambridge, Mass), the New Rose Theatre, Portland Repertory Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Portland Actors Conservatory, and many others. He is currently the Technical Director for White Bird Dance, a presenting organization based in Portland, and has served as a technical director for PICA's TBA Festival since its beginning in 2003. He is a co-founder, with

Linda Austin, of Performance Works NorthWest, for which he also serves as technical director.

Alison Heryer is an interdisciplinary artist whose work combines costume, installation, performance, and community engagement. As a costume designer, she is a member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829. Her design credits include productions at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, 59E59 Theaters, La MaMa, The New Victory Theater, Portland Center Stage, Portland Opera, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Artists Repertory Theatre, ZACH Theatre, The Hypocrites, and Redmoon. Her work has been featured in exhibitions at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, World Stage Design, and The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space. Awards include a RACC Build Grant, Drammy Award and Austin Critics Table Award for Costume Design, and the ArtsKC Inspiration Grant. Heryer is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Texas at Austin. She is a faculty member at Portland State University, where she was recently granted the Sue Horn-Caskey & Charles F. Caskey Professorship of Textile Arts & Costume Design.

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	Assistant to the Executive Director
Peter Richards	House Videographer
Michael Reardon	Graphic Design
Shana Crawford	Production Manager
Yuby Hernandez	Marketing and Outreach Consultant

TRUSTEES

Chris Ajemian, Diane Eisenstat (President), Daniel Fish, Vallejo Gantner, Neil Greenberg, Jonathan Kratter (Treasurer), Jerry Laspisa, Sheila Lewandowski, Diana Manalang, Angie Pittman, Antonio Ramos, Brian Rogers, Jimmy Van Bramer (Secretary), Frank Wu, Moe Yousuf.

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL SUPPORTERS: Madani Adjali, Cosme Aguilar, Robert Altman, Sarah Atwood, Ivy Baldwin, Jordan Barbour, Meg Barnette, Ted Berger, Karen Bernard, Philip Bither, Nancy Black, Gavin Black, Suzanne Bocanegra, Agnes Borinsky, Chuck Bracken, Chloe Brown, Carol Bryce-Buchanan, Stormy Budwig, Patrick Burke, Michael Cairl, Tymberly Canale, Carianne Carleo-Evangelist, Robin Carson, Gonzalo Casals, Amy Cassello, Yanira Castro, Don and Katha Cato, Travis Chamberlain, Rachel Chavkin, Peggy Cheng, Amy Chin, Janet Clancy, Hilary Clark, Christen Clifford, Laura Colby, Jane Comfort, Marc Cooper, Laura Coquard-Patry, Donna Costello, David Cote, John Crews, Shoshona Currier, William Cusick, Leslie Cuyjet, Lane Czaplinski, Jim Dawson, Kyle deCamp, Thomas DeFrantz, Lisa Deller, Lisa DiClerico, Milka Djordjevich, Maura Donohue, Annie Dorsen, Joanne M Doyle, Walter Dundervill, Robert & Alice Eagly, Ursula Eagly, Diane Eisenstat, Stephen Facey, Daria Fain, Daniel Fish, Wil Fisher, Mary Fleischer, Robert Flynt, Joe Fonseca, Jack Frost, Catherine Galasso, Icema Gibbs, Peter Gilbert, Beth Gill, Kara Gilmour, Francine and Lenny Goldstein, Levi Gonzalez, Neil Greenberg, Miguel Gutierrez, Rebecca Hadley, Marcus Hagenbarth, Clay Hapaz, Cynthia Hedstrom, David Herskovits, Sally Hess, Owen Hughes, Nene Humphrey, Dan Hurlin, Judy Hussie-Taylor, Pat Irwin, Paul Januszewski, Jeffrey Jones, Justin Jones, Harriet Juli, Allison Kahn, Karen Kandel, Rachel Kauder Nalebuff, Alix Keast, Charles Kerr, Catherine Kerr, Sam Kim, Jon Kinzel, Brad Kisicki, Andrea Kleine, Kristen Kosmas, Heather Kravas, Rob Krulak, Peter Ksander, Claudia La Rocco, Aaron Landsman, Paul Lazar, Rebecca Lazier, Andrea Lerner, Eva Lewandowski, Andrea Lewandowski, Katinka Locascio, Susan Logan, Clarinda Mac Low, Stacey-Jo Marine, Meredith Maskara, Kay Matschullat, Juliana May, Cynthia Mayeda, Megan Mayer, Julie Mayo, Dirk McCall, Dylan McCullough, Jeff McMahon, JoAnne Meyers, Amanda Middaugh, Amey Miller, Virginia Millhiser, Thomas Mituzas, Jennifer Monson, Zoe Morsette, Mio Nakamura, David Neumann, Mina Nishimura, Jody Oberfelder, Annie-B Parson, Shari Pascarosa, Rebecca Patek, John Patterson, Caroline Paul, Craig Peterson, Carla Peterson, Ethan Philbrick, Molly Poerstel, Katherine Profeta, Barbara Pryor, Tony Quinn, Aaron Rhyne, Peter Richards, John Robinson, Heather Robles, Paul Rogers, Brian Rogers, Paul Rogers, Carl & Laurie Rogers, Amy Rogoway, Alexandra Rosenberg, Jeffrey Rosenstock, Jay Scheib, Chris Schlichting, Susan Schroeder, Carol Serrano, Lucy Sexton, Martha Sherman, Karen Sherman, Shawn Sides, Howard Silver, Lauren Slone, Phil Soltanoff, Marion Spencer, Anna Sperber, Leonard Steinbach, Jeffrey Steinman, Ryan Suda, Maho Suiso Ogawa, Kay Takeda, Brian Tate, Tatyana Tenenbaum, David Thomson, Jack Trinco, Donna Uchizono, Laurie Uprichard, Laurie Uprichard, Aynsley Vandenbroucke, Adrienne Verrilli, Daria Walcott, Catherine Weis, Michael Weiss, Steven Wendt, Kathy Westwater, Adrienne Westwood, Phyllis Whitehouse, Shane Williams-Ness, Rob Wilson, Janet Wong, Miranda Wright, John Wright, Frank Wu, Takahiro Yamamoto, Lingling Yang, Jon Yanofsky, Netta Yerushalmy, Lu Yim, Mohammad Yousuf, Lucien Zayan, Karl Zielaznicki, Andros Zins-Browne, Norah K Zuniga Shaw (as of June 30, 2023).

