

WHAT THE HELL IS A REPUBLIC, ANYWAY?

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY
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& Lisa Peterson

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Roberta Stewart, Dartmouth College

EPISODE 2 SCHOLAR

Sonia Sabnis, Reed College

EPISODE 4 SCHOLAR

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EPISODES

EPISODE 1 Rome & America: Joined at Birth

with special guest Roberta Stewart, Dartmouth College

EPISODE 2 Citizenship

with special guest Sonia Sabnis, Reed College

EPISODE 3 How Republics Fall Apart

EPISODE 4 The Election

with special guest Jeffery Robinson

**NEW YORK
THEATRE
WORKSHOP**

THE 2020/21 ARTISTIC INSTIGATORS

As NYTW contemplated making work in this time of social distancing, we knew that the artists in our midst would lead the way. In June, we reached out to 27 artists in our community with an open-ended provocation and invitation from Artistic Director James C. Nicola. What follows is part of the prompt that sparked the 2020/21 Artistic Instigator season.

New York Theatre Workshop exists to provide its community a richer, deeper understanding of what it means to live and breathe on this earth right now, and to comprehend how each of our individual experiences interconnects with the others who occupy the world alongside us. We do this by gathering together in a room, at an appointed time, to observe and participate in the ritual re-enactment, by the artists we believe in, of narratives that resonate and illuminate.

COVID-19 has denied us access to the most fundamental parts of this equation: the gathering together for an artistic communion.

But this fact does not eliminate the need we all have for ritual, for revelation, for imagery, for insight. In fact, the isolation, anger and grief have made the need that much more imperative.

With this, the questions for NYTW become: how do we support the artists in continuing to create and articulate? And how do we bring the results to the larger community so desperately in need of inspiration, innovation and healing?

We don't have the answers to what these new forms may be. But we are confident that artists might know HOW to find the answers. To find NEW answers, for changing times and circumstances.

So.

This is an act of provocation on our part. Our intention is to unleash your imaginations and assist you in the conjuring of new ways of providing the sustenance and adventure that our world demands of us.

As we contemplate the year ahead, there are so many more unknowns than there are certainties. We're hoping that you can seize this moment of insecurity and turn it around—to repurpose the lack of structure to be a moment of unheard of freedom and opportunity. We challenge you to think wide, and deep, and to go way out on limbs.

PROJECT TEAM

Denis O'Hare

Writer and Performer

Denis O'Hare is an actor, writer and activist who lives in Paris, France. Mr. O'Hare has appeared extensively on Broadway and Off-Broadway. He won a Tony Award for his performance in Richard Greenberg's *Take Me Out*, a Drama Desk Award for his role in *Sweet Charity* as well as an OBIE Award for *An Iliad*. Denis has appeared in such films as *Late Night*, *The Goldfinch*, *Swallow*, *The Day Shall Come*, *Milk*, *A Mighty Heart*, *Michael Clayton*, *Duplicity*, *21 Grams*, *Garden State*, *Half Nelson*, *Dallas Buyers Club*, *Lizzie Borden*, *The Proposal* and *The Changeling*. His television appearances include five seasons on "American Horror Story," two seasons on "True Blood," one season on "Big Little Lies," appearances on "American Gods" (Season 3), "The Good Wife," "The Comedians," "This Is Us," "Broad City," and the upcoming HBO series "The Nevers." As a writer, Denis recently had his first screenplay produced. His movie, *The Parting Glass*, is available on iTunes and other platforms. With his writing partner, Lisa Peterson, he is the co-author of the play *An Iliad*, which has been performed throughout the world—most recently in Shanghai and Paris. Denis and Lisa also wrote *The Good Book*, which premiered at The Court Theatre in Chicago in 2015 and enjoyed a critically acclaimed run at Berkeley Rep in the spring of 2019. Currently, Lisa and Denis are working on a new commission: a piece about the fall of the Roman Empire. In addition, Mr. O'Hare is writing a novel. He and his husband, Hugo Redwood have one son, Declan.

Lisa Peterson

Writer and Performer

Lisa Peterson is a two-time Obie Award-winning writer and director. With Denis O'Hare, she wrote *An Iliad*, based on Homer's epic, which won Obie and Lortel Awards for Best Solo Performance. Recent new work includes *The Good Book* (written with Denis O'Hare) at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and *The Waves* (adapted from *Virginia Woolf* by Peterson and composers David Bucknam/Adam Gwon at New York Stage & Film). She was the Associate Director at Berkeley Repertory Theatre for the last three seasons, where her projects included *Office Hour* by Julia Cho, *It Can't Happen Here* (adapted from the Sinclair Lewis novel by Tony Taccone), Lillian Hellman's *Watch on the Rhine*, Brecht's *Mother Courage*, and a chamber version of Shakespeare's *Antony & Cleopatra*. At the Mark Taper Forum, where she was the Resident Director for ten years, her work included Lynn Nottage's *Sweat*, Luis Alfaro's *Electricidad*, Chay Yew's *House of Bernarda Alba*, *The Body of Bourne* by John Belluso, and several projects with Culture

Clash, including *Chavez Ravine* and *Water & Power*. At NYTW, in addition to *An Iliad*, she directed Tony Kushner's *Slavs*, Naomi Wallace's *Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*, Caryl Churchill's *Traps* and *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* (Obie Award). Other recent directing work: *The Great Leap* (ACT); *Culture Clash (Still) in America* (SCR); *Sweat* (Mark Taper Forum); *Hamlet* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *Ernest Shackleton Loves Me* (Second Stage, and taped for Broadway HD); *To the Bone* (Cherry Lane); *Hamlet in Bed* (Rattlestick) and *King Liz* (Second Stage). She has directed world premieres by major American writers including Tony Kushner, Beth Henley, Donald Margulies, Naomi Wallace, Jose Rivera, David Henry Hwang, Alice Tuan, Marlane Meyer, Basil Kreimendahl, Lisa Ramirez, Fernanda Coppel, Maria Irene Fornes, Jessica Hagedorn and many others.

Anna Morton

Dramaturg

Anna Morton is the Literary Manager at Roundabout Theatre Company. She was previously on the artistic staff at McCarter Theatre Center, where she developed plays including *Gloria: A Life* by Emily Mann, *The Song of Rome* by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare, *The Refuge Plays* by Nathan Alan Davis, *The Niceties* by Eleanor Burgess, and short play collections *The Migration Plays* and *The Princeton and Slavery Plays*. Anna has contributed to Contemporary Theatre Review and the online magazine *Page By Page* and reads for a variety of playwriting awards and residencies. She holds a B.A. in English from Bowdoin College.

Sam West

Assistant Director

Sam West is a recent graduate of Dartmouth College from Los Angeles. She wrote, produced, and directed her first solo performance piece in school and went on to direct a student production of *Dance Nation* by Clare Barron. She's performed at Northern Stage including in the world premiere of *Citrus* by Celeste Jennings. A sound designer for numerous student productions (Lucas Hnaith's *Red Speedo*; other original student works), Sam will be designing two productions at Northern Stage this fall. She's thrilled to continue with this wonderful team for this prescient series with NYTW!

Merrick A.B. Williams

Project Manager

NYTW: *Sanctuary City*, *Othello*, *An Ordinary Muslim*. Broadway: *The Book of Mormon*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*. NY City Center: *Call Me Madam* (Encores). Off-Broadway: *Somebody's Daughter*, *The Layover*, *Invisible Thread*, *The Other Thing* (Second Stage); *Gently Down The Stream*, *Sweat Mobile National*, *Measure for Measure Mobile*

(The Public); *Daphne's Dive* (Signature). Other NYC: *I Understand Everything Better* (Abrons Arts Center). Regional: *Seder* (Hartford Stage); *10x10* (Barrington Stage); *On the Town* (Boston Pops).

Roberta Stewart

Professor of Classics, Dartmouth College

Episode 1 Scholar

Roberta Stewart is a historian of ancient Rome and broadly trained in Classics. She has written on Roman political history, Latin lexicography, and comparative world slavery. In 2009, she had the idea that there could be individual and community benefit to reading and discussing classical literatures of war with combat veterans. "From Troy to Baghdad: Dialogues on War & Homecoming" has spread from New England to Alaska.

Sonia Sabnis

Episode 2 Scholar

Sonia Sabnis is Associate Professor of Classics and Humanities at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Her research interests include Roman slavery, ancient fiction, and the reception of classical literature in contemporary poetry. Her essay on the evidence of ancient fiction in understanding slavery will appear later this year in *The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Slaveries*.

Jeffery Robinson

Episode 4 Scholar

Katie Devin Orenstein

Transcriber

Katie Devin Orenstein is a theater artist from New York City and a junior in college. Fave credits: Meryl Louise track, *Into the Woods*. Directing: *As You Like It*, Wasserstein & Durang's *Medea*, Elaine May's *George Is Dead*. Thank you so much to Lisa and Denis, it is an absolute joy having you in her ears for hours on end. Love and gratitude to the NYTW team, Professor Carol Dunne, her high school Latin teacher Chris Unruh, Dame Emma Thompson, Jimmy Collins & Family, mom, dad, and Patrick, and the 4th grade teacher who forced her to learn typing. Have you mailed in your absentee ballot yet?

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New York Theatre Workshop empowers visionary theatre-makers and brings their work to adventurous audiences through productions, artist workshops and educational programs. We nurture pioneering new writers alongside powerhouse playwrights, engage inimitable genre-shaping directors, and support emerging artists in the earliest days of their careers.

We've mounted over 150 productions from artists whose work has shaped our very idea of what theatre can be, including Jonathan Larson's *Rent*; Tony Kushner's *Slavs!* and *Homebody/Kabul*; Doug Wright's *Quills*; Claudia Shear's *Blown Sideways Through Life* and *Dirty Blonde*; Paul Rudnick's *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* and *Valhalla*; Martha Clarke's *Vienna: Lusthaus*; Will Power's *The Seven* and *Fetch Clay, Make Man*; Caryl Churchill's *Mad Forest*, *Far Away*, *A Number* and *Love and Information*; Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's *Aftermath*; Rick Elice's *Peter and the Starcatcher*; Glen Hansard, Markéta Irglová and Enda Walsh's *Once*; David Bowie and Enda Walsh's *Lazarus*; Dael Orlandersmith's *The Gimmick* and *Forever*; Heidi Schreck's *What the Constitution Means to Me*; Jeremy O. Harris's *Slave Play*; and eight acclaimed productions directed by Ivo van Hove. NYTW's productions have received a Pulitzer Prize, 25 Tony Awards, 2 Grammy Awards and assorted Obie, Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel Awards. NYTW is represented on Broadway with Anais Mitchell's *Hadestown* developed with and directed by Rachel Chavkin and the recently announced *Sing Street*, based on the motion picture written and directed by John Carney, with a book by Enda Walsh, music and lyrics by Gary Clark & John Carney, directed by Rebecca Taichman.

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 Bubba & Jennifer Samuels
 Michelle Schwartz/
 Steve & Andys Organics
 Peggy Schwartz
 Lisa Schwebel
 Richard Shapiro
 & Mindi Reich-Shapiro
 Maureen Elizabeth Sheehan
 Amy Sherman
 Laura B. Sherman
 Jenny Shotwell
 Gail Shube
 Stephanie Shuman
 Stephen & Saskia Siderow
 Lainie Simon & Andy Gross
 Drs. Loren Skeist & Marlene Marko
 Jill & Bill Slattery
 Mojgan Sobhani
 Stagedoor Manor
 Nancy Stephens, Rick Rosenthal
 & The Rosenthal Family
 Foundation
 William Stephenson
 & Carolyn Gaver
 Barbara & Richard Strauss
 Studio in a School
 Sydney Advisory Fund
 John & Adele Taity
 Rose Tatlow & Neil Roseman
 Gail & Jeff Thrope
 L. F. Turner
 Richard Upton
 Jonathan M. Vapnek, M.D.
 In Honor of Brian Vollmer
 Loretta Volpe
 Howard Wallick & Freda Rosenfeld
 Robert Wayne
 Meryl & Marty Weinberg
 Cathy & Stephen Weinroth
 Allison Whiting & Fred Schroeder
 Kenneth & Rosemary Willman
 Ben & Anita Wolfe
 Judith Yale
 Lily Yip
 Shirley Yohalem

Gloria Zeche
 Paul Zeller
 Art & Connie Zuckerman
 Anonymous (10)

\$500+
 101 Productions
 Nina Adams & Moreson Kaplan
 Jonathan Allen
 Barbara Ashley, in honor of all
 those who kept the world
 running so that the rest of us
 might stay safe... Thank you is
 not enough.
 Dana Barba
 Craig Becker
 Tee Scaturchio & Michael Becker
 Terry Breslin
 Laura & John Broderick
 Tina & Michael Connolly,
 in honor of Kitty Yoh
 Dramatists Play Service, Inc.
 Facebook
 Timothy Feige
 Judith & Herbert Freedman
 Warren Friedman
 Marguerite & Peter Gelfman
 Aaron Glick
 Ila & John M. Gross
 John Hadity,
 in honor of Noel Kirnon
 Alvin Hall
 John Harris & Donald Press
 Nicole & Phil Hart
 Christopher & Olga Hartwell
 Nancy Heller & Holly Gewandter
 Orin Herskowitz
 Melissa Hirsch
 Edward Hjerpe
 Mark & Patricia Horowitz
 Karen Jacob & Paul Vershow
 David & Regina Jansky
 Carol Kaplan,
 in honor of NYTW's leadership,
 staff & creative
 Peter Keuls & Thomas Buck
 Ellen Kolba
 Richard Konrad
 Earle Lawrence
 & Virginia Wheaton
 Kathleen & Richard Levin
 Lincoln Peak Capital
 Margaret Mastrianni

KC Maurer
 Cynthia Mayeda
 Gardner McFall
 Mary McGarry
 Jonathan Miller,
 in honor of Nancy Workman
 Erin Moriarty
 Stephen Morrash
 Barbara & William Nordhaus
 James & Marie O'Brien
 Gail Merrifield Papp
 Carol Papper
 Carollyn Philip
 Seema Prasannakumar
 Carol & Tom Rakowski
 Susan & Peter Restler
 Susan Richter
 Jane Rosenthal
 & Stephen London
 Lori Roth & David L. Schnadig
 Laura Sachar,
 in memory of Stuart Gelfond
 Ellen Saidenberg
 Robert Scarlett
 Carol Scharff
 Pat Schoenfeld
 Robert Schroeder & Karen Brooks
 Eytan Shapiro,
 in honor of Ann & Les Chao
 James & Sharon Schwarz
 Andrew Siegel
 Dale Soules
 Stark & Stark
 Cydney & Keith Strand
 John & Catherine Sweeney
 Theatre Communications Group
 Jennifer Tipton
 Marisa Tomei
 Nancy Tostanoski & Brian Hogan
 The Traykovski Family
 Karen Wagner
 Harry White & Esther Redmount
 Todd & Ginger Whitenack,
 in honor of Barry Klayman
 Crystal Williams,
 in honor of Marilyn T. Gumbleton
 Melinda Wolfe
 Carmen Rita Wong
 Anonymous (2)

*New York Theatre Workshop acknowledges
 the generous support of all individuals who
 have contributed up to \$500.*

4TH STREET BAR ASSOCIATION

New York Theatre Workshop's 4SBA members take advantage of exciting social and cultural experiences while supporting one of the City's leading Off-Broadway institutions. Members of the steering committee are noted in bold. Artist committee members are noted in italics. *List reflects updates as of Sept 10, 2020.*

Amir Arison
Daniel Bailen
Phillip Brannon
 Tansal Arnas
 Tiffany Babb
Christopher Chan
 Krystle-Mei Chow
 Ophelia Chua
 Colleen Clafin
 Joseph Claro
 Kelly Devine
 Alexander Donnelly
 Ita Ekpoudom
Lulu Fall

Emily Fleisher, in honor of
 Jeremy Blocker
 Erica Green
 Erik Gullberg
 & Emma Pantel
 Emma Hagendorf
 Edward Hjerpe
Allison Heim
 Brianne Holland-Stergar
 Phillip Johnson
 Megan Kingery
 Rachel Kiwi
 Praveen Maddela
 Katrina McCann

Anne Myers
 Gabriella Napoli
 Gina Napolitano
Eric Passmore
**Jonathan &
 Motique Prin**
 Jeffrey Rohr
 Naoki Sasamoto
Megan Savage
 Morwin Schmookler
 Christina See
 Scott Sinclair
Jessie Shelton
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Todd Stecker
 Corey Steinfast
 Logan Steinhart
 Jennifer Sturman
 Nicole Sundell
Shaina Taub
 Eric Tipler
Mfoniso Udofia
Chinasa Ugwuagu
 Lindsey &
 Benjamin Weisman
 Anonymous

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

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This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



MATCHING GIFTS

NYTW extends its gratitude to the generous companies who match their employees' annual donations: **AllianceBernstein; Aon Foundation; Apple, Inc.; AXA Foundation; Blackrock; BNY Mellon; Chevron; Credit Suisse; Deutsche Bank Securities; GE Foundation; Google; IBM Corporation; Johnson & Johnson; JP Morgan Chase; Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC; McKinsey & Company; Merck & Co.; Pfizer Foundation; Rockefeller Foundation; S&P Global; Select Equity Group, Inc.; William Blair & Company; and Walt Disney Company Foundation**

LEGACY GIFTS

New York Theatre Workshop is grateful to the following individuals who have included NYTW in their estate plans. Their legacy gifts will be woven into the fabric of our community, supporting the next generation of theatre-makers and theatre-goers.

In Memory of Martha Usdin
Tom Jordan
James Giblin
Jodi Malcom
The Dorothy Strelsin Foundation

CATERING SPONSOR



SWEET HOSPITALITY GROUP
A GOURMET CATERERS FROM GOSHEN

SEASON SPONSOR

PHEBE'S
TABERN & GRILL

MAKE ART HAPPEN



Shaun Bengson, Reggie White, Dani Markham, Jo Lampert and Abigail Bengson in *Hundred Days*. Photo by Joan Marcus.

Each year, New York Theatre Workshop supports nearly 2,000 artists through work both on and off stage. None of this would be possible without our dedicated donors. Their generous support of our artists, audience and community is what helps bring vibrant programs and productions to life.

REPEAT DEFENDERS

The Society of Repeat Defenders is made up of a committed and passionate group of donors who make annual gifts of \$1,500 or more! **Repeat Defenders have access to an intimate and engaged relationship with NYTW** through exclusive benefits including special acknowledgment in our programs. Most importantly, Repeat Defenders get the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts are helping us push the boundaries of what theatre can be and what it can do.

4TH STREET BAR ASSOCIATION

The 4th Street Bar Association provides the best access to theatre for young supporters. With organized 4SBA nights, members take advantage of exciting social and cultural experiences while supporting NYTW. Access is available at a variety of levels, providing numerous benefits including tickets and invitations to pre and post-show parties.

MAKE ART POSSIBLE

Have you ever thought about supporting a specific production? Investing in an arts education program? Sponsoring the work of a specific artist? Learn about these opportunities—and more—for special gifts by contacting **Leah Cox at LeahC@nytw.org or 646-957-9573.**

IT STARTS HERE

Join today at NYTW.org, call 646-957-9573 or email Leah Cox at LeahC@nytw.org.

SEE MORE ONLINE

Since April 2020, we've been offering a robust lineup of FREE classes and conversations to sustain a connection with you—our community. If you missed any of these events or want to go back for a second viewing, check out the online archive at [NYTW.org](https://nytw.org) or Youtube.com/NYTheatreWorkshop79

MASTERCLASSES

Go in depth with a master artist to study directing, acting, playwriting, design, teaching theatre online, cabaret performance, and more!

FIRESIDE CHATS

Informal conversations with some of the incredible artists in our community.

JAM SESSIONS

We know firsthand the joy of hearing music fill the theatre, so we asked some friends to take over our social media channels to bring some music to your homes.

VIRTUALLY NEIGHBORS

Whether you're feeling lonely and isolated or you just have some extra time on your hands, we'd love to introduce you to someone else in the community who might also be looking for a little virtual connection.

IN GOOD COMPANY

The belief in people coming together and being moved by a shared experience is central to what we love about the theatre; it occurred to us that joining in the preparation and enjoyment of a meal touches on the same emotional impulses—to reach, to connect, to inspire. Find recipe inspiration and more!

INTERESTED IN MORE?

JOIN TODAY!

We've reconceived NYTW memberships this year in response to the physical limitations and financial challenges that continue to impact our community.

From low monthly rates to a variety of levels, we're offering a range of options for members who are unsure when and how often they'll feel ready to return to the theatre-vids who long for the sense of community and the thrill of a new artistic adventure.

LEVEL 1: Pick & Choose

For \$120/year or \$13/month, you choose the events you'd like to see and we'll hook you up with a discount on one ticket per event.

REAL TALK: *Unsure when and how often you'll feel ready to return, but still want to experience some of the season while supporting artists in creating new work? This is the package for you!*

LEVEL 2: See It All

For \$240/year or \$26/month, you'll get one admission, free of charge, for all virtual and in-person events

REAL TALK: *This is your all-access pass to experience the entire season. There's so much that's out of your control right now, but a season membership gives you something to look forward to—a front-row seat for our greatest artistic experiment yet!*

LEVEL 3: Double or Nothing

For \$600/year or \$60/month, you'll get two admissions, free of charge, for all virtual and in-person events. Your membership includes a \$120 tax-deductible contribution which further supports the Artistic Instigators this season. As a thank you, we'll send you a few VIP invitations over the course of the season to take you behind the scenes.

REAL TALK: *This is an all-access pass for two people for the entire season. Whether you're sheltering together or separately, you'll book your virtual or in-person event tickets via a single account, so there's only one password to remember!*

Join today at [NYTW.org](https://nytw.org). Not sure which package is right for you this year? Contact Justin at JustinJ@nytw.org or call 646-793-3215.

MEET THE ARTISTIC INSTIGATORS

While the timeline for resuming in-person performances in New York City remains uncertain, these extraordinary artists are imagining work in our present moment that creates community within the given circumstances of social distancing, celebrates the liveness that is inherent in a theatrical experience, and examines the relationship between theatre, distance and technology.

**Ayad Akhtar · Hilton Als · Clare Barron & Sam Gold · Lileana Blain-Cruz
David Cale & Dael Orlandersmith · Victor I. Cazares · Rachel Chavkin
Dominican Artists Collective · Rebecca Frecknall & Martyna Majok
Aleshea Harris · Jeremy O. Harris · Modesto Flako Jimenez
Denis O'Hare & Lisa Peterson · Liliana Padilla · Rubén Polendo & Theater Mitu
Martha Redbone & Aaron Whitby · Tina Satter · Geoff Sobelle · Celine Song Whitney
White · Kristina Wong · Doug Wright.**

While the Artistic Instigators are supported in their exploration of form and content, audiences will be invited to experience the evolution of the work through work-in-process sharings and behind-the-scenes conversations with artists.

We're asking audiences to take a leap. And what we promise in return is a front-row seat to the unfolding of this experiment—and that the definition of a "front-row seat" will shift throughout the year.

THE FALL 2020 LINEUP

WHAT THE HELL IS A REPUBLIC, ANYWAY? Episodes 2, 3 and 4
Written & Performed by **Denis O'Hare & Lisa Peterson**

WORKING TITLE: THE TALKING CIRCLES
Written & Performed by **Martha Redbone & Aaron Whitby**

THE SEAGULL ON THE SIMS 4
By **Anton Chekhov** · Adapted and Performed by **Celine Song**

PINCHING PENNIES WITH PENNY MARSHALL: DEATH RITUALS FOR PENNY MARSHALL
By **Victor I. Cazares** · Directed by **Borna Barzin** · Featuring **Jesús I. Valles**

TRUMP IS JUST THE NAME OF HIS STORY
Written & Performed by **Ayad Akhtar**

THE COOKING PROJECT
Created by members of the **Dominican Artists Collective** · Directed by **Melissa Crespo**

</remnant>
Conceived & Created by **Theater Mitu**