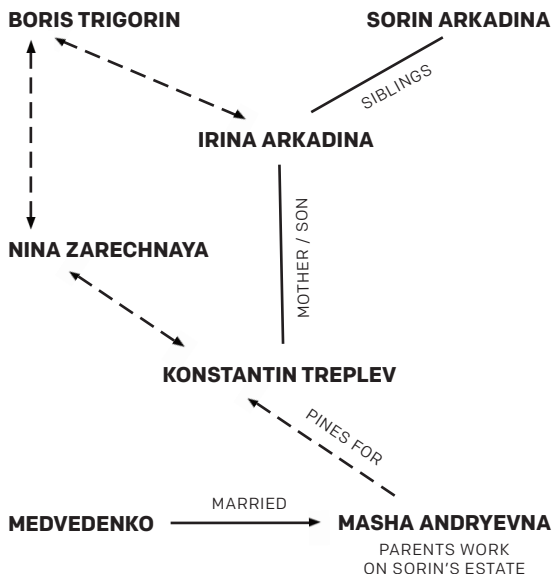


THE SEAGULL ON THE SIMS 4

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY
Celine Song

ADAPTED FROM
Anton Chekhov

NEW YORK
THEATRE
WORKSHOP



Solid lines indicate familial relationships (by blood or marriage).

Dashed lines indicate a more tenuous relationship.

Arrows suggest a character is romantically pining for another at some point in the play.

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

Celine Song

Writer and Performer

Celine Song's play *Endlings* received its world premiere in 2019 at American Repertory Theater, and it had its New York premiere in 2020 at New York Theatre Workshop. It has been named a finalist for the 2020 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, and it was selected for the 2018 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. The play was also included on the 2017 Kilroys list. Celine is a member of the Public Theater's 2016-2017 Emerging Writers Group, Ars Nova's 2014-2015 Play Group, and The Orchard Project's inaugural NYC Greenhouse 2018. She was a Playwrights Realm Writing Fellow from 2017-2018, a 2014 & 2016 Great Plains Theatre Conference Playwright, and she was a 2017 semifinalist for the P73 Playwriting Fellowship. Her play *Tom & Eliza* was a semifinalist for the American Playwriting Foundation's 2016 Relentless Award. Celine has been awarded residencies, fellowships, and commissions from MTC/Sloan, Sundance, the Millay Colony for the arts, the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, and the Edward F. Albee Foundation. She holds an M.F.A. from Columbia. Celine was a staff writer on Amazon's "The Wheel of Time."

SPECIAL THANKS

Winnie Song, C.A. Johnson, Aleshea Harris, Jeremy O. Harris, Jiehae Park, Dave Harris, Max Yu.

In-stream art by Winnie Song.

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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 Anaïs 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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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 DRAMATIC DEPARTURE FROM ORDINARY

SEASON SPONSOR

PHEBE'S
TAVERN & 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://www.nytw.org) or [Youtube.com/NYTheatreWorkshop79](https://www.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?

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

Written & Performed by **Celine Song** · Adapted from **Anton Chekhov**

PINCHING PENNIES WITH PENNY MARSHALL: DEATH RITUALS FOR PENNY MARSHALL

By **Victor I. Cazares** · Directed by **Borna Barzin**

THE COOKING PROJECT

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

</remnant>

Conceived & Created by **Theater Mitu** · Directed by **Rubén Polendo**

TRUMP IS JUST THE NAME OF HIS STORY

Written & Performed by **Ayad Akhtar**