



THE SOUND OF BIRDS YOU DON'T EXPECT

A Visit with Our 2020
Residency and Reading
Series Artists

June 27, 2020 | 7:00PM

HB Studio presents

The Sound of Birds You Don't Expect

a play by Adam Kraar

June 27, 2020

7:00 PM

directed by Tasha Gordon-Solomon
with

Brandt Adams

Julie Benko

Reynaldo Piniella &

Carol Rosenfeld

Levi Hood, stage directions and off-stage voices

Edith Meeks, Executive & Artistic Director

Lauren Ritter, Production Manager

Lorraine de Silva, Zoom Tech

The 2020 HB Residency & Reading Series Artist Panel included Pablo Andrade, Mark Blum, David Deblinger, Craig Dolezel, Maria Fontanals, Pat Golden, Gabriel Gonzalez, Fran Kirmser, Robbie McCauley, Theresa McElwee, Edith Meeks, and Paul Pryce.



This program is supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and many generous supporters.



Adam Kraar (playwright)

Adam Kraar writes plays about cross-cultural clashes and connections, including works about American families in Asia, the Civil Rights Movement, and quixotic rebels who challenge societal boundaries. Recent productions include *ALTERNATING CURRENTS* (The Working Theater); *DANCING ON THE EDGE* (Theatre Novi Most); *GREEN-WOOD* (Theatre East); *EMPIRE OF THE TREES* (NY Innovative Theatre Awards' Outstanding Script Nominee); *NEW WORLD RHAPSODY* (Bloomington Plays Project); *WILD TERRAIN* (EST Marathon of One-Act Plays) and *FREEDOM HIGH* (Queens Theatre in the Park). Upcoming: *DIVO AND DIAVOLO* (Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati). Adam's plays have been developed and/or produced at Primary Stages, The Public Theatre, Theater for the New City, Theatreworks U.S.A., The New Group, N.Y. Theatre Workshop, Cherry Lane, LaMama, Stella Adler Studio, Geva Theatre, and many others. Fellowships from: Manhattan Theatre Club, Bogliasco Foundation, Millay Colony, and Sewanee Writers' Conference. Adam's plays are published by Dramatic Publishing, Smith & Kraus, and Applause Books (including six *BEST AMERICAN SHORT PLAYS* anthologies). An Affiliated Writer of The Playwrights' Center and a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre, Adam was previously a Playwrights' Workshop Fellow at the Lark Play Development Center, Featured Artist at the Last Frontier Theatre Conference, and was twice a resident playwright at the Inge Center for the Arts. He grew up in India, Thailand, Singapore and the U.S. He earned an M.F.A. at Columbia University, teaches playwriting at Primary Stages' ESPA, and lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Karen.



Tasha Gordon-Solomon (director)

Tasha's directing credits include EST, Dixon Place, The Tank, The Flea, INTAR, The Brick, Project Y, Pipeline, InViolet, Brooklyn Museum, Fire This Time Festival, Columbia University, NYU, ART-NY Theaters, and the Sound Bites Festival. As a writer, Tasha's work has been seen at the Humana Festival, Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, Ars Nova and Northern Stage. Tasha is the recipient of a Dramatist Guild Fellowship and a Puffin Foundation Grant. She has had residencies at the Millay Colony, VCCA and Bethany Arts. Tasha is a New Georges Affiliated Artist, and a member of the BMI Advanced Workshop and Directors Lab West.



Brandt Adams (Bud)

Brandt Adams is a Brooklyn-based theater artist. Selected New York theater includes CONVENTION (Irondale/Brontosaurus Haircut), PROJECT WOYZECK (The Nerve Tank), DEAD BEHIND THESE EYES... (Abrons Arts/Sister Sylvester), DISPATCHES FROM (A)MENDED AMERICA (Epic Theatre Ensemble), ALL GOD'S CHILLUN GOT WINGS (JACK/Civic Ensemble), LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHANNUKAH (Ars Nova), and FAUSTUS (Fault Line Theatre). He performs regularly with The Commedia Company and The Boof. In 2018 his play, DISPATCHES FROM (A)MENDED AMERICA, co-written with Godfrey L. Simmons, Jr., was included in NoPassport's Epic Plays anthology, edited by Emily Mendelsohn and Chiori Miyagawa.



Julie Benko (Eve)

Julie Benko has performed on Broadway and in national tours of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, LES MISERABLES, and SPRING AWAKENING, and has been seen Off-Broadway in GOLDSTEIN AND BAR MITZVAH BOY. Favorite regional appearances include leading roles in ONCE (Mason Street Warehouse, Weston Playhouse), RAGS (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), OUR TOWN (Weston Playhouse), THE GOLEM OF HAVANA (Barrington Stage Company), THE FANTASTICKS (Weston Playhouse), and THE 125TH... SPELLING BEE (Downtown Cabaret Theater). Her debut jazz album, "Introducing Julie Benko," is available on all music streaming services. Julie is due to graduate with her MFA in Spring 2021 from NYU-Tisch's Graduate Acting Program.



Reynaldo Piniella (Linwood)

Reynaldo Piniella was previously seen Off-Broadway in THE DEATH OF THE LAST BLACK MAN..., VENUS (Signature), THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH (TFANA), LOCKDOWN (Rattlestick), THE SPACE BETWEEN THE LETTERS (The Public/UTR), TERMINUS (NYTW Next Door) and THE BEST OF THEATREWORKS (Working Theater). TV credits include BLUE BLOODS, SNEAKY PETE, FLESH & BONE, GREENLEAF, THE CARRIES DIARIES, LAW & ORDER: SVU, NYC 22, US & THEM, LOUIE & THE DAILY SHOW with Jon Stewart. He is a TCG Fox Foundation Fellow and Thomas Barbour award recipient for playwriting for his play Black Doves.



Carol Rosenfeld (Oma)

Teaching: HB Studio since 1968. Created the Hagen Institute's Summer Intensive, Hagen Core Training and Hagen Teacher's Lab and served as the first Director of The Hagen Institute 2010-2014. Fulbright Specialist: La Escuela del Actor in Montevideo, Uruguay, the Polish National Film School in Lodz and the Shota Rustaveli Theater and Film Georgia State University in Tbilisi, November, 2018. Open Jar Institute Residency Faculty 2016-present. Master Classes: Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto, Winnipeg, Halifax, Calgary, Copenhagen, Barcelona, London and Melbourne, Australia. Rutgers (New Brunswick), The National Theatre of the Deaf, The National Theatre School of Canada, The Shaw Festival (Niagara on the Lake). Author: ACTING AND LIVING IN DISCOVERY: A WORKBOOK FOR THE ACTOR, and The Hagen Technique chapter in TRAINING OF THE AMERICAN ACTOR. Acting: Most recently: WILD TERRAIN/PEOPLE OF THE BOOK by Adam Kraar at Actor's Playhouse; 13 P, HB Playwright's Theatre, Guthrie Theatre, the Cape Playhouse, the NJ Shakespeare Festival, Whole Theatre Co., Jewish Rep, Counterpoint Theater, Writer's Theater, NY City Opera. TV: AS THE WORLD TURNS and THE GUIDING LIGHT. Directing: SHIRLEY VALENTINE, THE ROAD TO MECCA, SUBSTANCE OF FIRE, PICNIC, COLLECTED STORIES, SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY, THE MILLIONAIRESS, THE INCA OF PERUSALEM, and original works at the HB Playwright's Theatre in NYC. B.A., Univ. of Penn.; M.A., Columbia.