



HB Performance Lab
presented by HB Studio & Ensemble Force

November 20 & 21, 2020 | 7:00PM

Held online via Zoom

HB Studio and Ensemble Force present

ACTS OF LOVE:
Dreamscape
HB Performance Lab
November 20 & 21, 2020
7:00 PM

Directed by David Deblinger

Featuring:

Joel Bouah, Agnes Chrakowiecka, Kenneth Core, Lorraine De Silva,
Mya Elzy, Maria Fontanals, Myles Forster, Kae Fujisawa, Khalif J.
Gillett, Leyla Hadi, Kevin Hobaichan, Abhishek Jha, Anna Kaliuzhnaia,
Malika Kanatova, Emilie Kuznicki, Ann Mantel, Mary McDonnell,
Katerina Mihajloska Bicaksiz, Odette Piscitelli, Nita Raja, Fernando
Rockenbach, Henardo Rodriguez, Maho Watanabe, Laura Wei,
Charly Wenzel, and Nya Yeanafehn

Edith Meeks, Executive & Artistic Director
Lauren Ritter, Production Manager
Sarah Chiriboga, Stage Manager
Lorraine de Silva, Zoom Tech



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.

ACTS OF LOVE:

Dreamscape

November 20, 2020

1. Introduction by David Deblinger (Live)
2. NIGHTMARES by AOL Dreamscape Movement Group (Live)
3. UNREALITY by Leyla Hadi (Live)
4. THE STARRY SKY by Maho Watanabe, music and lyrics by Kakko
5. THAT WORLD by Agnes Chrakowiecka
6. FRESHMAN BEATDOWN by Nya Yeanafehn
7. MY DREAMS by Laura Wei
8. GHOSTED MEDIUM by Mary McDonnell
9. FRAGMENTS (PART ONE) by AOL Dreamscape Movement Group
10. GOODBYE by Myles Forster
11. JAPANESE LULLABY by Kae Fujisawa
12. MY ROMANCE by Ann Mantel
13. SATSUMAIMO by Maho Watanabe
14. FACES by Khalif J. Gillette, directed by Charly Wenzel
15. SEASON OF DREAMS by Kevin Hobaichan (Live)
16. Closure with full ensemble (Live)

ACTS OF LOVE:

Dreamscape

November 21, 2020

1. Introduction by David Deblinger & I COULD ALWAYS FLY IN MY DREAMS: A PRAYER FOR MY MOTHER by Kae Fujisawa (Live)
2. THERE IS SOMEONE IN THIS WORLD WHO LOVES YOU by Malika Kanatova
3. FACES by Khalif J. Gillette, directed by Charly Wenzel
4. I AM MY OWN FINANCIAL CHIEF by Maria Fontanals
5. THE GIRL IN THE PARK by Anna Kaliuzhnaia
6. FOLLOW OUR HEARTS by AOL: Dreamscape Music Group
7. WHO FRAMED CINDERELLA? by Odette Piscitelli
8. NAZAR DREAM by Katerina Mihajloska Bicaksiz
9. SHIPPING OFF by Mary McDonnell
10. GOONIES DREAM by Emilie Kuznicki
11. AND SHE HASTILY DRIED HER EYES by Charly Wenzel
12. THE PINKY RING by Mya Elzy
13. CROOKED DREAM by Joel Bouah
14. FRAGMENTS (PART TWO) by AOL Dreamscape Movement Group
15. MAHO WATANABE SINGS (excerpt from THE STARRY SKY) by Maho Watanabe (Live)
16. Closure with full ensemble (Live)



Dear Friends,

Can you see the presence of God in the face of "the stranger"?
That's a loose quote from a religious text.

Our project brings together people from different backgrounds, different cultures, who speak different languages, attempting to use various forms to communicate meaning. Loosely, the themes to be explored come from the title of our event, ACTS OF LOVE, and DREAMSCAPE. Current and former HB students were given opportunities to wear various hats: writer, performer, filmmaker, director, composer, singer, dancer, storyteller, humorist and more. For me, the project has been a blessing and an opportunity to explore creating from personal experience, in a place intended to be not just a safe space, but a brave one. I am very grateful, at this moment in time, to help facilitate different human voices in creating work that may touch upon themes, vibrations even, that resonate in ways that are bigger than we are.

Thank you so much for attending ACTS OF LOVE: Dreamscape.

David Deblinger

Faculty Member, HB Studio

Director, ACTS OF LOVE: Dreamscape HB Performance Lab



David Deblinger

David Deblinger (writer/performer) is a co-founder of Labyrinth Theater Company. His early solo show, SHMOO, won a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship Award and was produced for Labyrinth by the late Philip Seymour Hoffman. He has appeared, as an actor, in new plays at Manhattan Theater Club, The New Victory, 59East59, Vineyard Theatre, The Public Theater, Theater for a New Audience, Williamstown Theater Festival, The Old Globe and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, where he won The Acclaim Award for best lead performance in a play. On TV, in the fall of 2019, David will appear on the third season of THE MARVELOUS MRS MAISEL, and in a recurring role opposite Forest Whitaker in, THE GODFATHER OF HARLEM, on EPIX/ABC. He has also appeared on, DECEPTION, BROAD CITY, BLUE BLOODS, LAW AND ORDER SVU, LAW AND ORDER, DAMAGES, THE SOPRANOS, SEX IN THE CITY, and the movie CLUBLAND on Showtime. As a performance artist, LUCKY PENNY is David's latest critically-acclaimed performance piece, pairing him with world-class jazz vocalist Fred Johnson. Since its Off-Broadway run in 2017 it continues with performances around the country. David is excited to have recently joined other performers to bring to life a story he wrote called SALAMANCA for the audio podcast series THE TRUTH. Listen here: <http://www.thetruthpodcast.com/story/2020/11/4/salamanca>.



Joel Bouah

Joel Bouah is a young African actor originally from the Ivory Coast. He is a French native speaker and also speaks English fluently. He recently graduated from the University of Rouen with a Master's degree in Actuarial Science, then decided to follow his gift and passion: acting. He views acting not just as a way to make a living but also as a way to make a difference. He has taken acting classes at the Bilingual Acting Workshop in Paris to keep honing his craft. He is now continuing his journey in the U.S. at HB Studio where he was accepted into a full-time program. He has been featured in a couple of short films and is currently working on others. He loves working with new people and is open to new projects.



Agnes Chrakowiecka

Agnes Chrakowiecka is a FX Product Specialist at a global Fintech firm in New York. She holds a BA in Peace and Development from Bradford University (UK) as well as MSc in Economics and Development from London School of Economics (UK). Her journey with arts began with photography 13 years ago. It continued and expanded into extra roles in London, UK as well as the practice of dances such as Salsa, Tango, and most recently, Contemporary Jazz. She is a current HB acting and playwriting student. Aside from theatre, Agnes is engaged in Inclusion and Diversity efforts focused on gender parity as well as the provision of free after-school theatre classes in NY public schools.



Kenneth Core

Kenneth Core dreamed of becoming an actor, while most nine-year-old boys fantasized of becoming firefighters or pilots. Growing up in Belgium's countryside was a challenging backdrop for a young, determined actor but he succeeded and started acting professionally when he was 15. Driven by the CORE values to entertain people, to evoke emotion, to make characters come to life, Kenneth feels at home on stage as well as on set. Twenty years of dedication and persistence later, his dream and passion brought him back to New York City, where he's ready to take on the center stage of the world's biggest theater.



Lorraine de Silva

Lorraine de Silva is an actress based in New York City. Her recent work includes playing the lead role in the short film LILY and supporting roles in the short film MISS COURAGE and the upcoming web series HEXXED. She was also cast to play 15-year old Rakkie in the stage play THE ERLERLING SONG.



Mya Elzy

Mya Elzy is originally from New Orleans, LA and is now a long time NYC resident. She studied acting at Stella Adler Studio of Acting in 2019. Her past works include the play *LORDES* at Columbia University, a short film, *THE RUNOFF*, which premiered at the 2019 Queens World Film Festival and a feature film titled *BRIGHTON 4*. She has also been in a host of student films from the School of Visual Arts, Montclair State University and New York University.



Maria Fontanals

Maria Fontanals, born in Barcelona, is an award winning actress and faculty member at HBStudio. She is cofounder of Corezon, a successful independent theatre company based inNY. As an actress, Maria has worked with renowned New York City theaters such as Repertorio Español, The Brick, Dixon Place, Theater for the New City, Teatro Círculo, IATI, HB Playwrights Theatre, Teatro SEA, to name a few. She has extensive experience on stage in the United States and Europe. Select theater credits include: *LA CASA DE BERNARDA ALBA*, *TIERRA DEL FUEGO*, *EL ESPACIO ENTRE MEDIAS*, *CITY GIRLS AND DESPERADOES* (co-starring Austin Pendelton and Julie Atlas Muz), *EL DIVÁN* (Winner of a Latin ACE Award for Best Drama Actress), *SEIS* (Winner of a FuerzaFest Awards for Best Actress and HOLA Awards for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor), *OLEANA*, *BRILLIANT TRACES*, *BALM IN GILEAD*, *KING LEAR*, *DANCING AT LUGHNASA*, and

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MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. Recent awards: Latin ACE Award 2019 for Best Drama Actress, HOLA Award 2018 and 2017 for Outstanding Performance, FUERZAFest Award 2017 for Best Actress, Latin ACE Award 2017 for Best Comedic Actress, ATI Award 2017 for Best Supporting Actress. Maria is thankful to be in this project and work with such esteemed actors.



Myles Forster

Myles Forster is from North West Queensland Australia. From growing up on a ranch to traveling abroad, Myles is grateful for the people he has met and collaborated with through his journey and hopes to meet many more as he "keeps on truckin".



Kae Fujisawa

Kae Fujisawa is a director, actor, singer, and playwright who is active in NYC. She is currently acting in and directing her short play SKETCHES OF HAPPINESS. Her other directorial works include FALLING AWAKE by Matthew Davis (Zoom production under the pandemic), 7 SHITTY HOMBRES by Ellen DeLisle (HB Playwrights Theatre), THERAPY by Susan Jane McDonald (John Cullum Theatre at ATA), among others. Kae's first short film LULLABY won Best Short-Suspense Award at the Culver City Film Festival in L.A. (2019). Kae studied full-time at HB Studio from 2017 to 2020. She studied classical singing. Kae received a PhD in Musicology from CUNY Graduate Center and taught Music History at Hunter College. Her passion is to create theater/film/song by her own hand in collaboration.



Khalif J. Gillett

Khalif J. Gillett is a Belizean-American actor, writer, photographer and content creator. He received his B.A. in Theatre Film and Digital Production from the University of California – Riverside and his MFA in Acting and Directing from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Recently, his play, SPILLED MILK, was nominated as a finalist for best play and best direction in the New York Winterfest Theatre Festival. He is the co-host and creator of ACTING BLACK, a Videocast.



Leyla Hadi

Leyla Hadi recently left her career as a corporate attorney to commit herself to the creative world. She has been taking numerous acting classes at HB Studio, and has published a number of audiobooks as a voiceover artist.



Kevin Hobaichan

Kevin Hobaichan is an actor and HB Studio student based in New York. He dedicates his work to his brother.



Abhishek Jha

Abhishek Jha is an actor from India currently based in New York. He is a current student at HB Studio and is a member of the ACTS OF LOVE Performance Lab ensemble.



Anna Kaliuzhnaia

Anna Kaliuzhnaia is an actress from Moscow, Russia. After having graduated with a BA in Arts and Humanities from Russian State University for the Humanities, where she studied history of theater and cinema, she decided to continue learning in a more hands-on way. That desire brought her to NYC and then to HB Studio, where she has been studying acting with Trudy Steibl and Snezhana Chernova. Some of her recent works include: Abigail in 2Y20M (directed by Kae Fujisawa), Sam in OUTSIDE THE LIGHTHOUSE (directed by Mohammed Elmzaghi).



Malika Kanatova

Malika Kanatova was born and raised in Kyrgyzstan and came to New York City to study in HB's Hagen Core Training program. Her roles include school productions of CONSTELLATIONS, THE SEAGULL, and student short films. She has also studied in West Finland College's English Drama department.



Emilie Kuznicki

Emilie Kuznicki was born and raised in Nice, South of France. Her family heritage is rooted in Poland, Kabylie and Corsica. Moving to the United States was her dream since she was a little girl, which she did in 2006. She first studied acting at the Anthony Gilardi Studio in Los Angeles. Now, she is based in New York and studies at HB Studio with David Deblinger. She is obsessed with books and movies and is a fan of horror and comedy. She was featured in three horror anthologies by Video Mass, a filmmaking collective based in Brooklyn. She was part of a live comedy show called I AM NOT YOUR UBER. When not acting, she can be found dancing. She is a professional belly dancer and also the mom of a beautiful cat named Gypsy Bean.



Ann Mantel

Ann Mantel is an alum of HB Studio where she studied with Carol Rosenfeld and Uta Hagen. New York theatre credits include THE SILVER FOX, opposite Ms. Hagen and directed by Herbert Berghof (HB Playwrights Theatre), and BELLA, BELLE OF BYELORUSSIA (WPA Theatre), TODAY, I AM A FOUNTAIN PEN (Studio 890) and TRIPLETS IN UNIFORM (La MaMa). Ann holds an MFA in Performance from UC San Diego under Alan Schneider. In this century, Ann is a retired teacher, now living in Long Beach, CA where she is a member of the Improv troupe, Held2Gether. Taking classes again at HB Studio and working with the Acts of Love/Dreamscape ensemble has been a welcome opportunity and

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source of creative comfort during these pandemic times.



Mary McDonnell

Mary McDonnell is a New York City based writer and performer. She is best known for her two-woman show GIRL BULLY (writer/performer, Dixon Place, Edinburgh Fringe 2019) and is a contributing writer for THE TRUTH PODCAST. She can be seen on UCB's LLOYD NIGHT performing with her team Dang JoJo.



Katerina Mihajloska Bicaksiz

Katerina Mihajloska Bicaksiz is an ESL and Macedonian Language teacher at Koc University, Istanbul. She graduated from St. Kliment Ohridski University with a bachelor's degree in comparative studies, Macedonian and English Language, and Literature in 2009 and completed her MA in ELT in 2013. After graduation, she started teaching in one of the public schools in Macedonia, then travelled to Europe where she was teaching and was part of different projects. She moved to Washington D.C. for a few months where she took part in different projects in education organized by Citizen Schools. She continued her professional development and growth when she moved to New York. She enrolled in a teaching program that included 500 hours of teaching training after which she became a teacher trainer. She moved to Turkey in 2014 where she started her own business and continued training teachers and working as an educational consultant. She

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is currently living and working in Istanbul. She hopes to complete her PhD in ELT in the upcoming years, as well as taking her baby clothing business to an international level, which she started in 2019.



Odette Piscitelli

Odette Piscitelli is an Italian actress. She graduated from the National Academy of Drama “Silvio D’Amico” in Roma. She has worked as a theater actress in many national tours around Italy since 2010. She won an Italian scholarship to study abroad, so she chose HB Studio in New York to further her studies. There, she studied with many amazing teachers including David Deblinger. She was involved in the first part of Acts of Love (spring term), working on Zoom from Italy.



Nita Raja

Nita Raja hails from Seattle and India, where she trained for 15 years as a dancer. Her training took her to many places across India, performing in various dance ballets, which cemented her love for dance, theater and storytelling across various media disciplines. Her performances have been featured at the Seattle Art Museum, the Seattle Asian Art Museum, and Northwest Folklife to name a few. Outside creating work with her dance company in Seattle, she has played various roles in local theater productions and can be also found collaborating with other artists as expressions in dance, music, and short films.



Fernando Rockenbach

Fernando Rockenbach is completing his first year studying at HB Studio and could not be more excited to be part of this incredible ensemble. He had always had an immense love for the performing arts and has been in small plays ever since he was a kid. During his teenage years, he took a break from theater and eventually graduated college with a degree in Architecture and Urbanism. He kept studying theater after graduation and performed in some non-profit community plays, mostly in the "theater of the absurd" style. Finally, he moved to NYC to really focus and ground his abilities as an actor.



Henardo Rodríguez

Henardo Rodriguez was born and raised in the city of Santiago in the Dominican Republic. In 2017, he decided to develop his acting career in the United States and moved to New York in 2019. His foundation in acting comes from his training at The Lee Strasberg Theater & Film Institute and HB Studio in New York; as well as from institutes of his country origin such as Centro de La Cultura de Santiago and INCINE. Additionally, he has a bachelor degree in Business Administration and a master degree in Service Leadership and Innovation from Rochester Institute of Technology. He had worked as an actor in films projects like PRESSURE and SENIOR LIVING, and plays like LETTERS FROM CUBA and SHOW DEL CORAZÓN ROTO.



Maho Watanabe

Maho Watanabe hails from Japan. She is a composer and is currently studying at HB Studio as a full-time student.



Laura Wei

Laura Wei is a professional actress who has starred in a variety of local productions, as well as international/bicultural films, such as OUR GIRLS and TRADITIONAL I AM NOT. If the production involves anything with technology or requires a role of a business tycoon, she is uniquely qualified, since she holds both an MBA and a computer science degree from Cornell University. Acting has been a lifelong passion since starring alongside Asian pop sensation Jay Chou in a sneaker commercial as a teen.



Charly Wenzel

Charly Wenzel is an actress, dancer, choreographer and award winning filmmaker. She won multiple awards for her experimental films GLOBAL TIDES, LICHT, SCHEIN and PAUSE, which were screened at film festivals worldwide. Charly was the Artistic Director of her own project-based dance company in NYC, she was the Associate Artistic Director of Naganuma Dance and she worked as the

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Rehearsal Director for Bodystories: Teresa Fellion Dance. Charly danced at the Bavarian State Opera Ballet in Germany and she performed with Shadowbox Theater, Naganuma Dance, Keila Cordova Dances, Bodystories, LolaLola Dance Theater, Morningside Opera, Soul Movement and others. For the past four years she was a performer in the Bessie award-winning production THEN SHE FELL by Third Rail Projects.



Nya Yeanafehn

Nya Yeanafehn is a New York City based actor, writer, and comedian. He has performed all over New York City, Los Angeles, and London. He's appeared in short films and web series such as HOTLINE, MAN WITH BEARD and UNINSPIRED. He's also part of the comedy sketch group, Rock The Bells.