



Public Conversation:
The Artist and the Vote

November 1, 2020 | 7:00PM

Held online via Zoom

HB Studio presents

Public Conversation: The Artist and the Vote

An international panel of artists discuss the boundaries and intersections between a creative, civic, and political life

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Moderated by David Deblinger

Featuring:

Snezhana Chernova
Magaly Colimon-Christopher
John-Martin Green
Leyla Hadi
Peter Francis James
Abhishek Jha
Juan Ramirez, Jr.
Lorraine de Silva

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



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Dear Friends,

With so much tension around the U.S. election and so much at stake, we thought we'd bring some creative people together—a mix of American and international artists of different generations—to talk about what it means to have a voice as an artist, and how that relates to the act of voting.

What are the boundaries and intersections between a creative life, a civic life, and a political life, and how do different artists from different places experience that? It seems important at this moment to acknowledge that our experiences around being heard, around being counted, are not the same. How does that affect the art we make, and the lines we draw, if we draw them, between what is art and what is not?

Thank you for joining this group of HB teaching artists, students and friends for this conversation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edith Meeks', with a stylized, flowing script.

Edith Meeks
Executive & Artistic Director

Amid one of the most significant elections in American history, a panel of HB artists from the U.S. and abroad—including faculty, students and alumni—join together to discuss voting and the democratic process, and what it means to have a political voice as an artist.



David Deblinger (Moderator)

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 appeared 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.



Snezhana Chernova

Snezhana Chernova (SAG-AFTRA) graduated from St. Petersburg State Theater Arts Academy in Russia. Before moving to America, she acted at the Baltic Repertoire Theater in St. Petersburg. In New York, she studied with the legendary Uta Hagen at HB Studio. She took the Jacques Lecoq workshop with Norman Taylor in NYC and the Theatre Pedagogy course with Anatoli Vasiliev in Venice, Italy. She taught speech/speaking voice and acting at Saint Petersburg State Theater Arts Academy, at the Danish Theater School GITIS Scandinavia, and Trinity/LaMaMa Performing Arts of Trinity College. Snezhana is on the acting faculty at HB Studio. She has performed with different theater companies in the USA, Canada, Germany, South Korea, Ukraine and Russia. Film/TV: FX's THE AMERICANS, LOVE IN THE BIG CITY, PROOF OF BIRTH, ALASKA KIDS, THE LOUISE LOG, and others.



Magaly Colimon-Christopher

Magaly Colimon-Christopher is an actress/writer/producer and qualified Feldenkrais Practitioner based in New York City. She started her acting journey at HB Studio, where she studied with Herbert Berghof, Earle Hyman, Anne Jackson and Michael Beckett. After completing her graduate studies at Yale School of Drama, Magaly performed in numerous Prime Time, Daytime, film, commercial and theater productions. Over the course of her career, Magaly has coached actors, written/produced/directed short films

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(which were featured in film festivals) a web series, plays and founded film and theater festivals. Driven by her passion for authentic, energized, and organic acting – Magaly completed her certification as Feldenkrais Awareness Through Movement Practitioner and continues to explore and adopt new self-awareness and movement techniques. Her experiences as a performer, director, Feldenkrais Method instructor, and “ever- curious-student-of-enlightenment-and-truth” informs her teaching.



John-Martin Green

John-Martin Green, Ed.D. is Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Blackberry Productions Theatre Company where he develops and produces documentary theater that sheds light on issues impacting our communities and creates forums for a multiplicity of voices and perspectives in solution-focused reflection. His directing credits include: THE LAST GATEKEEPER by Germono Toussaint on YouTube, Facebook and thelastgatekeepermusical.com, ROOTWOMAN by Michael Bradford at Aaron Davis Hall, THREE SISTERS, WILLIE'S CUT & SHINE and A DIFFERENT FLAVA at Ensemble Studio Theatre, THE HAND THAT SLAPPED KATE at Bay Street Theatre and SPIRITUAL JOURNEY at the Apollo Theatre.



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.



Peter Francis James

Peter Francis James has taught Shakespeare at the Yale School of Drama since 2000, and BADA at Oxford since 2006. Training: RADA.

Broadway: HILLARY AND CLINTON, PRESENT LAUGHTER, THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, ON GOLDEN POND, DROWNING CROW, JUDGMENT AT NUREMBERG. The Public: STUFF HAPPENS (OBIE & Lucille Lortel Awards), MUCH ADO, VENUS, HORATIO IN KEVIN KLINE'S HAMLET, LONG DAY'S JOURNEY. CSC: THE MAIDS (OBIE Award). Signature Theater: THE LADY FROM DUBUQUE, (Lortel Nomination). U.K: THE LADY FROM DUBUQUE (w/Maggie Smith), CYMBELINE (RSC /TFANA). Film/TV: THE HUMBLING, SONG ONE, THE LOSERS, THE REBOUND, THE MESSENGER / BULL, GODFATHER OF HARLEM, THE CODE, BOARDWALK EMPIRE, THE MYSTERIES OF LAURA, OZ, ROYAL PAINS, GOSSIP GIRL, KINGS, THE ROSA PARKS STORY, SIMPLE JUSTICE, THE RUBY BRIDGES STORY, all three LAW & ORDER series. Narration: over 60 books.



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.



Juan Ramirez, Jr.

Juan Ramirez, Jr. is a playwright, monologist, director, screenwriter, filmmaker, poet, producer, and other things. He's a Dramatist Guild member, 2020-2021 Dramatist Guild Fellow, founder of The PlayPen Collective, a dramaturg, reader, film assessor and teaching artist. His plays have been produced in New York City, to as far as Abu Dhabi and Singapore. He is currently working on his online monologue catalogue with over 250+ pieces. He received his MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU Tisch.



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 ERLRING SONG.