



**HB**  
STUDIO

**SUBVERTING  
CONVENTIONS/  
RECLAIMING STORY**

*Devised performances rethinking  
art, culture & identity*

HB Studio presents

# SUBVERTING CONVENTIONS/ RECLAIMING STORY

Devised performances rethinking  
art, culture & identity

**Thursday & Friday**

**May 13 & 14, 2021**

**6:00 PM**

An HB Performance Lab directed by Paul Pryce

with:

Maria Jung

Bryant To

Charly Wenzel

Meytar Zehavi

Edith Meeks, Executive & Artistic Director

Lauren Ritter, Production Manager

Lorraine de Silva, Zoom Tech



**NYC** Cultural  
Affairs



**Council on  
the Arts**

Support for HB Studio's online programs is provided by the Noel Coward Foundation

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.

# SUBVERTING CONVENTIONS/ RECLAIMING STORY

Devised performances rethinking  
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1. "Made in Not China" by Bryant To
2. "Babies Factory" by Meytar Zehavi
3. "Woker and White" by Charly Wenzel
4. "TBD" by Maria Jung
5. Q&A with audience



# PUBLIC EVENTS

Through free public events, including readings of new plays, performances, and public talks, we invite the community at large to share in a dialog about the range of efforts, intentions, and influences that drive theater artists in creating and producing their work.

View upcoming events: [hbstudio.eventbrite.com](http://hbstudio.eventbrite.com)

# THE UTA HAGEN INSTITUTE

Full-time immersion in the practical approach to the acting craft that characterized Uta Hagen's legendary master classes and classic acting texts.

## HAGEN ACTOR'S LAB ONLINE

Jun. 6 - 13, 2021

## HAGEN TEACHER'S LAB ONLINE

Aug. 1 - 8, 2021

## HAGEN CORE TRAINING

Sep. 12, 2021 - Jun. 6, 2022

# REMOTE LEARNING

HB Studio offers a series of 5-week and 10-week online classes in:

- Acting
- Acting with the Camera
- Actuar en Español
- Scene Study
- Speech & Voice
- Movement
- Musical Theater and Singing
- Playwriting & Screenwriting
- Acting for Young People
- Teatro para Jóvenes Adolescentes

HB Studio offers a variety of short-term workshops. Our list of upcoming workshops is updated regularly:

- Voice Over
- Audition Technique
- Stop-Motion Animation
- Acting in Accent
- Shakespearean Acting
- many more!

## SUMMER TERM:

Jun. 12 - Aug. 22, 2021

Part A: Jun. 12 - Jul. 18

Part B: Jul. 19 - Aug. 22

## FALL TERM:

Sep. 13 - Nov. 23, 2021

Part A: Sep. 13 - Oct. 18

Part B: Oct. 19 - Nov. 23

*Sign up for either Part A or Part B independently (5 weeks each), or join both for the full 10-week term. You may join Part B without taking Part A.*

## AUDIT A CLASS

We offer the opportunity for new and existing students to audit online classes in order to observe the instructor's teaching style and the culture of the class before making the commitment to register. We encourage you to try virtual learning with us by auditing a class.



Dear Friends,

Already reeling from the Covid 19 pandemic then gut-punched by the death of George Floyd and the ensuing Black Lives Matter protests across the globe, I was compelled to use the classroom as a sanctuary for a conversation on what was happening around us but also as a workshop to interrogate long-held tropes, racist ideas, and antiquated convention. Together with my students, we questioned how stereotypes affect the way we see one another, and how, through art, we can subvert and change narratives.

In my Summer Acting 2 class, through a series of discussions, research, and in-class exercises these four creations were incubated. They were further workshopped and developed in my Performance Lab which met intermittently over the last few months.

The underlying premise of this project is to use social commentary and artistic practice to question, interrogate and dismantle problematic ideas through imagery, language, and storytelling.

Paul Pryce, Director

SUBVERTING CONVENTIONS/RECLAIMING STORY Performance Lab

# ***SUBVERTING CONVENTIONS / RECLAIMING STORY*** **FROM THE ARTISTS:**

*The stereotype of the exotic, dark enough to be not white, anything to anyone, ethnically ambiguous woman is something that has followed me around my entire life. As a mixed woman of color, so many of my interactions with strangers and acquaintances start with the seemingly innocent question “what are you?” I have a stock answer I could recite in my sleep that divvies up my genetic makeup like a pie chart, but I am no longer content to smile and nod when people respond with an approving “that’s a fantastic mix”. I’m tired of assuming good intent. I wrote this piece to subvert mainstream notions of identity, and as a reclamation of my mixedness on my own terms. I know this is one of my more marketable traits as an actor, I know I tick off the diversity box, but there is very little space or time to be seen or acknowledged for what I am in all its messy specificity. It’s not about what I am, but who: a person working through a mysterious and incoherent past, grappling with the shadows of intergenerational trauma, and learning what it means to survive and thrive in a world not quite made for me.*

*-Maria Jung*

# ***SUBVERTING CONVENTIONS / RECLAIMING STORY*** **FROM THE ARTISTS:**

*Making one another laugh is not just a way to spread joy; it is intrinsic to the human experience. All cultures gather together to share stories, celebrating life through comedy. I grew up in Queens, New York to Vietnamese/ Chinese immigrants. Being a first-generation American meant living in a cultural sandwich: home was the meat and cheese of the Chinese consulate and my outside life was the Wonder bread and mayonnaise keeping my culture hidden away. I grew up with English as my primary language, so I don't have the same approach to communication that my parents did. I don't fit the cultural Chinese stereotype of an Asian with an accent; I have a Queens accent. I was an American boy at heart, forced to be one of my family's only sources into the full American experience, and therefore deeply misunderstood.*

*Humor means a lot to me because it is a way to share joy with the world. Comedy is a means to quickly break down barriers in trust and communication. I took self-deprecation to a new level as a kid since embarrassing stories were an easy way to quickly establish lifetime friendships. There will always be a shared beauty in imperfect life experiences.*

*I have always drawn inspiration from comedians. Chris Rock's searingly blunt take on life, Eddie Murphy's audacious movie performances, and Robin Williams' heartwarming portrayals in funny roles fascinated me as a child. This assignment felt like a fool-proof method to once again take part in the age-old tradition of spreading joy and inspiration, in the exact same way that I experienced growing up.*

*-Bryant To*

# ***SUBVERTING CONVENTIONS / RECLAIMING STORY*** **FROM THE ARTISTS:**

*As a Jewish girl born and raised in Israel, I have never felt like there are "Jewish stereotypes". Only since I have started traveling the world and being exposed to plays like THE MERCHANT OF VENICE and others, I have come to a realization that apparently, as a Jewish person, "I'm good with numbers", which was obviously not true as my math teacher in high school liked to mention quite frequently. So when I was asked in class to write about something subversive that relates to me, I just couldn't, because just the idea of someone being a certain way or having specific skills because of their origin seemed to me... well, ridiculous.*

*So I have decided to write about stereotypes in general. Where do they come from? Why do we have them? And what would happen if someone decides to go against his stereotype? That's how "Babies Factory" was born.*

*-Meytar Zehavi*

*When given the task to devise a piece of theater around the ideas of subversion, social commentary and tropes, I knew that I wanted to create a story around the "White Savior" narrative, which is often employed in major Hollywood movies to this day.*

*At the same time, I was thinking of the different "shades of racism", from implicit to explicit, and of how I, as a White woman living in the U.S., am very much a part of and benefitting from a racist system no matter how "woke" or anti-racist I think I am. I, therefore, decided to create a story that allowed me to have a moment of self-reflection, a conversation with myself in order to acknowledge the different aspects of who I am in the context of our society. "Your mistakes or your achievements will never define you. But you can only do better, if you are willing to look at your entire self." -Ijeoma Oluo*

*-Charly Wenzel*

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



## **Paul Pryce**

Paul Pryce is on the MFA Acting faculty at Brooklyn College and he is the Director of the Hagen Core Training and the Hagen Summer Intensive programs at HB Studio. He has taught master classes and workshops at Yale, NYU Tisch, M.I.T. Music & Theatre, Amherst College, New York Film Academy, as well as universities and acting studios in Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago and South Korea. He is a proud member of the National Alliance of Acting Teachers and The Actors Center. He earned an M.F.A in Acting from the Yale School of Drama. As an actor he appeared on recent television shows like Marvel's JESSICA JONES on Netflix, UNFORGETTABLE on A+E and on stage playing iconic roles in Shakespeare's HAMLET, JULIUS CAESAR, OTHELLO, PERICLES among others. He has performed in numerous plays across the United States and internationally. As a writer and producer, Paul's debut film COME OUT, COME OUT World Premiered at 2017 Cannes Short Film Corner and his sophomore project THE DELIVERER has screened at multiple film festivals around the world. His original television series SERPENTS MOUTH won Best Pitch and the Audience Award at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival. Paul was born and raised in Trinidad and Tobago.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



## **Maria Jung**

Maria Jung is an actor, model and photographer based in New York City. Selected credits include PATERNO (HBO), award-winning indie THE MAGIC BOMB, and the premieres of CHILL (Merrimack Repertory Theatre) and AVALON (Opera House Arts). Recently she has performed in several Zoom productions and has been working in the diversity and inclusion field advocating for a more equitable and anti-racist future. She is currently working on a full-length script that explores her mixed identity by following the breadcrumbs left by her ancestors, both real and imaginary. In addition to studying at HB Studio, Maria is a graduate of the Neighborhood Playhouse. She is repped by Boals, Winnett & Associates and is a proud member of Actors' Equity.



## **Bryant To**

Born and raised in Queens, New York, Bryant To grew up and embraced individuals of all walks of life, giving him an innate worldly knowledge of culture from a very young age. This, combined with a love of cinema and popular culture, instilled him with a passion for characters and their stories both on and off screen. The son of working class immigrants, Bryant's work ethic drives him towards the American dream After finishing with an Economics degree from CCNY, he started a career in the restaurant industry, with the goal

*Continued on next page*

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

of one day owning his own establishment. During this time, he worked in various roles at prominent NYC restaurants such as Mezzetto, Tasca, Chino, and Barbounia, all while pursuing independent ventures in real estate and mortgage businesses. A chance encounter with a coworker who did acting and voice over work changed Bryant's life. His coworker recommended HB Studio, and after one class, Bryant was in love. He dove into acting with the passion and work rate he devoted to everything else in his life. Still a fledgling actor, Bryant has devoted the last year and a half to studying with teachers at HB Studio taking acting and scene study classes. Bryant is looking forward to a bright future in acting, excited that his background, work ethic, talent and passion will reward him with an amazing career in the performing arts.



## **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, PAUSE and FACES, which were screened at film festivals worldwide. Charly was the Artistic Director of her own dance company, she was the Associate Artistic Director of Naganuma Dance and she worked as the Rehearsal Director for Bodystories: Teresa Fellion Dance. Charly danced at the Bavarian State Opera 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 immersive theater production THEN SHE FELL by Third Rail Projects.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



## **Meytar Zehavi**

Meytar Zehavi is an Israeli actress, model, content creator, and filmmaker. She wrote multiple short scripts and her latest film YOU ARE NOT ALONE won runner-up at the Coven Film Festival. Meytar began acting at the age of only 6 years old as a leading member of the Be'er Sheva Kids Theatre, Israel, where she made her stage debut in a production of TIRAS HAM (Hot Corn). Since then, she appeared in many productions, including many commercials, short films, and marketing videos. Today, while working as an actress in Israel, Meytar is also developing her own Youtube channel in the Cyber Security world.

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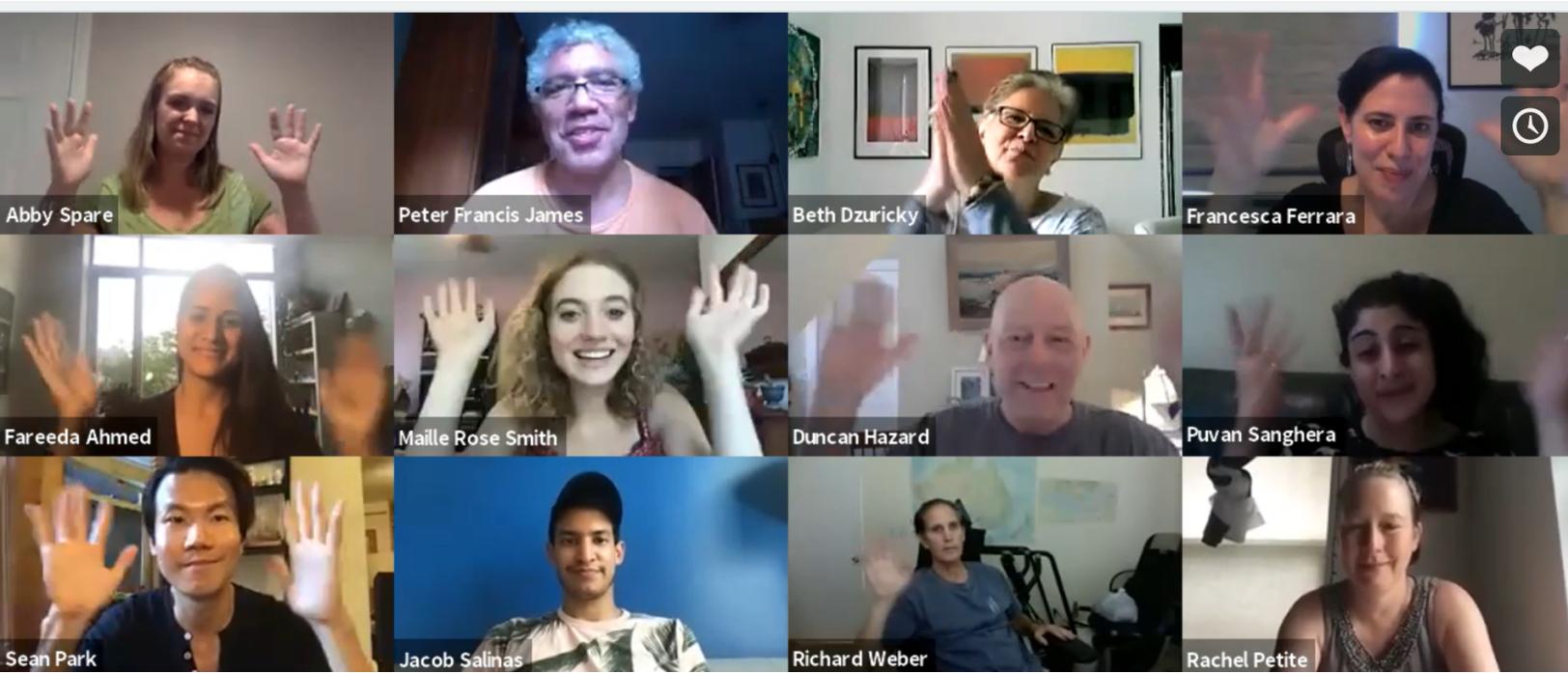
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HB Studio is a vital resource for the NY and global theater community, offering employment, continuity, and creative connection for performing artists through online classes, workshops, performance opportunities, and free online public programming. With students and audiences joining us virtually from across North America, Asia, Europe, South America, and Africa, we are reflecting on this global crisis together and forging meaningful connections that inspire us to look ahead to brighter days. Help us continue our mission-driven work by making a donation today.

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