



KID STUFF

an evening of original monologues written and performed by formerly incarcerated men and women



an Acting Out production
hosted by HB Studio

Friday & Saturday, August 6 & 7, 2021 | 7:00 PM
Sunday, August 8, 2021 | 3:00 PM

Acting Out presents

KID STUFF

hosted by HB Studio

August 6 & 7, 2021 | 7:00 PM

August 8, 2021 | 3:00 PM

Conceived, Edited, and Directed by Richard Hoehler

Assistant Director: Francesca Ferrara

Featuring:

Labre Fulcher, Shi Greene, Charlie Grosso, Ron Horton, Samuel Johnson,
Jason Morales, Luis Moran, José Rodriguez, Louis D. Rodriguez, Herman
Kawage Thomas, Gilfredo Valentin, Damien Walker, GW and Natasha White

Understudies: Amanda Enzo, John Maria Gutierrez and Chinastar Taylor

Additional Material: Demetrius James

Edith Meeks: Executive & Artistic Director

Stage Manager: Melisa Kucevic

Asst. Stage Manager: Amanda Enzo

House Manager: Schuyler Johns

Line Coach: Judy Bruno Bennett



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 India Blake Foundation, 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.

When leading writing workshops in prisons and alternatives to incarceration I was often struck by the similarity of the stories I heard when the writers evoked their childhood – the loss of a parent, drug and alcohol abuse, neglect, foster care, domestic violence, siblings arrested or killed, dropping out of school, gang pressure, poverty, racism. And yet, when leading off a writing session with the question, "What is your favorite childhood memory?" the results were beautiful and loving portraits of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and parents who did indeed do the best with what they had to provide moments of happiness for their sons and daughters, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. There were also recollections of kind family friends, fun road trips, treasured activities, and watershed moments. KID STUFF intertwines the good, the bad, and the ugly with an overarching message of hope. That hope is not merely a thread running through the show, rather a tensile cord that bonds the storytellers with their audience and each other. These stories demonstrate the best that humanity has to offer – an honest look at who we really are. It has often been said how miraculous it is that we survived our childhoods. The real miracle is not just surviving but flourishing. These men and women are doing just that.

Richard Hoehler

Creator & Director, Acting Out

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Richard Hoehler

Richard Hoehler has created four Off Broadway solo shows: I OF THE STORM, NEW JERSEY/NEW YORK, WORKING CLASS (OOBR AWARD-Best Solo Performance), and HUMAN RESOURCES (BEST OF FEST). His newest solo piece, E, a “live memoir,” has been featured at The Cornelia Street Café, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, and the Commons. Other acting stage work: ROUNDING THIRD, K2, KALIGHAT, TRUE WEST, CRIES FOR PEACE, THE RUBBER ROOM, INADMISSABLE, DAY OF THE DAD (Best Actor in a Lead Role), SEX TODAY, LOVE TOMORROW, and HAIR (55+). Television: NYPD BLUE, LAW & ORDER, CRIMINAL INTENT, THIRD WATCH (recurring), and THE BLACK BOX. Richard is an adjunct professor at John Jay College, director of the Theatre Workshop at Otisville State Prison and creator and instructor of ACTING OUT, an acting workshop for the formerly incarcerated at HB Studio. His short play, BUT FOR THE GRACE, will premiere at the New Circle Company in December.



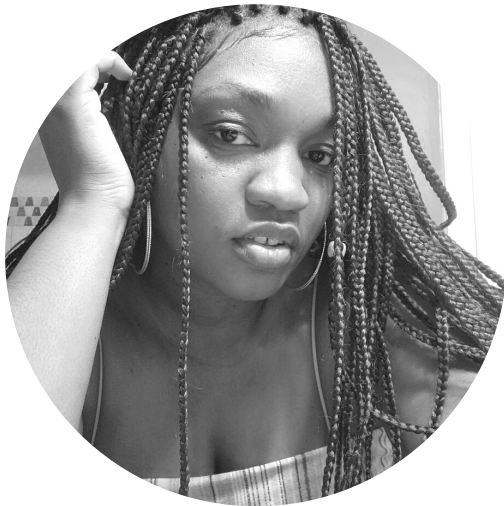
Francesca Ferrara

Francesca Ferrara is an actress and teaching artist based in New York City. She is a member of the faculty of Five Towns College and a member of the guest faculty at HB Studio. Francesca is also a frequent guest artist at the Theatre Workshop of Otisville, where she played Mary Jane in *THIS IS THIS*, and served as assistant director for *FATHERS AND SONS*. For the Acting Out Company, she was assistant director for the previous presentations of *TALK TO ME* and *INSIDE OUT*. Francesca's two favorite acting challenges have been playing Juliet for the National Players and Lorraine in the series finale of *MAD MEN*.



Labre Fulcher

Labre Fulcher was born in San Diego in 1975. A few weeks before he was to be released from Otisville Correctional Facility, a friend suggested he try Otisville Theatre Workshop. He had never thought acting was something he could do, and with Richard's encouragement, he joined the Acting Out company in early 2020. He was last seen in *INSIDE OUT* and *TALK TO ME*. Labre's other passions include playing chess, cooking, and watching travel and cooking programs.



Shi Greene

Art has been a major part of Shi's life. From drawing gymnasts to being one, from listening to poetry to writing them, from dubbing music to creating it, it's only right that such an admirer of the plays is now appearing in one. From a four-year-old with crayons to a 34-year-old with felonies, it's all art. It all represents a beautifully painted portrait of Shi Greene.



Charlie Grosso

Charlie Grosso was released from prison nearly four months ago, after serving 40 years. Despite being inside for four decades, he can honestly say that he has had a beautiful life. Through the practice of meditation and the craft of theater, his life is purposeful. He will share with anyone who is curious or interested in learning why, after 40 years, it was, and is, beautiful!



Ron Horton

Ron Horton, one of the original members of Acting Out, was last seen in INSIDE OUT and TALK TO ME. During his 30-year incarceration, he discovered acting and directing, which delivered him through some very dark years. Ron became a triple threat after joining Hoehler's Theatre Workshop at Otisville – adding playwriting to the mix, where he wrote THE BOX, a piece which made its debut in

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Acting Out's presentation of INSIDE OUT, as it was not permitted to be performed on the inside. Ron also took a turn Off-Broadway in the ensemble of I NEVER SANG FOR MY FATHER in 2019 at The Chain Theatre.



Sam Johnson

Samuel Johnson was born in Harlem and has two younger sisters. Fitness is his number one passion, and he works as a professional personal trainer. Sam also loves to read and attended John Jay College inside Otisville and outside on the main campus in NYC. He acted in FATHERS AND SONS, TALK TO ME and INSIDE OUT, all directed by Richard Hoehler. Sam enjoys being a company member of Acting Out and is looking forward to future projects.



Jason Morales

Jason Morales was born in Brooklyn and is the second eldest of nine children. His creative credits include: Readings at BAM for student shows, assistant director and actor for Random House's annual awards ceremony for NYC high school seniors, actor and writer for HB Studio Conversations: Otisville Theatre Workshop, and actor for the original production of INSIDE OUT performed in Otisville Correctional Facility, for which he wrote three pieces: THE LETTER, G BUILDING, and LETTER TO MA. Most recently, he performed in INSIDE OUT and TALK TO ME for Acting Out at HB Studio. Jason's greatest achievement, by far, is his beautiful 6 year old daughter.



Luis Moran

Luis Moran first began acting with the Otisville Theatre Workshop, led by Richard Hoehler. He performed in the workshop's production of *FATHERS AND SONS* and found it so rewarding that he streams into Acting Out classes all the way from Mexico. Luis was seen in the Zoom productions of *INSIDE OUT* and *TALK TO ME* and is happy to be returning in this show.



José Rodríguez

José Rodríguez was born in a small town called San Pedro Sula, Honduras. His family migrated to this country when he was only a child. The story goes that he was put on a floating tire to cross the river, and the family all made it safely across. He was raised in the Bronx. He loves baseball, movies, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.



Louis D. Rodríguez

Louis D. Rodríguez is a core member of the Acting Out company. He believes his theatre work informs all aspects of his life, including his former incarceration and his present position as a member of the clergy. Louis had a devastating accident last year that left him paraplegic, yet he is still at it, working from his hospital bed, learning scenes and monologues, performing major roles with Acting Out, and

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looking forward to the day he can walk out of the rehabilitation center.



Herman Kawage Thomas

Herman Kawage Thomas was born in the Bronx and is currently married with two children. He stepped onto a stage for the first time at Otisville Correctional Facility in the original production TUF LOVE. Released from Otisville almost ten years ago, Kawage joined Acting Out in January 2020 and is a core member of the group. He was recently in presentations over Zoom, INSIDE OUT and TALK TO ME.



Gilfredo Valentin, Jr.

Gilfredo Valentin, Jr. was born in Yonkers, New York to Puerto Rican parents. He has two sisters and is the proud father of a 12 year old junior high school student. His theatre credits include ESTOP FABLES, BUFFALO SOLDIER, TWELVE ANGRY MEN, EXONERATED, TALK TO ME, INSIDE OUT, and THE COUCH. He grew up loving animals and has become a certified dog trainer. He has raised and trained dozens of service dogs for veterans who have come home from war suffering from PTSD and physical disabilities.



Damien Walker

Damien Walker is one of three sons born and raised in the Bronx N.Y. At the age of 21, he was sent to prison for a crime that he did not commit. While in prison, Damien discovered his talent for writing and performing spoken word. Prior to work in the Acting Out presentation of INSIDE OUT Damien held a lead role in Richard Hoehler's THIS IS THIS, a play that Damien co-wrote.



GW

GW is an author, poet, playwright and second generation American and New Yorker. He is a proud father and grandfather. He is glad to be free and alive through the grace of God.



Natasha White

Natasha White is a formerly incarcerated survivor of solitary confinement. Presently, she is the coordinator for the Virginia Coalition on Solitary Confinement and is a previous community organizer for HALT Solitary and the Close Rikers campaigns.



Amanda Enzo

Amanda Enzo is an interdisciplinary artist originally from Cleveland, Ohio. She is currently pursuing her M.F.A. in Performance and Interactive Media Arts with a focus on the Afrocentric. She recently graduated with her B.A. in Theater and Film Production from Brooklyn College. Enzo works in HB's Registration Office and is currently in pre-production stages for some new works.



John Maria Gutierrez

John Maria Gutierrez is an actor, dancer, creator, and educator who performs on screen and stage nationally and internationally. Recent credits include LAW & ORDER SVU, NBC Universal (Chili Chacon), BROTHERS IN ARMS, La Mama ETC. (Resident Artist 2020-2021).



Chinastar Taylor

Chinastar Taylor was born and raised in Jersey City and is a single mother of a 14-year-old daughter. She enjoys spending quality time with her family as well as going to church. Growing up wasn't easy for her; she had run-ins with the law and got in trouble a lot, but becoming a mom changed her for the better.



Demetrius James

Demetrius James is a high school English teacher, a writer, and a Bard Prison Initiative Public Health Fellow.



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HB RESIDENCY ARTIST BLAIR SIMMONS PRESENTS PERFORMING ALGORITHMS

7PM, August 19, 2021
HERE Arts Center

Free public events held online.

View all upcoming events:

hbstudio.eventbrite.com

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

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

- Acting
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FALL

Sep. 13 - Nov. 23, 2021

Part A: Sep. 13 - Oct. 18

Part B: Oct. 19 - Nov. 23

Registration opens Aug. 8th

SPRING

Mar. 28 - Jun. 6, 2022

Part A: Mar. 28 - May 1

Part B: May 2 - Jun. 6

Registration opens Feb. 5th

WINTER

Jan. 10 - Mar. 21 2022

Part A: Jan. 10 - Feb. 14

Part B: Feb. 15 - Mar. 21

Registration opens Nov. 1st

SUMMER

Jun. 12 - Aug. 22, 2022

Part A: Jun. 12 - Jul. 18

Part B: Jul. 19 - Aug. 22

Registration opens May 1st

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.

LEVEL PLACEMENT

Classes offered in Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4/Studio Practice. Auditions are required for placement in Levels 2, 3 and 4.

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Students may audit classes in order to observe the instructor's teaching style and the culture of the class before making the commitment to register.

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