



HB
STUDIO



Public Conversation:
The Artist and the Vote

Part 2

December 7, 2020 | 7:30PM

Held online via Zoom

HB Studio presents

Public Conversation: The Artist and the Vote Part 2

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:

Magaly Colimon-Christopher

John-Martin Green

Abhishek Jha

Juan Ramirez, Jr.

Lorraine de Silva

Nya Yeanafehn

Edith Meeks, Executive & Artistic Director

Lauren Ritter, Production 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.



Dear Friends,

On November 1st this year, we brought a group of creative artists together, both American and international and from different generations, to talk about the coming election. With such high stakes around the U.S. election and so much at stake, we wanted to look into what it means to have a voice as an artist and how that relates to the act of voting.

As we experience the “long tail” of this election and of the pandemic which has been its backdrop now for nearly a year, we thought we’d reconvene our group for a second conversation. Where are we now, and where are we going? How are we experiencing the outcome of this collective action (or actions) by U.S. voters, and how is that influencing our ideas and pursuits as artists? Once again, how do our creative, civic, and political lives intersect, and how are different artists with different origins and backgrounds experiencing or approaching that? What do we have to tell each other that can help us find both common ground and continued momentum toward the world we dare to dream out loud?

Thank you for joining this group of HB teaching artists, students and friends for The Artist and the Vote, Part 2.

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

Edith Meeks
Executive & Artistic Director

Following 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.



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 (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.



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 ERLENRING SONG.



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.