

# PERFORMING ALGORITHMS

by Blair Simmons, HB Studio Residency Artist

7-9PM | August 19, 2021

Dominick St. between Varick St. & 6th Ave.

(in front of HERE Arts Center)

HB Studio presents

# PERFORMING ALGORITHMS

by Blair Simmons

**August 19, 2021 | 7:00 PM**

Blair Simmons is the creator of the playwriting computer program PRINT(DIALOGUE). For this performance, Blair will be presenting her own computer generated performance alongside other complimentary works she will curate.

Featuring:

William Banks

Serena Devi

Katy Ilonka Gero

Sam Hafferty

Nick Montfort

Allison Parrish

Chloe Troast

Blair Simmons

Edith Meeks: Executive & Artistic Director

Stage Manager: Melisa Kucevic



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.

# PERFORMING ALGORITHMS

## 1. PRINT(DIALOGUE)

by Blair Simmons

with William Banks and Chloe Eileen Troast

## 2. Readings of Book-Bound Poetry

by Nick Montfort

## 3. VARIATIONS ON A DEFINITION

by Allison Parrish

## 4. EVENT SCORE GENERATOR

made by Sam Hafferty

operated by Serena Devi

## 5. EMERGENCE

by Katy Ilonka Gero

PERFORMING ALGORITHMS is a festival of algorithmically-driven performances created by different writers, artists, performers, playwrights, poets and linguists.

I was originally drawn to computation as a form of writing because it is an opportunity to write without actually knowing what will be written. It introduces an element of chaos, while also existing within fluid structures that I am able to dismantle, analyze and repurpose. Every time I run my code, a new script is created and I am able to experience my own work for the first time. Why should audiences get to have all the fun?

I am so honored to be working with HB Studio. They have been nothing but supportive during this entire process. And a huge shoutout to HERE Arts Center for letting us run power out of your theater. We literally could not have done this show without you.

Thank you all so much!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BS' with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Blair Simmons  
PERFORMING ALGORITHMS,  
HB Studio Residency Artist



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



## **Blair Simmons**

Blair Simmons is an interdisciplinary, multimedia artist, researcher, storyteller, and technician. She is interested in logic, language, structures, patterns, maps, math, arrows, analysis, arches, queerness, bodies, organics, and opposites. Her research often materializes into objects and performances which have been performed at the likes of Pioneer Works, La Mama's CultureHub, Wordhack at Babycastles and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She has taught at CultureHub's CoLab, Harlem School of the Arts, Children's Museum of the Arts and is currently teaching at NYU's Interactive Media Arts program.



## **William Banks**

William Banks is a comedian, dancer, and poet who lives in Brooklyn. He went to NYU and now he has a part-time job as a virtual game show host for corporate events. William's comedy performance group, A Crazy Amazing Friendship, has a monthly show at Asylum NYC and his sketch group, Lisa, does sold-out shows at Union Hall. Besides live performance, videos are William's greatest passion and he is very good at editing them. William makes internet videos with his algorithmic comedy partner Chloe Troast, as well as with his real-life romantic partner Caroline Yost.



### **Serena Devi**

Serena Devi is a writer from Lexington, Kentucky. She has had poetry published in Leste, Dirt Child, and The Recluse. A graduate of New York University and Emerge-Surface-Be fellow with the Poetry Project, she currently lives in Brooklyn with her lucky calico, Bunny.



### **Katy Ilonka Gero**

Katy Ilonka Gero is a poet and computer scientist whose work considers how computers might make us into different, more expansive writers. She is working on a PhD in Computer Science at Columbia University and is writing a poetry manuscript tentatively titled Whale Fall. She lives in New York City and Cambridge, Massachusetts.



### **Sam Hafferty**

Sam Hafferty is a record keeper in Philadelphia, PA. They live by the motto "accidents happen".



### **Nick Montfort**

Nick Montfort studies creative computing. As a poet and artist, he uses computation as his main medium and seeks to uncover how the material and formal qualities of computing are entangled with each other and with culture. His computer-generated books of poetry include *#!* and *Golem*. His digital projects include the collaborations *The Deletionist* and *Sea and Spar Between*. His MIT Press books, collaborative and individual, include *The New Media Reader*, *Twisty Little Passages*, *Racing the Beam*, and *Exploratory Programming for the Arts and Humanities*. He is professor of digital media at MIT. He lives in New York City.



### **Allison Parrish**

Allison Parrish is a computer programmer, poet, educator and game designer whose teaching and practice address the unusual phenomena that blossom when language and computers meet. She is an Assistant Arts Professor at NYU's Interactive Telecommunications Program, where she earned her master's degree in 2008. Named "Best Maker of Poetry Bots" by the Village Voice in 2016, Allison's computer-generated poetry has recently been published in *BOMB Magazine* and *Nioques*. She is the author of *@Everyword: The Book* (Instar, 2015), which collects the output of her popular long-term automated writing project that tweeted every word in the English language. The word game *Rewordable*,

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designed by Allison in collaboration with Adam Simon and Tim Szetela, was published by Penguin Random House in August 2017 after a successful round of Kickstarter funding. Her first full-length book of computer-generated poetry, *Articulations*, was published by Counterpath in 2018. Allison is originally from West Bountiful, Utah and currently lives in Brooklyn.



### **Chloe Troast**

Chloe Troast is a writer, actor, and comedian based in NYC. Chloe co-wrote and acted in the *THE BASICS* Web-series that was written up in *Glamour Magazine*, *Comedy Cakes*, *No Film School*, and earned audience favorite at the NY Lift off Film Festival. She performs weekly shows with her improv team *A Crazy Amazing Friendship*, and her sketch team *LISA* to sold out audiences at Union Hall, The Kraine, and The Improv Asylum. She recently wrote a comedy musical called *THE MAGIC SCHOOL FLUTE* that debuted at the Gallatin Arts Festival. She also attended NYU Gallatin where her thesis was entitled "The Practice of Play".



# THE UTA HAGEN INSTITUTE

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## HAGEN TEACHER'S LAB ONLINE

August 1 - 8, 2021

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Sep. 12, 2021 - June 3, 2022

## HAGEN ACTOR'S LAB ONLINE

TBA

## HAGEN SUMMER INTENSIVE

June 26 - August 8, 2022

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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](https://hbstudio.eventbrite.com)

## IN-PERSON & ONLINE

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

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

## FALL

Sep. 13 - Nov. 23, 2021  
Part A: Sep. 13 - Oct. 18  
Part B: Oct. 19 - Nov. 23

*Registration opens Aug. 8th*

## WINTER

Jan. 10 - Mar. 21 2022  
Part A: Jan. 10 - Feb. 14  
Part B: Feb. 15 - Mar. 21

*Registration opens Nov. 1st*

## SPRING

Mar. 28 - Jun. 6, 2022  
Part A: Mar. 28 - May 1  
Part B: May 2 - Jun. 6

*Registration opens Feb. 5th*

## 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.

## AUDITS

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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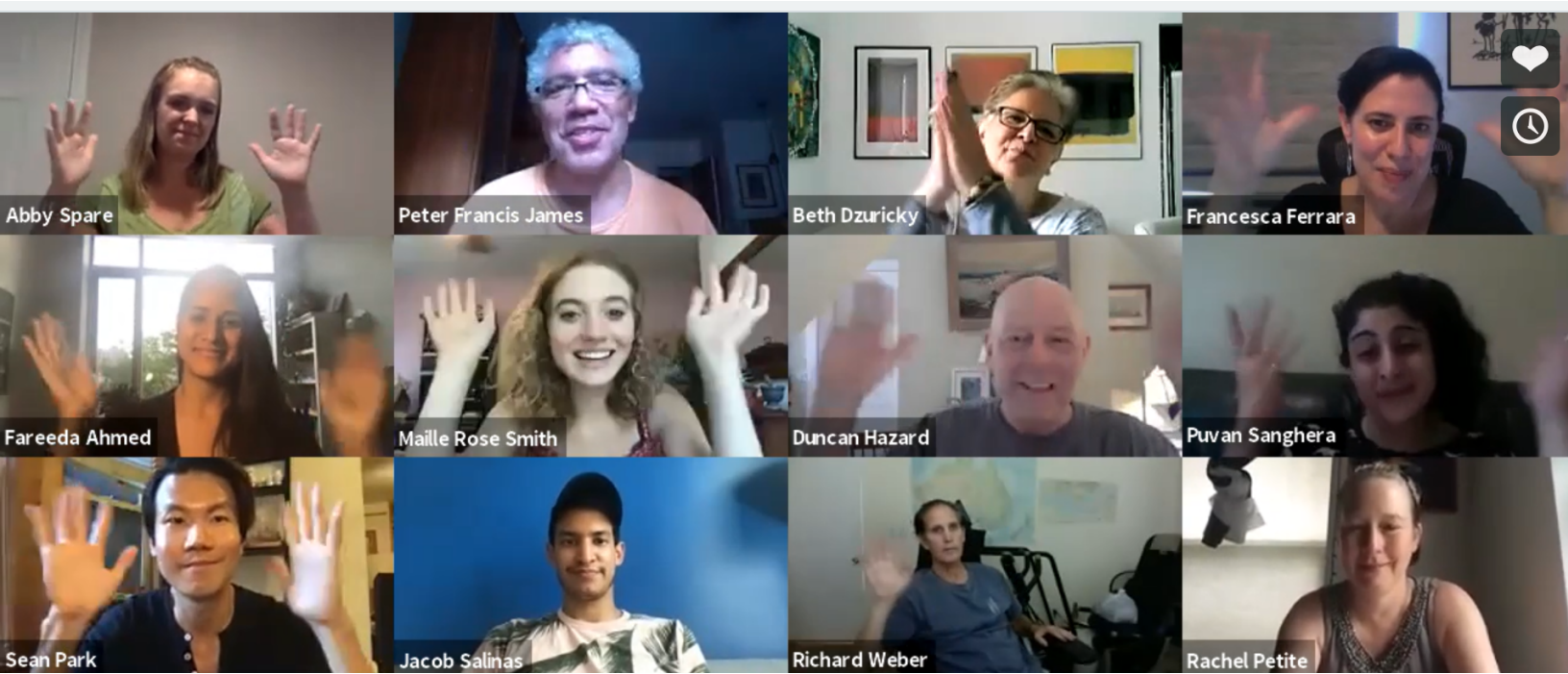
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HB Studio is a vital resource for the NY and global theater community, offering employment, continuity, and creative connection for performing artists through classes, workshops, performance opportunities, and free online public programming. With students 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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