

BRIC presents

***BĀS: the Harmony
Between Me and You***

(Work-in-Process)

By Sugar Vendil and Janelle Lawrence

BĀS is a Black and Asian bridging project by composer-musicians and interdisciplinary artists Janelle Lawrence and Sugar Vendil. It seeks to address racial tensions and foster mutual understanding, empathy, and healing through active listening, music, movement, and storytelling.

Major support for *BĀS* provided by the Asian Women Giving Circle, a donor advised fund of the Ms. Foundation for Women.

Lighting Designer

Rebecca Tyree

Special thanks to our interviewees: Issy Kyeisha Busparoek, Melinda Faylor, and Alicia Waller, and to Chanel Matsunami Govreau for photography, listening and mediation

BIOGRAPHIES

SUGAR VENDIL (she/her) is a composer, pianist, and interdisciplinary artist based in Lenapehoking, known as Brooklyn. Her compositions span acoustic and electronic music, and her interdisciplinary practice integrates music and movement. Her work is introspective, ruminating on memory and experience. Vendil enjoys collaboration. In 2021, she wrote music for a short film by Jih-E Peng for Amanda Phingbodipakkiya's "May We Know Our Own Strength" and is dancing in choreographer Emily Johnson/Catalyst's "Being Future Being." As a 2016 Fellow in the Target Margin Institute for Collaborative Theater Making, she was encouraged to further pursue composition. Residencies include High Concept Labs, Mabou Mines, Marble House Project, National Sawdust (Summer Labs), Avaloch Farm, Arts Letters & Numbers, and Yaddo. She recently quit social media to free up valuable time and brain space, focus on creating community offline, and do more long-form writing. Stay updated on her performances, news, and contemplations by signing up for her newsletter at sugarvendil.com

JANELLE / JEI LAWRENCE (they/them) is an interdisciplinary artist that investigates the depth of strength with stories that explore the complex layers of perspective. They have had their musicals presented at various Theaters such as The Kennedy Center (*Beast girl*), Legoland New York, Joe's Pub (*Group Therapy*), Seattle Public Theater (*The Suffrage Play*), and National Black Theatre (*Trenzas & WET*). They have been residents of the 92nd St Y Musical Theatre Development Lab: Collective, Greenhouse Residency SPACE on Ryder Farm and Barn Arts Hamilton Project Resident. They are a Juilliard School Evening Division alumni, and a 2020 & 2022 Recipient of NBT's Soul Series Lab - Playwriting Micro-Development Session. They are an Adjunct Professor of Musical Theatre History at Point Park University, and the Chair of the Performing Arts Department at Harvest Collegiate High School. janellelawrence.com

TEXTS CITED

Minor Feelings by Cathy Park Hong

Citizen by Claudia Rankine

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen: The Emotional Lives of Black Women
by Inger Burnett-Ziegler, PhD

Disease by Sugar Vendil is inspired by text from Theresa Hak Kyung Cha's seminal work, *DICTEE*.

SOURCES

Isabel Ling. "Commemorating the Life of Christina Yuna Lee." *Hyperallergic*, <https://hyperallergic.com/735786/commemorating-the-life-of-christina-yuna-lee/>. Accessed 13 December 2022.

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ABOUT BRICLAB: PERFORMING ARTS

BRIClab: Performing Arts is a commissioning and residency development program for emerging and established local artists to explore and expand the possibilities of their work in music, dance, theater and multi-disciplinary performance. Free exploration and rigorous commitment to process, with the support of the staff and resources that BRIC offers, are at the heart of the BRIClab program. Artists receive stipends and an exclusive 12-day intensive residency in the multi-purpose Artist Studio with development time, artistic mentoring, and work-in-process performances.

ABOUT BRIC

BRIC is a leading arts and media institution anchored in Downtown Brooklyn whose work spans contemporary visual and performing arts, media, and civic action. For over forty years, BRIC has shaped Brooklyn's cultural and media landscape by presenting and incubating artists, creators, students, and media makers. As a creative catalyst for our community, we ignite learning in people of all ages and centralize diverse voices that take risks and drive culture forward. BRIC is building Brooklyn's creative future.

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