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Reconfiguration: An Evening with Other Lives

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House

Oct 9 & 10 at 7:30pm

Running time: 90 minutes, no intermission

Mix Tape Productions

Created by Rebecca Habel and

Terry Kinney

Directed by Terry Kinney

Set design by **Frank McCullough**

Lighting design by **Ben Stanton**

Projection design by **Daniel Brodie**

Sound design by **Drew Levy**

Original drawings by **Matt Huynh**

Season Sponsor:

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*Leadership support for music at BAM provided by
Frances Bermanzohn & Alan Roseman.*

*Support for the Signature Artist Series provided
by The Howard Gilman Foundation.*

Reconfiguration: An Evening with Other Lives

ACT 1: DESERT

New Fog
Tamer Animals
Desert
No Trouble
As I Lay My Head Down
Dark Horse
Easy Way Out

ACT 2: DUSTBOWL

Dustbowl III
Weather
Landforms
For 12
For the Last
Need a Line

ACT 3: SPACE

2 Pyramids
Pattern
Untitled
Black Tables
Reconfiguration
Ritual

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In thinking about how to approach a concert form that used the tools of our theater roots, Rebecca and I wanted to be careful to stay completely away from looking like Broadway musicals or other formats where people have blended music and theater. Theater has borrowed from the rock and pop music scene for a long time, mining lyrics for storyline, with the music as the engine. We were clear from the outset that our imagery would emanate from the movement of the music itself, ignoring lyrics for the most part. Rebecca was especially adamant that we adhere to this. We wanted an arc, an emotional thread, but it would be evoked from the orchestral swells, the urgency and intimacy of the music. Other Lives, with their multi-instrumentation, their looping and lush, layered songwriting were a perfect match for what we had hoped to do.

Our story would be created from the pictures the band's sound put into our heads.

We visited the band in Portland. We spent time with them. We wanted to know as much about them as we could possibly learn. Their passions and their influences as artists. We were stunned and thrilled by the depth of this exchange. We found we had a lot in common.

I set out to write a three-act structure, with songs from all of their albums. I had drawn a somewhat insane looking diagram while talking at a dinner table to their vocalist Jesse Tabish, charting ideas for a structure, and I had a single image of a boy jumping from a great height, floating down gracefully. Other images followed, and a structure started to take shape as I wrote, the songs playing, over and over, nearby. The design team, armed with that "script," further collaborated to make a cohesive vision. The work was very freeing, and the only limits were our imaginations.

Music doesn't need help being dramatic. It's like adrenaline, immediate and clear and emotional. We want to make theater of it on its own terms stripped of the usual concert distractions—by simply focusing light, imagery, and setting to its pulse and its beauty—to create the headphone experience, onstage.

We are grateful to Other Lives for their trust and their friendship, and to Joe Mellilo and everyone at BAM for embracing us.

—Terry Kinney



Jesse Tabish, Jonathon Mooney, Josh Onstott. Photo: Emily Ulmer

Reconfiguration: An Evening with Other Lives

OTHER LIVES

Jesse Tabish (piano, guitar, lead vocals)

Jonathon Mooney (piano, violin, guitar, percussion, trumpet)

Josh Onstott (bass, keys, percussion, guitar, backing vocals)

Daniel Hart (violin, backing vocals, guitar)

Danny Reisch (drums, percussion)

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM

Production manager **Aurora Productions**

Stage manager **Christine Lemme**

Assistant director and producer **Sara Sahin**

Company management **Reed Ridgley**

Front of house engineer **David Gaumé**

Mix Tape Productions graphic design **Marc Pekala**

Mix Tape Productions public relations representative **Jessica Johnson**

Management consultant **Jill Boyd**

Director story boards **Doug Bost**

Legal counsel **Thomas R. Distler, Esq., Brooks and Distler**

Accounting **Fried & Kowgios CPA's LLP, Karen Kowgios and Robert Fried**

Other Lives Management **Red Light Management**

OTHER LIVES, from Portland, OR via Stillwater, OK—features members Jesse Tabish (piano, guitar, lead vocals), Jonathon Mooney (piano, violin, guitar, percussion, trumpet), Josh Onstott (bass, keys, percussion, guitar, backing vocals), Daniel Hart (violin, backing vocals, guitar), and Danny Reisch (drums, percussion). In addition to its latest album, *Rituals*, released in May (with a recently-released Dan Deacon re-mix of the track “Easy Way Out”), the band’s discography includes a 2009 self-titled album; 2011’s *Tamer Animals*; and an EP, *Mind the Gap*, released in 2012. The band opened for Bon Iver in the fall of 2011 and for Radiohead on the first leg of its North American tour in 2012. Later this fall, Other Lives will support Belle and Sebastian on European dates. Its lush, layered music has been heralded as “vividly cinematic” by *Pitchfork* and “uniquely sublime, meticulous, and heroic” by BBC Music.

REBECCA HABEL (co-creator/producer) has been the general manager of more than 30 productions on and off Broadway. She is currently a general manager at Stuart Thompson Productions managing the upcoming *King*

Charles III on Broadway. She is a faculty member at New York University in the Tisch School of the Arts Production and Design Program.

TERRY KINNEY (co-creator/director) is a co-founder of Steppenwolf Theatre Company and Steppenwolf Films. His directing credits there include *East of Eden*, *The Violet Hour*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *A Clockwork Orange*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, which moved to Broadway and won a Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play. New York directing credits include *Checkers* by Doug McGrath, *reasons to be pretty* (MCC and Broadway), among others. Kinney’s film directing debut was *Diminished Capacity* with Matthew Broderick and Alan Alda (Sundance Film Festival, 2008). Film appearances include the upcoming *November Criminals*, *I Smile Back*, *Save the Last Dance*, *Sleepers*, *Fly Away Home*, *Last of the Mohicans*, *The Firm*, *Devil in a Blue Dress*, and *Turn the River*. TV credits include HBO’s *Oz*, *The Unusuals* (ABC), *The Laramie Project*, *Black Box* (ABC), *Show Me a Hero* (HBO), *Billions* (Showtime), and *Fargo*, Season 2 (FX).

FRANK McCULLOUGH (scenic design) has assisted on designs for more than 35 Broadway shows including: *An American in Paris*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Once*, *War Horse*, *Book of Mormon*, *The Addams Family*, and *The Coast of Utopia*. Regionally, he has designed productions for: Repertory Theater of St. Louis, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, St. Louis Black Repertory, and Feld Entertainment. McCullough is originally from Evansville, IN and trained at Webster University in St. Louis.

BEN STANTON (lighting design) is currently represented in New York by the Broadway musical *Fun Home* (2015 Tony Nomination), Deaf West Theater's revival of *Spring Awakening* (Brooks Atkinson Theater, Broadway), *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (MCC Theater), *The Christians* (Playwrights Horizons), and *Kill Floor* (Lincoln Center Theater). For BAM, Stanton has designed *Planetarium* and *Black Mountain Songs*. Stanton has designed concerts and tours for recording artists including Regina Spektor, Sufjan Stevens, Melanie Martinez, and St. Vincent, and has designed several dance pieces for choreographer Doug Varone. Awards include the 2015 Obie Award for Sustained Excellence in Lighting Design, and the 2011 Lucille Lortel Award for his design for *The Whipping Man* at Manhattan Theater Club. Award nominations include the Tony, Drama Desk, Lortel, Hewes Design, and the Audelco.

DANIEL BRODIE (projection design) was born in Las Vegas and lives in Brooklyn. He graduated with a degree in theater and media design from the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at Arizona State University. He designed the projections for Christopher Wheeldon's *The Winter's Tale* (Royal Ballet) and *Cinderella* (Dutch National Ballet and San Francisco Ballet) and has worked regularly with puppeteer Basil Twist, both on *The Winter's Tale* and *Cinderella*

and on Twist's *Behind the Lid*, *Arias with a Twist*, and *The Rite of Spring*. Brodie's Broadway credits have included *Motown the Musical*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, and Disney's *Aladdin*. He has also created large-scale video designs for Kanye West, Mariah Carey, and for the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival. Brodie's awards include the United States Institute of Theatre Technology's Rising Star Award (2011). He has also worked as a guest lecturer at Yale University and New York University. He is an artist in residence at the New York City IFP Media Center.

DREW LEVY (sound design) has worked on Broadway productions including *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *The Winslow Boy*, *Chaplin* (Drama Desk Award), *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Present Laughter*. Other New York designs include *One Day the Musical*; *The Weir* at the Irish Repertory Theatre; *Why Torture is Wrong...* and *Emergence-See!* at the Public Theater; *Rainbow Kiss*; *Rock Doves*; *Dutchman* (AUDELCO Viv nomination); and *xi*. Regionally Levy has designed in theaters across the country including the Williamstown Theater Festival, Huntington Theater Company, The Old Globe, Arena Stage, 5th Avenue Theater, McCarter Theater, Long Wharf, Two River Theater Company, and Westport Country Playhouse.

MATT HUYNH (original drawings) is an Australian artist based in New York City. His comics and illustrations are informed by sumi-e painting and shodo calligraphy. His clients include *The New York Times*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, and Adobe. Creative Sydney Festival named him one of Sydney's most innovative cultural contributors for his graphic novel work. His illustrated reportage of the Occupy Wall Street demonstrations appears in the Museum of Modern Art's collection and his comics have been presented on the Sydney Opera House stage.



L-R: Daniel Hart, Josh Onstott, Danny Reisch, Jonathon Mooney, Jesse Tabish. Photo: Emily Ulmer

AURORA PRODUCTIONS (production management) Current projects include *The Book of Mormon* (Broadway and national tours), *Once* (national tour), *Matilda* (Broadway and national tour), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Amazing Grace*, *The Flick*, and *The 39 Steps*. Upcoming projects include *Old Times*, *The Humans*, *Allegiance*, *King Charles III*, *A View from the Bridge*, *School of Rock*, *Noises Off*, *The Crucible*, *Shuffle Along*, and *A Long Day's Journey Into Night*. Aurora has been providing technical supervision and production management to the entertainment industry since 1989. Aurora Productions is Ben Heller, Chris Minnick, Geoff Quart, Liza Luxemnerg, Anthony Jusino, Isaac Katzanek, Ryan Murphy, Erica Blumrosen, Luke Ricca, Ben Shipley, Melissa Mazdra, Rob Ward, and Gene O'Donovan. auroraprod.com

CHRISTINE LEMME (stage manager) has most recently worked on *Pondling for Gúna Nua* at 59E59 as part of the First Irish Festival, as well as other festivals in Brisbane, Melbourne, the New York International Puppet Festival, and Umbria Jazz. This marks her second project with Habel and her ninth with Kinney.

SARA SAHIN (assistant director/producer) has worked on and off Broadway at the Roundabout Theatre Company, MCC, Lincoln Center Theater, and the Public Theater, among others. Her regional credits include the Signature Theater (DC), Goodman Theater (Chicago), and Barrington Stage Company. In New York she has directed new works with At Hand Theatre Company, Horse Trade Theater Group, and Do Not Disturb Theatre. With writer Greg Turner, she has co-produced and directed five of his original plays in New York City. Sahin is a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab and a graduate of NYU.



L-R: Josh Onstott, Jonathon Mooney, Photo: Amanda Leigh Smith/WONDER

REED RIDGLEY (company management) has work on projects including *Scottsboro Boys*, *Book of Mormon* (workshops), *[title of show]*, *WigOut!*, *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, *Miracle Brothers*, *The Slug Bearers of Kayroll Island*, *God's Ear*, the NYC revival of *Carrie*, and *Golden Motors*. He is a graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

DAVID GAUMÉ (front of house engineer), in more than 15 years of live audio touring experience, has toured extensively with Other Lives and has worked with an eclectic range of international artists, including Local Natives, Failure, the Acid, Wye Oak, Ane Brun, Stornoway, Serena Maneesh, and many others. He is based in Kansas City, MO.

MARC PEKALA (graphic design) received a BA in graphic design in 1993 from the American University where he studied with Michael Graham, Charlotte Story, and Marjorie Hirano. He also attended the Yale University Program for Graphic Design in Brissago, Switzerland under the direction of Armin Hofmann, Dorothea Hofmann, Paul Rand, Wolfgang Weingart, Philip Burton, Richard Sapper, and Pierre Mendell. Pekala has worked as a graphic designer and artist for 22 years in Seattle and Washington, DC.



MIX TAPE PRODUCTIONS

was formed by Rebecca Habel and Terry Kinney to produce concerts that are directed and designed by theater artists in theater venues, bringing the visual and story elements of that discipline to the music—creating a new form and a new way to experience live music. mixtapebrooklyn.com



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