





IN ASSOCIATION WITH LIVERPOOL EVERYMAN & PLAYHOUSE



A BRUTAL COMEDY WITH SONGS UK TOUR 2016

A co-production by the National Theatre of Scotland, Told by an Idiot and Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh in association with Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse.

I AND THOMAS AND AN ORIGINAL SHORT STORY BY JAMES ROBERTSON

Paul Hunter Simon Armitage Iain Johnstone Laura Hopkins Paul Anderson Adrienne Quartly Judith Williams Sian Williams Laura Donnelly

CAST

John Cobb Charlie Folorunsho Amanda Hadingue Iain Johnstone Myra McFadyen Hannah McPake Dominic Marsh John Pfumojena Lyricist Composer Designer Lighting Designer Sound Designer Assistant Director Movement Consultant Casting Director

Director

Performing Musical Director

PRODUCTION TEAM

Gavin Johnston Katie Hutcheson Suzie Foster Leanne Geddes **Nick Burge James Gardner** Sarah Weltman **Neil Dewar Ben Cox Jo Lewis Kylie Langford** Jo Lennie **Anna Schmitz** Jen Holton Amanda Castro **Nancy Poole Alex Marshall**

Production Manager Company Stage Manager Deputy Stage Manager Assistant Stage Manager (rehearsal) **Technical Manager** Lighting Supervisor Sound Associate Sound Supervisor **Musical Supervisor Costume Supervisor** Wardrobe Technician Marketing (National Theatre of Scotland) Executive Producer (Told by an Idiot) Assistant Producer (Told by an Idiot) Participation Manager (Told by an Idiot) Press (Told by an Idiot) Marketing Consultant (Told by an Idiot)

THE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

Wickes, Citizens Theatre, Glasgow, Perth Theatre, Natasha Hughes, Seneer Asif, ImageFabrication and everyone who took part in the research and development of this piece; Laura Bowler, Hayley Carmichael, Dickie Clews, David Colvin, Christopher Diffey, Dyfan Dwyfor, Will Edlesten, Dickon Gough, Nick Haverson, Joyce Henderson, Bettrys Jones, Edward Lee, Martin Nelson, Eamonn O Dwyer, Pete Peverly, James Robertson, Adam Torrance, Michael Vale

With special thanks to John Wright and Jenni Grainger

You can read the lyrics from two songs that feature in the show at www.toldbyanidiot.org/productions/i-am-thomas



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When Told by an Idiot Associate Iain Johnstone first told me the story of Thomas Aikenhead, it left me reeling. Then when he said he wanted to make a new piece of music theatre in the spirit of Brecht/Weill, I knew Told by an Idiot had to do it and that the National Theatre Scotland and Edinburgh's historic Lyceum were the ideal partners.

From our earliest development on the project it felt very clear to me that I wanted the piece to have a contemporary feel. At the same time we wanted the universal resonances in Aikenhead's brutal short life to communicate for themselves and not impose some overt modern references.

There was a range of influences on the piece, from some extraordinary Communicado shows that I saw at the Edinburgh Festival in the 1980s, to the blackly funny and oddly poignant films of Roy Anderson.

Collaboration has been key at every stage of our process, and none more so than with the acclaimed poet Simon Armitage. His lyrics have been everything we could have hoped for; funny, surprising, poignant and brilliantly capturing a sense of the sacred and the profane.

The story of Thomas Aikenhead remains horribly prescient and it is our attempts to mine a rich vein of black humour in the telling of his story that hopefully illuminate the lunacy of the world we have always lived in.

Paul Hunter, Artistic Director, Told by an Idiot

"HUMOUR IS REASON GONE MAD" Groucho Marx

I Am Thomas - a brutal comedy with songs is inspired by fact, fantasy and an original short story by James Robertson.

In 1697, Thomas Aikenhead was found guilty of blasphemy and sentenced to death. Thomas was a university student from Edinburgh. On the day of his execution he wrote 'It is a principle innate and co-natural to every man to have an insatiable inclination to the truth, and to seek for it as for hid treasure.' Aikenhead was hanged in a public execution on the road between Edinburgh and Leith. He was the last person to be executed for blasphemy in Britain.

CAST Biographies



John Cobb Charlie Folorunsho Amanda Hadingue lain Johnstone

John Cobb

John has been an actor and theatre director since the 1980s. He trained in Paris with Philippe Gaulier and Monika Pagneux. He co-founded two theatre companies, Benchtours (Scotland) and Théâtre Sans Frontières (TSF), with whom he is joint Artistic Director. He has acted in and directed over 40 multi-lingual shows for TSF including Les Trois Mousquetaires, Como Agua Para Chocolate, Heaven Eyes and Lorca: Amor en el Jardin. He has extensive experience in devising theatre with Quebecois director Robert Lepage - his nine hour Lipsynch (world tour), Tectonic Plates, A Midsummer Night's Dream at the National Theatre of Great Britain, and more recently in Coeurs/Hearts in Montreal. He has worked for Scottish companies Roughcast (The Busker-Jim Kelman's first play), Merry Hell, Borderline, TAG (Hard Times), Dundee Rep, Fablevision, Benchtours (UK Premiere of Rushdie's Haroun and the Sea of Stories) and also Northern Stage (Blood Wedding, Elmer McCurdy) and for Julia Ritter Dance in Brooklyn USA. John is devising a show on Capability Brown -The Eyecatcher, touring the UK in summer 2016.

Charlie Folorunsho

Charlie's previous work with Told by an Idiot includes The Firework-Maker's Daughter and The Evocation of Papa Mas. Other theatre work includes The Trial (Young Vic), The Arrival (Tamasha Theatre Co), Satyagraha (Improbable/The Metropolitan Opera House), Class Club (Barbican), Fermentation (Grid Iron), Peter Pan (Kensington Gardens), Slamdunk, An African Cargo (nitroBEAT), Momo (Filament Theatre), All's Well That Ends Well (Oxford Stage Company), Romeo and Juliet (London Bubble), The Tempest (Fireraisers), Timon of Athens, The Lower Depths (Cardboard Citizens), And the Snake Sheds Its Skin (Opera Factory), Brave New World, Moby Dick (T.N.T), Muhammad Ali & Me (Mojisola Adebayo and the Ali Collective), A Christmas Carol (Lyric Hammersmith). The Mosquito Coast (The David Glass Ensemble), Southwark Mysteries (Southwark Cathedral), The Shawshank Redemption (Secret Cinema), Under Their Influence (Kushite Theatre), To Kill a Mockingbird, The Resistible Rise Of Arturo Ui (Colchester Mercury), A Mad World My Masters (Wolsey Theatre Ipswich), The Jungle Book (Basingstoke Haymarket), The Hobbit (Dukes Lancaster), Merlin The Magnificent (Regent's Park), The Odyssey (Polka Theatre), Tales From Home (Besht Tellers), A Killing Passion (Temba) and Faust (English Shakespeare Company).

Amanda Hadingue

Amanda's previous work with Told by an Idiot includes The Ghost Train (with Royal Exchange, Manchester) and for the National Theatre of Scotland The Wonderful World of Dissocia (with the Royal Court, London). Her other theatre work includes Tipping the Velvet (Lyric Hammersmith/ The Lyceum, Edinburgh), Playing for Time (Sheffield Crucible), Small Family Business (National Theatre of Great Britain), The Gamblers (Greyscale/Dundee Rep), Rising Damp (Tour), The Master and Margarita (Complicite), Hamlet (Shakespeare's Globe), Get Santa! (Royal Court, London), The Merchant of Venice, The Taming of the Shrew (Royal Shakespeare Company), The Seagull, Hamlet (The Factory), Mincemeat (Cardboard Citizens), The Obituary Show (People Show), The Railway Children, Silver Sword (Nottingham Playhouse), Great Expectations (Unicorn), Storm (Contact), Waylaid (IOU Theatre), The Emperor and the Nightingale (Watermill), Live from Paradise (Station House Opera), The Fruit has Turned to Jam (Scarlet Theatre) and many shows for Stan's Cafe

Her film work includes **Black Pond** and **The Queen**. Her television work includes **Flowers**, **Holby City**, **Jonathan Creek** and **Lead Balloon**.

lain Johnstone

lain is a musician, composer, actor and director who has worked extensively in UK theatre with companies such as the National Theatre of Scotland, Improbable, National Theatre Wales, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Stadsteatern Stockholm, Communicado, Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh, Dundee Rep, Northern Stage, the Lyric Hammersmith, Regent's Park Theatre and Théâtre Sans Frontières. lain is Artistic Director of Wee Stories Theatre, an Edinburgh-based company dedicated to making child-friendly work for an inter-generational audience with shows such as Arthur the Story of a King, Treasure Island, The Emperor's New Kilt and One Giant Leap. lain is an Associate Artist with Told by an Idiot and has collaborated with the company on numerous productions over many years including **The Dark** Philosophers, I Weep at My Piano, Shoot Me in the Heart, A Little Fantasy, Casanova and The Firework-Maker's Daughter.



Myra McFadyen Hannah McPake Dominic Marsh

John Pfumojena

Myra McFadyen

Myra trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, University of Glasgow and École Jacques Lecog. Her previous work with the National Theatre of Scotland includes Home. Elizabeth Gordon Ouinn. The House of Bernarda Alba, The Missing, Macbeth, Roman Bridge and Glasgow Girls. Other recent theatre work includes The Choir (Citizens, Glasgow), Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off (Communicado), Anything for a Quiet Life (Almeida), As You Like It, The Cherry Orchard (The Lyceum, Edinburgh), The Guid Sisters (Tron Theatre/Toronto Festival), Inês de Castro, Bondagers (Traverse, Edinburgh), Mamma Mia! (Prince Edward Theatre), Tartuffe (Royal Exchange, Manchester), Splendour (Paines Plough), A Christmas Carol (Chichester Festival Theatre), Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme, Square Rounds, Macbeth, Out of a House Walked a Man (National Theatre of Great Britain), The Mysteries, Everyman, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and **A Winter's Tale** (Royal Shakespeare Company). Her television work includes Sweet Nothings, You've Never Slept in Mine, Laugh? I Nearly Paid My Licence Fee, The Killing Time, Blood Red Roses, The Steamie, Anything for a Quiet Life, Mr Charity, Jonathan Creek, Teachers, Monarch Of The Glen, Rose & Maloney, Wedding Belles and Dracula. Her film work includes Rob Rov. Made Of Honor and Mamma Mia! Her radio credits include The Burn's Supper, Westway, The Mysteries, Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off and Vanquishing The Gorbals (all for BBC Radio).

Hannah McPake

Hannah trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Her theatre work includes The Tempest (Improbable/Northern Stage), Romeo and Juliet, The Knight of the Burning Pestle (Shakespeare's Globe), Rapunzel, (Citizens, Glasgow), The Forsythe Sisters, The Bloody Ballad (Gagglebabble), The Gamblers (Greyscale Theatre/Northern Stage), Green Man // Red Woman, Silly Kings (National Theatre Wales), Grimm Tales (Theatr lolo for the Tron), A High Street Odyssey (Inspector Sands), Cinders, Plum (and me, Will) (Sherman Cymru), Maudie's Rooms (Roar Ensemble/Sherman Cymru), Sue: The Second Coming (Bristol Old Vic), My Life in CIA (Give It A Name), King Lear, Macbeth (TNT Theatre), The First Time I Saw Snow (Belgrade Theatre, Coventry) and The Ghost Of Scrooge (Library Theatre, Manchester) . Her television work includes Trollied and Skins. Her radio work includes Modesty Blaise.

Dominic Marsh

Dominic's theatre work includes Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs) (Kneehigh/ Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse/ UK tour - nominated for Best Actor in a Visiting Production, Manchester Theatre Awards), Tristan and Yseult (Kneehigh/ USA tour), The Umbrellas of **Cherbourg** (Kneehigh/Leicester Curve / London's West End), The Merchant of Venice (Bury St Edmunds). Mimi and the Stalker (Theatre 503). The Woman in Black (London's West End), A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Taming of the Shrew, HMS Pinafore, Romeo and Juliet, As You Like It, Oh! What a Lovely War! (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), Cinderella (Oxford Playhouse), Longitude (Greenwich Theatre), Cymbeline, Twelfth Night, The Shell Seekers (UK Tour), Hay Fever (Haymarket, Basingstoke), Dracula (Derby Playhouse), Murmuring Judges, Racing Demon, Absence of War (Birmingham Rep), The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and Alice in Wonderland (Royal Shakespeare Company). His film and television credits include the feature film Lucky Stiff, DCI Banks, Missing, Doctors, Our Name is Michael Morgan and The Man in The Undertow. In collaboration with Dougal Irvine, Dominic recently wrote the book for The Other School, a new musical commissioned by the National Youth Music Theatre, recently published by Rodgers & Hammerstein Theatrical/Imagem.

John Pfumojena

John trained with Chickenshed Theatre (London) and Arts Lab (Zimbabwe). His theatre credits include Beasty Baby (Theatre-Rites/Polka Theatre), Now You See Me (Immediate Theatre), NGUVA (Simba Dans Ensemble, Norway), Water Bread and Salt, Dream Nation (Tangle International Company), The Maids, Oedipus (Developing Artists UK/ Zimbabwe tour), **Riots**, **Globaleyes** (Chickenshed), Also by Mail (The Hat Factory), Can't Talk About This (Tumbuka Dance Company, Zimbabwe). Shift (Dance Trust Zimbabwe). Diary of a Madman (Spear Theatre, Zimbabwe), Much Ado About Nothing (Reps Theatre, Zimbabwe), GPA, Loupe (Imidlalo Productions/tour), The Coup, Waiting for Constitution and Wedding Night (Theatre in the Park/tour). His film work includes **Playing Warriors**.

COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Paul Hunter Director

Paul is co-founder and Artistic Director of Told by an Idiot. He has worked on all the Company's shows to date as director, devisor or performer. His directing credits include **Every Last Trick** (Royal and Derngate, Northampton), **Get Happy** (Barbican Pit), **The Mouse and his Child** (Royal Shakespeare Company), **Low Pay, Don't Pay** (Salisbury Playhouse), **Señora Carrar's Rifles** (Young Vic), **Not With That Hand** (Battersea Arts Centre) and **Ordago** (for Punto Finco in bilbao). As Associate Director at the Octagon Theatre, Bolton, Paul directed **The Venetian Twins, The Beauty Queen of Leenane** (Best Production, Manchester Evening News award), **Accidental Death of an Anarchist** and **Cleo, Camping Emmanuel and Dick**.

Simon Armitage Lyricist

Simon was born in West Yorkshire. He has published ten collections of poetry, three bestselling non-fiction titles and two novels. He is a broadcaster and presenter and writes extensively for television and radio. He received an Ivor Novello Award for his song-lyrics in the BAFTA winning film **Feltham Sings**. His most recent theatre work includes **The Last Days of Troy** for Manchester Royal Exchange and Shakespeare's Globe and **The Odyssey: Missing Presumed Dead** (Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse), for English Touring Theatre and Liverpool Everyman. He is Professor of Poetry at the University of Sheffield and in 2015 was elected Professor of Poetry at University of Oxford. In 2010 he received the CBE for services to poetry.

Laura Hopkins Designer

Laura trained in interior design and at the Motley Theatre Design course. Her previous work with the National Theatre of Scotland includes **Black Watch, The House of Bernarda Alba, Peter Pan** and **Beautiful Burnout**. Her recent work as designer includes **A Christmas Carol** (Houston, Texas), **Lanark** (Citizens, Glasgow/Edinburgh International Festival), **Oresteia** (Home Manchester), **Twelfth Night** (the opening production at the new Everyman Theatre, Liverpool), **Pass** (The Royal Court, London), **The Jungle Book** (West Yorkshire Playhouse), **The Seagull** (Headlong Theatre), **A Farewell to Arms** (Imitating the Dog), **Othello** (Frantic Assembly), **You Can't Take It With You, Look Back in Anger, Crimes of the** Heart (Manchester Royal Exchange), Le Compte Ory (Garsington Opera), Time and the Conways (National Theatre of Great Britain), Hamlet, Faust, Othello, Rough Crossings (Headlong and Northampton), Peer Gynt (Minneapolis) and The Golden Ass (Shakespeare's Globe). And as a costume designer, work includes The Death of Klinghoffer (The Metropolitan Opera, New York and English National Opera) and Alcina (Aix en Provence Festival 2015). Her awards include TMA Awards for Best Design for Dr Faustus (Northampton and Headlong) and Mr Heracles (West Yorkshire Playhouse).

Paul Anderson Lighting Designer

Paul's theatre credits include Everyman, A Small Family Business, A Taste of Honey, Amen Corner, This House, Nation, Stuff Happens, Measure for Measure, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Cyrano, The Birds (National Theatre of Great Britain), Speed The Plow, All New People, Educating Rita, Shirley Valentine, Endgame, Arcadia, Underneath The Lintel, Treasure Island, Swimming with Sharks, The Little Shop of Horrors (London's West End), A Mouse and His Child, Julius Caesar, Oppenheimer (and London's West End), The Tempest (Royal Shakespeare Company), The Ghost Train (Manchester Royal Exchange), War horse (BBC Proms), A Wolf In Snakeskin Shoes, The House That Will Not Stand (Tricycle), Beware of Pity, The Encounter, The Master and Margarita, Shun-kin, A Disappearing Number, Strange Poetry (with LA Philharmonic), Mnemonic (which won the Drama Desk and Lucille Lortell Award), The Elephant Vanishes (Complicite), All My Sons (Broadway), The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui (National Actor's Theater New York with Al Pacino). His recent opera work includes Peter Grimes, La traviata (Grange Park), A Dog's Heart (L'Opera National de Lyon/Complicite/English National Opera/Teatro alla Scala), The Rape of Lucretia (Glyndebourne) and Don Giovanni (English National Opera).

Adrienne Quartly Sound Designer

Adrienne trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Her previous work for the National Theatre of Scotland includes **365**. Her sound designs for Told by an Idiot include **Get Happy, The Ghost Train, Too Clever by Half, You Can't Take It With You** and **And the Horse You Rode In On**. Other work includes **Opening Skinner's Box** (Improbable), Splendour (Donmar Warehouse), Bad Jews (Theatre Royal Haymarket), A Raisin in the Sun (Sheffield Crucible), The Whipping Man. After Electra (Theatre Royal Plymouth). The Ladykillers (Watermill), Every Last Trick (Spymonkey), Sex And The Three Day Week (Liverpool Playhouse), Grand Guignol (Southwark), Untold Stories (West Yorkshire Playhouse), A Tale Of Two Cities, Body of an American (Royal and Derngate), Inside Wagner's Head (Royal Opera House), Fräuline Julie (Barbican/Schaübuhne), Rings Of Saturn (Halle Kalk, Cologne), Thomas Hobbes (Royal Shakespeare Company), The Container (Young Vic), The Shawl (Young Vic), Stockholm (Frantic Assembly), The Roundabout Season (Paines Plough), 93.2FM (Royal Court, London), 4000 Miles (Theatre Royal Bath), The Fastest Clock In The Universe (Hampstead Theatre) and Woyzeck (St. Ann's Warehouse, New York).

Judith Williams Assistant Director

Judith is an artist, director and performer. She trained at the Royal Academy of Music, London graduating with a post graduate degree in Musical Theatre in 2005. She has worked as an actor and singer on stage and screen throughout the UK and internationally. As a director, she created Red Shoes at Tramway, Glasgow. She is co-founder and Artistic Director of The Letter J creating performance and interactive work for young people and their grown-ups. Their production Grandad and Me premiered at the Imaginate Festival in 2014 followed by a Scottish tour. It was shortlisted for a 2015 Total Theatre Award for Best Visual and Physical Theatre after playing at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe as part of Made in Scotland and will return for a UK tour in 2016. Judith is an Imaginate Associate Artist and is one half of Jetson and Janssen. Her debut album, A Record, recorded with guitarist Nigel Clark, was released in December 2015. Judith joins the Company as Assistant Director on I am Thomas with thanks to support by the Federation of Scottish Theatre with funding from Creative Scotland.



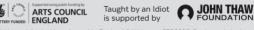


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ABOUT TOLD BY AN IDIOT

Told by an Idiot has been creating the unexpected since 1993. We set out to explore the human condition by celebrating and revelling in a style of theatre that is bigger than life. The company always seeks to acknowledge the artifice of theatre and makes no attempt to put reality on stage. We remain, however, fascinated by the fine line between comedy and tragedy that exists in the real world. Through collaborative writing, anarchic physicality and a playful but rigorous approach to text, the company is committed to creating a genuinely spontaneous experience for the audience. Using a wealth of imagery and a rich theatrical language, we aim to tell universal stories that are accessible to all. www.toldbyanidiot.org

Taught by an Idiot, our education and participation strand, offers projects and workshops that are anarchic, spontaneous and accessible to the widest possible audience with no regard to age, ethnicity, ability or training. The only thing that is asked of participants is a sense of openness, curiosity and the desire to play. We run workshops for theatre professionals and we also work with schools, colleges and universities to provide bespoke Idiot participation opportunities within their institutions. For more information, and to book an upcoming workshop, visit: www.toldbyanidiot.org/taught/workshops



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"Told by an Idiot are the most exciting, enthralling and energising presence in British Theatre." Carol Ann Duffy, Poet Laureate

"Their work is never less than sublime" The Independent

ABOUT NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

The National Theatre of Scotland reaches its 10th birthday in 2016. The company has earned a significant national and international reputation for its daring and originality. Being a theatre without walls and building-free, it presents a wide variety of work that ranges from large-scale productions to projects tailored to the smallest performing spaces. In addition to conventional theatres, the Company has performed in airports, schools, tower blocks, community halls, ferries and forests.

The Company has toured extensively across Scotland, the rest of the UK and worldwide. Notable productions include Black Watch by Gregory Burke which won four Laurence Olivier Awards amongst a multitude of awards, a radical reimagining of Macbeth starring Alan Cumming, presented in Glasgow and at the Lincoln Center Festival and subsequently, Broadway, New York and Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour, adapted by Lee Hall from Alan Warner's novel The Sopranos.

The National Theatre of Scotland creates much of its work in partnership with theatre-makers, companies, venues and participants across the globe. From extraordinary projects with schools and communities, to the ground-breaking online 5 Minute Theatre to immersive pieces such as David Greig's The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart, the National Theatre of Scotland's aspiration is to tell the stories that need to be told and to take work to wherever audiences are to be found.

Artistic Director & Chief Executive: Laurie Sansom Chair: Seona Reid DBE



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ABOUT THE LYCEUM

Currently celebrating its 50th Anniversary Year, the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company is Scotland's leading producing theatre. With a strong reputation for excellence in both classical and contemporary work, The Lyceum is committed to developing Scotland's considerable indigenous talents while presenting the best of international drama. Between September and June the company produces up to eight high quality productions making it one of the largest producing companies in the UK.

The Lyceum also runs an award-winning, ambitious and acclaimed Creative Learning programme which engages with young people across Scotland. The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh is a magnificent example of late Victorian architecture in the heart of Edinburgh's west end. With a seating capacity of 658, it is an intimate playhouse.

The Company rehearses in its own rooms opposite the theatre, and costumes and sets are designed and built at The Lyceum's workshops in Roseburn.

For more information, please visit lyceum.org.uk

Mark Thomson Artistic Director and joint Chief Executive Alex McGowan Executive Director and joint Chief Executive Shonaig Macpherson CBE, FRSE, Duniv Chair

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We are two distinct theatres, almost a mile apart, which together make up a single artistic force.

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Gemma Bodinetz Artistic Director Deborah Aydon Executive Director





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