Sun Songs
Katie Madison

April 29, 2021 7pm ET

A CRITICAL BREAKS work-in-progress sharing developed by Katie Madison in collaboration with Deborah Cowell, Jarrett Murray and Jacinth Greywoode
This past year, much has changed, yet much has also remained the same. It is still hard to believe that just over a year ago the world literally shut down, and while we are still adjusting to this “new normal”, guidance is being released daily on reopening art spaces and theater venues. So many people experienced loss in various ways. The indescribable devastation to our artistic community will be felt for years to come.

Despite this constant change, Hi-ARTS’ mission to empower artists to develop bold new work while creating a positive, lasting impact on our community has remained the same. Through conversation, interaction, and engagement with our artists, we have remained vibrant and relevant. New opportunities for development were born and deeper relationships within our community were formed at a time when the world forced us into solitude.

As we continue to move out of this state of distanced engagement, I will say that it has been great to safely welcome artists back into our home base at El Barrio’s Artspace PS109. We are looking forward to the day when we can welcome our audience members...you! back into the space as well.

This evening, we are joined by CRITICAL BREAKS Artist in Residence Katie Madison and her collaborators: Jarrett Murray on Bass and Jacinth Greywoode on Piano, with videography by Deborah Cowell. I can’t say enough good things about Katie and her collaborators, their talents, artistry, and kindness. It has been a pleasure to have them in residency to work on SUN SONGS. I have also been fortunate just to be in conversation with Katie about the times we are living in and how she expresses through her art. I am sure you will enjoy the presentation that gives a glimpse into her process and her work. Katie’s voice has been a balm during these pandemic(s).

Your support of Hi-ARTS and our artists is greatly appreciated. Help us continue to do this work by showing up, spreading the word about our organization, and if you’re able, making a donation. We have so much exciting programming coming up that we can’t wait to share with you. When it is safe to do so, I will be ready to welcome you with open arms to our next sharing!

In Community,

Aaron L. McKinney
Interim Executive Director

Illustration by Sarah Dahir
KATIE MADISON
LEAD CREATOR
MUSIC & LYRICS, VOCALS, VIDEO & AUDIO EDITOR

Katie Madison (she/her) is a Brooklyn-based musical theatre artist. She received her BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Michigan (2011), and her MFA in Musical Theatre Writing and Composition from New York University’s Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program (2019). Her show [ taking ] space was a finalist for the 2020 Sundance Theatre Lab Residency, and a concert version was set to premiere off-Broadway at The Tank Theatre in April 2020.

Katie was one of three finalists for the National Black Theater’s Soul Producing Residency in 2019. She has written, composed, directed, performed in, and produced works throughout New York at venues such as The New School, New York University, 54 Below, The Dramatists Guild, Playwrights Horizons, New York Fashion Week, the 52nd Street Project, The Stonewall Inn, Judson Memorial Church, Dixon Place, Wow Cafe Theatre, Molloy Studios, Don’t Tell Mama, and Rockwood Music Hall. kymadison.com // kymad

DEBORAH COWELL
PHOTO, VIDEO, CREATIVE CONSULTANT

Deborah Cowell (she/her) is a Brooklyn-based writer and artist. ideborahcowell.medium.com // i.Deborah.Cowell

Photos: Katie & Deborah (courtesy of the artists); Background (video still by Deborah Cowell)
JARRETT MURRAY
BASS

Jarrett Murray (he/him) is a Brooklyn-born Composer and Musician. Formally a DC-based artist he has premiered four original musicals and worked on several shows as an MD or Bassist. He’s also a producer on an upcoming album in conjunction with Broadway Records and Black Theater Coalition featuring the work of Black Writers. Education: BA American University (2017), MFA New York University Tisch 2019). Jarrett’s always excited about camp.

jarrettmurraymusic.com // jarrettmurraymusic

JACINTH GREYWOODE
PIANO

Jacinth Greywoode (he/him) is a New York-based composer and music director. Recent compositional credits include Gone Missing Encores! Off-Center Lobby Project (New York City Center); Master (American Opera Projects); IRON JOHN, (2020 Richard Rodgers Finalist, 2019; O’Neill NMTC Semifinalist, NAMT 31st Festival of New Musicals, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley; New Works Festival, 2019 O’Neill Incubator Residency; Co-Book and Lyrics, Rebecca Hart); and Black Girl In Paris (Civilians 2020 R&D Group; Book and Lyrics, AriDy Nox). Recent credits as music director/music arranger include A Soldier’s Play and The Rose Tattoo at American Airlines Theater.

Jacinth received a BFA in Music with a Certificate in Collaborative Piano Performance from Princeton University, an MFA in composition from Stony Brook University, and an MFA from the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. jacinthgreywoode.com
Hi-ARTS

Hi-ARTS, formerly known as the Hip-Hop Theater Festival, is a leading organization within the urban arts movement. For 20 years, Hi-ARTS has consistently broken new ground, advancing urban art by empowering artists to develop bold new works, while creating a lasting and positive impact on urban communities. Our commitment to this work has developed an audience that is unique, young, and ethnically and racially diverse. Located at the center of creative and community practice at PS 109, Hi-ARTS engages arts and culture both locally and nationally. Learn more about our history and mission here.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Hi-ARTS and El Barrio’s Artspace PS109 are situated on the island of Manhattan (Mannahatta), on Munsee Lenape and Wappinger homeland. We pay respect to Munsee Lenape and Wappinger peoples, their ancestors, and their elders—past, present, and future. Whose land are you on? Learn more about the land you’re on and those who came before you at Native Digital Land.

Hi-ARTS Staff

Aaron L. McKinney  
Interim Executive Director (he/him)

Nicole Amaral  
Project Associate (she/her)

Hanna Stubblefield-Tave  
Development Manager (she/her)

Kirya Traber  
Curator in Residence (she/her)

Eleanor Kipping  
Marketing Associate (she/her)

James Hill  
Development Intern (he/el)
SKY LAB

Developed in direct response to the COVID-19 crisis, SKY LAB supports artists in developing work beyond the four walls of a traditional studio or theater. As an incubation and innovation space, SKY LAB allows artists with a community-engaged practice rooted in performance to take their ideas to the next stage through a remote development process and public works-in-progress sharing presented virtually. The process-centered program is designed to support the needs of the artist and best support the trajectory of their project. SKY LAB is currently by invitation only. Learn more.

CRITICAL BREAKS

Hi-ARTS offers our CRITICAL BREAKS residency program year-round for artists who are in a pivotal phase of developing an existing work. As an incubation and innovation space, CRITICAL BREAKS allows supports this through an intensive development process and public works-in-progress sharing. The process-centered program is designed to support the needs of the artist and best support the trajectory of their project. Learn more.

SKY LAB ARTISTS

Alicia Bauman Morales
crowning.coronación

Ebony Noelle Golden
In The Name Of

Benjamin Lundberg Torres Sanchez
Se Aculilló?

André M. Zachery
Against Gravity: Flying Afrikans and Other Urban Legends

CRITICAL BREAKS ARTISTS

Ernie De Silva
Smoke

Katie Madison
Sun Songs

Aaron Jafferis
How to Break

Photo: Background (video still by Deborah Cowell)
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Support innovative theater, performance, and visual art. A donation of any size will make a difference for Hi-ARTS as we empower artists to develop bold new work, while creating a lasting and positive impact on urban communities.

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To give by check, please write a check payable to Hi-ARTS and mail it to us at:

Hi-ARTS
215 East 99th Street
New York, NY 10029

DONATE BY PHONE
Call Development Manager Hanna Stubblefield-Tave at (718) 497-4282. While staff is working remotely due to COVID-19, please leave us a voicemail and we will return your call.

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Many corporations match employee donations. Additionally, if your corporation is interested in partnering with us, please email Development Manager Hanna Stubblefield-Tave at hanna@hi-artsnyc.org.

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Please note that performance spaces at El Barrio’s Artspace PS109 are not currently open to the public. Hi-ARTS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. EIN: 42-1642691
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ENJOY THE SHOW?
Let us know what you think with this short survey.

Photo: El Barrio’s ArtSpace PS109 (Emily Taylor)