

THE ATTENDANTS 2020

BY THE NERVE TANK

PRESENTED AT BFPLNY.COM BY ARTS BROOKFIELD
AS PART OF #BFPLATHOME

Live Every Wednesday in June
6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24
12 pm - 6 pm EST

Rebroadcast Every Sunday in June
6/7, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28
12 pm - 6 pm EST

Inspired by confinement and virtual connectivity, *The Attendants 2020* is a re-imagined interactive performance in response to the public's new normal, which relies on technology more than ever to communicate and connect with others.

PRODUCTION

Concept/Lyrics: Chance Muehleck (*He/Him; Los Angeles, CA*)
Director & Choreographer: Melanie S. Armer (*She/Her; Putnam County, NY*)
Composer & Sound Designer: Stephan Moore (*He/Him*)
Online Platforms Manager: Jason Howard (*He/Him*)
Stage Manager: Vanessa Hart (*She/They; New Hampshire*)
Original Costume Design: Shannon Koger (*She/Her*)
Prerecorded Voices: Annie Dorsen, Jonathan Vandenberg

PERFORMERS

Brandt Adams (*He/Him; Brooklyn, NY*)
Bizzy Barefoot (*She/They; Brooklyn, NY*)
Stacia French (*She/Her; Brooklyn, NY*)
Karen Grenke (*She/Her; Ontario, Canada*)
Admiral Grey (*She/Her; Ulster County, NY*)
Irene Hsi (*She/Her; San Francisco, CA*)
Robin Kurtz (*She/Her/They/Them; Brooklyn, NY*)
Mark Lindberg (*He/Him; Queens, NY*)
Julienne Marié (*She/Her; Baltimore, MD*)
James "Face" Yu (*He/Him; Brooklyn, NY*)

ABOUT THE NERVE TANK

Named One to Watch in 2010 by *BroadwayWorld*, The Nerve Tank is a world-class innovator in theatrical performance. Founded by Melanie S. Armer and Chance Muehleck, the company collaborates with actors and designers in a spirit of artistic adventure and remodels traditional performance methods. The Nerve Tank combine elements of popular culture, mediated image, and physical presence to test lines of engagement between spectator and live event.

Based in New York, they have staged works at chashama, Dixon Place, University Settlement, Incubator Arts Project, Brookfield Place, the Grace Building Plaza, and La MaMa ETC. From 2008 to 2010 they were the resident theatre company of the Brooklyn Lyceum. NT was named a Person of the Year by the New York Theatre Experience, and *The Maiden* was nominated by the New York Innovative Theatre Awards for Outstanding Performance Art Production in 2014.

To learn more about the Nerve Tank please, visit Nervetank.com.

BIOGRAPHIES

Brandt Adams (Performer) has been in The Nerve Tank's *Project Woyzeck* and *The Maiden*. Brandt is a Brooklyn-based theater artist. Brandt's other New York performances include *Convention* (Irondale/Brontosaurus Haircut), *Dead Behind These Eyes...* (Abrons Arts/Sister Sylvester), *Dispatches from (A)mended America* (Epic Theatre Ensemble), *All God's Chillun Got Wings* (JACK/Civic

Ensemble), *Love in the Time of Channukah* (Ars Nova), *Faustus* (Fault Line Theatre), and multiple projects with Admiral Grey. He performs regularly with *The Commedia Company* and *The Boof*. In 2018, his play, *Dispatches from (A)mended America*, co-written with Godfrey L. Simmons, Jr., was included in NoPassport's *Epic Plays* anthology, edited by Emily Mendelsohn and Chiori Miyagawa. Brandtadams.com

Melanie Armer (Co-founder, The Nerve Tank) is a bi-coastal director who specializes in ensemble-based performance, hybrid performance models and immersive events. As co-founder of The Nerve Tank she directed *How To Explain Theatre To A Dead Audience*, *Project: Woyzeck*, *The Maiden*, *The Attendants*, *Glory Road & Opal* by Chance Muehleck. She was co-Artistic Director of the New Circle Theatre Company for 2 years where she directed *Betsy Ross Lies! Consumption & Tooth of Winter* all by Emmy award winner Ed Valentine. She was assistant Director to Leonard Foglia on the Broadway production of *Wait Until Dark* with Quentin Tarantino, Marissa Tomei, and Stephen Lang. Her Regional credits include *Terminal Lucidity* by Amy Bernstein at The Baltimore Theater Project & an immersive production of *Hamlet* which she adapted in Saint Louis. She has directed both Graduate and Undergraduate actors in *UBU ROI*, *Fahrenheit 451* and a five - person staging of *Twelfth Night* for the Post Theater at Long Island University. She is a proud alumnus of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab & The Directors Lab West. She prefers not to talk about her expertise in event production and enjoys sculpting steel and a well-structured Malbec. MelanieArmer.com

Bizzy Barefoot (Performer) is a queer, gender flux multi hyphenate artist, activist, communitarian, counselor, ordained minister, and Rad Faerie. Her 35-year artistic career has been evenly divided between performance and visual art. She has performed on hundreds of stages all around the United States, in Canada and Europe, and has served as Artistic Director for the Pittsburgh Queer Theater Festival, and for two successful theater companies in Pittsburgh and NYC, of which she was also a co-founder. In addition, she is a longtime member of the critically acclaimed experimental performance group, The Nerve Tank in NYC, as well as an associated artist with Allied Productions. As visual artist and activist, she spent 10 years working with MIX NYC, and for 6 of them as an in-house venue designer, and an additional year as Installations Coordinator. She's also co-designed and built installations and puppets for the likes of Green Peace, Gawker Magazine, Pace University, The People's Climate March, and was an was a lead artist and visuals director for Reclaim Pride Coalition's Queer Liberation march honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. She has been featured in *Vice* and *I.D. Magazines* as well as in the Visual AIDS Anniversary exhibition at LaMama Galleria and across the globe, and was Producer, Acting Coach, Production Designer for the festival favorite shot film *Flush for Femme Power Productions* as well as

the internationally critically acclaimed indie film Jason and Shirley which was also her original concept. She has worked as stage, costume and media designer, window designer, and portrait artist. Her longtime focus and work has been investigating the powerful confluence of art making and community building, manifested in the making of elaborate and immersive, community built T.A.Z.s (Temporary Autonomous Zones) in which queer community can deeply explore itself outside the critical and often punitive eye of heterosexual culture and the law. She is currently playing two magical roles in the highly anticipated upcoming queer fantasy web saga *The Fae*.

Stacia French (Performer) is so happy to be reunited with Nerve Tank for this gorgeous project. She has performed with Nerve Tank at Brooklyn Lyceum: *a gathering, live/feed, bauhaus the bauhaus, Glory Road* (Grace Plaza), *In The Heart of a Chinese Curse* (Dixon Place), and *How to Explain Theatre to a Dead Audience* (Chinatown Soup). Theatre: *The Waste Land* (Governors Island), *The Lady in the Movie* (The Duke on 42nd Street), *Vaclav Havel's The Increased Difficulty of Concentration* (The Theatre Project, Baltimore), *ROACH* (Philly Fringe), *Woyzeck* (Central Park), *some history/ some hysteric* (Clemente Soto Center) *Macbeth Without Words, Worlds Gone Wrong, Ian Hill's Hamlet, The Pragmatist* (Brick Theatre). Stacia is a graduate of Drama Studio London. In her spare time, she likes to take photos. StaciaFrench.com

Karen Grenke (Performer) has been in The Nerve Tank's *The Attendants, bauhaus the bauhaus, LIVE/FEED, Opal, 10% Nation, The Maiden*. New York theatre includes performances at The Public, Women's Project, the Ontological Theater, The Chocolate Factory, HERE, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, chashama, Theater for the New City, GALE Gates. Regional: Hangar Theater. She co-wrote the 80's teen dramady *Wuthering High*. Karen graduated from Sarah Lawrence College and trains with The SITI Company. She is a founder of Cagey Productions. With Cagey she is the recipient of grants from the Andrew Mellon Foundation and BAX. She was a member of the inaugural Women's Project producer lab.

Admiral Grey (Performer) is a multidisciplinary artist whose work finds the divine and fantastical in the raw and actual. Alternately exercising her skills as a creator or performer depending on the project, her work often integrates her writing, music composition, and design into live performances or video art. A trained singer, musician, actor, and dancer, she hand-makes opulent costumes, puppets, props, installations and videos that she builds out of repurposed and cheap detritus of modern life - or utilizes glitch, lo-fi visuals and happenstance to texturize her work. She has presented original and collaborative works as a performer, deviser, writer, director, composer, designer, and puppeteer at LaMama, University Settlement, The

New Ohio, SoHo Rep, HERE, Rubulad, Dixon Place, Irving Plaza, Judson Memorial Church, Clemente Center, and many others in the US and around the world, and her videos have been shown in various small galleries and festivals. Her musical projects as a vocalist, bassist and keyboardist (Cellular Chaos, The Simple Pleasure, Ecstatics, Glass Lamborghini) have performed and toured nationally and internationally, as well as at NYC venues Saint Vitus, The Bowery Electric, Trans Pecos, Death By Audio, Northsix, Glasslands Gallery, Rockwood Music Hall, Silent Barn, and Baby's All Right. She has devised and performed theatrical works wearing a variety of hats with various companies including Robin Frohardt Co., The Nerve Tank, The Drunkard's Wife, Psychic Readings, Sister Sylvester, and her own collective Snake In The Boot.

Early in her career, she organized and produced the Bushwick Blast music festival for two weekends in 2004, the first of its kind in the area, showcasing local and national indie, punk and experimental music and performance on two stages at Asterisk Art Space alongside her own band, Drayton Sawyer Gang. In 2009 she debuted her absurd one-woman musical cabaret, *Poppy! An Enchanted Evening with Poppy Bulova!* at the New York International Fringe Festival. In 2015 she toured the US with writer, musician and cult hero Lydia Lunch performing spoken word with projected original videos, and in 2018 she performed as her performance art alter-ego *Camgrl* and her solo music project Enjoyment at performances across Miami for Art Week, as well as presented fashion shows of her own creations made from garbage while playing live music with Male Model for *Trash Fashion* in collaboration with Vidium/Mana Contemporary 777 Mall. This summer she debuted *The Origins of Zozobra*, a gonzo puppet play depicting the Santa Fe legend of Zozobra at Meow Wolf's Taos Vortex and at the official Burning of Zozobra 2019. She is a deviser, builder and performer with Robin Frohardt's Plastic Bag Store which debuted in Times Square, New York City March 2020. As St. Ann's Puppet Lab artist, she is currently developing a piece based on firsthand tellings of dreams, set to debut in October 2020, as well as working as a performer with a new national Radio Play collective, set to release Summer 2020.

Vanessa C. Hart (Stage Manager) is a stage manager currently camping out in New Hampshire. She received a B.A. in Theatre from Franklin and Marshall College. She has been the AEA ASM for the Peterborough Players Summer Season for 3 years, and the AEA PSM for the Peterborough Players Winter Season for 3 years. Previously, she stage-managed Rebel and Misfits Productions' of *Uncle Vanya*, *Sex with Strangers* and *Hamlet: See What I See* (where she met Melanie!) in Saint Louis. In Pennsylvania, she stage managed F&M's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Three Sisters*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, as well as The People's Shakespeare Project of Lancaster's *The Tempest*, and Wee Keep

Company's *Three Sisters and A Wolf*. Thank you to Matthew for all of his love and support.

Jason Howard (Online Platforms Manager) has been creating theater in NYC for 28 years, including acting, writing, directing, and fight choreography. He is happy to be a company member of The Nerve Tank. He codes and loves cars. JasonHoward.org

Robin Kurtz is a New York based actor that performs in all mediums and is a company member of The Nerve Tank. Prior to *The Attendants*, she was last seen with the Nerves in residence for STAG Mondays at Chinatown Soup in *How to Explain Theater to a Dead Audience*. She's currently featured in the podcast *Earthkiller* as Hel3n, podcast.theearthkiller.com. Other work with The Nerve Tank includes, *Project Woyzeck* at University Settlement, Persephone in *The Maiden* at La Mama, *Glory Road*, *10% Nation*, *The Attendants* at WFC Winter Garden, *Live/Feed*, and *Bauhaus the Bauhaus*. A Seattle native, she's worked with the likes of Book-It Repertory, Theater Simple, in Europe with Insight America's tour of *True West*, and was directed by Jerry Manning in *John Lennon's Gargoyle* at Theater Schmeater. Robin received her BFA in Acting with Honors from Carnegie Mellon University. RobinKurtz.com

Mark Lindberg (Performer) has been a Nerve Tank company member since 2010 appearing in numerous works including *The Attendants (2011)*, *The Maiden*, *Glory Road*, *Opal*, and others. Other performance credits include works at NY Fringe Festival, performances at the Guggenheim Museum, Hammerstein Ballroom, and many many more. Mark taught theater for over a decade at both the Playwrights Horizons Theater School at NYU and the Powerhouse program at Vassar College. He has taught acting workshops for Kite Theater in Shanghai, China, and consulted on a curricular production at NYU Abu Dhabi. As a writer, Mark has published three short novels and his plays have been presented around NYC. Mark devotes much of his time to volunteering, as a crisis counselor with Crisis Text Line, on various projects for New York Cares, and with The Smithsonian.

Julienne Marié (Performer) is a recent graduate of The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where she studied Acting. She is also a trained dancer and has been dancing since the age of four. Originally from Silver Spring, MD she's been able to be a part of a lot of great projects such as *Court Side with Her Story Theater*, *Liar on the Starship Limpidius with her university*, *Appetite with Besties Make Films*, as well as *Terminal Lucidity* where she was able to work with Melanie who created Nerve Tank. She also worked with Fringe Arts in Philadelphia on *A Ride on the Irish Cream* and then this past year rejoined the team as a Development Intern. Julienne also had the pleasure of working with D.C Metro Theater Arts where she was able to critique theater. She thanks

Melanie for inviting her into this project and is very excited to work with the wonderful Nerve Tank Family.

Stephan Moore (Composer & Sound Designer) is a sound artist, designer, composer, improviser, coder, teacher, and curator based in Chicago. His creative work manifests as electronic studio compositions, improvisational outbursts, sound installations, scores for collaborative performances, algorithmic compositions, interactive art, and sound designs for unusual circumstances. He is the curator of sound art for the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, organizing annual exhibitions since 2014. He is also the president of Isobel Audio LLC, which builds and sells his Hemisphere loudspeakers. He was the music coordinator and touring sound engineer of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company (2004-10), and has worked with Pauline Oliveros, Anthony McCall, Samson Young, Olivia Block and Animal Collective, among many others. He is a senior lecturer in the Sound Arts and Industries program at Northwestern University.

Chance Muehleck (Co-founder, Nerve Tank) is a writer, filmmaker, and theatre artist based in New York and Los Angeles. He is the co-founder of acclaimed independent theatre company The Nerve Tank, and his plays have been commissioned by Primary Stages, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Dixon Place, and La MaMa ETC. Chance has written and produced several award-winning short films. His feature, *Madrigal*, is currently in development with a director attached. He freelances as a script reader for several different outlets, and he recently created story content for a gaming app based on his original pitch. His audio drama, *Dreamland*, had over 10,000 unique downloads in its first month of release, placing it in the top 5% of all podcast debuts.

James "Face" Yu (Performer) is a performer, musician, marathoner, individual. Eager to collaborate with you in a conversation of emotional and physical manifestations amongst these troubling times. Performed with The Nerve Tank in productions like, *Project Woyzeck*, *The Maiden*, *Opal*, *Live/FEED*, and others. Other theatrical productions include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet*, *Comfort Women: A New Musical*, *The Ventriloquist's Circle*, *Play America*, and others. Film productions include *Another Good Person*, directed by Wei Han, and *Customer*, directed by Nicolas Becerra. Jamesfaceyu.com.

ABOUT ARTS BROOKFIELD

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