

"Utterly essential"
THE NEW YORK TIMES

- 1 Digital World Premiere
- 1 World Premiere Sonic Experience
- 1 World Premiere In-Person Installation
- 3 Digital U.S. Premieres

PROTOTYPE

OPERA | THEATRE | NOW

January 8–16, 2021

PROTOTYPEFESTIVAL.ORG

DIGITAL PROGRAM
SCROLL TO CONTINUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Click on any section below to jump to the page.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

TITLE PAGE

ARTIST STATEMENT

FESTIVAL LINEUP

ARTIST INFORMATION

ABOUT PROTOTYPE

STAFF

MEMBERSHIP

FUNDING

FOLLOW US

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PROTOTYPE pays respect to the Munsee Lenape ancestors past, present, and future. We acknowledge that the work of PROTOTYPE is situated on the Lenape island of Manhattan (Mannahatta) and more broadly in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland.

The performers and artistic team of *Ocean Body* are located in many different locations in this country. We acknowledge that this work is situated in various native homelands including those of the Munsee Lenape, Seminole, Calusa, Meškwahki-aša-hina, Peoria, Anishinabewaki, Bodéwadmiakiwen, Myaamia, and Mississauga nations.

Inspired by the words of Adrienne Wong: PROTOTYPE acknowledges the legacy of colonization embedded within the technology, structures, and ways of thinking we use every day. This production is using equipment and high-speed internet, not available in many Indigenous communities. Even the technologies that are central to much of the art we make leave significant carbon footprints, contributing to changing climates that disproportionately affect Indigenous people worldwide. We invite you to join us in acknowledging all this, as well as our shared responsibility to make good of this time and for each of us to consider our roles in reconciliation, decolonization, and ally-ship.

PROTOTYPE PRESENTS

WORLD PREMIERE IN-PERSON INSTALLATION

OCEAN BODY

COMPOSED AND PERFORMED BY Helga Davis and Shara Nova

DIRECTION AND FILMS BY Mark DeChiazza

EMBODIED SCULPTURE BY Annica Cuppetelli

PROJECT MANAGED AND PRODUCED BY

Andrea Troolin / Ekonomisk Mgmt

Supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Creative Futures fellowship at Carolina Performing Arts, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, PROTOTYPE, Mass MOCA Artist-in-Residence Program, Park Avenue Armory Artist-in-Residence Program, and the Hermitage Foundation Greenfield Prize.

AT **HERE**

FILM CREDITS

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY Mattia Palombi

CAMERA ASSISTANT Shu Hirahyama

KEY GRIP Daniele Napolitano

GRIP David Chait

HERE SOUND RECORDING ENGINEER Tyler Postiglione

HERE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Cole Bonenberger

HERE ASSISTANT Baille Younkman

TELEPROMPTER Natiya Kezevadze

MAKEUP BY Marco Campos

LOCATION CINEMATOGRAPHY BY

Mark DeChiazza and Mary Kate Huffman

CREATIVE ASSISTANT Mary Kate Huffman

MUSIC PRODUCTION AND ENGINEERING BY Shara Nova

SOUND DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND MIXING BY

Mitchell Graham

ADDITIONAL AUDIO ENGINEERING BY Joseph Branciforte and

Thurman Woods

MASS MOCA ASSISTANT Grace Eldred

HARP Winifred Garrett, Ahya Simone, and Lydia Cleaver

BASS AND SYNTHS Christopher Bruce

GUITAR Joel Shearer

DRUMS Earl Harvin

CHOIR Detroit Women's Chorus

ADDITIONAL SINGERS Jocelyn Zelasko, Jessica Allen,

Hanna Benn, Alex Koi, Tamisha Waden, and Shannon Morrison

PUBLISHING

All songs written by Shara Nova and Helga Davis, Blue Sword (ASCAP) administered by Domino Publishing Company USA / Helga on Paper (ASCAP)

Corset research by Annica Cuppetelli. Words from Binding 1-4 from *Corsets: Historic Patterns and Techniques* by Jill Salen. Copyright © 2008. Used by permission of Batsford Books.

Words from Mother Earth Prayer by jessica Care moore
Copyright © 2020. Used by permission of the author.

Special thanks to Creative Futures at University of North Carolina, Chris Massenburg, The Hermitage Foundation, Sue Killam, Mass MOCA, Wasserman Projects, Lieven Bertels, Crystal Bridges & The Momentary, West Coast Black Theater, Mark Andrew, Kaylan Waterman, Assemble Sound, Limor Tomer, Paul Sommerstein, Zac Brunell, Bridget Stiebris, Benita Bradford at St. John St. Lukes, and Kelly Germaine-Strickland, Cass Tech Harp & Vocal Ensemble, Rachel Spencer & Northern High School Choir.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Ocean Body is a multi-screen film and music installation collaboratively created by composer-vocalists Helga Davis and Shara Nova and director-filmmaker Mark DeChiazza, featuring an embodied sculpture built for two by visual artist Annica Cuppetelli. It examines the decade-long close friendship between Davis and Nova and seeks a necessary bridge for the division that exists not only in our society, but in ourselves. An invitation exists within the piece to be together, even as we crave and need autonomy, even as we are stuck in fear and cause harm.

We have wanted to find a way to speak about our friendship, our places of similarity run from our deep love of singing and writing music to our early upbringing in Evangelical churches. We were both deeply inspired by that music, as well as by our love of classical and soul music. As our friendship grew, we realized that while our closeness felt completely "natural" to us, we could also raise eyebrows through our unusual collaborations (You Us We All) and with our physical presence. It is the World that taught us the language of race and difference, and there was no better place to have that conversation than through our work. It is our hope that through this exploration of deep friendship, composition, and story-telling, we hold that mirror back to the world.

PROTOTYPE LINEUP



DIGITAL WORLD PREMIERE

MODULATION

Launches January 8 at 8pm ET | Available to stream January 8-16

Composed by Jojo Abot, Sahba Aminikia, Juhi Bansal, Raven Chacon, Carmina Escobar, Yvette Jackson, Molly Joyce, Jimmy López Bellido, Angélica Negrón, Paul Pinto, Daniel Bernard Roumain, Joel Thompson, Bora Yoon | Site concept and design by Imaginary Places | Commissioned, developed, and produced by PROTOTYPE | In a digital co-presentation with Carolina Performing Arts, LA Opera, and Opera Omaha | \$25



WORLD PREMIERE SONIC EXPERIENCE

TIMES³ (TIMES X TIMES X TIMES)

Launches January 9 at 10am ET | Available January 9-16 at Times Square

Created by Geoff Sobelle & Pamela Z
Produced by PROTOTYPE | FREE

Artist Conversation January 12 at 5pm



WORLD PREMIERE IN-PERSON INSTALLATION

OCEAN BODY

Launches January 9 at 12pm | Available January 9-16 at HERE Mainstage from 12-9pm daily, by appointment only

Composed and performed by Helga Davis & Shara Nova | Directed and filmed by Mark DeChiazza | HERE Mainstage | FREE

Artist Conversation January 14 at 5pm



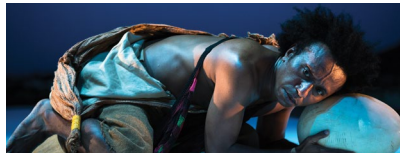
DIGITAL U.S. PREMIERE

THE MURDER OF HALIT YOZGAT

Launches January 10 at 12pm ET | Available to stream January 10-16

Composed by Ben Frost & Petter Ekman | Directed by Ben Frost | Libretto by Daniela Danz | Music Directed by Florian Groß | A film by Ben Frost and Trevor Tweeten | Commissioned by Staatsooper Hannover | FREE

Live viewing & chat January 16 1pm followed by Artist Conversation 3pm



DIGITAL U.S. PREMIERE

THE PLANET— A LAMENT

Launches January 10 at 12pm ET | Available to stream January 10-16

Composed and performed by Septina Rosalina Layan | Directed by Garin Nugroho | A Garin Workshop & Turning World Production | Co-commissioned by Asia TOPA, Arts Centre Melbourne, Theater der Welt, and Holland Festival | FREE

Live viewing & chat January 10 8pm followed by Artist Conversation 9pm



DIGITAL U.S. PREMIERE

WIDE SLUMBER FOR LEPIDOPTERISTS

Launches January 10 at 12pm ET | Available to stream January 10-16

Composed by Valgeir Sigurðsson | Text by a rawlings | Directed by Sara Marti | Produced by VaVaVoom Theatre and Bedroom Community | FREE

Live viewing & chat January 16 11am followed by Artist Conversation 12pm

ARTIST INFORMATION

HELGA DAVIS | CREATOR, PERFORMER, & COMPOSER

is a vocalist and performance artist with feet planted on the most prestigious international stages and with firm roots in her local community. Her work draws out insights that illuminate how artistic leaps for an individual can offer connection among audiences. Davis was principal actor in the 25th-anniversary international revival of Robert Wilson and Philip Glass's seminal opera *Einstein on the Beach*. She also starred in Wilson's *The Temptation of St. Anthony*, with libretto and score by Bernice Johnson Reagon. Among the collaborative and works written for her are *Oceanic Verses* by Paola Prestini, *You Us We All* by Shara Nova and Andrew Ondrejcek and *Yet Unheard*, a tribute to Sandra Bland by Courtney Bryan, based on the poem by Sharan Strange. She has conceived and performed *First Responder* and *Wanna* as responses to *Until* and *The Let Go* by multidisciplinary artist Nick Cave. She is artist in residence at National Sawdust and Joe's Pub, host of the eponymous podcast HELGA on WQXR, winner of the 2019 Greenfield Prize in composition, a 2019 Alpert Award finalist, and the 2018-21 visiting curator for the performing arts at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. [instagram.com/hel.gadavis](https://www.instagram.com/hel.gadavis)

SHARA NOVA | CREATOR, PERFORMER, & COMPOSER

Born in "The Diamond state" of Arkansas to a family of musical traveling evangelists, Shara Nova (formerly Worden) moved across America throughout her youth, then went on to study classical voice at The University of North Texas. Nova has released five albums under the moniker My Brightest Diamond and has composed works for yMusic, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Young New Yorkers' Chorus, Brooklyn Rider, Nadia Sirota and Roomful of Teeth among others. In 2019 she composed an "opera for a city" with director Mark DeChiazza and over 600 musicians along with the Cincinnati Symphony entitled *Look Around* with over three hours of newly composed music with text based on conversations with each ensemble, and songs entwining in musical dialogue between the various groups. Her orchestrations have been performed by the Aarhus Symfoni, North Carolina Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, American Composers Orchestra, and the BBC Concert orchestra. Her baroque chamber p'opera *You Us We All* premiered in the US in October 2015 at BAM Next Wave Festival. Many composers, songwriters, and filmmakers have sought out Nova's voice, including Laurie Anderson, Sarah Kirkland Snider, David Lang, David Byrne, The Decemberists, Bryce Dessner, Steve Mackey, Sufjan Stevens, and Matthew Barney. Nova is a Kresge Arts fellow, a Carolina Performing Arts Creative Futures fellow funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a Knights Grant recipient, and a United States Artists fellow. shara-nova.com

MARK DECHIAZZA | CREATOR, DIRECTOR, & FILMMAKER

is a director whose multifaceted practice encompasses filmmaking, choreography, scenic and media design, and installation. The exploration of music and musical performance in expressive synthesis with physical and visual elements is often a focus of his work. His work has been presented in national and international venues including Brooklyn Academy of Music, Lincoln Center, John F. Kennedy Center of the Arts, Guthrie Theater, Singapore International Festival of Arts, Les Subsistances, Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, and many more. In 2019, with Shara Nova he co-created the massive outdoor music-performance work *Look Around*, celebrating Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's 125th anniversary season, featuring over 600 performers from over 30 local groups. Past projects include: *The Space Between*, a musical-physical exploration of social dynamics co-created with Lisa R Coons for Spektral Quartet. Dan Trueman's *Olagón*, featuring Irish singer Iarla Ó Lionáird and Eighth Blackbird ensemble; *Quixote*, a music-theater epic with composer Amy Beth Kirsten; *Orpheus Unsung*, a music-dance collaboration with Steven Mackey; *My Lai*, an opera monodrama by Jonathan Berger featuring Kronos Quartet, and Rinde Eckert; and John Luther Adams' *Sila*, a site-determined piece for five instrumental choirs. markdechiazza.com

ANNICA CUPPETELLI | VISUAL ARTIST

is a fiber/installation artist, fashion designer, and educator based in Detroit, MI. Drawing on her past experience in the fashion world, her practice focuses on challenging the notions that separate fashion, design, and art. She is a recipient of the Daimler Financial Emerging Artist Award, the Searchlight Emerging Artist Award, and was a nominee for the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant. She also collaborates with Cristobal Mendoza as Cuppetelli and Mendoza, a practice that has been widely exhibited nationally and internationally and was recognized with a Kresge Visual Arts Fellowship in 2015. Cuppetelli obtained her MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art (Fiber, 2008). She is a Lecturer II at the University of Michigan Stamps School of Art and Design in Ann Arbor, MI. annicacuppetelli.com

MITCHELL GRAHAM | SOUND DESIGN & AUDIO PRODUCTION

is an audio engineer and music producer who has toured with Shara Nova (*My Brightest Diamond*) since graduating from the University of Michigan with a degree in Sound Engineering in 2018. He runs librahouse.studio and is focused on elevating the voices and fulfilling the artistic visions of Detroit musicians and artists.

ABOUT PROTOTYPE

PROTOTYPE

OPERA | THEATRE | NOW

is a co-production of Beth Morrison Projects and HERE, two trailblazers in the creation and presentation of contemporary, multi-disciplinary opera-theatre and music-theatre works. The pioneering festival is the only one of its kind in New York City and is a model now emulated around the country – producing and presenting a wide spectrum of works, from intimate black-box experiences to larger chamber opera productions, valuing artistic, curatorial, and producorial risk-taking. PROTOTYPE is committed to surprising our audiences and confounding their expectations through content, form, and relevance. The festival gives voice to a diverse group of composers, librettists, performers and musicians across all genres, backgrounds, and cultures. In providing a recurring showcase of visionary opera-theatre and music-theatre pieces, the touring life of the work extends around the world. The festival also presents groundbreaking new works by international artists and has become a global reference of artistic excellence in the field of opera and music-theatre.



Since 2006, Beth Morrison Projects (BMP) has been a tastemaker at the forefront of musical and theatrical innovation by supporting living composers and their collaborators during the creation of groundbreaking new works in opera-theatre and other kinds of vocal-theatre. “More than any other figure in the industry, Beth Morrison has helped to propel the art form into the 21st century (*Opera News*).” BMP encourages risk-taking in all its artists, resulting in provocative works that represent a dynamic and lasting legacy for a new American canon. During the 2018-19 and 2019-20 season, BMP will have produced 185 performances on 5 continents.

BMP’s commitment to cutting edge musical expression has created “its own genre” (*Opera News*) of originality. In 2013, Beth Morrison Projects and HERE co-founded the PROTOTYPE Festival, which showcases contemporary opera-theatre and music-theatre projects over ten days each January. *The New Yorker* recently wrote that the festival is “Essential to the evolution of American Opera,” and the *New York Times* called the festival “Bracingly innovative... a point of reference.” The 2014 bi-coastal expansion to Los Angeles sprang from growing partnerships with institutions such as LA Opera, the LA Phil, Ford Theatres, and RVCC. BMP is a National Sawdust Artist in Residence.
bethmorrisonprojects.org

HERE

From our home in Lower Manhattan, HERE builds an inclusive community that nurtures artists of all backgrounds as they disrupt conventional expectations to create innovative performances in theatre, dance, music, puppetry, media, and visual art. By providing these genre-blending artists with an adaptive, flexible home for developing and producing their work, we share a range of perspectives reflective of the complexity of our city. HERE welcomes curious audiences to witness groundbreaking performances, responsive to the world in which we live, at free and affordable prices.

HERE strives to create an equitable, diverse, and inclusive home in which all people have fair access to the resources they need to realize their visions. We acknowledge structural inequities that exclude individuals and communities from opportunities based on race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, class, age, and geography, and seek to counter those inequities in our work. Through mindful actions on sustainability and regenerative practices, we work toward climate justice, and a safe, livable planet for present and future artmakers and audiences.

MEMBERSHIP

Do you love seeing PROTOTYPE shows every year? Are you ready to take your PROTOTYPE experience to the next level?

Join PROTOTYPE's 2021 Membership Program to get up close and personal with this January's most daring Festival!

By donating \$100 or more, you can access our suite of perks designed to elevate your Festival experience and provide artistic context on curating and creating the work for this one of a kind season.

PROTOTYPE 2021 MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Reserved members only viewing hours for *Ocean Body*
- Complimentary access to our behind the scenes opening night *MODULATION* event
- Contextual member discussion groups led by one of the PROTOTYPE team
- A zoomtail with the PROTOTYPE Directors to dive into the curation of this years festival
- Entrance into a raffle to win two premium seats for our 2022 10th Anniversary Festival

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
visit prototypefestival.org/support

SUPPORT

PROTOTYPE RECEIVES MAJOR FUNDING FROM The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and leadership support from the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IS PROVIDED BY:

- The Amphion Foundation
- BMI Foundation
- Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation
- Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University
- Fresh Sound Foundation
- Howard Gilman Foundation
- Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts
- Antonia & Vladimer Kulaev Cultural Heritage Fund
- Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation
- OPERA America
- The Reed Foundation
- The Ted Snowdon Foundation

Government support is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

A NOTE ABOUT THE NEW STRUCTURE OF OUR DONOR LIST:

Community-centric fundraising is a fundraising practice that is grounded in equity; it calls on all non-profits to bring principles of racial and economic justice into our development strategies. As one small step towards aligning PROTOTYPE with this model, we have removed giving levels from our donor list. We hope to celebrate and raise up all of our supporters no matter the size of their contribution and recognize the generosity of our community as a whole. We would like to thank the team of Community Centric Fundraising for their leadership and their call to action. More information on CCF can be found on [website](#).

Anonymous (2)
Emil Adler
John Allison
Karen Ames
Susan M. Andersen
Robin Angly
Heather Antonissen
Claude Arpels
Todd & Diane Baker
Phoebe Barnard
Benjamin Barnes
Bruce Barton
Jennifer Batt
Nicole Belmont
Joni and Miles Benickes

PJ Bergin
Lauren Bernofsky
Ashley Biehl
Sue Bienkowski
John Bierbusse
Edward Blum
C. B. Brazelton
Karla Brom
Erin and Duncan Brooks
Sean Buffington
Harvey Burgett
Emma Bushnell
Amy Cassello
Eleanor Chai
Miriam Charney
Sara Clugage

Patricia Cohen
Lois Conway
Clare Coss
Bruce Coughlin
Suzanne G. Cusick
Janet D Clancy
Colleen & Ralph
Dandrea
Richard Davis
Jane Deknatel
David Devan
Michelle DiBucci
Thomas Dickinson
Klaudia Draber
Pamela Drexel
Bonnie Edwards

Jay Ells
Sylvia Epstein
Carrie Hughes & Joel
Erickson
John Tyler Evans
Laura Evans
Olivia Facini
John Feather
Susan Feder
Alan Feller
Ronald Finkelstein
Nicola Finnemore
Christy Fisher
Liam Flaherty
C.J. Follini
Judy & Allen Freedman
Catherine French
Chris Gardiner
Christine & Michael Garner
Margie & Tom Gart
Katie Geissing
Lyudmila German
Bernard Gilbert
Geraldine Gill
Kiki & David Gindler
Marilyn Go
Marian Godfrey
I Michael Goodman
Jean Graham-Jones
Adele Renee Gray
Philanthropic Fund
Danielle Green
John Greer
Emma Griffin
Ellen Gritz
Sue Gronewold &
Peter Winn
Jane M. Gullong
John B. Haney
Catherine Harding
Christina Harper
Rick & Ruth Harper
Ed Harsh
Andrew Hatchell
Bethany Haynes
Nancy Henriksson
Claude Hersh
Marilyn Hill
Deirdre Howley
Caylee Hong
Lee Huber
Charlotte Isaacs
Eric Johnston and Susan
Graham Johnston
Cherry Jones
Marianne Kah
Gene Kaufman & Terry
Eder Kaufman
Joanne Kauvar
Sarah Baird Knight
Jordan Laing
Tom & Giovanni
Lalla-Mancini
Jodie Landau

Robert LaPorte
Jonathan Lehman
Arthur S. Leonard
Ruby Lerner
Ronnie Lesser
Cheryl Lew
David T. Little
Lynn Loacker
David Lucado
Nehemiah Luckett
Phyllis Lusskin
Richard Lynn &
Joseph Evall
Erwin Maas
Bob Mahoney/Acousti
cians for the Arts
Arnie Malina
Mel Marvin
Jill Matichak
Thomas Mattson
Sean McCain
Patrick McCarver
James G. McCormick
Cate McCrea
Patrick McEvoy
Karen McLaughlin &
Mark Schubin
Allison Meier
Nate Mickelson
Helen Mills
Deborah Mintz
Paula Mlyn
Peggy Monastra
Allen Moon
Johnnie Moore
Angela Moore
Michael Moran
Louise Moriarty
John Morning
Brian Mountford
Cathleen Murphy
Barbara Myrvaagnes
Gail Naruo
Linda & Stuart Nelson
Kristin Norderval
M L Nosal
Peter Nussbaum
Pamela & John O'Connell
Megan O'Connor
Jean Marie Offenbacher
Maryanne Olson and
Christopher Chappell
Rita Ormsby
Gary Osborne
Anna & Alan Ostroff
Frank Oswald
Mari Otsu
Alexandra and Frederick
W. Peters
Ellen Petrino
Susan Platt
Anatole Plotkin
Laurie & Michael Pollock
Paul R. Provost

Bruce Posner &
Sandy Radoff
Sandra Pressman
Paul R. Provost
Wayne Ransier
Bill Rauch
Graham Reynolds
Laine Rettmer
Mary S. Riebold
Sarah Rivkin
John C. Robinson
Kathleen Roland-Silverstein
Susan Rogers
Michael Romita
Laura Rood
Jim Rosenfield
Richard Royce
Marc Safman
Nancy & Barry Sanders
Murray Schane
Albert Schnieders
Mona Schnitzler &
Jonathan Hurwitz
Katherine Schoonover
Adina Schwartz
Gayle Shay
Lorraine D. Siggins, MD
Hinda Simon
Chris Smeall & Ann Fabian
Margaret Smith
Cathy & Dick Soderquist
Sarah Billinghurst Solomon
Marie-Monique &
Raymond Steckel
Joanna Strange
Nathaniel Sullivan
Gary Sunden
Phil Swan
CK Swett
Elizabeth Sylvester
Adrienne Teleki
William Thurston
Jennifer Tipton
Mikey Toledano
Anna Umansky
Nathan Urbach
Margo Viscusi
Marina Voyskun
Carol & Robert Walport
Mark Wanek
Mark Warhol
Philip Webb
Michelle Weinberg
Roger Weitz
Jennifer Suh Whitfield &
Benjamin Whitfield
Sarah Wigley
Christina Wright
Kathleen Yoh
Bora Yoon
Tommy Young
Lucien Zayan
Michael & Page Zekonis

FOLLOW US

f PROTOTYPE FESTIVAL

🐦 PROTOTYPEFEST

📷 PROTOTYPEFEST

#PROTOTYPE2021

#OCEANBODY

