

## **Experimental Bitch Presents**

The World Premiere of

# JACK OF CUPS

By Gabriel Rodriguez
Directed by Madeline Wall and Gabriel Rodriguez
May 31-June 8, 2019

Featuring
Gabriel Rodriguez as Jack
&

The Remembrance Festival Planning Committee:
Kayla Yee as Effie
Lukas Papenfusscline as X

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Original Music by Lukas Papenfusscline
Scenic Design by Jennilee Aromando
Lighting Design by Elizabeth M. Stewart
Choreography by HannaH Allen and Kayla Yee
Costume and Prop Design by Madeline Wall
Hair and Makeup Technician: Hannah Goldman
Production Stage Manager: Bleu Zephra Santiago
Technical Supervision by Jack Scaletta
Associate Producer: Sophia Valera Heinecke
Production Assistants: Julia Smith and Marilyn Gonzalez

Produced by <u>Experimental Bitch Presents</u>
Founding Executive Director, Wednesday Derrico
Artistic Director, Tatiana Baccari



#### About the Show

Penned by Gabriel Rodriguez and devised in collaboration with Experimental Bitch Presents, *Jack of Cups* marks EBP's first foray into eco-theater as well as the company's 2019 mainstage production.

Jack of Cups is a play that welcomes the grief and terror we feel for the coming years and encourages the joyful, hopeful, durable imagination we will need to find our way into what may follow. It is a play about the power of story-sharing, community, and recycling.

The music for *Jack of Cups* was strongly influenced by folk traditions from all over the world including mourning songs from Ireland, water songs from the Baka people of Cameroon, Bulgarian folk singing, and American roots music. There is also a heavy influence from new music composers like Erin Gee, Meredith Monk, Moondog, and Cornelius Cardew.

### **Team**

Gabriel Rodriguez (Writer/Director/Performer) is an actor, writer, storyteller, theatermaker, teacher, and witch. They are a creature. Their work integrates theater's ancient origins as a communal spiritual ritual with a faithful commitment to the manifestation of a better and queerer future, all while remaining deeply rooted in the living context of the present moment. In addition to acting and writing, Gabriel teaches a wide array of performance techniques based in embodied imagination. Recent workshops include "Living in the Questions" at Michael Chekhov Acting Studio and "Imaginary Body" at Daya Yoga Studio. Gabriel has a BFA in Acting from Emerson College, and is an ongoing participant at Hudson-based theater laboratory The Michael Chekhov School. Gabriel is a proud member of Experimental Bitch Presents, where they hold the title of Communications Bitch. www.gabrod.com

Madeline Wall (Director) is a Seattle-born director and designer. She received her BFA in Film and Television from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Since moving to New York, she has worked for ABC, NBC, Showtime, Netflix, and Columbia University. She has directed work at The Frigid Festival, NYC Fringe Festival, and The Fringe Encore Series. Her work as a filmmaker has been featured in The Seattle International Film Festival, The Student Academy Awards, as well as winning her multiple awards for production design and editing. She's a member of Experimental Bitch Presents and most recently directed EBP's Measure for Measure.

Kayla Yee (Company) gives deep respect and immense gratitude to EBP and the entire Jack of Cups team for the process she has participated in these past months. Her recent credits include Broadway Dance Student Showcase (Westbeth, dancer), Sarah Esser's Check All That Apply (dancer), Collective Thread Festival (MODArts Dance Collective, choreographer/dancer), Beauty Freak: Leni Riefenstahl's "Olympia" (WWTNS?, actor). She is delighted to share with you tonight. Thank you Cooki, Benny, and the EBP community. Check out Kayla's dance work on Instagram, @kycdance

**Lukas Papenfusscline** (Company, Music Director) is a queer creator/performer of new music and theatre based in NYC. Recent projects include *Katabasis* with fourlarks at the Getty Villa, *Bottom Feeder* created with Julia Duray at Dixon Place, a workshop of Kate Soper's new opera *Romance of the Rose*, and *Olema*, an album of future folk music released with their band

mammifères in December. Coming up is more opera work in NYC & LA, a solo performance of Gertrude Stein's *The King or Something (The Public is Invited to Dance)*, and an album of medieval music for mammifères. Lukas is always eager to collaborate on new work so hit them up! More info over at lukaspapenfusscline.com

Jennilee Aromando (Scenic Designer) is thrilled to debut with Experimental Bitch Presents on this production! Recent design credits include: Catch The Sparrow, Alex & Eugene (Isle Of Shoals), Crucible, Everything Will Be Different (Hunger Theater Company), Twelfth Night, MacBeth (No Name Collective), Bridges of Madison County (Elmwood Playhouse), Women of Lockerbie, In the Red & Brown Water (PAC). She also works with Jack Morton Worldwide as a 3D Illustrator, whose clients include NFL, NBC, CNN, CBS, FOX, ESPN, Google, Late Show with Stephen Colbert, Royal Caribbean, OLAY, & Belvedere. She is a graduate of SUNY Purchase College, BFA Scenic Design & BS Visual Arts. Thanks to Jim, Janet, Tatiana, Gabriel, Drew, & the entire team for the opportunity to bring this incredible project to life! www.jaromandodesigns.com

Elizabeth M. Stewart (Lighting Designer) is based in New York, and has worked in venues ranging from art gallery basements to off-Broadway theatres. Recent credits include Whore (Paradise Factory), Between the Threads (HEREArts), The Fool's Lear (IRT), Sources of Light Other Than The Sun (HEREArts / WWTNS?), Independent Study (The Tank), Hedda (DreamUp! Festival), and The Who's Tommy (Associate LD, Broadway Centerstage at the Kennedy Center). This past summer, she was a lighting design fellow at the Hangar Theatre, where she lit Snow White, Ajax, Far Away, and Playing Peter Pan. elizabethmstewart.myportfolio.com

HannaH Allen (Choreographer) is a Brooklyn based performer, choreographer and teaching artist. She received her BFA in Drama from NYU Tisch where she studied at Atlantic Acting School. Her work in educational programs around the city focuses on student-driven theater, writing and movement exploration. As an interdisciplinary artist, HannaH seeks collaborative spaces with an emphasis on process and community building.

Jack Scaletta (Technical Supervisor) is excited to be back with Experimental Bitch Presents on another theatrical journey, after joining them this past January for *The Infinite Love Party* at The Bushwick Starr. Recent technician credits: *Curse of the Starving Class, Boesman and Lena* (Signature Theatre), *The Chronicles of Cardigan and Khente* (Soho Rep), *Suicide Forest* (The Bushwick Starr), *Prelude 2018* (Segal Center), and additional work at Ars Nova, The Kitchen, and Target Margin Theater, among others. Jack is also a writer and lighting designer. Assistant designer credits include: *An Iliad* (Long Wharf Theater) and *Witness* (Playwrights Realm). Williams College, BA Theatre & Physics, www.jackscalettalighting.com

Bleu Zephra Santiago (Stage Manager) is a Stage Manager and Event Organizer based in NYC. Bleu's past projects: *The Old Settler* (Billie Holiday Theater), *Made to Dance in Burning Buildings* (2018, Joe's Pub), Diana Oh's *Infinite Love Party* at Bushwick Starr (2019) and *Girl of Glass* with THML Theatre Co. Bleu is a proud member of Wow Cafe Theatre and is currently the co-curator and organizer for ¡Palante!: monthly poetry reading series dedicated to highlighting and uplifting grassroots organizations throughout NYC. Bleu is excited to be part of Jack of Cups!

Wednesday Sue Derrico (Producer) is proud to wear many hats. As a workaholic and double leo, she dedicates her life to personal, political art and supporting platforms for diverse creators. She is the Founding Executive Director of Experimental Bitch Presents. Derrico is a producing member of WOW Cafe Theater, and frequently works at The Park Avenue Armory and Theater for a New Audience. She has directed live theater in Toronto, Rhode Island, Scotland, London and off-broadway. Recent credits include Production Manager / Stage Manager for Bated Breath Theater Company's production of Beneath the Gavel at Feinstein's 54 Below; Co-Producer,

Diana Oh's Infinite Love Party at The Bushwick Starr. Next up: Production Manager / Stage Manager of *No One is Forgotten* by Winter Miller at Rattlestick Playhouse this July.

**Tatiana Baccari** (Producer) is a Brooklyn-based director, theater practitioner, and creative producer. Her work often centers on women's stories and the intersections between identity, gender, and power. She has written, directed, and produced live theater at Joe's Pub, HERE Arts Center, HappyLucky No.1, Medicine Show Theatre, Performance Project @University Settlement, Connelly Theater, and The Flea. In 2015, Tatiana was awarded the Jeff Norton Dream Grant to develop *Ghost Player*," a play about the BRCA gene's effects on a group of Ashkenazi Jewish women. Recent productions include PETRIFIED by Emma Goldman- Sherman (Chain Theatre/Director) and *Between the Threads: Jewish Women Project* (HERE/Co-Creator). Tatiana is proud to serve as Artistic Director of Experimental Bitch Presents. For more information visit tatianabaccari.com.

**Sophia Heinecke** (Associate Producer) is a playwright and performer. She has been an artist fellow with the Performance Project at University Settlement and received both the John Golden Award for Playwriting and the Issac Kwock Award for Social Justice. She is the development lead at Experimental Bitch Presents, and very proud to be workshopping her latest play, *New Nostalgias*, with them later in 2019. www.sophiavaleraheinecke.com

**Julia Smith** (Production Assistant) Julia's previous crew credits include: *Spill*, *Awakening of Spring*, *A Meditation on Tongues*, *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play*, and *Hamlet Wakes Up Late* (Cornell University), as well as *R.U.R.* (Firebird Youth Theater Project), and *Medusa* (Sophie Amieva Theater). She also worked as a designer on Ten Minute Playfest (Cornell University) and *Five Flights* (Cog Dog Theatre Troupe). She is a sophomore English major at Cornell University, minoring in Theater and Spanish. Big shoutout to all of the cast and crew responsible for bringing this piece together, and all of our supportive patrons!

Marilyn Gonzalez (Production Assistant) is a student at Marymount Manhattan College where she studies Theater. She is focused on creating change in the community through the arts. She dreams of using her skills to make an impact in her own community of Hunts Point, where she was born and raised.

#### **Special Thanks To**

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## **About the Company**

**Experimental Bitch Presents** (EBP) is an assembly of artists dedicated to building community and creating new and experimental work that disrupts, engages, and redefines the process of art-making. Experimental because we embrace controversial questioning and seek out artistic forms that innovate the field. Bitch because we are femme, queer, loud and proud! Presents because we center diverse bodies of work concerning contemporary feminism that encourage audiences and artists to engage in action and conversation. Experimental Bitch's 2019 Company Members include Hannah Goldman, Madeline Wall, Gabriel Rodriguez, and Sophia Valera Heinecke. Associate Artists are Alexandra Lenihan, Aliyah Hakim, and Amy Bartlett. For more information, visit experimentalbitchpresents.com

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Barbara Baccari, Eric Weston, Ramon Tallaj, Ramon Rodriguez

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