

ABRONSONS  
ARTS CENTER  
HENRY STREET  
SETTLEMENT

MODESTO FLAKO JIMENEZ  
& OYE GROUP

**¡OYE! FOR MY  
DEAR BROOKLYN**

March 15 - 31, 2018

# MODESTO FLAKO JIMENEZ & OYE GROUP

## ¡OYE! FOR MY DEAR BROOKLYN

*Runtime: 60 minutes*

Writer & Performer

**Modesto Flako Jimenez**

Director

**Artem Yatsunov**

Video Designer

**Kevin Torres**

Lighting Designer

**Megan Lang**

Sound Designer

**Drew Weinstein**

Set Designer

**Michael Minahan**

Stage Manager

**Kendall Allen**

Installation Artist

**Sara Sciabbarrasi**

Production Manager

**Skye Morse-Hodgson**

Production Consultant

**Jose Esquea**

"Listen to the beats / The rhythm of my  
Bushwick streets." Brooklyn impresario  
Modesto Flako Jimenez conjures his  
beloved borough in this bilingual elegy,  
told through poems, projections,  
and music. With lyrical brilliance and  
irreverent play, ¡Oye! For My Dear  
Brooklyn complicates our perceptions  
of race, language, and gentrification  
and calls us to be truly present to ask  
the question: "What is my moral worth?"

## ABOUT OYE GROUP

**Oye Group** (formerly Brooklyn Gypsies) is an artist collective made up of New Yorkers both native and immigrant to the city. We present annual showcases of new work in theater, dance, poetry and film that spark dialogue on critical issues such as immigration, gentrification, economics, and urban survival. We curate a mix of established and emerging artists and give them a platform to share their art in a stimulating environment. Oye Group is a playground to celebrate what is unique about New York City's eclectic and converging art communities.

# WHO'S WHO

## **Modesto Flako Jimenez**

Writer & Performer

Modesto Flako Jimenez is a Dominican-born, Bushwick-raised theater maker, producer, and educator. ATI Best Actor Award Winner for 2016. HOLA Best Ensemble Award Winner for 2015 and HOLA Outstanding Solo Performer for 2017, NY Times and Wall Street Journal profiled. Flako is best known for original productions and three signature festivals – Ghetto Hors D'Oeuvres, One Catches Light, and Oye! Avant Garde Night! – produced with his company Oye Group. Flako has appeared on TEDxBushwick, *Early Shaker Spirituals* (Wooster Group), *Last Night At The Palladium* (Bushwick Starr/3LD), *Yoleros* (Bushwick Starr/IATI theater), *Conversations Pt. 1: How To Make It Black In America* (JACK). *Take Me Home* (3LD/Incubator Arts Project), and Richard Maxwell's *Samara* (Soho Rep.). Modesto received the 2016 Princess Grace Award Honorarium in Theater. In 2018 he became the first Dominican-American Lead Artist in The Public Theater Under The Radar Festival.

## **Artem Yatsunov**

Director

Artem Yatsunov is a Ukrainian-born, Jersey-raised, Brooklyn-based theatre director, storyteller and educator. He has been developing new work and creating theatrical experiences around the country for over 10 years, bringing live shows to both theatre fans and people who "mistakenly think they don't like plays." Artem serves as General Manager of Oye Group, an artistic collective made up of native and immigrant New Yorkers, and is the

Co-Founder of the North Jersey nomadic collective StrangeDog Theatre (est. 2008), called "very raw, very present" by the New York Times. As an educator, Artem leads writing workshops, devised theater and storytelling programs in professional residencies across NYC and NJ; he's taught with Two River Theater, Creative Arts Team, Town Hall, Stella Adler Studios, School For Excellence at Morris Campus, Bronx NY, and was a part of educational programs at Writopia Labs NYC, Luna Stage Theater, and the Playwrights Theater of NJ. Artem's work is deeply influenced by his experience as a multilingual Ukrainian immigrant, and currently he performs *Please Google Ukraine*, a solo-show for adults and students on the place of immigrants in the US. Select Directing: *Oye For My Dear Brooklyn* (Performing Garage/Under The Radar-PUBLIC Theater/ Abrons Arts Center), *Last Night At The Palladium* (Associate Dir; 3-Legged Dog Arts + Media), *Growing Into My Beard* (Horse Trade/Minnesota & Philly Fringe/The Tank), *Basic Help* (Frigid Festival), *Tilt The Unlit Candle* (Luna Stage), *Omnivores* (Playwrights Theater of New Jersey). Writer/Performer: *Please Google Ukraine* (One Catches Light Festival, Manhattan Early College Academy, American AF Festival). Artem holds a BFA in Acting from Montclair State University. [www.artemyatsunov.com](http://www.artemyatsunov.com)

## **Kevin Torres**

Video Designer

Born and raised in Jersey City, NJ. Kevin Torres is a Video Director/Producer, Photographer, and Technical Director for Oye! Group. Has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

## **Drew Weinstein**

Sound Designer

Drew is a New York-based director, sound designer, composer, and producer. He has created original work in and around New York City at venues including HERE Arts Center, The Brick, LEIMAY, The Hive, Redwood Studios, and The Jersey City Theatre Center. He has directed additional works at The Wild Project, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Dixon Place, Porterspace, the Sheen Center, and the Bridge at Shetler Studios. His designs have been heard at venues including the Public Theatre, HERE Arts Center, The Performing Garage, the Brick, Under St. Marks, and at the NYC Fringe Festival. Drew has worked as an associate with the PROTOTYPE Festival and produced works for LEIMAY including *Frantic Beauty* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

## **Megan Lang**

Lighting Designer

Megan Lang has designed lighting at BAM, La Mama, Abrons Arts Center, EST, Under St. Mark's, the Wild Project, Dixon Place, 59E59, JACK, Atlantic Stage 2, among others. Recent designs include *A Star Has Burnt My Eye* (BAM Next Wave, directed by Paul Lazar), *Riot Antigone* (La Mama, directed by Seonjae Kim), and *Furry/La Furia!* (The Bushwick Starr, directed by William Burke). She is the resident lighting designer for the Ubuntu Arts Festival in Rwanda. Assistant/associate special effects work includes Sting's *The Last Ship, Our Lady of Kibeho* and *An Act of God*. BA: Fordham University. [www.meganlangld.com](http://www.meganlangld.com)

# WHO'S WHO continued

## Michael Minahan

Set Designer

Previous work includes Drama Desk nominated *The Man Who Laughs* (Stolen Chair); *The Last Night at the Palladium* (Oye Group/ 3LD); *59RPM* (Current Harbour/ HERE Arts); Six seasons with the Big Green Theater Festival (Superhero Clubhouse/ Bushwick Starr); Five seasons with Pig Iron's annual Benefit Cabaret (Trocodero Theater, Philadelphia); *She Kills Monsters* (New School), and more. Upcoming: *Knot an Opera* (Fresh Squeezed). As a scenic artist Michael has painted for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Westport Playhouse, Lincoln Center, Classic Stage Company, Roundabout, Signature Theater, The Metropolitan Opera, Robert Wilson (various projects), among others. In addition to his theater and studio work, Michael & partner Preesa Adeline Bullington own and operate Brooklyn Whiskers Bakery - a vegan wholesale and retail bakery with locations in Bushwick and Greenpoint. He holds an MFA in design from the University of Washington, School of Drama. [www.minahandesign.com](http://www.minahandesign.com)

## Sara Sciabbarrasi

Installation Artist

Sara Sciabbarrasi, raised in New Jersey and based in Queens, is a multimedia artist, maker, set-designer, musician, and writer. She has created sets and installations for theatre productions at The Performing Garage, Luna Stage, Under St. Mark's, The Red Room, Montclair State University, and is a recurrent scenic designer for Columbia University's MFA Directing and Playwriting programs. Select

group/two-person exhibitions: *FACES & FIGURES: PAST/FORWARD* (Amos Eno Gallery, Brooklyn), *Stereoscope* (Index Art Center, Newark), *Art from Astoria* (COFFEED, Queens). She frequently teams up with theatre artist Brandon Monokian, with whom she has collaborated on a graphic novel of Monokian's play *Peter Pan is Dead*. Upcoming Sara is releasing an album of original songs via Monokian's multi-media company Love Drunk Life. At the moment, Sara is at work illustrating and authoring picture books for children as well as adults, believing the latter need picture books as much as the former. Sara is a sculpture fabricator at Socrates Sculpture Park and John Clement Studios in Astoria, Queens. BFA Sculpture, Montclair State University.

## Kendall Allen

Stage Manager

Kendall Allen is a brooklyn based theatre artist, focusing her energy as a Stage Manager. Select NY Credits Include: *One Catches Light* Festival (JACK), *Animal Wisdom* (The Bushwick Starr), *BURN, or an Informal Presentation on the Finite Nature of Atoms* (United Solo Artist's Festival), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival), *GO FORTH* (LMCC, Governor's Island), and soon can be found at HERE Arts Center with *Assembled Identity*. Kendall studied Theatre; Design and Production at Fordham University. Endless thanks to Flako, Artem, the entire Oye Team, her coffee pot, and her mother.

## Skye Morse-Hodgson

Production Manager

Skye is a producer, filmmaker, photographer, and award winning screenwriter. Originally from Los Angeles, she moved to New York in 2015 after graduating from Brooks Institute with a BFA in filmmaking. She has been involved in the creation, management, and shooting of productions at 3LD Art and Technology Center, The Tank, Dixon Place, Here Art Center, The Brick, The Performing Garage, Danspace, Judson Theater, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Deitch Projects, Collapsible Hole, Tisch NYU, and many others. Skye's photography work has been featured in Time Out New York, The New York Times, and The New Yorker.

# OYE GROUP FUNDING

Eric Acevedo, Alphabet a nyc, Vanessa Felix, Shahkeem Ez'rom, Theo Maltz, Jo Annesta, Emily Moler, Richard Maxwell, Skylar Fox, Jill Stanton, Amelia Kennedy, Janelly Ramos, Minutolo A, Ann Marie Dorr, Michael Gomez, Katarina Hybenova, Lauren Miller, Jason Batcheller, Simón Hanukai, Tony's Pizzeria and Restaurant, Chris Wolfe, Armando Croda, Eliza Bent, Maria Kelly, Frances McDormand, Suzzy Roche, Jason Beck, Estefania Fadul, Naftalyia St.Rose, Eva Vonschweinitz, Eissa Saeed, Kamila Slawinski, Meredith Burns, Chelsea Harrison, Cynthia Hilts, Xenia Rubinos, Alemagania, Nick E Finn, Nicolas K Adams, Dawn Hall Hails, Minorca Sanchez, Jonathan Rivera, Maury Landsman, Aaron Landsman, Greig Sargeant, Marianna Houston, Sunny Cyr, Nancy Ahn, Mohammad Yousuf, Karen Taylor, Chloe Erskine, Daniel Maseda, Kate Scelsa, Alaina Ferris, Sandra Garner, Melissa Hernandez, Megan Hill, Betty Peg, John Del Gaudio, Amber West, Kate Benson, Becca Blackwell, Steven Tanenbaum, Keelie Sheridan

# FOUND FOOTAGE

1. James Baldwin and Dick Gregory, "Baldwin's Nigger," 1969.
2. James Baldwin vs. William F. Buckley, "Has the American Dream Been Achieved at the Expense of the American Negro?" Oct 26th, 1965.
3. Rafael Leonidas Trujillo interview, "Causes & Consequences," May 30, 1961.

# SPECIAL THANKS

Margarita Agramonte, Mercedes Olga Viñales, Sandra Garner, Craig T. Peterson, Ali Rosa-Salas, Jon Harper, Kenny Olguin, Catherine Dawes, Terrell Finner, Jorge Luna, Tiffany Zorrilla, SFDS, Materials for the Arts, Tei Blow, 3-Legged Dog, Tracy Lopez, Stephanie Massanet, Shun Takino, Aaron "Radiosilence" Jaker, Susana Kwon, Antonia Lassar, Valentina & Victor Yatsunov, Shy Richardson, Carlos Ortiz, Pamela Pichardo

## 2012 Book/Documentary

The Bushwick Starr Theater, Alphabet Arts Puppets & Poets Festival, Capicu Cultural Showcase, Brooklyn Poets, Lemon Andersen, Roya Marsh, Bonafide Rojas, Karen Taylor

## From The Performing Garage

Elizabeth LeCompte, Kate Valk, Mike Farry, Cynthia Hedstrom, Erin Mullin, Pamela Reichen, Matthias Neckermann, Dan Kent, Thomas Kavanagh, Deidrea Hamid, Aaron Radiosilence Jaker, Shun Takino, Sam Silbiger, Daniel Ramirez & Yazmeen Vargas, Nick E. Finn, Anna Rogovoy, Olander "Big O" Wilson, Jay Maury, Cinthia Candelaria, Jeannette Yew

## From SoHo Rep Feed

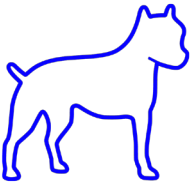
Sarah Benson, William Burke

## From Incoming/UTR & PUBLIC

Andrew Kircher, Mark Russel, Kelly Kerwin, Zach Longstreet, Barry Stagg, Alyssa Simmons, Jaime Sunwoo, and our INCOMING Cohort for their support: Julia Mounsey, Peter Mills Weiss, Annie Saunders, Becca Wolff, Kareem Lucas, Anisa George, Kristine Haruna Lee and Andrew J. Butler.

## From Bennington, VT

Bennington College and Dina Janis, Kirk Jackson



# ABOUT ABRONS

Abrons Arts Center is a home for contemporary interdisciplinary arts in Manhattan's Lower East Side neighborhood. A core program of the Henry Street Settlement, Abrons believes that access to the arts is essential to a free and healthy society. Through performance presentations, exhibitions, education programs and residencies, Abrons mobilizes communities with the transformative power of art.

Abrons values freedom of expression and creativity, ever striving to provide creative communities with a space that celebrates diversity of thought and experience. Abrons aims to be an anti-oppressive home to people from all backgrounds and does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, citizen status, ancestry, age, religion, disability, sex or gender, gender identity and/or expression (including a transgender identity), sexual orientation or any other characteristic.

## Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Abrons Arts Center is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta). We pay respect to Lenape peoples and ancestors past, present, and future, and acknowledge our reliance on the land and waters of Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We offer our care and gratitude to Lenapehoking, and are committed to resisting colonialism through the support of Indigenous-led programming and Indigenous artistic practices.

**You are welcome here.**

For tickets and showtimes:

[abronsartscenter.org](http://abronsartscenter.org)

Support neighborhood businesses! As a thank you for supporting our programming, we're offering discounts to some of our favorite Lower East Side hangouts. For more information, click on

[abronsartscenter.org/plan-your-trip/dining-and-attractions](http://abronsartscenter.org/plan-your-trip/dining-and-attractions)

and get a discount when you bring this program!



**HENRY STREET  
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## Abrons Arts Center Henry Street Settlement

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