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## **CulturalDC Projects Theater in Quarantine on Source Theatre exterior Selections from innovative performance lab featured on NPR runs nightly through April 5**

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Washington, D.C. – CulturalDC is partnering with the co-creators of Theater in Quarantine to present a limited-run screening as part of the ongoing window projection series at CulturalDC’s Source Theatre. Four works have been selected, edited, and combined into a single installation by creators Joshua William Gelb, a Drama Desk-nominated director, and Katie Rose McLaughlin, Associate Choreographer of the Tony award-winning Broadway show *Hadestown*.

Shortly after the coronavirus pandemic closed all theaters, Gelb transformed a 2’ x 4’ x 8’ closet inside his New York City East Village apartment into a white-box theater. Starting on March 30, Gelb and his collaborators began releasing pre-recorded studies in movement, clown, camera orientation, and perspective, building towards more complex theatrical experiences. On April 23, they premiered Theater in Quarantine’s first live-stream performance: an adaptation of Kafka’s *The Neighbor* which was followed by an unauthorized edit of Beckett’s *Krapp’s Last Tape* and collaborations with artists like Scott R. Sheppard (*Underground Railroad Game*), Nehemiah Luckett (*Jazz Singer*), and Ellen Winter (*36 Questions*).

From Mar. 5 through Apr 5, the selected works from Theater in Quarantine will be projected nightly from 8 to 11 p.m. on the storefront windows of CulturalDC’s Source Theatre, 1835 14<sup>th</sup> St., NW.

“My evenings were spent commiserating on Zoom over the loss of paid work and productions, years in the making, now summarily shut down,” said Joshua William Gelb, founder of Theater in Quarantine. “Rightly so, of course, flatten the curve, wash your hands, quarantine the virus. But for theater artists, whose entire industry relies on communal gathering, the professional grief was compounded by an existential uncertainty. How long will this last, we wondered? When can we return to what passes for normal? — A year later and these questions remain still unanswered.”

“After having been stuck in Zoom for just a few weeks I was desperately missing being in a room with other humans, making dances for full bodies, not just torsos,” said Katie Rose McLaughlin, choreographer and co-creator for Theater in Quarantine. “I also missed collaborating, playing with ideas until something was perfected. As soon as Josh showed me the closet, I knew he had invented something special.”

“As we mark a year of pandemic lockdowns, it’s compelling to collaborate with artists who’ve embraced innovation during this difficult and isolating time,” said Kristi Maiselman, Executive Director of CulturalDC. “For a year now, Theater in Quarantine has been expanding the ways artists work together and audiences experience art. It is a natural fit for our public programming at Source and will offer DC residents an opportunity to re-engage with live performance.”

The complete archive of original works by Theater in Quarantine is available for free at [www.youtube.com/theaterinquarantine](https://www.youtube.com/theaterinquarantine). Please visit [www.theaterinquarantine.com](http://www.theaterinquarantine.com) for more information.

**Joshua William Gelb** is an East Village-based director, performer, and librettist currently building theater out of his converted closet christened the Theater in Quarantine. On its YouTube channel, Theater in Quarantine has presented nearly 20 different evenings of live digital performance with institutional supporters LaMama, CultureHub, Theater Mitu, and The Invisible Dog, as well as "a New York rogue's gallery of experimental makers and designers" (Helen Shaw, Vulture). Prior to the pandemic, Gelb created both Jazz Singer and The Black Crook in residence at Abrons Arts Center, while his Drama Desk-nominated adaptation of A Hunger Artist, created with Sinking Ship, continues to tour. Gelb participated in the Lincoln Center Directors Lab, is an associate artist with Sinking Ship, teaches Theater Collaboration at Cooper Union, and is a 2021 artist in residence at LaMama and CultureHub's Experiments in Digital Storytelling program.

**Katie Rose McLaughlin** is an NYC-based choreographer and director originally from Minneapolis, MN. Katie Rose is the Associate Choreographer of the Tony award-winning Broadway show Hadestown directed by Rachel Chavkin and choreographed by David Neumann. Recently she has been creating work as the co-Creative Director for Theater in Quarantine which has produced over 20 different evenings of work. Notable theater credits include Orlando (Williamstown Theatre Festival), Indecent (Weston Playhouse), Bear Slayer (Ars Nova), Triplight (Joes Pub), SEAGULLMACHINE (La Mama ETC), and The Black Crook (Abrons Arts Center). She was an artist-in-residence at LMCC's Process Space, Dance Lab New York, Kaatsbaan International Dance Center, the Barn Arts Collective, and LMCC's SPARC program and is a 2021 artist-in-residence at La Mama and CultureHub's Experiments in Digital Storytelling program. In 2013, she co-founded and became the Artistic Director of Designated Movement Co., a dance/theater company interested in blurring the lines between forms. Visit [katieosemclaughlin.com](http://katieosemclaughlin.com) for more information.

**Nitsan Scharf** is a multimedia designer and theatre artist currently based in Washington DC. He holds a BA in Theatre (concentration in design and technical production) from the University of Maryland. As a queer and trans artist, he enjoys exploring the fragility of binaries and social norms. He is a lover of the low-res and enjoys exploring malfunction, glitch, and tech nightmares - they're going to happen anyway, right? Nitsan has designed video for Single Carrot Theatre, Teatro Lirico, the NextLOOK Festival, Theater Alliance, Montgomery College, Theatre Prometheus, Syracuse University, and Trusty Sidekick Theater Company. He has also assisted and programmed for a number of productions in both DC and NYC.

**CulturalDC** supports innovative artists across all disciplines and makes their work accessible to diverse audiences. We provide unconventional space for relevant and challenging work that is essential to nurturing vibrant urban communities. CulturalDC has made a name for itself in providing a platform for bold contemporary artists to interact with audiences in thought-provoking ways. Previous exhibitions include "Ivanka Vacuuming" by Jennifer Rubell, "THIS IS NOT A DRILL" by Jefferson Pinder, and "Mighty, Mighty" by Devan Shimoyama. CulturalDC owns Source Theatre, and a 40-ft shipping container transformed into a Mobile Art Gallery. In addition to presenting, CulturalDC has brokered more than 350,000 square feet of artist space since 1998, including the Arts Walk at Monroe Street Market, Atlas Performing Arts Center, GALA Hispanic Theatre, Source Theatre and Woolly Mammoth Theatre. Visit [www.culturaldc.org](http://www.culturaldc.org); Facebook: CulturalDC; Instagram: @cultural\_dc; or Twitter: Cultural\_DC.

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NOTE: Images are available upon request.