

# CHELSEA HACKETT, Ph.D.

University of Colorado at Boulder – School of Education

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She – Her – Hers

## Formal Education

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**2018 Ph.D. New York University: Educational Theatre, Colleges and Communities**

Honors: Granted full departmental doctoral fellowship

Dissertation: *Nuestro Tejido Diario / Ri Q'Ak'Aslemal / Our Daily Weaving: Theatre as a Tool for Intercultural Education for Maya Girls in Guatemala*

**2014 M.A. City University of New York, School of Professional Studies: Applied Theatre**

Culminating Thesis Project: *Ties that (Un)Bind: Applied Theatre as a Pathway to Connection for Detained Girls*

**2010 B.F.A University of Colorado at Boulder: Theatre Performance**

**B.S. University of Colorado at Boulder: Media Studies**

Honors: Summa Cum Laude, Member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, and Founder and President of student club Performers Without Borders.

Honors Thesis Project: *Skin Deep: The Process and Product of Creating a One-Woman Show*

## Research Interests

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Vocal Empowerment, Applied Theatre, Participatory Research Methodologies, Female-Focused Education, Teacher Training, Preventing Sexual Violence

## Research Experience

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**2020 –** *Vocal Empowerment to Prevent Sexual Violence*

**Present Co-PI with Dr. Beth Osnes of the University of Colorado at Boulder – Funded Renée Crown Institute**

Develop and run a program looking to support students' Vocal Empowerment to create a culture of consent. Created through Y-PAR methods with a group of young women in Boulder, CO. Measure the impact of the program on students' self-efficacy and bystander efficacy. Further, generate youth authored policy suggestions for how to create a consent-based culture.

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2013 – 2013- Present *SPEAK Young Women’s Vocal Empowerment*

**Present Co-PI with Dr. Beth Osnes of the University of Colorado at Boulder**

By combining theatre with voice speech pathology, charted a new, creative, and trans-disciplinary endeavor we call *Vocal Empowerment* that is designed for use primarily by young women to become agents of change in their communities, their nations, and the world. Conducted a mixed-methods study on the efficacy of the program in Tanzania (Shirati), Guatemala (Sololá), and the US (Boulder and New York City). Further, advised University of Colorado Master’s student Sarah Fahmy in conducting a mixed method study on the curriculum’s efficacy in Egypt (Aswan and Alexandria). Resulted in two articles; third article in process. Resulted in a curriculum published open-source in 2020.

2019 *2019 Shine- A Performance for Sustainability*

**Research Assistant**

A part of the *Inside the Greenhouse* initiative at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Consulting on on-going research on the efficacy of an arts-based curriculum for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in Jefferson County, Colorado focusing on energy use and its connection with the climate. The project integrates science and performance to enhance education and increase student engagement in authoring solutions to issues they identify in their communities. Main role as an expert in teacher training, focusing utilizing performance methodologies in the classroom.

2015 - **New York University**

2018 **Doctoral Researcher**

*Dissertation: Nuestro Tejido Diario / Ri Q’Ak’Aslemal / Our Daily Weaving: Theatre as a Tool for Intercultural Education for Maya Girls in Guatemala*

Adding to growing research that centers Indigenous voices, this study utilizes a participatory action research frame; examining the ways in which a partnership between Ajchowen, a Maya women’s theatrical troupe, and Starfish Impact, an emergent private all-girls school, generated a new framework for intercultural learning opportunities for Maya girls. The framework produced was utilized by Starfish Impact to restructure their art program. The study produced one published article and I am currently in the process of submitting two further chapters for publication.

**New York University**

**Researcher of Education and Social Reform in South Africa**

*Study: Intersectionality and Identity Formation in South Africa: A PhotoVoice Project with High School Aged Young Women*

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This case study explored how two groups of South African high school aged young women of color used photography to articulate their raced, gendered, classed and geographically situated identities at school, in after-school activities, and at home. Found that young women of color in South Africa are profoundly impacted by each of these complex variables in multiple ways. Despite this, current literature on the experiences of young South African women of color focuses primarily on their sexual behavior. Outlined suggestions for future research.

### 2014 City University of New York Masters Researcher

*Ties that (Un)Bind: Applied Theatre as a Pathway to Connection for Detained Girls*

Examines an applied theatre workshop conducted in January of 2014 with girls detained in a non-secure detention center in New York City as a model for creating growth-fostering relationships. Builds on prior research suggesting the incorporation of Relational-Cultural Theory of Women's Development to reformative services for young women who are detained. Explores the ways in which applied theatre projects have the potential to foster relationships, thereby aiding in providing girls- focused programing for detained youth.

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### Publications

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#### PUBLISHED

**Hackett, C.** (2020). Certified Teaching Artist?: Using Professional Development to Train Mentors, Teachers, and Community Workers in a Teaching Artist's Approach. *Teaching Artist Journal*.

Osnes, Beth. **Chelsea Hackett**, Sarah Fahmy, and Lianna Nixon. "Young Women's Voices for Change." *Applied Theatre and Youth* edited by Lisa S. Brenner, Chris Ceraso, and Evelyn Diaz Cruz. Routledge, London. 2020.

**Hackett, C.** (2018). Ximonik: The Unbound Performances of Maya Women's Group Ajchowen. *Arts Praxis*, 5(2).

**Hackett, C., & Osnes, B.** (2016). The Hammer and the Carpenter: Lessons From the Field for Effective Professional Development by Teaching Artists. *Teaching Artist Journal*, 14(1), 41–45. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15411796.2016.1155909>

Osnes, B., Baján, N. & **Hackett, C.** (2019). Vocal Empowerment Curriculum for young Maya Guatemalan women. *Theatre, Dance and Performance Training*.

#### FORTHCOMING

**Hackett, C.** (2021). Certified Teaching Artist?: Using Professional Development to Train Mentors, Teachers, and Community Workers in a Teaching Artist's Approach, Pt. 2. *Teaching Artist Journal*.

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## IN PROGRESS

*Resistance in el mundo maya: Pan-Maya Performance Practice*

Forthcoming

collection co-edited by **Chelsea Hackett**, Edber Enrique Dzidz Yam and Sarah Campbell

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### Grants and Funding Awarded

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**2020 Renée Crown Wellness Institute Seed Funding Grant - \$39,409**

To research the use of the Vocal Empowerment program at Boulder High School as a tool for increasing student self-efficacy and a Y-PAR asset for determining future curricula addressing healthy relationships.

**Ward Foundation Grant - \$16,233**

To support the development and dissemination of the Vocal Empowerment program in Guatemala.

**NEST Community Grant - \$2200**

To support the development and exhibition of a multi-media gallery entitled “Recipes for Change,” highlighting creative climate communication enacted by Young Women’s Voice for Change in Boulder, CO

**The Miller-Reyna Family Gift Fund - \$1200**

To support the general operation of SPEAK.

**City of Boulder- Human Relations Commission - \$875**

To support the SPEAK little words, BIG ISSUES Workshop held as a part of the City of Boulder’s 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. weekend events. Provided funds to pay youth facilitators for their time.

**DRIVE Grant - \$600**

To support trainings on Vocal Empowerment for mentors in the Bridge Project in Denver, working with immigrant youth in the metro area.

**2018 NYU Forum Grant - \$6200**

To support travel, visa acquisition, lodging and food for five members of Ajchowen to travel to New York City from Guatemala and perform at the NYU Forum on Educational Theatre.

**2010 Philanthropiece Foundation - \$15,000**

For travel to Guatemala with group Performers without Borders of CU Boulder.

**University of Colorado at Boulder UROP Grant - \$3000**

Co-wrote on behalf of Performers without Borders, submitted by Joan Dieter.

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**2009**      **University of Colorado at Boulder UROP Grant - \$1900**  
Secured for travel to Guatemala.

## Academic Appointments

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**2019 – University of Colorado at Boulder – School of Education**

**Present Adjunct Professor**

*Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2021*

*Introduction to Leadership*

Deliver lecture style and interactive instruction to 28 students ranging from first to fifth year students on the value of leadership. Through the lens of equity in leadership and utilizing leadership to build equitable societies.

**University of Colorado at Boulder – School of Arts and Sciences**

**Adjunct Professor**

*Summer 2020*

*Supporting Student Voices for Civic Engagement*

Develop professional development training program for in-service 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teachers on how to use participatory and performance based teaching to support student voices for civic engagement.

*Spring 2020*

*Global Theatre*

Develop curriculum to look at the evolution of theatre from the 1600's to present day across the globe. Focusing on the evolution of theatre in Guatemala and the relationship between performance and power of the state.

**2016 – New York University**

**2018 Adjunct Professor**

*Summer 2018*

*Drama Across the Curriculum and Beyond*

Develop curriculum and teach an intensive three-day course on integrating drama into various parts of k-12 curricula. Coach students on how to create curricula and use theatre-based methods in non-theatre courses including ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

*Fall 2016*

*Voice and Speech for the Actor*

Deliver and develop interactive voice and speech training for performers and students who would be future theatre teachers in schools. Integrated work by Kristen Linklater to present a cohesive training program for actor's voices.

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*Fall 2015*

*Acting Pedagogy – TA*

Support the instructor of record in managing a course for graduate level directors and high school students. Coordinate a semester of rehearsals with all participants and manage and co-produce a final show performed by the youth and directed by college-age students.

## **Community Engaged Work**

I firmly believe that as a researcher working within historically marginalized communities, my commitment to relationship building and responsive and reciprocal community engaged work is vital to creating authentic understandings and adding new knowledge to my field. I have included my community-engaged work to show its breadth and depth and make connections to how it has informed my research experiences and output.

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## **SPEAK**

### **Co-Founder and Executive Director**

Global: 2009 - Present

The mission of SPEAK is to support young women in exercising the power of their voice. Our approach draws from theatre, voice and speech pathology, and popular education to offer tools and space for young women to confront internalized oppression and educators to dismantle teaching styles that prioritize privileged voices in their classrooms. As co-founder and Executive Director, developed curricula focusing on the physical, social-emotional, and civic voice of young women. Trained over 100 teachers, mentors, and community workers on this unique approach and the pedagogical methods associated with it (popular education, performance-based methods, student-centered learning, project-based learning). Created content, led trainings, managed a staff of five, budgeted and fundraised for programs and international travel, conducted monitoring and evaluation, designed our website, and been responsible for marketing and development.

## **MAIA Impact**

### **Technical Advisory Board and Cross Curricular Integration Consultant**

Sololá, Guatemala: 2013 - Present

Conduct program management in Spanish and English for a 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade all girls school in Sololá, Guatemala. Manage a partnership between MAIA Impact School and the Maya theatre company Ajchowen. Coach art teacher in devising original plays with all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Develop girl-focused curricula and lead professional development in Spanish. Collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data on program efficacy.

## **Maji Safi**

### **Professional Development Trainer and Girls' Education Consultant**

Shirati, Tanzania: May 2016

Designed and led two-week “training of the trainers” workshop for the NGO Maji Safi (Clean Water in Swahili) in Shirati, Tanzania for their Female Hygiene Young Women’s Empowerment

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program. Trained local community health workers in how to use theatre as a tool to support young women, led a group in creating and broadcasting live a radio show to invigorate a call-in conversation about the stigma young women face in public around menstruation.

### **Story Pirates**

#### **Professional Development Trainer, Hiring Manager, Teaching Artist**

New York, NY: 2011 – 2015

Supported programs that used theatre as a tool for literacy for students in New York City public schools. Hired and trained new teaching artists. Guided students in over 25 schools through the story writing process. Directed, managed and produced comedy performances by professional actors for thousands of youth. Developed curriculum integrating common core standards with theatre and multi-media methods.

### **Urban Arts Partnership**

#### **Professional Development Trainer and Teaching Artist**

New York, NY: 2011-2015

Provided professional development both in-class and out of school on art's integration for social and emotional learning for special education teachers in District 75 schools through the federally funded Everyday Arts in Special Education (EASE) program. Provided professional development for teachers working with English Language Learners (ELLs) through the Story Studio program.

### **New York City Children's Theatre**

#### **Teaching Artist**

New York, NY: 2011-2015

Led performance-based anti-bullying workshops for students in public schools and libraries. Utilized theatre of the oppressed and peaceful resolution strategies for students to practice intervening and brainstorm ideas to resolve bullying in their classrooms.

### **CAT Youth Theatre**

#### **Directing Apprentice**

New York, NY: 2014

Assisted in managing a youth theatre for high school aged students and devising original plays based on social justice issues relevant to the student's lives and concerns.

### **WhedCo**

#### **Teaching Artist**

New York, NY: 2013 – 2014

Created a yearlong social justice curriculum on social justice for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Directed, shot, and edited an anti-bullying with students.

### **Reminiscence Theatre Project**

#### **Actor / Playwright / Interviewer**

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## New York, NY: 2013

Interviewed seniors in five senior centers across the city. Utilized their stories to create a collaborative play. Toured the play back to the centers to share the stories of seniors across New York with each other.

## **Performers Without Borders**

### **Founder and President**

## Boulder, CO: 2009 – 2010

Founded student group CU Boulder. Created Arts for Activism weekend on campus. Led a student trip to Guatemala: Responsible for fundraising, travel to and in country, providing room and board for all group members and the safety of the five other group members.

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## Conferences

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### **2021**      **UN Commission on the Status of Women NGO Side Conference – New York,** **2020**      **NY –March 18<sup>th</sup> 2021**

*Vocal Empowerment for Young Women*

Will present on my work with young women in Guatemala, Tanzania, and the U.S. to members of female-focused global NGOs.

### **Edcuration - Committing to Antiracist Curriculum & Instruction Conference – Virtual - October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

*Supporting Student Voices for Civic Engagement*

Presenting on teaching approaches to support marginalized students in authoring and sharing their ideas.

### **UN Commission on the Status of Women NGO Side Conference – New York, NY –March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 – Cancelled Due to COVID-19**

*Vocal Empowerment for Young Women*

Presented on my work with young women in Guatemala, Tanzania, and the U.S. to members of female-focused global NGOs.

### **2019**      **Drawdown Learn Conference – Omega Institute, NY – October 19<sup>th</sup> 2019**

*Drawdown, Act up! Performance-based Spectacle as a Method for Youth Engagement*

Co-presented a workshop on creative youth engagement in climate action. Facilitated a performance by conference attendees at a plenary celebration.

### **National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS) – Los Angeles, CA – June 25<sup>th</sup> 2019**

*Inspire! Session on Young Women's Vocal Empowerment*

Presented on the SPEAK Vocal Empowerment curriculum and its connections with Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and other learning standards.



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### 2018 **She's the First Summit – New York, NY – August 4<sup>th</sup> 2018**

#### *Day of Action*

Created and facilitated a plenary participatory “Moving Mural” performance to give a framework for creative civic action, performed in Union Square Park.

### **NYU Educational Theatre Forum: Performance as Activism– New York, NY – April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2018**

#### *Ximonik Performance and Panel*

Produced and moderated a talk back for the show *Ximonik* by Guatemalan theatre company *Ajchowen*.

### **UN Commission on the Status of Women NGO Side Conference – New York, NY –March 20<sup>th</sup> 2018**

#### *Vocal Empowerment for Young Women*

Presented on my work with young women in Guatemala, Tanzania, and the U.S. to members of female-focused global NGOs.

### 2017 **Cumbre Summit – Boulder, CO – September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017**

#### *Performance of Youth Voice*

Designed and facilitated an all-day workshop and plenary performance with youth attendees at the Cumbre Summit- a day of leadership and empowerment training for Latina women in Boulder County.

### **Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) – Las Vegas, NV – August 4<sup>th</sup> 2017**

#### *Young Women Empowering Their Voices for Change*

Presented a session on my work in Vocal Empowerment for young women, focusing on both research and practiced-based approach.

### **Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) – Las Vegas, NV – August 6<sup>th</sup> 2017**

#### *Graduate Students Grounding their Applied Theatre Work in Theatre History*

Spoke on a panel about the historical grounding of my doctoral work in Guatemala, focused on contextualizing the performances of *Ajchowen* in a longer performance history in Guatemala.

### **NYU Educational Theatre Forum: Forum on Ethnodrama– New York, NY – April 22<sup>th</sup> 2017**

#### *Resilience and Theatre Paper*

Presented a paper on the connections between the psychological study of resilience and community-based theatre.

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**UN Commission on the Status of Women NGO Side Conference – New York, NY –March 17<sup>th</sup> 2017**

*Vocal Empowerment for Young Women*

**2016 Cumbre Summit – Boulder, CO – September 10<sup>th</sup> 2016**

*Performance of Youth Voice*

**UN Commission on the Status of Women NGO Side Conference – New York, NY –March 19<sup>th</sup> 2016**

*Vocal Empowerment for Young Women*

**2015 Urban Thinkers Campus: The City We Need – New York, NY – October 24 2015**

*Sol-Her Energ-He*

Plenary Performance of *Sol-Her Energ-He*, an original musical written and directed by Beth Osnes for youth-led community engagement in city planning for resilience.

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### Speaking Engagements

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#### Invited Talks

**2020 University of Idaho – Moscow, ID**

**Department of Theatre Arts – Greenroom Chat Series**

Invited to speak about Maya theatrical practices and the focus of my doctoral studies.

**Mortenson Center in Global Engineering – Global Development for Engineers**

Invited to speak on partnering with MAIA Impact and Ajchowen in Guatemala.

**2019 Colorado Haiti Project – Longmont, CO – October 6<sup>th</sup> 2019**

*Girl Rising Panel*

Invited to speak on a panel about effective girls' education after a screening of the film *Girl Rising*.

**2016 University of Colorado at Boulder – Boulder, CO – September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Maya Theatre for Resilience**

Gave a talk about the history of Maya theatre and contemporary theatre company *Ajchowen*. Sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies.

#### Guest Lectures

**2019 Regis College – Denver, CO – April 12<sup>th</sup> 2019 and October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019**

**Communications for Development Practice**

Invited to offer a guest lecture on participatory research methods to a Master's level course taught via video-conference to students located in global sites.

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- 2015**      **University of Colorado at Boulder – Boulder, CO – September 9<sup>th</sup> 2019**  
**Performing Voices of Women**  
Led a workshop on Vocal Empowerment for young women.  
**Studio 2 for BFA Performance Students**  
Led a workshop on teaching artistry as a profession

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### Service

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#### **MAIA Impact**

##### **Advisory Board Member**

Sololá, Guatemala: 2013 – Present

#### **The Teaching Artist Journal**

*Editorial Board Member and Guest Editor*

New York, NY: 2017 – Present

#### **NYU Forum on Educational Theatre: Performance as Activism**

New York, NY: April 2018

*Conference Planning Committee by Invitation*

*International Guest Coordinator*

Secured funding for and arranged travel, visa securement, and production assistance for Maya theatre company Ajchowen to travel to the 2018 Forum on Performance as Activism

#### **NYU Forum on Educational Theatre: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

New York, NY: April 2016

*Conference Planning Committee by Invitation*

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### Awards

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- 2015**      **MAIA Impact – Partner Award**
- 2010**      **University of Colorado at Boulder – Spring 2010 Colorado Creed Award in Acceptance**

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### Languages Spoken

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English – Native Speaker

Spanish – Level 3A

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## Relevant Theatre Making Experience

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| <b>Director / Producer</b> |                          |                   |                             |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2015-2020                  | Play/Write               | Director          | Five Angels Theatre- NYC    |
| 2018                       | Ximonik                  | Producer          | New York University         |
| 2017                       | Nuestro Tejido<br>Diario | Director/Producer | Sololá, Guatemala           |
| 2011-2015                  | Story Pirates            | Director          | Arthur Seelen Theatre - NYC |

  

| <b>Actor</b>              |                             |                               |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Shine                     | Sol                         | NYC                           |
| Skin Deep (2014 and 2015) | All Characters              | Tada! Theatre - NYC           |
| The Birds and the Bees    | Original Ensemble Member    | University Settlement -NYC    |
| Story Pirates             | Ensemble Member             | Arthur Seelen Theatre - NYC   |
| Alice's Story             | Alice                       | Multiple Locations - NYC      |
| The Taming of the Shrew   | Nicholas/Officer (US:Widow) | Colorado Shakespeare Festival |
| King Lear                 | (US: Cordelia)              | Colorado Shakespeare Festival |

  

| <b>Playwright / Dramaturge</b> |                       |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pretty Nice Girl               | Playwright            | New York University         |
| Three Sisters: Tulsa 1921      | Playwright/Dramaturge | The Secret Theatre NYC      |
| This Will Be the Last          | Playwright            | New York University         |
| Bad Play                       | Playwright            | New York University         |
| The Sorry Play                 | Playwright            | New York University         |
| Esther's Story                 | Playwright            | City University of New York |
| Skin Deep                      | Playwright            | Tada! Theatre - NYC         |
| Play/Write                     | Dramaturge            | Five Angels Theatre - NYC   |
| The Birds and The Bees         | Devising Playwright   | University Settlement - NYC |
| Story Pirates                  | Devising Playwright   | Arthur Seelen Theatre - NYC |

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