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THE WETSUITMAN

by **Freek Mariën**
translated by **David McKay**

Mar 25–Apr 3, 2022
IN PERSON & LIVE-STREAMING FROM THE
CHERRY ARTSPACE, ITHACA NY

Part of a joint English-language premiere with
the Foreign Affairs Theater Company, London

CAST

Eric Brooks*
Marc Gomes*
Karl Gregory*
Amoreena Wade
Sylvie Yntema

PRODUCTION

director
live-stream designer
associate live-stream designer
lighting designer
sound designer/composer
co-costume designer
co-costume designer
acting coach
stage manager
asst. stage manager
cultural consultant
additional consulting

Samuel Buggeln
Karen Rodriguez
Greg Levins
Peter Leibold
Admiral Grey
Sasha Oliveau
Olivia Kirschbaum
Dean Robinson
Maggie Lapinski
Nellie Speers
Roula Jneid
Abdi Fattah Hassan
Mohammad Hassan

sound engineer
master electrician
dramaturgy

Chad Raines
Nick Pyzowski
Aoise Stratford
Andy Colpitts
Andre Nascimento
Emily Owens

press representative

CHERRY ARTS STAFF

artistic director
general manager
director of education
marketing coordinator
production/events manager
work/study fellows
**Stephanie Krauss, Claire Lynch,
Gabrielle Pacitto, Rose Pascal**

SPECIAL THANKS

Castle Services Cleaning, David Coester, Adam Zonder and the Hangar Theater, Rebecca Bradshaw, Cary Bland Simpson and the Kitchen Theatre, and very especially Jared Mezzochi.

A few director thoughts:

At its core, *The Wetsuitman* asks us how we, as human beings, identify with people we may consider to be unlike ourselves. How do we do this in life? How do we do it onstage?

For the Cherry, theater is importantly international and also importantly local. We cast our global plays out of our community of artists in and around Ithaca, NY.

The Wetsuitman is based on actual events.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION
WITH PLAYWRIGHT FREEK MARIËN,
THE DIRECTOR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
CREATIVE TEAM SAT APR 2, 4-5PM,
IN THE THEATRE OR LIVE STREAMING.**

Putting The Wetsuitman in Context

After the show, we encourage you to explore the context and world of this play—which is of course our world too. Our dramaturgical team has created a **Virtual Lobby Display** website, housing an abundance of fascinating materials including further reading, interactive maps and



games, videos, community resources, and ways that you can make a difference in the lives of people like the wetsuitman. To access the Virtual Lobby Display, use the QR code or go to bit.ly/TheWetsuitman

The Wetsuitman was translated into English as part of the Foreign Affairs Theatre Mentorship 2020 with support from Flanders Literature.

The director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

*member, **AEA**

Presented under the AEA Members' Project Code

BIOS

Eric Brooks* Collective Member. Previous Cherry: *Felt Sad, Posted a Frog, Testosterone, The Snow Queen, The Missing Chapter*. Numerous appearances with Kitchen Theater Company, including *The Price, Talley's Folly, Peter And The Starcatcher*, and *Precious Nonsense*. Regional appearances with the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Meadow Brook Theatre (Detroit), St Louis MUNY Opera, among others. Proud member of Actors' Equity since 1975.

Marc Gomes* is a teacher, writer and actor in television, film and on stage. He is a member of Third Space Performance Lab with artist/scholar Shanti Pillai. Their work has been presented at UC Berkeley's School of Dance, UCLA, USC Roski Talks, Brown University's TAPS and Cal State Long Beach, and at GATI Institute in Delhi. Marc received a UNIDO CEMA for his screenplay adaptation of the Caribbean classic, Corentyne Thunder. His short film, *Stir Crazy*, garnered acclaim at film festivals across North America. Marc is an original artist member of The Unusual Suspects Theater Company in Los Angeles. He is also an avid cyclist and bicycling advocate.

Karl Gregory* Collective Member. Previous Cherry: *Testosterone, A Day*. Karl is an actor and private acting coach, and having done over 50 shows in Ithaca, he continues to make Ithaca his artistic home. Karl is a two time recipient of a SALT Award for Best Actor as well as snatching the same title in the Ithaca Times' "Best Of Ithaca" Awards.

Sylvie Yntema Collective member. Previous Cherry: *The Snow Queen, Felt Sad Posted a Frog, A Day, An Odyssey*. She has performed locally with Civic Ensemble, Homecoming Players, Hangar Theatre, Fitz&Startz Productions, and Clockmaker Arts. Sylvie studied BFA acting at The Mason Gross School at Rutgers University, is a graduate of the Actors Workshop of Ithaca, a Pilates instructor, and a massage therapist.

Amoreena Wade Collective Member. Previous Cherry: *The Shoe, Felt Sad Posted A Frog, The Fan, And What Happens If I Don't*. Amoreena is thrilled to be returning to The Cherry Arts stage. Some of her fondest theatre experiences have included *Reckless* with 40th St Stage in Norfolk, VA, *You Can't Take It With You* with Cider Mill Playhouse in Endicott, NY, and many shows with KNOW Theatre in Binghamton, where she also directed and performed in benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues*, and for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf. She has studied at Upright Citizens Brigade in NYC and was a stand-up comic for many years. Her mother would also like her to tell you she has appeared on The CW's *One Tree Hill*.

Samuel Buggeln (director) is the co-founder and Artistic Director of The Cherry Arts and Cherry Artists' Collective, where over the last six years he has produced, directed, translated, and/or commissioned over fifteen productions from international and local writers. Before founding the Cherry, Sam directed over 20 productions at regional theatres; in NYC he has developed new work extensively at the Lark and other venues and is an Artistic Associate at the New Ohio Theatre. Among numerous works directed at the Ohio are the Drama Desk-nominated *Cressida Among the Greeks* and *Hater*, his unconventional translation of *Le Misanthrope*, which has since been published and produced twice more. A volume of his co-translations of Santiago Loza's plays will be available this summer from Seagull Books.

Admiral Grey (sound design) is a multimedia artist who designs, directs and performs theater, music, video, and objects. She has exhibited theater in New York and around the world with Robin Frohardt Company, The Nerve Tank, The Drunkard's Wife, Psychic Readings, Sister Sylvester, her own Snake In The Boot Collective and others. As a composer, singer and musician she has toured nationally and internationally with Cellular Chaos, The Simple Pleasure, Ecstasies, Glass Lamborghini, and solo projects. She exhibited video, performance art, music and sculptural costume design for Miami Art Week/Basel in 2019, and toured her spoken word with Lydia Lunch in 2015. Her multimedia performance and puppetry project The Human Dream Project workshopped at Opus 40 in 2020 and St. Ann's Warehouse Puppet Lab in 2021, and she will be in residence at KinoSaito arts center in June.

Olivia Kirschbaum Previous Cherry: co-costume design, *The Fan*. Olivia is a costume designer with a current career focus in wardrobe for all genres of live entertainment. Olivia is from Akron, Ohio currently based in Ithaca, NY working towards a BFA in Theatrical Production and Design from Ithaca College. For Ithaca College she has designed *House of Desires* (2021), *Head Over Heels* (2021). Other work includes Wardrobe Supervisor at The Hangar Theatre. She is thrilled to be designing for The Cherry once again.

Maggie Lapinski (Stage Manager) Previous Cherry: *And What Happens If I Don't, The Fan*. Maggie is an Ithaca College alum, graduating in 2018 with a B.A. in Theatre Studies, and has spent the last four years stage managing locally. She grew up in East Lansing, MI, and has to give credit to her older sister, Emaline, for introducing her to the world of theatre. Previous credits include: *The Skriker* and *The Maids* (The House of Ithaca); and *Richard III* and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Ithaca Shakespeare Company).

Peter Leibold (lighting design) is a lighting and video designer based in New York City. Selected credits include *Remnants* and *How To Catch A Star* at the Kennedy Center (DC), *Children of Babel* (finalist for the 2020 Design Achievement Awards) at Dance Place (DC), *The Arrival* (NH Theatre Award) at Andy's Summer Playhouse (NH), *Someone Else's House* with Geffen Stayhouse, and three years as Sierra Repertory Theatre's Resident Lighting Designer in California. He is the Assistant Production Manager of Technology at Spoleto USA. Peter holds a BA from UC Irvine and an MFA from the University of Maryland. He is thrilled to work with the wonderful people at Cherry Arts. See more of Peter's work at www.PeterLeibold.com.

Greg Levins (associate live-stream design) graduated NYU with an emphasis in film directing, screenplay writing and video editing. Greg worked for a handful of casting houses in NYC, auditioning actors in countless commercials, industrials, music videos and films. He has directed two indie features, wrote a handful of screenplays and dabbled in music video and commercial production. Since moving to Ithaca he's made a number of promotional videos for Ecovillage and is currently filming/archiving a weekly Gayogohó:n ' language class taught by one of the few remaining native speakers. He's thrilled to be a part of TWSM, helping to expand the audience to include viewers at home with a live stream feed.

Freek Mariën (playwright) is an author and theatremaker, and co-founder of theatre company Het Kwartier. For his theater texts Freek Mariën has been awarded, amongst others, the international Kaas en Kappesprijs (2012), the Prijs voor de Letterkunde Oost-Vlaanderen (2014) and the Taalunie Toneelschrijfprijs for *Waiting and Other Exploits* (2015). In 2019 *The Wetsuitman* was nominated for the Toneelschrijfprijs.

David McKay is a literary translator who lives in The Hague. He is the runner-up for the Vondel Prize 2022 for *Adrift in the Middle Kingdom* by J. Slauerhoff and won that prize in 2018 for *War and Turpentine* by Stefan Hertmans, which was also nominated for the Booker Prize International, shortlisted for the Best Translated Book Award, and included on many lists of the year's best books. His most recent publication is the anti-colonial classic *We Slaves of Suriname* by Anton de Kom. He was the ALTA Dutch-English mentor in 2021. His upcoming books include *The Ascent* by Stefan Hertmans and *Bold Ventures: Thirteen Tales of Architectural Tragedy* by Charlotte Van den Broeck. His translation of Freek Mariën's play *The Wetsuitman* is being produced in 2022 by The Cherry Arts (Ithaca, NY) and Foreign Affairs (London) and has been published online in *The Mercurian*.

Sasha Oliveau (costume design) Collective Member. Previous Cherry: costume design, *The Shoe, A Day, Hotel Good Luck, And What Happens if I Don't* and *On the Other Side of the Sea*; assistant costume design, *The Fan, Testosterone, George Kaplan* and *The Snow Queen* (2018). is a fibers artist and designer from rural Northern Virginia. She learned to sew from her grandmother at 6 years old, and began teaching others as a young adult. Having graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2018 with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Fibers, she plans to continue her education in expressive art therapy. She works with slow, meditative processes to make one of a kind, abstract expressionistic objects and textiles that create therapeutic environments.

Chad Raines (sound engineer) is a performer and sound designer from Dallas, Texas. In New York his work has been featured at Soho Rep, Roundabout Underground, Here Arts Center, Jack Performing Arts Center, Target Margin, The Baryshnikov Arts Center, The Ontological, The New Ohio, La Mama, The Public Theatre's Under the Radar Festival as well as regional and college theaters such as Bard's Fisher Center, Princeton's Berlind Theatre, Long Island University, Brown/Trinity, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Barnard and Brooklyn College to name a few. He is the resident Sound Designer for Fault Line Theater and I AM A BOYS CHOIR and has designed for Rachel Chavkin, Robert Woodruff, Julia Jarcho, Liliana Blain-Cruz, Robert Woodruff, Robin Frohardt, Eugene Ma among many other awesome people. As a performer he has been in Amanda Palmer and the Grand Theft Orchestra, Cellular Chaos and is frontman for the rock group "The Simple Pleasure" He is a 2011 graduate of the Yale School of Drama. www.chadraines.com

BIOS (continued)

Dean Robinson* (acting coach) Collective Member. Previous Cherry: *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, *George Kaplan*, *Felt Sad* *Posted a Frog*, as well as voicing *Storm Country*, *The Missing Chapter*, and *The Fan*. Also in the Ithaca area, Dean has appeared in plays including *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Swimming in the Shallows*, *The Chairs*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Nora*, *Tribes*, and *The Children*. Other area performances include *Sirens*, *Perfect Crime*, and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Regionally, Dean has performed at A.C.T. (San Francisco), Trinity Repertory Theatre, American Southwest Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, and New York's Public Theatre as well as performed in the international tour of Robert Wilson's *The Black Rider*. He is a founding member of the critically acclaimed The Actors' Gang where he directed and acted in multiple plays. Dean is a graduate of the Academy for Classical Acting at George Washington University; he is currently an assistant professor of theatre at Ithaca College, where he teaches voice, movement, and acting.

Karen Rodriguez (live-stream design) is the owner of Wind-up Pictures and the Director of Photography of the feature documentary *Elizabeth Bishop and the Art of Losing*. She previously designed the Livestream for *And What Happens*

If I Don't at the Cherry and designed the visual projection for *Tenebrae: The Passion of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* by Hugh McElyea. She has many film and television credits including *MURDER and Murder* by Yvonne Rainier, *American Orpheus* by Rick Schmidt, *Northern Exposure*, and *The Chanticleer* by Becky Lane. Karen is a 2017 Fulbright Scholar and holds an MFA in Film and Video Production from the University of Iowa Graduate College.

Nellie Speers (assistant stage manager) earned a B.A. in Theatre Studies from Ithaca College in 2021. Previous credits include: *My Darling Darkling* (Devising Ensemble), *Stop Kiss* (Dramaturg), *Shifting Spaces Dance Concert* (ASM), *Particular Risk* (Devising Ensemble). Since graduating, she spent 6 months on a trail conservation crew in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. She is currently an assistant preschool teacher with Tompkins Community Action.

Nick Pyzowski (She/They) (master electrician). Nick is a current Theatre Production & Design major at Ithaca College. Previous works include: *Fun Home*, *House of Desires*, and *Head Over Heels*. This is her first time working with The Cherry and they are very thankful for being part of the production.



is a collective of Ithaca-area professional theatre artists, creating work that is radically local, radically global, and formally innovative. We are fortunate to benefit from the generous support of the Cherry Arts, Inc, a non-profit arts facilitating organization who programs the flexible, multidisciplinary Cherry Artspace, at 102 Cherry St in Ithaca's West End. Please follow us on social media or visit us at www.thecherry.org to learn more.

CHERRY ARTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Cherry extends our deepest thanks to Wetsuitman co-producers

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and
Stacia Zabusky**



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YOU AS WE PLAN ITHACA'S

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Visum Development Group is building a new arts-oriented neighborhood on Cherry Street, and we can't do this alone! We're looking for artists to share their insights on your creative practices and space needs.

If you'd like to take part in our collaborative **artist engagement** in spring 2022 or **contribute artwork** to the neighborhood, we want to hear from you!

To be added to our contacts, email patrick@visumdevelopment.com



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