



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Skye E. Kowaleski at 347-725-4856 or [skye@jackny.org](mailto:skye@jackny.org)

August 21, 2024

**JACKLabs return with Resident Artist Carolina Đõ's *ExtraO1dinary Aliens! (Exit I-485)* this September!**

**ExtraO1dinary Aliens! (Exit I-485)**

**Performances: September 12 - September 15, 2024**

*(This production is not open for review)*

**Written by** Carolina Đõ

**Directed by** Vas Eli

Corneliu is an immigrant from Romania who is in love with Kay, a U.S. Citizen. Linh is Kay's best friend who might have let her student visa lapse?! David has dreams of opening up his restaurant with his cousin Enoc. ***ExtraO1dinary Aliens! (Exit Route I-485)*** is a love story centered on immigrants and the ones who love them. How can love defy the dehumanizing machinations of the US Immigration system? What makes someone leave everything they've ever known to journey to a foreign land? What makes someone stay despite the hostile environment? What is the promise of the American dream and can it ever be a reality?

*ExtraO1dinary Aliens! (Exit I-485)* is a part of JACKLabs, a series designed to incubate theatrical work with an opportunity for playwrights to advance their play past the "workshop" phase, but without the pressure of a multi-week run.

**Cast:**

Voice: **John Austin**

Corneliu: **Vas Eli**

Linh: **Belle Le**

Alien: **Maria Müller**

Kay: **Meadow Nguy**

David: **Marlon Xavier**

**Creative Team:**

Written by **Carolina Đõ**

Directed by **Vas Eli**

Lighting Designed by **Yang Yu**

Set Consultation by **Alexia Doan**

Assistant Director & Projections by **My Le**

Stage Management by **Isabel Criado**

**Performance Dates & Times:**

Thursday, September 12th at 7:30pm

Friday, September 13th at 7:30pm

Saturday, September 14th at 7:30pm

Sunday, September 15th at 3:00pm

**Tickets:**

\$15 - \$50 (sliding scale), available [HERE](#)

*As one small step of extending gratitude towards the indigenous communities whose lands we occupy, 5% of all JACK's Box Office proceeds will be redistributed to Lenni Lenapexkweyok a collection of Lenape matriarchs organizing to increase Lenape presence in their homeland immediately and in the long term. This effort is being stewarded by River Whittle, community liaison for Emily Johnson/Catalyst and the Branch of Knowledge.*

**Location:** 20 Putnam Ave in Brooklyn. C or G train to Clinton - Washington. Shuttle to Franklin Ave. <https://www.jackny.org/visit-us>

**Photo:** (for press) located [HERE](#)

**About the Artist:**

**Carolina Đõ** is a theatre maker, doer, and proud descendant of Vietnamese freedom fighters and refugees. An alum of the Soho Rep Writer-Director Lab, Fresh Ground Pepper Playground Playgroup, and Orchard Project Greenhouse Lab, Carolina's writing has also been supported by residencies/fellowships at MacDowell, JACK, The Hearth, Fault Line Theatre, Piper Theater, and Naked Angels. Carolina's works have also been finalists for the Sokhary Chau Fellowship, Leah Ryan Fund, BricLab, and Bushwick Starr; and semifinalists for Playwrights Realm, Space on Ryder, and Princess Grace. Co-Founding Producing Artistic Leader — The Sóng Collective. Creative Director — Mai House Studio. Associate Director for Community Engagement — PlayCo. BFA: Brooklyn College. IG: carolinakaydo

**Vas Eli** is an award-winning actor based in NYC. A multidisciplinary artist, he is also a director, writer, producer, dialect coach, educator, and painter. He is the founder of BETTERFLY Productions (*The Pir*, *Zoom With Me*, *Far*, *Lemonking*, *The Sketchy Eastern European Show*, *When & Where*). Theater: *The Sketchy Eastern European Show* (The Players Theater) *Tamburlaine* (TFANA), *Jericho* (Attic Theatre), *Unearthly Visitants* (Triskelion Arts), *Island of Dr. Moreau* (Piper Theatre), *Splitfoot* (Edinburgh Fringe), *Lincoln Dress* (Albany NY, Bucharest) TV: *Night Agent*, *The Endgame*, *For Life*, *WeCrashed*, *The Deuce*, *The Blacklist*; Film: *Snakeeater*,

*Varlet, Delenda, Hell House 2, Kidnapping of A Fish, The Naked Woman, Dominant Species, Far From Here.* [www.Vaseli.org](http://www.Vaseli.org) IG: vaseli\_vaseli

**Yang Yu** is a New York based lighting designer for performing arts. She is interested in using light, space, and timing to create an emotionally charged environment, as well as visualizing music. Recent credits include *The Lydian Gale Parr* (The Target Margin), *Primordial* (The Tank), *Unresolved Rage Game* (Soho Rep Writer Director Lab); *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* (Crossroads Theatre Company); *Lewberger and the Wizard of Friendship* (Theater Row); MFA from Brooklyn College. [Yangyudesign.com](http://Yangyudesign.com)

**Alexia Doan** is a multidisciplinary designer and artist, studying interior design at Parsons. With particular interests in immersive and narrative design, Alexia enjoys blending various specialties together to create beautiful and impactful experiences. Their current projects include scenic design for theater and film, as well as fashion show production with Bureau Betak and production with Lincoln Center. Alexia would like to extend their gratitude and congratulate the crew and cast :) (IG: @alexiadoan)

**My Le** is an international theater artist from Vietnam. In 2022, she had her official directing debut in Vietnam with *Alice in Wonderland the Musical* and became one of the youngest directors to debut in The Hanoi Opera House. In 2023, she worked as the assistant director for *Crystal Field* at Theater for the New City for the Summer Street Theatre. Additionally, My Le was a director for New Perspectives Theatre Company's 2023 Women's Short Play Lab. She was also invited to be on their panel to select the 2024 plays. My Le graduated from Hunter College with a major in Theater and an Arts Management and Leadership Certificate. She is currently working at Little Island for their summer production season.

**Isabel Criado** is a Spanish/Peruvian multidisciplinary artist with a need to tell stories which voice the experiences of multicultural immigrants. Most recent credits include *Midsummer Night's Dream's Hermia* at Under St. Marks, and *Twelfth Night's Viola* with Prague Shakespeare Company. Isabel recently graduated from The New School with honors and a BFA in Dramatic Arts. She has worked as AD for Federica Borlenghi's world premiere of *Until Dark*, produced by Et Alia Theatre at Out of The Box Theatrics. Furthermore, she was SM for SparkPlug Production of *Clown Bar 2* at Parkside Lounge and Josh Fox's NYC premiere of *The Edge of Nature* at LaMama Experimental Theatre. Instagram: @isabelcriadob

**John Austin** (Voice) Selected credits: NEW YORK: The Flea: *Waiting for Lefty* (Harry Fatt); NATIONAL TOUR: *Me, Myself, and Shirley*. starring the late Cindy Williams of the hit television show "*Laverne & Shirley*," REGIONAL: Arena Stage: *Kleptocracy*; *Right to Be Forgotten*; *Holiday*; *Angels in America*, directed by János Szász (Joe Pitt) (Helen Hayes Award: Outstanding Ensemble; 12 total HHA Nominations including Outstanding Direction and Outstanding Production); *Constellation: Melancholy Play* (Helen Hayes Awards: Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Production; Nomination: Outstanding Ensemble). EDUCATION: Boston University: BFA Acting, Summa Cum Laude, Dean's Award, Bette Davis Prize; LAMDA: Certificate in Classical Acting. <https://www.johnaustinator.com/>

**Belle Le** (Linh) was born in Saigon, Vietnam and raised in the Bay. Recent credits include *Sex and The Abbey* at *The Brick* and *An Choi* at Fault Line Theatre. Belle is endlessly grateful for the Viet hotties and for her community in NYC! University of North Carolina School of the Arts BFA. @belletle | [belle-le.com](http://belle-le.com)

**Maria Müller** (Alien) is a Romanian actor, writer, and producer based in New York. She is also the Co-Founding Artistic Director of Et Alia Theater. Her most recent theater credits include *Until Dark*, directed by Federica Borlenghi (Out of the Box Theatrics), and *Plasters*, directed by Emma Tadmor (The Flea). Her film credits include *Queen Marie of Romania* (available on HBO), *No Tomorrow*, directed by Martin Drop (Queens World, Manhattan Film Festival), and a short film she wrote, produced, and starred in called *Where Are You from Again?* for which she won several awards. She holds a BFA from NYU Tisch.

**Meadow Nguy** (Kay) Credits include: *Interstellar Cinderella* at NYCCT. *Ella (Cinderella)* at North Shore Music Theatre, *Hope Harcourt (Anything Goes)* at City Springs Theatre Company, *Betty Haynes (White Christmas)* and *Rachel (Escape to Margaritaville)* at The John W. Engeman Theater; *Ariel (The Little Mermaid)* at Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre; *Shelby (Steel Magnolias)* at North Carolina Theatre; Awarded the 2012 High School Musical Theatre Jimmy Award Winner in Chicago. Film/TV: *The Blacklist*; *The Artist's Wife*, *Law and Order SVU*, *Madam Secretary*, and *Hunters*. BFA-Indiana University. [www.meadownguy.com](http://www.meadownguy.com)

**Marlon Xavier** (David) is a New York City-based actor and a proud member of Labyrinth Theatre Company and a Finalist at The Actors Studio. He holds an MFA degree from the Actor Studio Drama School. Marlon's credits include *A Stage of Twilight* which he starred alongside Karen Allen and William Sadler, as well as roles in *Blue Bloods*, and *The Savant*. Marlon is deeply grateful to his beautiful wife for her unwavering support and constant inspiration as he continues his journey.

#### **About JACK:**

JACK is an award-winning multidisciplinary performance meets civic space in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn. JACK was created to fuel experiments in art and activism, collaborating with artists and neighbors to build a more just and vibrant society. We present over 75 shows a year in music, dance and theater and hosts conversations on issues that are vital to the local community. JACK's programming centers artists of color and those dedicated to our collective liberation. Learn more online @jackartsny and [www.jackny.org](http://www.jackny.org)

*JACK's programming is made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with Mayor Eric Adams, Speaker Adrienne Adams and the City Council, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development with the support of City Council Member Crystal Hudson, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, Assembly Member Phara Souffrant Forrest, Howard Gilman Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, The Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation, The Jerome Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Emma A. Sheafer Charitable Trust, The Hyde & Watson Foundation, Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Bains Family Foundation, The John Golden Foundation, Ridgewood Savings Bank, Jody Falco & Jeffrey Steinman in addition to many generous individuals.*

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