

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BETTERFLY PRODUCTIONS, LEVIATHAN LAB, and JACK PRESENT**

## ***EXTRA01DINARY ALIENS!***

in association with  
**THE HEARTH SUPPORTED PRODUCTIONS and THE SÓNG COLLECTIVE**

**WRITTEN BY CAROLINA ĐỒ**

**DIRECTED BY VAS ELI**

**CO-PRODUCED BY MARIA MÜLLER**

**LINE PRODUCED BY FEDERICA BORLENGHI**

**OPENS MARCH 7, RUNS THROUGH MARCH 14**

**Press Invitation:** Saturday, 3/7 at 7pm

\*\*\*For industry tickets, interview requests, and press packet, please reach out to Carolina Do\*\*\*

**Betterfly Productions, Leviathan Lab, and JACK**, in association with The Hearth Supported Productions and The Sóng Collective will present ***ExtraO1dinary Aliens!*** by playwright **Carolina ĐỒ**, directed by **Vas Eli**, at **JACK (20 Putnam Ave, Brooklyn)**. Running from **March 7 - 14**. Opening is March 7. Tickets (\$45) are available for purchase at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/extrao1dinary-aliens>

***ExtraO1dinary Aliens!*** features an immigrant/first-generation cast & creative team. 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 his restaurant with his cousin Enoc. This play 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?

**Betterfly Productions** is an artist-led theater company centering immigrant, third-culture, and first-generation theatermakers as creative leaders, collaborators, and cultural workers. Viet- and Romanian-led, Betterfly develops and produces form-pushing new works while providing paid

opportunities and career support to artists navigating the U.S. immigration system. Our work cultivates spaces where immigrant stories and audiences can gather with care, curiosity, and collective purpose, and where artists are supported not only creatively but also materially.

<https://www.betterflyproductions.com/>

Founded in 2009 by actor/producer Ariel Estrada (TCG Rising Leader of Color, artEquity BIPOC Leadership Circle), **Leviathan Lab** is an award-winning, NYC-based nonprofit creative studio whose mission is the advancement of Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) film and theatre artists and their work. Leviathan Lab envisions a theatre industry where AANHPI theatre artists and the artistry and presence of all people of color is as prevalent as their white colleagues. Leviathan functions as a lab where early-career and established AANHPI theatre artists can be courageous, experiment, and thrive as they create works that captivate the audiences we serve. Leviathan works to open spaces that promote social justice, bridge communities, and assert the power of art to change the world. [www.leviathanlab.org](http://www.leviathanlab.org)

**The Hearth** exists to address a dual need in the theater community: To narrow the industry-wide gender gap by welcoming more women, trans, and non-binary artists and artists of underrepresented genders into the field and to launch the careers of emerging artists by offering them otherwise rare opportunities for institutional support, development, and production. We help launch the careers of emerging artists by offering them rare opportunities for support, development, and production. Through our critically acclaimed productions—including RACECAR RACECAR RACECAR, happy life, Push Party, brainsmash, Events and NYTimes Critic's Pick Athena—we've kickstarted the professional trajectories of talented artists like Kallan Dana, Kathy Ng, Nia Akilah Robinson, Sophie Weisskoff, Bailey Williams and Gracie Gardner (to name a few). The Hearth commissions, develops, and produces plays that explore characters who pulse with emotional, intellectual, and psychological complexity and, by so doing, we challenge gender stereotypes, advance and complicate the conversation about feminism, and expand perceptions of what it means to be live in a body that has been historically oppressed or marginalized due to gender expression. [www.thehearththeater.com](http://www.thehearththeater.com)

The cast includes **Vas Eli**, **Julie Tran\***, **Maria Müller**, **Belle Le**, **Marlon Xavier**, **Jeffrey Brabant**.

The creative team includes **Isabel Criado** (assistant director and stage manager), **Michi Zaya** (projection designer) and **Jiahao "Neil" Qiu** (lighting designer).

Actors designated by an asterisk (\*) are members of Equity. *ExtraO1dinary Aliens!* is an **Equity Approved Showcase**.

#### **Performance Schedule:**

Saturday, March 7 @ 7pm

Sunday, March 8 @ 7pm

Monday, March 9 @ 7pm

Wednesday, March 11 @ 7pm

Thursday, March 12 @ 7pm

Friday, March 13 @ 7pm

Saturday, March 14 @ 7pm

**Location: JACK (20 Putnam Ave, Brooklyn).**

## **ARTIST BIOS**

**Carolina Đõ** (playwright) 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, The Movement Theatre Company, 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. [www.carolinado.com](http://www.carolinado.com)

**Vas Eli** (director) 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

*This limited engagement of EXTRAORDINARY ALIENS! was made possible thanks to Venturous Theater Fund, the grassroots support of over 95 individual donors and a community space grant from The Bechdel Project and development support from Fresh Ground Pepper, MacDowell, The Maker's Ensemble, Second Generations, and JACK.*

Picture this—you're new to this city, you don't  
speak the language—







*In*







# EXTRAORDINARY

CAROLINA DÔ

directed by Vasti