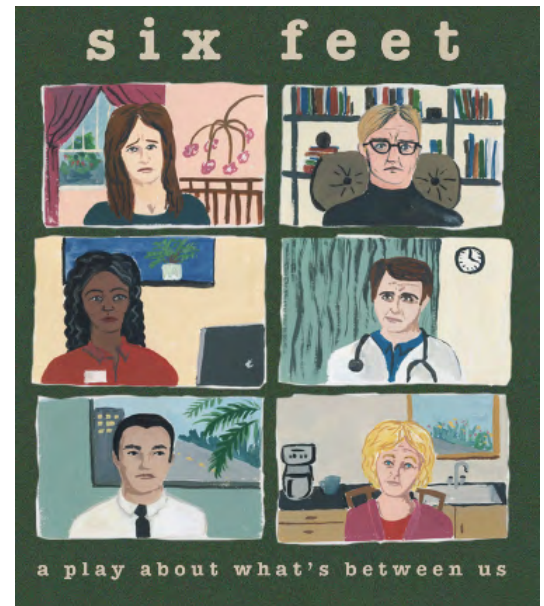


# SIX FEET

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MELANIE HOOPES  
GLOBAL THEATRE: A PERFORMANCE SERIES  
CURATED BY CHERYL WIESENFELD

THURSDAY, MARCH 25 • 7:30 P.M.



Following the performance, audience members are invited to participate in a post-show discussion led by Cheryl Wiesenfeld along with, Melanie Hoopes, Fairfield University's Vice President for Mission and Ministry Rev. Gerry Blaszcak, S.J., and Richard Greenwald, PhD, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Cheryl Wiesenfeld** (Curator/Producer) Throughout Cheryl's career she has been in the communication field as an editor, writer, photographer, and producer. She started her career as a magazine editor at *Popular Photography* Magazine and then at *Forbes* Magazine. In between, she co-edited two books of photography "Women See Woman" and "Women See Men". Following her career in publishing, she became a producer of large scale industrial events for corporations. Flexing her creative muscle, she produced shows that combined art, theatre, dance and ideas working with such luminaries as Andy Warhol, Lena Horne, Tony Bennett, Robin Williams, Bill Irwin, and Pilobolus. Cheryl began her theatre producing career in 1998. Broadway: *The Great Society*, *Ain't Too Proud*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *All The Way*, *Rocky*, *Vanya*, *Sonia*, *Masha and Spike*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, *A Steady Rain*, *Legally Blonde*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *'night Mother*, *Caroline or Change*, *Elaine Stritch At Liberty*, and *Hedda Gabler*. Off-Broadway: *10th Anniversary Exonerated*, *Play Dead*, *In The Continuum*, *Shockheaded Peter*, *Talking Heads*, *The Exonerated*, *The Waverly Gallery*. Film: *Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me*. Cheryl has won numerous awards for productions including the Drama Desk, Drama League, Lucille Lortel, New York Drama Critics Awards, and 4 Tony Awards.

## ABOUT THE WRITER AND DIRECTOR

**Melanie Hoopes** is a writer whose credits include Season Two of *Lethal Lit* (iHeartRadio/EEP), *Bloodline* (Netflix) and *One Giant Leap: The Apollo 11 Moon Landing*, *50 Years On* (New York Times). She is the creator of the long-running New York-based live episodic stage show, *Laurie Stanton's Sound Diet*, a dark, modern twist on *Prairie Home Companion*. The show was performed live in NYC, and its four-year run included 15 episodes, and guest performances from Michelle Williams, Jason Mantzoukas and Fred Armisen. Her public radio credits include work for *This American Life*, *Alec Baldwin's Here's the Thing* and *Unfictional*. Melanie couldn't be happier working on *Six Feet* with her friends, new and old. She thanks RiverArts for the support.

## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

A musical adventurer and educator, **Steve Horelick's** career encompasses a wide spectrum of the music universe. He performs live electronic SurroundScape™ concerts. He is a founding member of the Electric Art Ensemble who **Bob Moog** christened as “**virtuosic sonic sculptors**”. His TV credits include more than 350 episodes, encompassing such award-winning children productions as PBS's **Reading Rainbow** for which he composed the iconic, Buchla-generated “Butterfly in the Sky” theme song. Other credits include *Shining Time Station*, *The Puzzle Place*, and *The Magic Adventures of Mumfie*. His film score credits include everything from an 80's cult-horror classic to HBO's legendary baseball documentary series “When It Was a Game,” which earned him his first **EMMY nomination**. He has also won many other awards, including the prestigious Gold at New York Film Festival, for his many TV and advertising soundtracks. His **original songs** have been recorded by **Bobby McFerrin, John Sebastian, Phoebe Snow, Peabo Bryson, LeVar Burton and Kermit the Frog**.

## ABOUT THE CAST



**Jenny Bacon** has brought characters to life alongside some of the masters of the American Theater, including Sam Shepard, Tony Kushner, Sarah Ruhl, Theresa Rebeck, Lisa Kron, and David Rabe. She has worked with groundbreaking directors Ivo van Hove, JoAnne Akalaitis, Daniel Aukin, Walter Bobbie, Robert Falls, Mary Zimmerman, Daniel Fish, and others, garnering awards across America and a Herald Angel Award from the Edinburgh Festival. She has appeared on American television playing a variety of unfortunate souls in horrific circumstances, and has had an absolutely wonderful time doing it.

A graduate of Brown University and The Integrative Sound and Music Institute, **Anitra Brooks** has toured the U.S. and world with Drama Desk Award-nominated puppet performers and masked musicians Big Nazo, Drama Desk Award-nominated “bad-ass masters of vocalogy” Hotmouth, and with Grisha Coleman's dance and live music performance installation *echo::system*. In her 20+ years in New York City, she has performed at the Public Theater, Belasco Theatre, LaMama, HERE Arts Center, Kraine Theater, Ohio Theatre, National Black Theatre, and other venues. She has also been featured in numerous television and radio commercials, television shows, and soap operas. As a recording artist, she has released two albums of original music: *Flood* in 2008 and *I Walk in Your Light* in 2015. She is the co-producer of the community ensemble project and play *Where Are We Now?: Race, Pride, Class & Inequity*, and teaches Music & Movement at the Greenwich Country Day School. She lives in Cos Cob, CT with her husband and sons. [www.anitrabrooks.com](http://www.anitrabrooks.com)



**Kelly Coffield Park** Kelly Coffield Park is an actor and a mom. She and her talented husband Stephen Park are looking forward to following their recently relocated children back to NY from LA. Kelly is always grateful for an opportunity to work with Melanie Hoopes. She has been a cast member of Laurie Stanton's *Sound Diet*. Having an opportunity to be a part of this ensemble, has been a great joy during a very unrecognizable time.

**Ed Herbstman** is an actor and writer originally from Chicago, and is married to director Melanie Hoopes. His credits include the following. Film: *Hustlers, The Big Sick, Ode To Joy, Arthur*, TV: *Manifest, Search Party, Alpha House, Pinkalicious*. Theater: *Second City Touring Co, Laurie Stanton's Sound Diet, Mantzoukas Brothers, Armando Show*. Podcast: *The Truth*.





**Stephen Park** was born in Brooklyn, NY to Korean immigrant parents. He began his career as a stand-up comedian in New York City and soon after started acting in the theater. His first film role was as the market owner in *Do the Right Thing* which led to his next role in *Quick Change*. Upon moving to Los Angeles, he became a cast member of the sketch comedy television series *In Living Color* during the 1991-1992 season where he met fellow cast member Kelly Coffield, who eventually became his wife. (And his castmate again in this show!) Stephen has been in such iconic movies as the Coen Brothers' *Fargo* and *A Serious Man*, as well as Bong Joon-ho's *Snowpiercer*. He is in Wes Anderson's soon- to-be released movie *The French Dispatch*.

**Jean Villepique** left New Jersey to study theater and improvisation at Northwestern University. She stayed in Chicago, pursuing improv at the former ImprovOlympic theater, studying with Del Close, and then was hired by The Second City, Chicago. She wrote and performed in five reviews there before moving to New York. There she performed at the UCB and Magnet theaters before moving again to LA. TV/Film credits include *The Office*, *30 Rock*, *Sharp Objects*, *Better Call Saul*, and Jean can currently be seen as Michelle Jones on *AP Bio*, streaming on the Peacock platform.



**Nick Wyman** is an award-winning actor who has acted in a dozen feature films and sixteen Broadway shows, most recently *Network* with Bryan Cranston. He was part of the original cast of *The Phantom of the Opera*, spent six years as Thenardier in *Les Miserables*, and performed in many other on-stage roles. Film credits include *Die Hard With a Vengeance*, *Maid in Manhattan*, and *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*. He has also appeared in television in *Boardwalk Empire*, *VEEP*, *Elementary*, and *The Good Wife*, among others. He served as President of Actors' Equity for five years and his show-business how-to-book, *Climbing Rejection Mountain* was just published this summer.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCER

**Lauren Orkus** is an actor and producer with a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from the FSU/Asolo Theatre Conservatory. For over 15 years, she has performed in New York and regionally with companies including The Lookingglass Theatre, Weston Playhouse, and the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, among others. In 2017, Lauren co-produced The Future is Female Festival, a national theatre festival of short plays by diverse female playwrights. She is the Director of Operations of Barnicle Brothers, a documentary film production company. Lauren lives in Hastings with her canine companion June.

## ABOUT THE CONSULTING PRODUCER

In September 2018, **Marie-Louise Miller** directed the interdisciplinary art performance project, Braiding. The show took two years to develop, was a RiverArts production and supported by an NEA grant. Braiding included 15 artists from 5 disciplines. Marie-Louise has studied directing and acting at the British American Drama Academy, the Royal Court, and Northwestern University where she earned her MFA. Ms. Miller worked as an assistant director with several theaters in West Germany. After the Wall fell, she was the first American with The Staatstheater in Dresden, Germany. She went on to do experimental work in East Berlin, and study directing at Ernst Busch Academy in East Berlin. In the US, she worked with playwright/director Craig Lucas at NYC's Rattlestick Theater and NY Theatre Workshops, and for the renowned Romanian director Liviu Ciulei at the Seattle Repertory Theatre. She has directed 24-hour musicals and been part of the SoHo director's lab and Lincoln Center's Director's Lab. She has taught improvisation, acting/writing for the camera, character development, scene study, and movement. She has also created dynamic classes exploring inner voice through story writing, performance, and drawing.

## ABOUT THE AUDIO/VIDEO TECHNICIAN

**Josh Govier** is an audio video tech from Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. He has a strong passion for technology, the arts and all of the places that they intersect. He is a longstanding friend of RiverArts, first starting as a student, he has gone on to serve as a Videographer, Sound Recordist, and Music Tour Associate Producer.