

The Kitchen

Center for video, music, dance, performance, film, and literature

Fall 2015 Season

Upcoming Fall 2015

Tere O'Connor: *The Goodbye Studies*

December 2–12. 8pm. \$15

The Kitchen welcomes back Tere O'Connor for the world premiere of *The Goodbye Studies*, a piece continuing his decades-long commitment to strictly movement-based investigations. Engaging a large group of twelve New York-based performers, the work promotes complexity as a key feature of consciousness and seeks to fully detach from comprehension as a value. Together with the performers, O'Connor will create aqueous fields of constant movement, where transition and event are indistinguishable.

Synth Nights: Champagne Jerry, Penis, and Tami Tamaki

December 16. 8pm. \$15

This bill brings together artists forming new performative personae, each from their own radically different place on the musical spectrum. Sophia Cleary and Samara Davis created Penis, a feminist punk band committed to transformation, remaking value systems, and vulnerability. Champagne Jerry is the hip-hop project of Neal Medlyn that seeks to “continuously create and provide the most significant moments in everyone’s lives.” Making her US debut, Swedish electronica artist Tami Tamaki crafts sweeping, shimmery dance tracks that combines soft-focus romance with frank sexuality. Organized by Matthew Lyons.

The Kitchen presents

Scaffold Room

Performances November 3 –10

Installation on view October 30–December 5

Scaffold Room

A work by **Ralph Lemon**

Co-Produced by **Cross Performance Inc.** and **MAPP International Productions**

Organized at The Kitchen by **Tim Griffin** and **Matthew Lyons**

Performed by

Okwui Okpokwasili

April Matthis

On video:

Edna Carter (The Queen)

Betty Clifton (Sister Hare)

Albert Johnson (Brother Hare)

Geneva Johnson (Goat Girl)

Michael Sims (Giraffe Boy 1)

Jayden Williams (Giraffe Boy 2)

Dramaturge **Katherine Profeta**

Composer/turntablist **Marina Rosenfeld**

Lighting Designer **Roderick Murray**

Video Designer/Editor **Mike Taylor**

Scenic Design Collaborator **R. Eric Stone**

Engineer/Fabricator, "Scaffold Room" **F. Randy deCelle**

Production Manager and Sound Engineer **Philip White**

Costume Designer **Naoko Nagata**

Chorus

DJ/Turntablist, **Kevin Beasley**

Omagbitse Omagbemi

Malcolm Low

Paul Hamilton

Source Texts:

Kathy Acker, *Empire of the Senseless* (1988) and

Rip Off Red, *Girl Detective* (published 2002 from manuscript 1973)

Additional music:

Janis Joplin's *Little Girl Blue*, "The Essential Janis Joplin"

Carol Jones, *Don't Destroy Me*, Mutt Records

Belle & Sebastian's *Waiting for the Moon to Rise*, "Fold Your Hands
Child You Walk Like a Peasant"

Funding Credits

Scaffold Room is made possible through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Surdna Foundation, The Doris Duke Performing Arts Awards Audience Development program, and The MAP Fund (a program Creative Capital supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation), and the Poss Family Foundation. *Scaffold Room* is also made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and additional funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the MetLife Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts; The New England Foundation for the Arts' Production Residency for Dance Program, with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; the James E. Robison Foundation; and the Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation.

Scaffold Room is a production of Cross Performance and MAPP International Productions. It was commissioned by the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, MN, and was co-commissioned by Live Arts Bard at the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College. Additional co-commissioning support has been provided by Maggie Allessee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University, and the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC). The work was also developed through a residency at the Park Avenue Armory.

Individual support for *Scaffold Room* has been provided by Jorge Arias, Kate Danziger, Felicia Furman, Margit Galanter, Gina Gibney, Sam Miller, Jon Nakagawa, Tamara Ober, Stanley Smith, Charmaine Warren, Kathy Westwater and Anita Yavitch.

The Kitchen's production of *Scaffold Room* is made possible with support from the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts; The James E. Robison Foundation; Mertz Gilmore Foundation, The Jerome Robbins Foundation, and The Harkness Foundation for Dance; and in part by public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



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Biographies

Ralph Lemon (Creator, Choreographer and Director)

Ralph Lemon is a director, choreographer, writer, visual artist, and curator, and the Artistic Director of Cross Performance, a company dedicated to the creation of cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary performance and presentation. His most recent works include the innovative dance/film project *Four Walls* (2012), and *How Can You Stay in The House All Day and Not Go Anywhere?* (2008-2010), a work with live performance, film and visual art that toured across the U.S. The immersive visual art installation, *Meditation*, which was part of *How Can You Stay...*, was purchased for the permanent collection of the Walker Art Center in 2012. In January 2011, a re-imagined section of *How Can You Stay...* was performed at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City in conjunction with *On Line: Drawing Through the Twentieth Century*. Mr. Lemon curated the fall 2012 performance series *Some sweet day* at MoMA, and the acclaimed 2010 performance series *I Get Lost* at Danspace Project in NYC.

Mr. Lemon's visual art work was shown in a group exhibit *When the Stars Begin to Fall: Imagination and the American South* at the Studio Museum of Harlem (summer 2014). His solo visual art exhibitions include: *1856 Cessna Road* at The Studio Museum in Harlem, NYC (2012); *How Can You Stay In The House All Day and Not Go Anywhere?*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco (2010); *(the efflorescence of) Walter*, Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans (2008), The Kitchen, NYC (2007) and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2006); *The Geography Trilogy*, Zilkha Gallery at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT (2001); and *Temples*, Margaret Bodell Gallery, NYC (2000). His group exhibitions include: *When the Stars Begin to Fall: Imagination & the American South*, The Studio Museum in Harlem; *Move: Choreographing You*, Hayward Gallery, London, UK and *The Record: Contemporary Art and Vinyl*, Nasher Museum at Duke University, Durham, NC. Mr. Lemon's book, *Come home Charley Patton*, the final in a series documenting *The Geography Trilogy*, was published in 2013 by Wesleyan University Press.

In 2012, Mr. Lemon was honored with one of the first Doris Duke Performing Artist Awards; he was also one of the first artists to receive the United States Artists Fellowship (2006). He is recipient of two "Bessie" Awards (1986, 2005); two Foundation for Contemporary Art Awards (1986, 2012); two New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships (2004, 2009); a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship; a 2004

Bellagio Study Center Fellowship; and the 1999 CalArts Alpert Award. He is a 2016 Hugo Boss Prize Finalist.

Mr. Lemon has been an IDA Fellow at Stanford University (2009); artist-in-residence at Temple University (2005-06); Miller Endowment Visiting Artist at the Krannert Center (2004); Fellow of the Humanities Council and Program in Theater & Dance at Princeton University (2002); and Associate Artist at Yale Repertory Theatre (1996-2000). For the fall 2011 semester he was a Visiting Critic with the Yale University, School of Art, Sculpture Department. He was the 2014 Annenberg Fellow at the Museum of Modern Art, where he co-organized a series of “performance essays,” titled, *Value Talks*. In 2015 he was a Mellon Foundation Visiting Artist Fellow at Columbia University. He is currently a Visual Arts Mentor at Columbia University School of the Arts.

Okwui Okpokwasili (Performer)

Okwui Okpokwasili is a multidisciplinary artist, writing, choreographing and performing original work that lives at the intersection of theater, dance and installation. She is currently the Resident Commissioned Artist at New York Live Arts, developing *Poor People's TV Room*. Her latest work, *Bronx Gothic*, co-commissioned by PS 122, Danspace Project, and LMCC premiered for a sold out run in PS 122's 2014 COIL Festival continues to tour nationally and internationally. It received at 2014 New York Dance and Performance (“Bessie”) Award. It was recently remounted at New York Live Arts to a sold out run. *Bronx Gothic: The Oval* was a featured installation and performance at the 2014 River-to-River Festival.

“Scaffold Room” marks the third time she has worked with Ralph Lemon, the Bessie Award winning Artistic Director of Cross Performance since 2003. After completing the 2010 tour of Lemon's “How Can You Stay...”, she performed an extended duet with Lemon in the Atrium at MoMA in conjunction with the exhibit, *On Line: Drawing Through the Twentieth Century*. Okpokwasili also received a Bessie Award for her performance in the final part of Ralph Lemon's Geography Trilogy, “Come Home, Charley Patton.”

Acting roles in NYC include: “Hippolyta” in Julie Taymor's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at TFANA's Polonsky Center, “Leda” in *SOUNDING* directed by Kristin Marting at HERE Arts Center,

“Goneril” in Young Jean Lee’s *LEAR* at Soho Rep, “Joan” in *Joan Dark* co-produced by The Goodman Theater and the Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture, “Long Legged Ballerina” in Richard Foreman’s *Maria Del Bosco*, “Madame Laramie” in Richard Maxwell’s *Cowboys and Indians*. Film credits include *Malorie’s Final Score*, Knut Åsdam’s *ABYSS*, *The Interpreter*, *The Hoax*, and *I Am Legend*.

She’s currently conducting a residency with the Times Square Arts Alliance and a participant in LMCC’s Extended Life Program. She is a 2012 MANCC Choreographic Fellow, 2013 NYFA fellow in Choreography and a 2014 Foundation for Contemporary Arts grantee for Dance. Okpokwasili is a graduate of Yale University.

April Matthis (Performer)

April Matthis is a performer living in New York City whose work includes experience across the Dance and Theater worlds. As a dancer, she has appeared in Ralph Lemon’s *Parallels and Some sweet day*. April has also been featured in numerous stage productions, notably, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Yale Rep), *Fondly*, *Collette Richland* (Elevator Repair Service/Walker Art Center), *Hollow Roots* (The Public Theater’s LCT3), *LEAR* (Soho Rep/Young Jean Lee Co), *The Sound and the Fury* (New York Theatre Workshop/Elevator Repair Service). Her regional credits include Sundance Theatre Lab, Huntington Theatre, Humana Festival, Magic Theatre (San Francisco), Rude Mechs and Salvage Vanguard Theater (Austin, TX). Ms. Matthis’ work also includes national commercials and independent films.

Edna Carter, Warren (Red) Carter, Lorraine Carter, Lloyd Williams, Emma Williams, Jayden Williams and **Michael Sims** live and work in Bentonia and Little Yazoo, Mississippi and have been collaborating with Ralph Lemon since 2002.

Katherine Profeta (Dramaturg)

Katherine Profeta works as a dramaturg in dance, theater and other varieties of performance. She’s collaborated with Ralph since 1997, beginning with the *Geography Trilogy*. Recent other collaborators include Nora Chipaumire (*rite riot*) and Alexandra Beller (*other stories*). She’s also a founding member and choreographer with Elevator Repair Service Theater Company, with whom she most recently worked on *Arguendo*, and an Assistant Professor of Theater at Queens College, CUNY.

Mike Taylor (Video Designer and Editor)

Mike Taylor writes, directs and produces video, theater and art installations. Her live work has been presented at The Kitchen, The Ontological, PS122, Dixon Place, La Mama, TONIC, and various raw spaces in NYC, and her videos have been shown in the US and Europe, most recently at the Whitney as part of a series by and about DanceNoise. She is excited to be working again with Ralph Lemon on this piece, and has previously collaborated on *Come Home Charley Patton* and *How Can You Stay...* As a designer of video, lighting, props and technical design she has had the pleasure of working with Conway and Pratt (ad hoc on-site design, video, lighting, scenic, etc,) Richard Foreman (TD and props,) John Jesurun (video tech design and lighting,) Meredith Monk (video design for impermanence at BAM, and tour lighting, Yoshiko Chuma (Isadora/Korg system for live mixing, and video documentation). She most recently worked with Sarah Michelson as video collaborator on *Tournamento*, which premiered at the Walker Art Center in September. A book based on her play *not knowing* was published last February by Ugly Duckling Presse as part of their Emergency Playscripts series.

Marina Rosenfeld (Composer/Turntablist)

Marina Rosenfeld has been a leading voice in the increasing hybridization between the domains of music composition and contemporary art. She has created chamber and choral works, including the acclaimed performances *Teenage Lontano*, *Cannons* and *roygbiv&b*; a series of conceptual “orchestras” for floor-bound electric guitars and other sculptural scenarios; and since 2008, a series of installation/performance works, often mounted in monumental spaces, such as New York’s Park Avenue Armory, deploying complexes of unamplified live performers and custom loudspeaker installations. As a turntablist, she’s worked with hand-crafted dub plates since the late ’90s, creating solo and ensemble works, and performing improvised music with collaborators from George Lewis to Christian Marclay to Otomo Yoshihide. Rosenfeld’s work has been widely presented throughout Europe, North America and Australia, including solo projects for the Museum of Modern Art and Whitney Museum in New York; Ultima, Wien Modern, Holland and Vancouver Festivals; the Whitney, Liverpool and PERFORMA Biennials of contemporary art; and many others. Recent projects include a new work for orchestra, commissioned and staged within the multiple galleries of the Bergen (Norway) Kunsthall, in March 2014; choral work *roygbiv&b* at South London

Gallery in June; and a solo performance at Los Angeles' Museum of Contemporary Art/Geffen Contemporary as part of "Step and Repeat" in September. Rosenfeld lives and works in New York, and has co-chaired the graduate program in Music/Sound at Bard College from 2007-2014.

Naoko Nagata (Costume Designer)

Naoko Nagata started her career as a biochemist in Japan. With literally no formal training, Nagata's first costume was created for Jeanine Durning in 1998. From that moment, she has been creating for a diverse group of choreographers and dancers non-stop. She has collaborated with Amanda Loulaki, Bebe Miller, Carrie Ahern, David Dorfman Dance, Doug Elkins, David Neumann, Ellis Wood, Gina Gibney, Liz Lerman, Nina Winthrop, Nora Chipaumire, Reggie Wilson, Tiffany Mills, Urban Bush Women, Zvi Gotheiner and many others. Working closely with collaborators, Naoko helps bring to life what she herself calls, "the creation of a shared dream." Currently she is working with Kyle Abraham for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Nagata's work has been seen on both international and national stages including: The Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.); Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco, CA); Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (Tallahassee, FL); PACT Zollverein (Essen, Germany); Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago, IL); Royce Hall UCLA Theater (Los Angeles, CA); Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN); Dance Theater Workshop (New York, NY); Brooklyn Academy of Music (New York, NY); Danspace Project (New York, NY); Joyce theater (New York, NY); Dance New Amsterdam (New York, NY); and Joyce SoHo (New York, NY).

Philip White (Production Manager and Sound Engineer)

Composer, performer and improviser Philip White works with electronics at the intersection of noise, jazz and contemporary concert music. Current music projects include R WE WHO R WE (with Ted Hearne) and duos with Chris Pitsiokos, Paula Matthusen, Bob Bellerue, and Taylor Levine. In addition to his work with Ralph Lemon he works with Nora Chipaumire and Urban Bush Women. His music has been released on Carrier Records, New Focus Recordings, Infrequent Seams and Tape Drift Records. It has been described as "utterly gripping" (*Time Out Chicago*), "bona fide evocative music" (*Brooklyn Rail*), and a "vibrant textural tapestry" (*Wall Street Journal*).

Roderick Murray (Lighting Designer)

Roderick has designed lighting and installations for performance nationally and internationally since 1989. He has designed lighting for Ralph Lemon's work since 2004, and the lighting and environments in all of Kimberly Bartosik's choreographic works since 2000. Other projects include Yanira Castro's site-specific works; several projects with Wally Cardona (2001 "Bessie" Award for *Cardona's Trance Territory*); and the set and lights for Luca Veggetti's work in New York City. Mr. Murray collaborates regularly with Benjamin Millepied at NYCB, Lyon Opera, ABT, Los Angeles Dance Project, Dusan Tynek and Melinda Ring; and has designed lighting for Paul Simon, Ballett Dortmund, ABTII, Donna Uchizono, Paradigm, Scotty Heron, Hot Mouth, Risa Jaroslaw, Bill Young and Dancers, and many others.

Kevin Beasley (b. 1985, Lynchburg, VA) lives and works in New York. He graduated with BFA from the College for Creative Studies, Detroit (2007) and an MFA in sculpture from Yale University, New Haven (2012). Beasley's work has recently been included in exhibitions at The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2015); The Maier Museum of Art at Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA (2015); The Glass House, curated by Jordan Stein, New Canaan, CT (2015); The 2014 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2014); The Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul (2014); The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2014); MoMA PS1, Rockaway Beach, New York (2014); and The Studio Museum Harlem, New York (2014). This September the artist presented a three-part performance on the High Line, New York titled "Untitled Stanzas: Staff/Un/Site," and has recently performed at venues including Casey Kaplan, New York (2015); The Dallas Museum of Art (2015); The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2015); The Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland (2014); The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2014); Queens Museum of Art, New York (2014); and The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2012). His work is held in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Studio Museum Harlem, New York; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco.

Malcolm Low

Malcolm Low, from Chicago, has performed with Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, Ballet British Columbia, Stephen Petronio, Crystal Pite/Kidd

Pivot, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Co. to name a few. Malcolm currently works with Ralph Lemon and David Thomson.

Paul Hamilton started his dance training in Jamaica at the Jamaica School of dance. Upon arriving in the United States, he continued his training at SUNY Purchase, where he studied with Kevin Wynn and Neil Greenberg. Paul also studied at the Alvin Ailey school of dance, the Martha Graham school and Dance Theatre of Harlem. He has performed with Elizabeth Streb, the Martha Graham Dance Ensemble, The Barnspace Dance Company, Mauri Cramer Dancers, .Ballet Arts Theatre, Ralph Lemon, Deborah Hay, apprenticed with Lines Contemporary Ballet with Alonso King, and is also a member of Reggie Wilson Fist and Performance Group and Keely Garfield Dance.

Omagbitse Omagbemi

Omagbitse Omagbemi received her BFA in dance at Montclair State University. In 2012 she was awarded a Bessie for Sustained Achievement in Performance. She has performed nationally and internationally with Jon Kinzel, Neil Greenberg, Vicky Shick, Deborah Hay, Ralph Lemon, Wally Cardona, Jeremy Nelson, Keely Garfield, David Gordon, David Thomson, Gerald Casel, Pearson/Widrig, Urban Bush Women, Barbara Mahler, Shapiro & Smith, Christopher Williams, Sean Curran, Kevin Wynn. Omagbemi has performed in the Punch Drunk production “Sleep No More” as Lady Macbeth.

R. Eric Stone (Set Design Consultant)

Eric is the Head of Design at the University of Iowa, where he has worked since 2008. At Iowa he has designed scenery for *Out of the Pan Into the Fire* (premiere; Co-Production with the Moving Company), *Slaughter City*, *Lady M*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Eurydice*, and *As You Like It*, as well as advised over 80 productions of student designs. Previously, Eric taught at University of Illinois (Krannert Center for the Performing Arts), 2001-2008; and was the Resident Scenic Designer at PCPA Theaterfest, 1995-2001. Other design credits include Ralph Lemon’s *How Can You Stay in the House All Day and*

Not Go Anywhere? and *Come home Charley Patton*; productions for Great River Shakespeare Festival, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Iowa Summer Rep, Skylight Opera Theatre, American Players Theatre, Fulton Theatre, and San José Repertory Theatre. Eric was the Associate Designer for the 2007 and 2011 USITT USA Exhibitions at the Prague Quadrennial. B.A., Lewis & Clark College; M.F.A., Ohio University; United Scenic Artists 829. www.ericstone.com

Cross Performance Inc.

Cross Performance, Inc. ("CPI") is dedicated to the creation of cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary performance and presentation. Over the past 30 years, CPI has produced live performances; mixed-media exhibitions, film and video works, publications, and digital projects, all interrelated in their exploration of complex, formal structures, and in their potential for stretching the traditional boundaries of performance. For each project, Artistic Director Ralph Lemon gathers a team of collaborating artists – from diverse backgrounds, cultures and artistic disciplines – who bring their own history and aesthetic voice to the work.

MAPP International Productions is a nonprofit producer of major performing arts projects that raise critical consciousness and spark social change. We support all phases of an artist's creative process, from concept and production to premiere and touring, while also engaging audiences in the issues behind the art. Through this heightened focus, we support an evolving and elite cadre of creators whose work ignites communities worldwide. MAPP realizes its mission through three interconnected programs—New Works, Artist-Public Dialogues, and MAPP on Tour—and through its national and international programs, the Community Engagement and Public Humanities initiatives, and The Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium. Since its founding in 1994, MAPP has produced 47 acclaimed multidisciplinary performing arts projects created and performed by more than 400 artists, and produced over 70 national tours, bringing these works to public in 42 U.S. states and 16 countries. MAPP has introduced the U.S. public to artists from 25 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, and the Caribbean. www.mappinternational.org

2nd floor exhibition collaborators:

Jim Findlay

Giovanna Flores

Carol Fonde

Lite Bright Neon

Roderick Murray

Mike Taylor

Philip White

Cameron Wittig

Louis Sparre

The Garden and Killer Space Dogs folk:

Warren (Red) Carter

Lorraine Carter

Lloyd Williams

Emma Williams

Jayden Williams

Michael Sims

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\$50,000+

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\$500+

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Renee Leibler
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Katie Rashid
Marina Rosenfeld
Lisa Roumell & Mark Rosenthal
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John Silva
Michele Snyder
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Kate Werble
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\$250+

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Deirdre Barry
Gretchen Beidl
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Karen Rutledge
Cecile Barendsma & Tracey Ryans
Amy & Jake Schrader
Anastasiya Siro
William Stasinlatis
Hilary Kloz Steinman & Robert
Steinman
Bryan Weiss
Alison Wender
Christine Zehner

\$100+

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KF Altwater
Lucas Baumgart
Marie Becker
Elizabeth Bialek
Jo Bonney & Eric Bogosian
Anney Bonney
Maureen Bray
Greg Bresnitz
Victoria Brooks
Nicholas Brown
Julia Bryan-Wilson
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Sophie Cavoulacos
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Alba Clemente
Margaret Clinton-Koenig
Karin Dauch
Moyra Davey
Danielle Dimston
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Khashy Eyn
Melissa Feldman
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Jonathan Jacobson
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Daniel Krimm
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