



National Press Contacts

Matt Ross Public Relations

[Matt Ross](#) / [Nicole Capatasto](#) / [Claire Wojciechowski](#) / [Sarah Sgro](#) / [Liz Lombardi](#)

“Dazzlingly original! A combination requiem mass, séance, revival meeting, metaphysical lecture, rock concert.”

VOGUE

“Heather Christian’s truly one-of-a-kind opus.”

The New York Times

“A Southern-style avant-cabaret séance...part concert, part painful para-autobiography and part old-fashioned magic act.”

Time Out New York

**Woolly Mammoth Theatre and
American Conservatory Theater**

Present

The Original Film Adaptation of
The Bushwick Starr’s Production of

**ANIMAL
WISDOM**

By **Heather Christian**

Available for Streaming Nationwide

May 15, 2021

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Film Directed by
Amber McGinnis (*International Falls*)

Stage Direction by
Emilyn Kowaleski (*Delicious Filth*)

DOWNLOAD PRODUCTION PHOTOS [HERE](#)

(April 15, 2021 – New York, NY) **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company** (María Manuela Goyanes, Artistic Director; Emika Abe, Managing Director) and **American Conservatory Theater** (Pam MacKinnon, Artistic Director; Jennifer Bielstein, Executive Director) announced today that tickets are now on sale for the original film adaptation of **The Bushwick Starr's** (Noel Allain, Co-Founder/Artistic Director; Sue Kessler, Co-Founder/Creative Director) critically-acclaimed production of ***Animal Wisdom***, created by and starring **Heather Christian**. ***Animal Wisdom*** will be released on **Saturday May 15, 2021** on **Broadway on Demand** and be available for streaming through **Sunday June 13, 2021**. Tickets are on sale now at www.animalwisdomfilm.com.

Tickets for ***Animal Wisdom*** are available at three pay-what-you-wish prices: \$19, \$29 and \$49.

Do you believe in ghosts? Take a virtual front row seat for this original film of the acclaimed musical séance, ***Animal Wisdom***, where singer-songwriter-soothsayer **Heather Christian** lays to rest the souls that haunt her. Christian shapeshifts between rock star, folklorist and high priestess as she conjures a constellation of souls in an effort to confront her family's mythologies.

With raucous, ferocious music that fuses blues, gospel and folk, **Heather Christian** invites you to raise a glass to the unseen forces that shape our lives. Adapted from the stage production that had a sold-out and acclaimed run at The Bushwick Starr, ***Animal Wisdom*** offers a transporting experience where a concert becomes a mass, and a mass becomes a séance, all in your living room.

Amber McGinnis (*International Falls*) will direct the film with stage direction by **Emilyn Kowaleski** (*Delicious Filth*). Production design is by **Christopher Bowser** (*The Undertow*), with costume design by **Heather McDevitt Barton** (*Folk Wandering*) and percussion design by **Eric Farber**.

The cast of ***Animal Wisdom*** features **Heather Christian** (as "Ella," "Doris," "Heather"), **Sasha Brown** (as "Victor," "Doris," "Sasha"), **Eric Farber** (as "Myles," "Doris," "Eric"), **B.E. Farrow** (as "Doris," "B.E."), and **Maya Sharpe** (as "Heloise," "Johanna," "Doris," "Maya").

Animal Wisdom was made in collaboration with and features orchestrations by **Heather Christian, Sasha Brown, Fred Epstein, Eric Farber & Maya Sharpe**. The film will feature Piano & Vocals by **Christian**; Guitar, Cello & Vocals by **Brown**; Bass and Vocals by **Epstein**; Percussion & Vocals by **Farber**; Bass & Vocals by **B.E. Farrow**; and Violin & Vocals by **Sharpe**.

The film of ***Animal Wisdom*** is produced in association with **Matt Ross, Madeleine Foster Bersin, Outskirt Media** and **The Bushwick Starr**. ***Animal Wisdom*** was filmed at Woolly Mammoth Theatre in Washington, D.C., in March of 2021.

The stage production of ***Animal Wisdom*** by Heather Christian was developed with support from The Bushwick Starr and world premiered in their 2017/2018 Season. ***Animal Wisdom*** was originally commissioned by the Leeds Playhouse, formerly known as the West Yorkshire Playhouse, where it was originally developed and presented as part of Transform Festival 2015.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.animalwisdomfilm.com

ABOUT HEATHER CHRISTIAN

Heather Christian is an Obie Award winning composer/playwright/performer, 2021 Richard Rodgers Award winner and Sundance Institute Time Warner Fellow. Recent composing/performing credits include her own work *Oratorio for Living Things* (Ars Nova), *I am Sending You the Sacred Face* (Theater In Quarantine/ YouTube— Named *Vulture's* #5 Theater Experience of 2020), *Prime: A Practical Breviary* (Playwrights Horizons Soundstage—named *IndieWire's* #1 Podcast Episode of 2020), *Animal Wisdom* (The Bushwick Starr), in addition to being a lead artist on devised works *Mission Drift* (National Theater, London), *The World Is Round* (BAM). Film composition credits include *The Craft: Legacy* (Sony Pictures/ Blumhouse 2020), *Lemon* (2017 Sundance Film Festival and SXSW), *Gregory Go Boom* (Sundance Grand Jury Prize), Adult Swim series "The Shivering Truth" and all four films in the Criterion Collection's Retrospective of Janicza Bravo. She was named one of *TimeOut New York's* Downtown Innovators to Watch and is a 2019 Harold and Mimi Steinberg Trust commissionee. She has been seen in Taylor Mac's *24 Decade History of Popular Music* and in Toshi Reagon's *Parable of the Sower* and is a longtime collaborator in devised theater with the TEAM, Jane Comfort Company, Salty Brine, Mac Wellman, Big Dance Theater and Taylor Mac. She has released 11 records, teaches vocal-based music composition at NYU, owns and operates her own recording studio in Beacon, NY, and can be seen regularly in concert halls and dive bars as *Heather Christian & the Arbornauts*. www.heatherchristian.bandcamp.com

ABOUT WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY

Woolly Mammoth is "the hottest theater company in town" (Washington Post); priding itself on developing, producing, and making theatre that disrupts conventional processes and stimulates transformative experiences. For almost four decades, Woolly has held a unique position at the leading edge of the American theater, earning a reputation for staying "uniquely plugged in to the mad temper of the times" (New York Times). The co-leadership of María Manuela Goyanes (Artistic Director) and Emika Abe (Managing Director) is supported by a core company of artists that holds itself to a high standard of artistic excellence. Woolly is relentless in its desire to take risks, experiment, innovate, interrogate, and create a radically inclusive community. Located in Washington, DC, Woolly Mammoth stands upon occupied, unceded territory: the ancestral homeland of the Nacotchtank whose descendants belong to the Piscataway peoples. www.woollymammoth.net

ABOUT AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

American Conservatory Theater is an essential gathering place that brings artists and communities together to inspire and provoke. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon and Executive Director Jennifer Bielstein, A.C.T.'s mission is to engage the spirit of the San Francisco Bay Area, activate stories that resonate, promote a diversity of voices and points of view, and empower theater makers and audiences to celebrate liveness. A.C.T. values inclusion, transformational learning,

participation and rigorous fun. A.C.T. is a Tony Award-winning nonprofit theater serving almost 200,000 people in the San Francisco Bay Area annually through theater, training, education and community programs. www.act-sf.org

ABOUT THE BUSHWICK STARR

The Bushwick Starr is an Obie Award-winning nonprofit theater that presents an annual Season of new performance work. We are an organization defined by both our artists and our community, and since 2007, we have grown into a thriving theatrical venue, a vital neighborhood arts center, and a destination for exciting and engaging performance. We provide a springboard for emerging professional artists to make career-defining leaps, and we are a sanctuary where established performance companies come to experiment and innovate. We are also a neighborhood playhouse, serving our Bushwick, Brooklyn community's diverse artistic needs and impulses. Our past Seasons have included new work from groundbreaking artists such as Jeremy O. Harris, Heather Christian, Diana Oh, The Mad Ones, Clare Barron, Phillip Howze, Dave Malloy, Daniel Fish, Haruna Lee, and the TEAM. www.thebushwickstarr.org