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## BIG SUMMER ON LITTLE ISLAND!

LITTLE ISLAND  
TO COMMISSION, PRODUCE AND PRESENT  
NINE WORLD PREMIERES  
AS IT UNVEILS  
AN ANNUAL, SUMMER-LONG SEASON OF  
LIVE PERFORMANCES  
INCLUDING DANCE, OPERA, THEATER, JAZZ, COMEDY

ZACK WINOKUR NAMED PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

INAUGURAL SEASON BOOKENDED BY  
TWYLA THARP'S NEWEST FULL-LENGTH DANCE  
AND  
ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO'S ONE-MAN "MARRIAGE OF FIGARO"

JUNE 1 – SEPTEMBER 22  
ALL ON LITTLE ISLAND  
NEW YORK CITY



New York, NY (May 6, 2024) — **Little Island** today announced that an annual, four-month-long summer season of world premieres, kicking off June 1, will feature a total of nine newly commissioned pieces. Little Island's new arts program moves towards the future with a commitment to a multi-year roster of original work, all commissioned by and developed at Little Island. Bookended by the premiere of legendary choreographer **Twyla Tharp's** newest full-length piece, titled **How Long Blues**, and a 90-minute remix of Mozart's **The Marriage of Figaro** in which outré opera diva **Anthony Roth Costanzo** sings every leading role, the season will offer premieres

of varying scales across all areas of performance – including music, dance, theater, opera, comedy, jazz, pop, and funk, all outdoors and directly sited on the Hudson River at 14<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City. The Amph, the park's 700-seat amphitheater, will house larger scale performances at a \$25 ticket price, while The Glade, the park's 200-seat venue, will be home to more intimate works, all of which will be completely free to the public.

In addition to Ms. Tharp's newest work, which marks her 60<sup>th</sup> year making dances and is a collaboration with **T Bone Burnett** and **David Mansfield**, the season will include: **Robeson**, a new work created and performed by star bass baritone **Davóne Tines**, co-created and directed by **Zack Winokur**, about events in the life of Paul Robeson; **Open Throat** by **Henry Hoke**, a theatrical experience based on the novella of the same name about a queer mountain lion living beneath the Hollywood sign, directed by **Caitlin Ryan O'Connell**; **Day For Night**, a dance by choreographer **Pam Tanowitz** that takes place before and after sunset and uses the cityscape as its score; **Mama**, an evening of all-new music about, and performed on, the water, written by **Britton Smith**, who performs alongside his funk liberation band, **Britton & The Sting**, with direction and choreography by **Ebony Williams**; **The Oyster Radio Hour**, a live three-act radio show combining science, story and song with special guest appearances to tell the captivating story of oysters in the Hudson River – a collaboration between **RR Sigel**, podcast producer **Ana González** and composer **Angélica Negrón** and **Mark Sonnenblick**, in partnership with **Yo-Yo Ma's Our Common Nature** project; **The Summer Legacy Ball**, led by the stage and film costume designer and activist **Qween Jean**, and directed by a consortium of emerging young producers from across New York City; and **The Manhattan Variations**, a musical memoir that revolves around the legendary Lower East Side cocktail bar **Milk and Honey**, performed by the virtuoso mandolinist and acclaimed composer, **Chris Thile**, created by Thile and **Claire Coffee**. The season concludes with a 90-minute radically re-imagined adaptation of Mozart's **The Marriage of Figaro**, directed by **Dustin Wills**, with new arrangements by **Dan Schlosberg**, and costumes by **Emily Bode**, in which star countertenor **Anthony Roth Costanzo** sings every leading role.

In July and August, The Glade will be home to a completely free-to-the-public performance series, in which a committee of New York cultural vanguards will each program one week of public events (to be announced shortly). The curators include Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright, **Suzan-Lori Parks**, Grammy Award-winning artist **Cécile McLorin Salvant**, cabaret legend **Justin Vivian Bond**, comedy world sensation **Morgan Jay**, New Amsterdam Market founder and culinary world figure **Robert LaValva**, experimental musician, singer, and songwriter **Gio Escobar** and **Standing on the Corner**, and linguist **Ross Perlin** and the **Endangered Language Alliance**.

In a statement, **Barry Diller**, founder of Little Island said, "For the past three years, it's been extraordinarily gratifying to see New Yorkers embrace Little Island – whether for a few moments, a few hours, an entire afternoon, or late into the evening. Now, with this inaugural slate of entirely original programming, we fulfill the initial intention and vision for the park. Little Island was inceptioned with the goal of becoming a permanent hub of cultural activity, excitement, and entertainment, constantly building and creating new work for the City to enjoy. There is going to be something great to see – all throughout the park – every night, all summer long."

Mr. Diller also announced that **Zack Winokur** has been named Little Island's Producing Artistic Director.

"We are planning, season by season, to offer the people of New York City a nightly party with great art, great food and drinks, great sunsets, and great views," said Mr. Winokur. "By opening with a new dance, closing with a reimagined opera, and filling the intervening weeks with works of all different disciplines and scales, we are offering audiences an astonishingly broad array of work in a relatively condensed amount of time. We are embracing a world premiere and commissioning model, which we believe will create remarkable opportunities, not just for the artists involved, but

for the audiences who will experience work being made expressly for New Yorkers in a space unlike any other. We are not only presenting these projects but also focusing on their development processes on a bespoke level, built around every show and every idea. Our commitment to commissioning and producing these new works will extend long past the final performances on Little Island and will continue throughout the long life of each project.”

About Mr. Winokur, Mr. Diller said, “Zack is a prodigiously talented leader with a shrewd and encompassing vision for the park and its programming. The way he’s been able to rally these participating artists has been a terrifically impressive demonstration of collaborative leadership. It’s a true fulfillment of the conception of our plan for Little Island and it creates, finally, the opportunity for the park to be a fully imagined destination – as both a park and performance space in equal measure.”

In June and September, The Glade will be New York’s newest outdoor cocktail lounge, complete with a bar designed by **Green River Project** and a menu of beer, wine, cocktails and mocktails that can be consumed in The Glade or enjoyed anywhere on Little Island. This will be just one of the multiple food and beverage venues in the park, throughout the summer.

To reinforce Little Island's ongoing commitment to artists and audiences, the 2025 season (which will be announced fully at a later date) will be replete with an entire month of dance, a new re-examination of the music theater canon and eight other world premieres. While the 2024 season is currently in motion, workshops and development are also well underway for next year. That season will include a world premiere collaboration between dance world sensation **Bobbi Jene Smith** and **Ringdown**; Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Caroline Shaw’s** new project with **Danni Lee**: a musical exploration of the life of disco superstar Sylvester written and conceived by Pulitzer Prize-winner **Hilton Als**; a new musical from Obie Award winner and Tony Award nominated **Whitney White** and director **Taibi Magar**; a new play from emerging writer **Jacob Wasson**; an adaptation of **Ben Shattuck’s** *Six Walks: In the Footsteps of Henry David Thoreau* by **Sam Amidon** and **Amy Berryman**; a commission from MacArthur Fellow **Okwui Okpokwasili** and **Peter Born** of *Sweat Variant*; and a reimaging of Benjamin Britten’s *Peter Grimes* conceived and arranged by **Chris Thile**.

Little Island, the 2.4-acre park that sits along the Hudson River, opened in May 2021 and has since been enjoyed by 4.6 million visitors. In 2013, Barry Diller, in partnership with Hudson River Park Trust leadership, embarked on the unique opportunity to envision a solution for the repair and reactivation of Pier 54, which had been badly damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The park was designed as an entirely new type of public space for New York, one that would create an immersive experience of nature and art. Born from a collaboration of the UK-based Heatherwick Studio and the New York-based landscape architecture firm MNLA, led by Signe Nielsen, the park’s imaginative design offers all New Yorkers and visitors a new public space that is dynamic, captivating, and restorative.

Little Island is operated year-round by a 50-member staff co-helmed by Mr. Winokur and newly appointed Executive Director, **Laura Clement**.

The 2024 summer season of events at Little Island is made possible by a gift from the Diller - Von Furstenberg Family Foundation.

Tickets to Little Island's summer season of performances are available for purchase on [littleislandtickets.com](https://littleislandtickets.com), TodayTix.com, or by downloading the TodayTix app.

**KEY ART FOR SUMMER SEASON AVAILABLE [HERE](#)**

**IMAGE OF LITTLE ISLAND AVAILABLE [HERE](#)**

**IMAGE OF TWYLA THARP IN REHEARSAL AVAILABLE [HERE](#)**

VIDEO OF REHEARSAL FOR TWYLA THARP'S 'HOW LONG BLUES' AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

## 2024 SUMMER SEASON IN THE AMPH

### How Long Blues

**Previews:**

6/1/24 – 6/2/24, 6/5/24

**Opening Night:**

6/6/24 (Amph)

**Performances through:**

6/23/24

Directed, Choreographed and Conceived by

**Twyla Tharp**

Original Music and Arrangements by

**T Bone Burnett** and **David Mansfield**

Performed by

**Michael Cerveris, Piper Dye, Jourdan Epstein, Oliver Greene-Cramer, Kyle Halford, Colin Heininger, Daisy Jacobson, Claude CJ Johnson, Pomme Koch, Skye Mattox, Nicole Ashley Morris, Hugo Pizano Orozco, Ryan Redmond, Victoria Sames, Frances Lorraine Samson, John Selya, Reed Tankersley, Andromeda Turre, John Bailey, Justin Goldner, Wayne Goodman, Dan Lipton, Mark Lopeman, Jay Rattman, George Rush, Paul Wells**

Scenic & Costume Design by

**Santo Loquasto**

Lighting Design by

**Justin Townsend**

Sound Design by

**Scott Lehrer**

Music Direction by

**Dan Lipton**

Production Supervisor & Rehearsal Production Stage Manager

**Mark Mongold**

Production Stage Manager

**R. Michael Blanco**

Stage Manager

**Matthew Henao**

Assistant Stage Manager

**Shana Ferguson**

Music Clearance and Supervision by

**Janet Billig Rich** and **Lisa Moberly** for **Loudspeaker Media Group**

Additional Casting by

**The Telsey Office / Will Cantler, CSA.**

### Robeson

**Preview:**

6/26/24

**Opening Night:**

6/27/24

**Performances through:**

6/29/24

Conceived by  
**Davóne Tines** and **Zack Winokur**  
Music Arrangements by  
**DAVÓNE TINES & THE TRUTH**  
Directed by  
**Zack Winokur**  
Performed by  
**John Bitoy, Khari Lucas, Davóne Tines**  
Scenic Design by  
**Adam Charlap Hyman**  
Lighting Design by  
**Mary Ellen Stebbins**  
Sound Design by  
**Kai Harada**  
Clothing for Davóne Tines by  
**Emily Bode**  
Production Stage Manager  
**Betsy Ayer**

**Open Throat**

**Preview:**  
7/10/24  
**Opening Night:**  
7/11/24  
**Performances through:**  
7/14/24

By  
**Henry Hoke**  
Based on the novel by  
**Henry Hoke**  
Directed by  
**Caitlin Ryan O'Connell**  
Performed by  
**Marinda Anderson, Layla Khoshnoudi, Susannah Perkins, Calvin Leon Smith, Steven Wendt,** and more to be announced  
Choreography by  
**Lisa Fagan**  
Lighting Design by  
**Isabella Byrd**  
Sound Designed and Composed by  
**Michael Costagliola**  
Props Design by  
**Noah Mease**  
Shadow Puppet Design by  
**Steven Wendt**

**Day For Night**

**Preview:**  
7/17/24  
  
**Opening Night:**  
7/18/24

**Performances through:**

7/21/24

Created and Choreographed by

**Pam Tanowitz**

Performed by

**Morgan Amirah, Marc Crousillat, Lindsey Jones, Brian Lawson, Sarah Elizabeth Miele, Maile Okamura, Melissa Toogood**

Costume Design by

**Reid Bartelme & Harriett Jung**

Lighting Design by

**Davison Scandrett**

Sound Design and Composed by

**Justin Ellington**

Production Stage Manager

**Betsy Ayer**

**Mama**

**Preview:**

7/24/24

**Opening Night:**

7/25/24

**Performances through:**

7/28/24

Created by

**Britton Smith**

Performed by

**Britton & The Sting – Zwe Bell le Pere, Andrew Jagannath, Malachi Mabson, Tiffany Mann, Ines Nassara, Josh Roberts, Britton Smith**

Direction and Choreography by

**Ebony Williams**

Associate Choreographer

**Christine Sheppard**

Scenic Designer

**Carlos Soto**

**The Oyster Radio Hour**

**Preview:**

7/31/24

**Opening Night:**

8/1/24

**Performances through:**

8/4/24

Creative Producer

**RR Sigel**

Music by

**Angélica Negrón, Mark Sonnenblick, and more to be announced**

Content Developer

**Ana González**

Performed by

**Angélica Negrón, Darian Donavon Thomas, and more to be announced.**

Lighting/Video Design by  
**Jeanette Yew**  
Audio Interviewees  
**Dr. Matthew Hare, Elliott Ma**, and more to be announced.  
In Partnership with  
**Yo Yo Ma's Our Common Nature**

**The Summer Legacy Ball**

**Preview:**  
8/8/24  
**Opening Night:**  
8/9/24  
**Performances through:**  
8/9/24

Creative Director  
**Qween Jean**

**The Manhattan Variations**

**Preview:**  
8/14/24  
**Opening Night:**  
8/15/24  
**Performances:**  
8/14, 8/15, 8/16 & 8/18

Created by  
**Claire Coffee** and **Chris Thile**  
Music and Lyrics by  
**Chris Thile**  
Book by  
**Claire Coffee** and **Chris Thile**  
Direction by  
**Claire Coffee**  
Performances by  
**Chris Thile**

**The Marriage of Figaro**

**Previews:**  
8/30/24 – 9/1/24, 9/4/24  
**Opening Night:**  
9/5/24  
**Performances through:**  
9/22/24

Composed by  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Libretto by  
Lorenzo Da Ponte  
Conceived by  
**Anthony Roth Constanzo**  
Music Arrangements by  
**Dan Schlosberg**  
Directed by

## **Dustin Wills**

Performed by

**Chris Bannow, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Daniel Liu, Emma Ramos**, and more to be announced

Music Direction

**Dan Schlosberg**

Scenic Design by

**Lisa Laratta & Dustin Wills**

Costume Design by

**Emily Bode**

Lighting Design by

**Barbara Samuels**

Sound Design by

**Sun Hee Ki**

Production Stage Manager

**Kasson Marroquin**

Dramaturg

**Jacob Bird**

## **IN THE GLADE**

**Week 1: Suzan-Lori Parks** (Conversations + Music)

Wednesday 7/10 – Sunday 7/14

**Week 2: Pam Tanowitz: *Day for Night* Epilogue** (Dance)

Wednesday 7/17 – Sunday 7/21

**Week 3: Justin Vivian Bond** (Cabaret)

Wednesday 7/24 – Sunday 7/28

**Week 4: Oyster Market / Robert LaValva**

(Local vendor market + live oyster shucking)

Wednesday 7/31 – Sunday 8/4

**Week 5: Morgan Jay**

(Comedy)

Wednesday 8/7 – Sunday 8/11

**Week 6: Ross Perlin, The Endangered Language Alliance, Michael Leibenluft,**

**Gung Ho Projects**

(Performances about the past, present, and future of the world's most linguistically diverse city)

Wednesday 8/14 – Sunday 8/18

**Week 7: Cécile McLorin Salvant**

(A week of celebrated jazz and folk artists)

Wednesday 8/21 – Sunday 8/25

**Week 8: Gio Escobar**

(Standing on the Corner – a Brooklyn-based post genre music collective)

Wednesday 8/28 – Sunday 9/01

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[www.littleisland.org](http://www.littleisland.org)

[www.omdkc.com](http://www.omdkc.com)

[www.x.com/omdkc](https://www.x.com/omdkc)

[www.facebook.com/omdkc](https://www.facebook.com/omdkc)

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