

# CIVIC ENSEMBLE

2021 SEASON

(RE)CONNECT



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



# ABOUT US

Civic Ensemble is a community-engaged theater company, creating performance and theatrical explorations that are grounded in local stories.

By engaging our community in deep listening and dialogue, Civic Ensemble works toward manifesting the Beloved Community. We create work that centers our collective wellbeing, creates greater equity and justice in our community, and helps us to understand different perspectives and build new relationships.

## Staff

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Julia Taylor

**ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE**

Gabriella da Silva Carr

**PROGRAM ASSOCIATE**

Carley Robinson

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## Artistic Ensemble

Sage Alia Clemenco, Gabriella da Silva Carr, Michael Margolin, Carley Robinson, Julia Taylor, Olajumoke Warritay, and Sylvie Yntema

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# A NOTE FROM

## THE ARTISTIC ENSEMBLE

Welcome to Civic Ensemble's 2021 Season! We are thrilled to share five events with you, including three new plays, offering an invitation to engage in dialogue about some of our community's most pressing challenges - mental health, incarceration, and racism, and reflecting on their place in our community. And in this dialogue we seek connection, belonging, and recognition of this work as one step in the long haul work of creating the Beloved Community.

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!



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# COMMUNITY SOUP

STORYTELLING TOWARD THE  
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**MAY 24, 2021 | 7:00PM**

Facilitated by Michael Margolin,  
Carley Robinson, Gabriella da Silva  
Carr, Julia Taylor, and Sylvie Yntema



What soup nourishes you for the long haul?  
Make a pot of your favorite soup and post a photo on social media  
with the tag **#communitysoup**. Share your soup story!

# Delia Divided

BY JUDY K. TATE

DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH  
THE REENTRY THEATRE PROGRAM

**JUN 12-13**

PROGRAM CO-SPONSOR: THE SOPHIE FUND



## Artistic Team

**PRODUCER**

Julia Taylor

**DIRECTOR**

Gabriella da Silva Carr

**STAGE MANAGER**

Miranda Bianchi

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Ana Carmona-Pereda

## Cast

**DELIA**

Carley Robinson

**TOM**

Brian Briggs

**ADHD**

Amy Heffron

**PTSD**

Cassandra Ponton

**PARANOIA**

Leroy Barrett

**OCD**

Ana Carmona-Pereda

**DEPRESSION**

Edwin Santiago

**SOCIAL WORKER**

Jo-Louis Hallback

**JUDGE HAIKU**

A.C. Sidle

**COP**

Pam Lackner

**DELIA'S MOTHER**

Sylvie Yntema

**BAILIFF**

Pam Lackner

**ATTORNEY**

Abdullah Khalil Bey

**Facilitators:** Jumoke Warritay and Mikel Moss

**The Sophie Fund**

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



COMMUNITY **ARTS** PARTNERSHIP 

This program is made possible in part with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County.



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THE  
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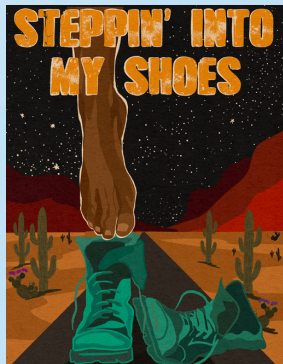
RE-ENTRY THEATRE PROGRAM'S

# STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES

**SEP 11, 18, 25**

DEVELOPED IN A COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN THE REENTRY THEATRE  
PROGRAM AND COLLEGE  
INITIATIVE UPSTATE

**Ensemble:** Leroy Barrett, Abdullah Khalil Bey, Brain Briggs, Gabriella da Silva Carr, Ricardo Escobedo, Jo Louis Hallback, Amy Heffron, Michael James, Pam Lackner, Latoya Peterson, Casandra Ponton. and A.C. Sidle



**With development support from:**

Misi Cady, Regina DeOrio,  
Danielle Drake, Sunshine Fox,  
Lucas Hahn, Ashlie Rice, and  
Edwin Santiago

*Visit [civicensemble.org/radio-play](http://civicensemble.org/radio-play) for  
more info on the cast & crew*

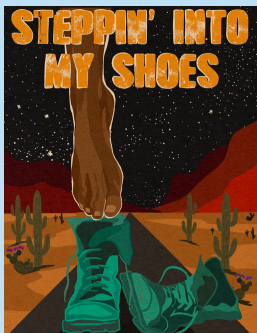
## Artistic Team

**CO-DIRECTORS** Gabriella da Silva Carr and Julia Taylor

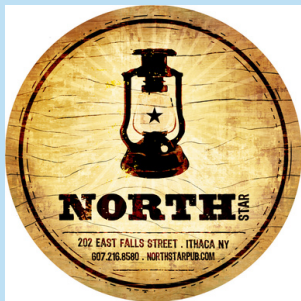
**SOUND DESIGN** Rudy Gerson

**AUDIO RECORDING** Rep Studios

**AUDIO ENGINEER** Nate Richardson



&



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# black/brown/other

BY EVAN STARLING-DAVIS

OCT 23 & 24



## Artistic Team

**DIRECTOR**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
**FILMMAKER & EDITOR**

Julia Taylor  
Gabriella da Silva Carr  
Shira Evergreen

## Cast

Tyree Cobbins  
Abigail Crowley  
Erin Lockett  
Julia Taylor

**Facilitators:** Carley Robinson, Julia Taylor, Jumoke Warritay

*Special thanks to the students, staff, and faculty members who shared their stories for the development of this work.*



# COLLABORATING ARTISTS

## **LEROY BARRETT**

*DELIA DIVIDED (PARANOIA) AND STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

Loves God, family, and theatre. Thank ya'll for listening. God bless and goodness!

## **ABDULLAH KHALIL BEY**

*DELIA DIVIDED (ATTORNEY) AND STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

Abdullah Khalil Bey, a native Ithacan, raised in the big cities of Philadelphia and Baltimore. After many years of life's adventures and misadventures, from Prison to Paris France, Khalil returns home to Ithaca as an advocate of the disenfranchised through his efforts as artist, author, actor, social activist, and mentor to formerly incarcerated community members, Khalil is well-known and well-sought out in Ithaca.

Over the past 20 years "outside the box" Khalil has lent his energy, talents and support to others working to expand opportunities for young people—many growing up without two parents, often in poverty. Sarah and Godfrey Simmons' Civic Ensemble's Re-Entry Theatre, with stories written by and about the loneliness of incarceration and the cycles in life that create poverty, dependencies, and prisoners. In 2015 many of Khalil's friends cheered his performance (with co-star Phoebe Brown) in a play he wrote and directed. Since then Khalil has engaged in Ensemble performances at the Hangar, GIAC and Kitchen Theater. If asked what Khalil plans to do next, he'll probably say ... "Another Play" ... "Another Painting" whatever is Artistic and colorful.

## **MIRANDA BIANCHI**

*DELIA DIVIDED - STAGE MANAGER*

Miranda Bianchi is excited to be stage managing for the Civic Ensemble. She has worked with several local theatre companies and schools, including overseeing the Hangar Theatre Company's Next Generation School of Theatre and teaching at the Redhouse Arts Center, Auburn Public Theatre, Acting Out New York, and CSMA. Their work focuses on

Shakespeare for young actors, freeing the natural voice, and devising within an ensemble. Miranda has studied at the Moscow Art Theatre and with Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Mass., and is currently pursuing her MSW at SUNY Binghamton with the goal of creating therapeutic theatrical experiences.

## **NATASHA BRATKOVSKI, ITHACA FLAIR**

### **GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Natasha Bratkovski is a performer, graphic designer, and digital marketing specialist originally from the bay area in California. Natasha currently assists with the digital maintenance of Un-American Blackbox, a "multimedia artspace for the recalibration of what it means to be American." Natasha was thrilled to assist Civic Ensemble with their website design, and is further excited to be assisting with the creation of digital assets for the 2021 season.

## **BRIAN BRIGGS**

### *DELIA DIVIDED (TOM) AND STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

Hi! My name is Brian Briggs, and if I had to describe my personality in three words, I'd tell you that I was kind, persistent, plus a little bit loud, and not just loud vocally, if you know what I mean. I've been advocating for social justice by pushing harm reduction since 2007 to help drug users who were not helped by traditional treatment and were instead marginalized and discarded by our society on a local, state, and most certainly national level.

## **MELISSA (MISI) CADY**

### *STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

Well this is my second time participating in any type of play. I have been a part of ReEntry Theatre since 2019. I am a home body! This is a way for me to get out of my comfort zone and meet new people.

## **ANA CARMONA-PEREDA**

### *DELIA DIVIDED - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OCD*

Ana Carmona is a rising sophomore with an anticipated major in Performing and Media Arts. Ana is deeply passionate about storytelling through the arts; she enjoys the process of doing so with photography, the craft of theatre, and writing in particular. By exploring the multi-ethnic history and cultural consciousness, Ana hopes to continue educational advocacy by

creatively challenging, encouraging, and being of service to BIPOC students in academia and career development. One of her long-term goals is to develop an interdisciplinary art center for underserved children in the Bronx, NY. In the meantime, she plans to continue her college career exploring the ethnology of historical cultures and multi-ethnic groups of people to understand generational differences, values, and testimonies exposed through performance, art, and writing, and will continue to advocate through the art of storytelling.

## SAGE ALIA CLEMENCO

### ARTISTIC ENSEMBLE

Sage is a theater artist and educator with a passion for the places where theater and community intersect. Before returning home to Ithaca, Sage most recently worked as a staff and Ensemble member at Cornerstone Theater in Los Angeles, supporting playwrights and communities as they worked together to create moving and meaningful art.

## TYREE COBBINS

### BLACK/BROWN/OTHER - ACTOR

Tyree Cobbins is an actor local to the Ithaca and Binghamton areas. He got his first taste of theater when he discovered a local production of **The Rocky Horror Picture Show**. He fell in love with the world of spectacle and performance. He uses his performing talents in the ring during his wrestling matches as well. After gaining a degree in Theater and Acting from SUNY Broome Community College he soon joined the ranks of The Actors Workshop of Ithaca. After graduation from the workshop he would be asked to become the teachers assistant for the very class he graduated from. Today Tyree uses his acting talents to dazzle theater stages and create magic in front of cameras whenever he is given the opportunity to.

## ABBEY CROWLEY

### BLACK/BROWN/OTHER - ACTOR

Abbey Crowley is a senior at Cornell studying Performing & Media Arts, Education, and Inequality Studies. Abbey is a Co-President of Melodramatics Theatre Company and the Vice-President of Cornell Ambassadors of Media and Performance (CAMP). Abbey has worked as a founder and producer of both PMA's Virtual Vibrance Festival and PMA's Under-Construction Cabaret series. Abbey has been happy to work with organizations and companies such as RWS Entertainment Group (Theatrical & Development Intern), the Springer Theatre Academy (Administrative Intern), the Springer Opera House (Board of Directors), and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (Drama Teacher).

## GABRIELLA DA SILVA CARR

ARTISTIC ENSEMBLE, STAFF, *DELIA DIVIDED* (DIRECTOR),  
*BLACK/BROWN/OTHER* (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR), *STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES* (CO-DIRECTOR)

Gabriella da Silva Carr is proud to be the artistic associate at Civic Ensemble. Gabriella is a queer latinx interdisciplinary theatrical artist. Gabriella came to Ithaca over a decade ago to study theater at Ithaca College. Gabriella's directing and producing work has been seen off-Broadway, Cornell University, Hangar Theatre, Kitchen Theatre Company, Ithaca College, and the White Plains Performing Arts Center. Most recently, Gabriella was the vocal coach for Ithaca High School's 2021 production of **A Killer Party**. Gabriella also runs a private voice and acting studio for young people, for inquiries please visit, [www.gcarr.carbonmade.com](http://www.gcarr.carbonmade.com). With the current issues in our country, Gabriella feels extremely grateful to be serving Civic Ensemble's commitment to dismantling racism and the systems of oppression that keep us from realizing the dream of the Beloved Community.

Gabriella is thrilled to be directing two of the ReEntry Theatre Program's offerings this season including *Delia Divided!* At the core of her work is empathy. Gabriella works from an empathic place that allows her to understand someone's needs, meet them where they are at and provide them with the support to uplift their sense of self through theater skill building. Her approach as a director allows her to work with an actor from any level of experience, find the entry point that allows them to dig deep and ultimately, shine in their role. Any person can be an incredible theater artist when given the opportunity and tools to do so. As a suicide survivor, mental health awareness and advocacy is an area of expertise that she brings to the table that influences all aspects of how she works in the room.

## RICARDO ESCOBEDO

*STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

Ricardo Escobedo is excited to be apart of the Re Entry Theater program known as "Steppin Into My Shoes". He has been a College Initiative Upstate student since 2018 and has participated in projects like "Voices Must Be Heard", a workshop composed of CIU student leaders who have lived-experience with incarceration, court involvement, homelessness. He has lived and worked in the community for over the last 5 years and plans to focus his work towards community involvement and advocacy for the under-served communities by pursuing their B.S. in Human Services at SUNY Cortland.

## SHIRA EVERGREEN

*BLACK/BROWN/OTHER - FILMMAKER*

Shira Evergreen (Cornell '02) is a filmmaker and graphic designer. She was the recipient of the 2019 "Artist in Community" Grant from CAP for her documentary about Ithaca's social-justice murals, and she was the 2018 Ithaca Festival Artist. Her film **"Empowered: Power from the People"** ('12) screened at environmental film festivals around the country, and her recent documentary **"Our Farmers in Flux: Adapting to Climate Change"** was used as part of Tracy Mitrano's campaign for Congress. Shira served as the Director of Education and Outreach for Arts Engine in NYC for four years, directing the Media That Matters Film Festival (best nonprofit website SXSW '05) and running workshops on grassroots film distribution, youth filmmaking and media justice around the country. She has made films for many local organizations including Cornell Milstein Program in Technology & Humanity, The History Center, Kitchen Theatre, The Cherry Arts, Sustainable Tompkins, and the People's Medicine School.  
[www.upliftedithaca.com](http://www.upliftedithaca.com) [www.shirari.com](http://www.shirari.com)

## RUDY GERSON

*SOUND DESIGNER, STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

rudy gerson is in our diaspora — a second generation Ashkenazi Jewish-Cuban, a third-generation American settler, a queer abolitionist artist, and a white educator based in occupied Leni-Lenape territory (Philadelphia). rudy creates time-based media through sculpture, performance, and language. They are a former company member of Civic Ensemble and have worked locally at The Cherry, the Kitchen, and touring across Tompkins County. rudy studied Performance at Cornell and is currently enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania.

## JO LOUIS HALLBACK

*DELIA DIVIDED (SOCIAL WORKER) AND STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

My name is Joseph Louis Hallback. I am from Lakeland, FL. I have lived in Tompkins County since July 2017. Names I've been called according to my personal interests are Virtuoso and Linguist. Even though the people who said these things were probably being nice, these mentions do give energy to how I work towards learning languages and creating lyrics and melodies. I consider myself a lifelong learner with the purpose of expressing knowledge, life and facts through constructive and creative music.

I have been involved with the Southside Community Center, CIU, St. James A.M.E. Zion Church, and Civic Ensemble, all of which have been helpful to me and visa versa. I am involved with Civic and the ReEntry Theatre Program because I believe this organization is helping strengthen social development through theatre. I want to say thank you to those who support this program and others like it.



## AMY HEFFRON

### *DELIA DIVIDED (ADHD) AND STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

I've been involved with ReEntry since 2017, "**Streets Like This**" being my first play. I played Anabelle. For the remount, I was an advisor and helped with some assistant directing as I awaited the arrival of my last child. I learned a lot about theatre through this process. ReEntry has become a huge part of my life and has led me to many other opportunities in the community. Amy was a guest speaker at IC for a law class, am a member of CJATI (Criminal Justice Alternatives to Incarceration). I have a degree in Criminal Justice. I have also attended a conference at Columbia University "Beyond the Bars."

Currently I stay active in the community in my space of motherhood. I have three children. My oldest is also a theatre junkie. My hope is for everyone to find something positive from theatre and help it guide you through tough times and healing the way, it has done for me. Peace, love, and happiness.

## MICHAEL JAMES

### *STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

My name is Mike, and I was born in Ithaca. I have never been in a play, nor would I consider myself an artist, but I am proud to be a member of this production. I am a recovering alcoholic/drug-addict, and I have been involved in the sober community for several years now. I have met a lot of interesting people along the way, each one with their own unique story to tell. I'm just happy to share mine for this play. I am also a full-time student majoring in the field of Environmental Science, and I hope to one day make a positive and long-lasting contribution towards making our planet a better place to live.

## PAM LACKNER

### *DELIA DIVIDED - COP/BAIFF, STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

Greetings, my name is Pam Lackner. I am 51 years of age and the mom of two boys that I can not live without. I was blessed with the opportunity to participate in the College Initiative Upstate-College Prep course. February 2020, Covid fell upon us and we conducted our last two weeks via zoom. I was fortunate to have been able to watch "Streets Like This," and even more fortunate to have been asked to come aboard on this play!

Re-entry is the field of work I want to get into, because a lot of inmates fall into the cracks and aren't given many opportunities to have a caring person with shared life experiences, to help them re-enter society and be shown that there is life after the chaos. My oldest son is serving a 4 year sentence in a North Carolina prison, so I have a vested interest in helping people find their way and the sparkle in the eyes of people when they get it and start discovering themselves in a new light is, Priceless! -Blessed Blessings-

## ERIN LOCKETT

*BLACK/BROWN/OTHER*

Erin Lockett is originally from Oakland, CA and is currently based in New Jersey. She is a recent graduate from Ithaca College's Acting program and has recently appeared in The Hangar Theater's reading of **Sense and Sensibility** as Margret and in The Hanagar Theater's reading of **The Inferior Sex as Gwen**.

## MICHAEL MARGOLIN

ARTISTIC ENSEMBLE

Michael is an Eastern European Jewish educator and artist steeped in radical amazement, wrestling with ideas, seeking multiple perspectives and cultivating curiosity in his life and work.

Michael holds a master's degree in Applied Theatre from CUNY School for Professional Studies and has worked with people from 8-80 making meaningful theatre that tells the story of our lives and what part we all want to play in making change in our world. He is elated to be a part of Civic Ensemble's Artistic Ensemble.

## LATOYA PETERSON

*STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

Hello my name is Latoya. I am from Ithaca, NY. I have two children. Currently I attend SUNY Empire State College. I am part of the CIU program. Last year I was able to participate and present with the Voices That Must Be Heard group. We attended the Beyond the Bars conference at Columbia University. I have worked in many areas of the Ithaca community advocating for the voice of the unheard.

## CASANDRA PONTON

*DELIA DIVIDED (PTSD) AND STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

Casandra has been a part of the Re-Entry Theatre Program since 2017 and became an elected council member in 2019. She was introduced to the program through Day Reporting while she was on probation and going through the drug court process. She helped write **Streets Like This** and played Abby in the 2020 performance. Re-Entry Theatre has helped her through her recovery and has helped her to establish a community full of love and support. Casandra is a member of the Ithaca Drug Users Union and works for Challenge Industries in addition to her work with the Re-Entry Theatre Program. Casandra is extremely passionate and dedicated to systematic change and is willing to start those difficult conversations about drug use, mental health, and incarceration in Ithaca. It's important for those who don't have a voice to be heard; everyone's story matters.

## **NATE RICHARDSON**

AUDIO ENGINEER, *STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

Nate Silas Richardson is the owner and head engineer at Rep Studio in Ithaca NY. He also performs as a multi-instrumentalist, with a focus on guitar. He has recorded and toured internationally with Sim Redmond Band, Samite of Uganda, Dr. Bill Thomas' Age of Disruption Tour, 10 Ft Ganja Plant, and John Brown's Body. A musical omnivore, he holds a BA in Jazz Composition from Berklee College of Music, and has a particular affinity for african guitar styles, american folk, rock and jazz, and jamaican reggae. All of this musical practice and experience gives him a keen ear for audio recording, editing and mastering, which has kept him busy with production work in audiobooks, commercial voiceover, sound to picture, and projects like this collaboration with Civic Ensemble's Reentry Theater program. Visit RepStudio.com for more info, or email Nate@RepStudio.com.

## **CARLEY ROBINSON**

ARTISTIC ENSEMBLE, STAFF, *DELIA DIVIDED* (DELIA)

Carley is a theatre practitioner dedicated to creating conversation around love and communal care. She has been so grateful to start her professional career with Civic, entrenching herself in the ReEntry Theatre Program and the most recent iteration of community based play. She is excited to explore community based work with youth, reentering people, and other members of our community.

## **BENAY RUBENSTEIN**

DIRECTOR - COLLEGE INITIATIVE UPSTATE

Benay Rubenstein is director of College Initiative Upstate/CIU, a program of OAR. "Without a doubt, one of the most uplifting and magical experiences during 2020 was the Oral History Project collaboration between CIU and Civic's ReEntry Theater. As the weeks flew by, we learned how to interview each other, and then create original radio pieces rooted in our own stories. What a thrilling and transformative process!"

## **EDWIN SANTIAGO**

*DELIA DIVIDED* (DEPRESSION) AND *STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

I joined Civic Ensemble back in 2018 and was surprised with everyone that has gone through what I went through and Civic has given me a new stepping stone to live and seek joy and happiness.

## **A.C. SIDLE**

*DELIA DIVIDED* (JUDGE HAIKU) AND *STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

Writer, Actor, Raconteur, Peer, Board Member and Ambassador since 2016. Tony is very active in community development and social justice issues as an advocate and activist. He promotes the healing of the individual, family, community and society through art, outreach and community service, harm reduction, ending the stigma the decriminalization of alternative lifestyles, and mass incarceration. Aside from ReEntry Theater, AC Sidle is an accomplished musician, film maker and co-host of The I-DUU Power Hour and a founding member of Ithaca Drug Users Union

## JULIA TAYLOR

ARTISTIC ENSEMBLE, STAFF, *DELIA DIVIDED* (PRODUCER),  
*BLACK/BROWN/OTHER* (ACTOR AND DIRECTOR), *STEPPIN'  
INTO MY SHOES* (CO-DIRECTOR)

Julia is thrilled to be working across the projects in this 2021 Season, and being able to collaborate with artists, facilitators, and community members in each one. Julia is the new Executive Director at Civic Ensemble, having worked as an artist with the company since 2018.

## JUMOKE WARRITAY

ARTISTIC ENSEMBLE

Jumoke Warritay, PhD (she/her/hers) is a diversity, equity, and inclusion facilitator, consultant, and sociologist. She works with a variety of clients across different sectors including Education, Healthcare, and International Development. Jum is compelled by the power of storytelling, dialogue, and self-reflection. She uses these tools to build greater understanding, connection, and empathy across different points of view and lived experiences. Jum's work supports corporate and non-profit clients to journey from self-awareness to skill development and strategic organizational change. Jum holds a doctoral degree from the Department of Development Sociology at Cornell University. She is a graduate of Northwestern University with a dual degree in Education and Social Policy, and International Studies. In addition to spreading more love in the world, Jum enjoys dancing, playing volleyball and eating pie.

## TILDA WILSON

PROGRAM INTERN, *STEPPIN' INTO MY SHOES*

Tilda Wilson is the re-entry theatre summer intern. She's a senior at Cornell University studying history, with an emphasis on public history and oral history. She's enthusiastic about storytelling, audio journalism, and crocheting tiny squares.

## SYLVIE YNTEMA

ARTISTIC ENSEMBLE, *DELIA DIVIDED* (MOTHER)

Sylvie is thrilled to be a part of Civic Ensemble since 2015. Her work with them has included *Katrina Ten Years Later*, *On the Corner*, *After Orlando*, and *In the Parlour*. She has also worked with Civic in the Finger Lakes Residential Center, and on *Our Stories, Our Solutions*. She has worked locally with The Cherry Arts (**The Snow Queen**, **Felt Sad Posted a Frog, A Day**), Fitz&Startz Productions (**A Case for the Classics**, **The Memory Book**), and Homecoming Players (**In the Next Room**, **From the Mississippi Delta**). Sylvie studied BFA acting at The Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, is a graduate of the Actors Workshop of Ithaca, a Pilates instructor, and a NYS licensed massage therapist.



THANK YOU!

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**Sally McConnell-Ginet & Carl Ginet**

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(VICKI TAYLOR BROUS & NATASHA BRATKOVSKI)**



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