

**La MaMa**

Experimental Theatre Club

Presents

***The Things Around Us***

By Ahomefule J. Oluo

Part of Under the Radar



The Downstairs  
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003  
Jan 9-12, 2025

# The Things Around Us

Composed, Written, and Performed by:  
Ahamefule J. Oluo

Produced by:  
Roya Amirsoleymani

*The Things Around Us* is a collection of seemingly unrelated stories and anecdotes that swirl and dance with an immersive, live musical score created through electronically looped and effected trumpet, clarinet, and everyday objects. Known for their epic stage shows with autobiographical stories and large ensembles, Oluo inverts the formula with stories about other people, other places, and other times set to intimate solo soundscapes that seem to emerge from thin air—a reflection of, and a necessity caused by, the forced isolation of the pandemic. Darkly humorous, uplifting and bleak, deep and silly, this work is about trying and failing to find order in chaos.

Performance is 90 minutes no intermission

**Ahamefule J. Oluo (they/them)** is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, writer, comedian, and creator of live performance. They were a founder of award-winning experimental jazz quartet Industrial Revelation, Mellon Creative Research Fellow, Creative Capital awardee, MAP Fund awardee, and Artist Trust Arts Innovator awardee. Oluo premiered the critically acclaimed *Now I'm Fine* (2016) and *Susan* (2020) at The Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival. They have written for television and wrote, scored, and starred in the award-winning film *Thin Skin* (2020); appeared on *This American Life*; and produced albums by comedians Hari Kondabolu and Dwayne Kennedy. Oluo's work has been supported by UTR, On the Boards, PICA, Meany Center, The Clarice, STG, Seattle Rep, Intiman, Fusebox, OKC Rep, MacDowell, Yaddo, The MAP Fund, and Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

### **Funding Credits:**

*The Things Around Us* is supported by a grant from The MAP Fund. Its creative development has been supported through residencies and engagements at Yaddo, MacDowell, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA), Seattle Rep, Wa Na Wari, Langston, and a Mellon Creative Research Fellowship with UW's Meany Center for the Performing Arts. Its New York City premiere at La MaMa ETC is part of Under the Radar Festival. This project was supported, in part, by a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant. *The Things Around Us* premiered on September 6, 2024 at Portland Institute for Contemporary Art's Time-Based Art Festival in Portland, Oregon.

### **Acknowledgements:**

We would like to thank: Lindy West, Penelope and Charley Oluo, Susan Oluo, Ijeoma Oluo, Jacque Gbalipre, and Eze Oluo; the Amirsoleymani Family; Sarah Murphy and everyone at La MaMa; Mark Russell, Tommy Kriegsmann, Sami Pyne, Brian Freeland, and everyone at Under the Radar; Wa Na Wari; Langston; UW's Meany Center; Kaytlin McIntyre, Antonieta Carpio, and everyone at Seattle Rep; Erin Boberg Doughton, Kristan Kennedy, and everyone at PICA; John Keister; Andrew Schneider; Joseph Keckler; Jennifer Zeyl; Josh Rawlings; Rachel Ramseur.

**Accessibility / Content Advisory:** This performance includes lighting effects, loud volumes, and haze. Earplugs are available at the box office. Some strong language. Recommended for ages 13 and up.

## **Part of Under The Radar, the annual festival of experimental theater.**

**Under the Radar** is the United States' premier festival of experimental theater and performance art. As a long-time New York City-based platform for cutting-edge work hailing from around the globe. Produced by ArKtype with Festival Director Mark Russell, UTR has been reimagined in its 20th annual season as a city-wide celebration that incisively speaks to our moment. Rather than being tied to a single host institution, Under the Radar's current iteration is curated collaboratively with an array of renowned arts organizations and curators, each harnessing the connective nature of the festival format to introduce some of the world's most innovative multidisciplinary voices to wider audiences. The 2025 edition of UTR will include over 33 distinct programs at 24 theater spaces, presenting more than 250 performances in only 16 days from January 4 to 19. The depth, breadth and excellence of this year's festival serves as proof that collaboration can power the American theater through this era of existential crisis into a reinvigorated future of conjoined artists ready to embrace diversity, challenge and reinvention.

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**A full program with information on this  
production can be found on the  
*The Things Around Us*  
page of the La MaMa website.**

**In addition you can scan the  
QR code Poster located in the theatre  
lobby for access to the digital program.**

# LA MAMA



## RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



*Rendering: 74 East 4th St.*

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street underwent an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit [www.lamama.org/remakeaworld](http://www.lamama.org/remakeaworld)

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## 63rd Season General Operating Support:

Doris Duke Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Radio Drama Network, and The Shubert Foundation



## Public support provided by:

National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Governor, and the New York State Legislature, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.



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Ellen Stewart Theatre

**The Horse of Jenin**  
Jan 9-12, 2025  
The Club

**The Things Around Us**  
Jan 9-12, 2025  
The Downstairs

**In a Grove**  
Jan 16-19, 2025  
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Jan 16-19, 2024  
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**Seagull Fu\*ker**  
Jan 17 - 19, 2025  
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### COMING SOON

**Building My Casa**  
Jan 23-Feb 2, 2025  
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**H.T. Chen & Dancers**  
Jan 24- 26, 2025  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

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Feb 1-2, 2025  
Community Arts Space

**Had Enuf of the Blues: Cabaret on the Verge**  
Feb 6-9, 2025  
The Club

**No Resevation**  
Feb 6-23, 2025  
The Downstairs

**The Barbarians**  
Feb 14- March 2, 2025  
Ellen Stewart Theatre