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Press Inquiries: 631-324-0806
Samantha Young, syoung@guildhall.org
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**HAMPTONS OBSERVATORY AND GUILD HALL PRESENT
A SKY FULL OF POEMS WITH DAVA SOBEL
Wednesday, April 7 at 7pm EST**



March 10, 2021—East Hampton, NY — Guild Hall, in partnership with the Hamptons Observatory, is thrilled to co-present ***A Sky Full of Poems with Dava Sobel*** - a discussion focused on how the skies have served to inspire poets for centuries. The free program will take place on Zoom on **Wednesday, April 7th at 7pm EST.**

The skies above have moved us to explore, imagine and express ourselves regardless of who we are or where we live. Across time and nations, the planets, moons, and stars we see in our dark skies, the great telescopes and observatories we have created to view and study those wonders, and the spacecraft we have built to explore the heavens, have inspired and added meaning to all our lives. It is not surprising that such experiences have been eloquent – and sometimes humorously – expressed by poets.

Directed by Josh Gladstone, Artistic Director of Guild Hall’s John Drew Theater, the program will feature Dava Sobel along with a trio of gifted actors including Nehassaiu deGannes, Laura Hix and Isaac Klein. The recitation of a selection of celestially-inspired poems will be accompanied by related visuals, including *Apollo* by Elizabeth Alexander, *Annie Pearl Smith Discovers Moonlight* by Patricia Smith, and *Three Views of Mars* by Jessica Goodfellow.

“The poets have looked up at the sky and contemplated eternity and eloquently captured the feeling and Dava has curated a diverse, thoughtful and colorful collection of these poems that

touch beautifully upon the universe. Her unique scientific and artistic mind has woven a gorgeous tapestry and the three gifted actors will now bring the words to life,” says Josh Gladstone, Artistic Director of the John Drew Theater.

ABOUT DAVA SOBEL

Dava Sobel is a bestselling author and Poetry Editor of the magazine *Scientific American*. She is a former *New York Times* science reporter and author and co-author of multiple books as well as a longtime science contributor to *Harvard Magazine*, *Audubon*, *Discover*, *Life*, *Omni*, and *The New Yorker*. Sobel is the recipient of numerous awards for her contributions to the public understanding of science and technology: 2001 Individual Public Service award, Bradford Washburn Award, Harrison Medal, Klumpke-Roberts Award, and the 2015 Cultural Award.

ABOUT NEHASSAIU DEGANNES

A daughter of the Caribbean diaspora, Nehassaiu deGannes is a multi-hyphenate actor, poet and maker, recently seen Off Broadway, regionally, internationally and in the Ice-T produced indie feature *Equal Standard*. Her pandemic poem "To Find, To Be" was shortlisted for the 2020 Montreal Prize, and her first book-length collection of poems, *Music for Exile*, debuts in February 2021 from Tupelo Press.

ABOUT LAURA HIX

Laura holds graduate degrees in Drama Therapy (NYU) and Psychology (Wake Forest University) as well as a BFA (SMU) in theatre. She currently works in psychological research, investigating wellbeing in college students. She recently received an Educational Design Fellowship at University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where she assisted in the development of a program in creative practice. Favorite theatre NY credits include: *Gun Play* (NYU As Performance Series), Scarlett O'Hara and the *War on Tara* (La MaMa ETC), *Mo[u]rnin' After* (The Wild Project), and *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot* (Hangar Theatre).

ABOUT ISAAC KLEIN

Isaac Klein is a writer, director, teacher, and performer born and raised in East Hampton, New York. He is thrilled to be returning virtually to Guild Hall! Isaac is the author of the book *The School of Doing: Lessons from Theater Master Gerald Freedman*. His work has been seen in theaters all around the country, perhaps most notably as the assistant director of the Broadway revivals of *Gypsy* (2007) and *West Side Story* (2009). Isaac is a founding member of SPACE on Ryder Farm, and a company member at Exit, Pursued by A Bear. Klein holds a BFA in Drama from the UNC School of the Arts.

Come and explore the unknown space of the skies through poetry in this free virtual presentation available on guildhall.org.

Registration is required. A link will be emailed 24 hours prior to the start of the program.

The creative team will be available for interviews upon request.

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ABOUT HAMPTONS OBSERVATORY

Hamptons Observatory is an NYS nonprofit that relies on public support and has served the South Fork since 2005. Its mission has been to foster interest in science through educational programs. The East End is a unique setting for observing the skies and building an observatory and learning/research center -- surrounded by the sea, endowed with vast open space preserves and protected skies. Opening up the East End of Long Island's skies with the Observatory's telescope allows everybody to pursue the skies and discuss how the skies have motivated poets to use it as their muse.

ABOUT GUILD HALL

Guild Hall, one of the first multidisciplinary centers in the country to combine a museum, theater, and education space under one roof, was established in 1931 as a gathering place for community where an appreciation for the arts would serve to encourage greater civic participation. For nine decades, Guild Hall has embraced this open-minded vision and provided a welcoming environment for the public to engage with art exhibitions, performances, and educational offerings. Art and artists have long been the engine of Guild Hall's activities and the institution continues to find innovative ways to support creativity in everyone.

For more information about this and other programs, visit www.guildhall.org.