

info@jctcenter.org

For Immediate Release

JCTC Continues the Conversation with New Online Programming

We may all be living under quarantine conditions, but isolation does not necessarily mean you're alone. Jersey City Theater Center (JCTC) has launched online programming to keep artists, audiences and communities connected through the arts.

And, in typical JCTC style, the JCTC Online is global in scope yet relevant to the community.

JCTC Conversations: Voices From Around The World premieres Friday, April 10, at 2:00 PM.

This new weekly online series links artists from the Jersey City community together with artists from around the world for an interactive experience featuring performances, interviews & discussion

"These times we are living through now have us all on edge," said Olga Levina, Artistic Director of JCTC and host of *JCTC Conversations: Voices From Around The World*. "Everyone's life has changed, many of us know people who've died or are sick with COVID-19, but we at JCTC feel it's important to remember you are not alone. Art and the conversations it inspires brings us together. JCTC is committed to that ideal. It's what we do, even when we have to use technology to do it."

The musicians, poets, spoken-artists, singer-songwriters, actors and other artists participating will be broadcasting live and from a place familiar – yet far from typical than a stage, theater or studio – their home. Audience members will be able to join the conversation with comments and questions enter into the dialogue inspired by the performances, their unique settings, the evening's theme and the current state of the world.

The performers and other artists for Episode 1 – Home – come from Italy, Spain, and Brazil and of course Jersey City and the surrounding region. *JCTC Conversations: Voices From Around The World* is curated by Olga Levina, JCTC staff & collaborators with artists and their work selected mainly on the theme. For the second show, on April 17, the theme is Resilience.

For upcoming themes and other show announcements, people are urged to watch the show and follow JCTC on Facebook, where updates, submission information and upcoming themes and other JCTC programming are regularly featured.

"We will be announcing future themes and we invite artists to submit their work, but we're also encouraging everyone to watch the show and get a feel on how to perform from your home before submitting," said Levina. "We want everyone to stay tuned, stay connected and stay healthy."

With programming suspended for the foreseeable future, JCTC is also adapting events to an online format. In upcoming weeks, JCTC will present a *Virtual Slam* by Jersey City Slam, the Jersey City-based poets & spoken-word artist collective who've hosted slams, open-mics and other poetry events at

Merseles Studios as well as the *Jersey City New Play Festival*, JCTC's annual series of staged readings of new plays by emerging playwrights.

Dates and times of upcoming online programming will be announced. All online programming will be free to the public, no subscription fee or registration. Everyone is invited to watch, listen and join in the conversation. For updates and additional information, please visit JCTC's Facebook page and its website, www.JCTCenter.org.

"JCTC has a strong following in the Hudson County, but our reach goes stretches throughout the region and beyond," said Levina. "Our international artists also have followings in their own countries, so JCTC *JCTC Conversations: Voices From Around The World* truly spans the globe. We may not be able to present theater and art in our spaces, but the online platform is a new space with new ways to engage audiences with art and ideas. With the support of our audiences and artists, JCTC can continue the conversation. "

Participating performers & artists in *JCTC Conversations: Voices From Around The World* Episode 1: Home include: Claudia Godi; Chrissy Roberts; Angelo Bellobono; Rashad Wright; Rescue Poetix; Duda Penteado; Jack Crying Raven Anderson; Mai Rojas and Marco Cappelli.

JCTC CONVERSATIONS: VOICES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Episode 1 – HOME
April 10/2:00pm

Episode 2 – Resilience
April 17/2:00pm

Episode 3 – TBA*
April 24/2:00 pm

***Upcoming themes will be announced during the Episode 1 – HOME broadcast – and on JCTC's Facebook Page. Anyone interested in performing can submit a proposal to JCTCSubmissions@JCTCenter.org**

How to Watch – the easiest way is to visit the JCTC CONVERSATIONS: VOICES FROM AROUND THE WORLD Event Page on Facebook and follow the instruction. The program uses Zoom Meeting technology.

Or visit: www.JCTCenter.org

**Jersey City Theater Center
Merseles Studios
339 Newark Avenue**

Jersey City
Theater Center

JCTC

Jersey City, NJ 07302
(201) 795-5386

Funding for *JCTC Conversations: Voices From Around The World* was made possible by generous support from the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development, Thomas A. DeGise, Hudson County Executive and the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

***JCTC Conversations: Voices From Around The World* was also made possible through the generosity of Ben LoPiccolo Development Group, JCTC's Board of Directors, private donors and local Jersey City businesses.**

Jersey City Theater Center, Inc. (JCTC) is a nonprofit, 501c3 arts organization committed to inspiring conversations about important issues of our times through the arts.