

PLAYBILL

Earth To Venus
Devised by Rachel Collignon



“‘HOPE’ IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS”

‘Hope’ is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –
And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –
And sore must be the storm –
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm –
I’ve heard it in the chilliest land –
And on the strangest Sea –
Yet, never, in Extremity,
It asked a crumb – of Me.

-Emily Dickinson

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This story's starting point was the people playing it before you. A project fell through, a space vacated where there was appetite for creation, so we filled it. We built the story around and for the people, the timing and the space we had, instead of the other way around. I love working in this way from the inside out.

For an altogether very short work process, we made the paradoxical choice to spend a considerable amount of time playing around it. Finding our collective voice.

Archetypes and themes emerged first. Like clay blocks to be worked into figures, we found a story, some characters, and some dynamics inside. And then we found the scene by scene plan. A week ago.

By then, we knew our characters and our story well, and it did not take much to improvise rich, complex, truthful scenes that moved the story forward.

we have been building the plane while flying it, in other words, and it was surprisingly easeful and joyful.

The tool of improvisation allows me as a writer to let a collective consciousness emerge from the group, of which the truth and the richness will always surpass what I can come up with on my own, in the same amount of time.

Much like the clay image once again, this leaves us with a way to tell the story that is very rich and full, crowded with truths and perceptions.

The work after today will be to let these voices be brought down to the essence of what they are collectively saying.

Finding the essence, stripping the extra stuff, is the most delicate part, in my opinion, and one should do it at every step of the work, but it is also its own last step.

Bringing things down to what is « just enough ». That is where the power of the story emerges. What you are watching, in other words, is a step of the process, and not a final product. A lot of tonight is scripted, but a lot of it is improvised within a set trajectory.

This story has grown very, very dear to our hearts. We each have different negotiations with mental health and « womanhood ». We put our respective yearnings and questions in the collective space, and this is what we come to share.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rachel Collignon". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

WORKSHOP 6

Earth To Venus



Devised and Directed by

Rachel Collignon

Assistant Directed by

Joni Michelle Grommesh

The Cast

Jade.....Miranda Renée

Naomi.....Julia Coffey

Ira.....Sara Demetree

Allister.....Brittany Molesworth

Ilana.....Grace Rucci

Giorgia.....Diletta Guglielmi

Production Staff

Stage Manager/Crew.....Joni Michelle Grommesh

Lighting Design/Crew Captain.....Christine Treuhold

Crew.....Rachel Collignon

NOTE: THE SHOW RUNS APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR WITH NO INTERMISSION

W H O ' S W H O



Rachel Collignon



Joni Michelle Grommesh



Christine Treuhold



Miranda Renée



Julia Coffey



Sara Demetree



Brittany Molesworth



Grace Rucci



Diletta Guglielmi

W H O ' S W H O

RACHEL COLLIGNON (DEVISER/DIRECTOR) This is Rachel Collignon's second time using devising as a writing device. Her first play, « Fantastique » toured in France (where Rachel was born and raised) from 2017 to 2020. Rachel is also an actor and a musician, and a student and practitioner of hypnotherapy and neuro-linguistic-programming, who has been living in NYC since 2020 (minus the pandemic hiatus) and is planning on remaining a new yorker for years to come

JONI MICHELLE GROMMESH (AD/SM, Ira U.S.) is an actress, creator, and optimist from Houston, TX based in New York City. Joni is overjoyed to be assistant directing and stage managing for the first time with the *Earth to Venus* team! Joni would like to thank her fellow Root 22 company members, her friends, and her parents Mark and Lori for always supporting her wild journey to find her artistic soul.

CHRISTINE TREUHOLD (LIGHTING/CREW CAPTAIN) is an actor and spreadsheet enthusiast who is excited to be a part of the *Earth to Venus* team! Her career forays span from yoga/Pilates to bookkeeping/tax prep. Founded the company ShakespeareArts and adapted works including “12th-ish Night, and What We Wheel”. B.A. in Theater from Wesleyan University, with many roles both onstage and off as dedicated staff member of Second Stage, Wesleyan’s student-run theater. Trained in dance at Wesleyan and The School at Steps in tap, jazz, ballet, modern, hip hop, Bharata Natyam, and Javanese Dance. She is grateful to her family for their patience, love, and support.

MIRANDA RENÉE (JADE) is an American/British actor & writer currently based in New York City. She studied classical acting at the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art and recently graduated from Atlantic Theater Company's Professional Conservatory. She loves veggie burgers, Survivor, and of course, her parents (you’re welcome).

JULIA COFFEY (NAOMI) is a New York based actress, writer, dancer, and plant mommy! She is so excited to celebrate this work after the casts graduation from Atlantic Acting School together. Jules is currently prepping for an upcoming production of “Horse Girls” and paying back her sleep debt.



W H O ' S W H O

SARA DEMETREE (IRA) is a New York based actress hailing from Orlando, FL. Sara graduated from The Florida State University in 2018 and started her journey at Atlantic in 2020. She is so excited to be working on this show with her Root 22 company members, and has learned how art can heal wounds. Hope you all enjoy the show! Instagram: @sdemetree

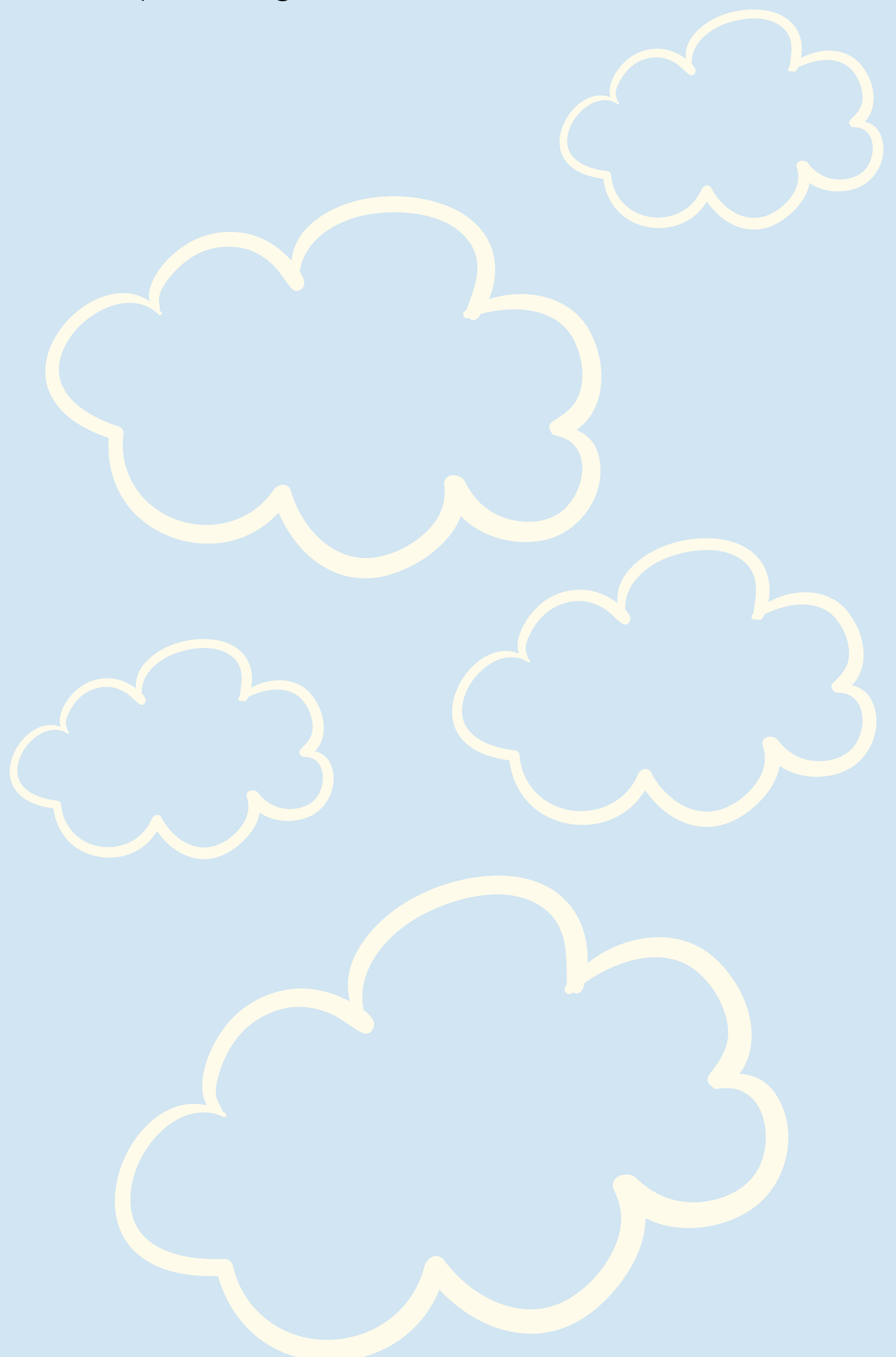
BRITTANY MOLESWORTH (ALLISTER) is thrilled to be part of the production Earth to Venus! A born and bred New Yorker, Brittany has been acting since she was in grade school. As a member of Root 22 Collective and a recent graduate of Atlantic Acting School in NYC, she recently loved playing Iago in an excerpt from Othello. In her free time, she loves to cuddle with her cats and drink peppermint tea while watching the Real Housewives. She longs to get back to Greece and watch the Mediterranean sunsets. She dedicates this and every performance to her friend Frankie, her mom, and her cats George and Calliope.

GRACE RUCCI (ILANA) is thrilled to be a part of Earth to Venus. Grace just graduated from the Atlantic Acting School and recently finished a short film she wrote and starred in titled "Influence", that will hopefully be making a festival run in 2023. Grace would like to thank her family, friends, Root 22 company members, and Atlantic for supporting this show!

DILETTA GUGLIELMI (GIORGIA) is an NYC based actor recently imported from Italy.

She wants to tell authentic stories about women and their struggles to find their strength, power and independence in a world in which they have to fight to make their voices heard. The characters that she's most interested in playing are young adults who haven't quite figured themselves out yet, and who are on a journey of self-discovery.

She lives for travelling, surfing, playing pool with her friends, live music, cacio e pepe pasta (fancy mac and cheese) and, of course, acting!



ACCESS MORE

QR Codes to the Team's Websites, Resumes, & Socials

CLICK OR SCAN QR CODES TO OPEN



Rachel Collignon



Joni Michelle Grommesh



Christine Treuhold



Miranda Renée



Julia Coffey



Sara Demetree



Brittany Molesworth



Grace Rucci



Diletta Guglielmi



SPECIAL THANKS



Atlantic Acting School

Atlantic Front Desk Staff

Lorielle Mallue

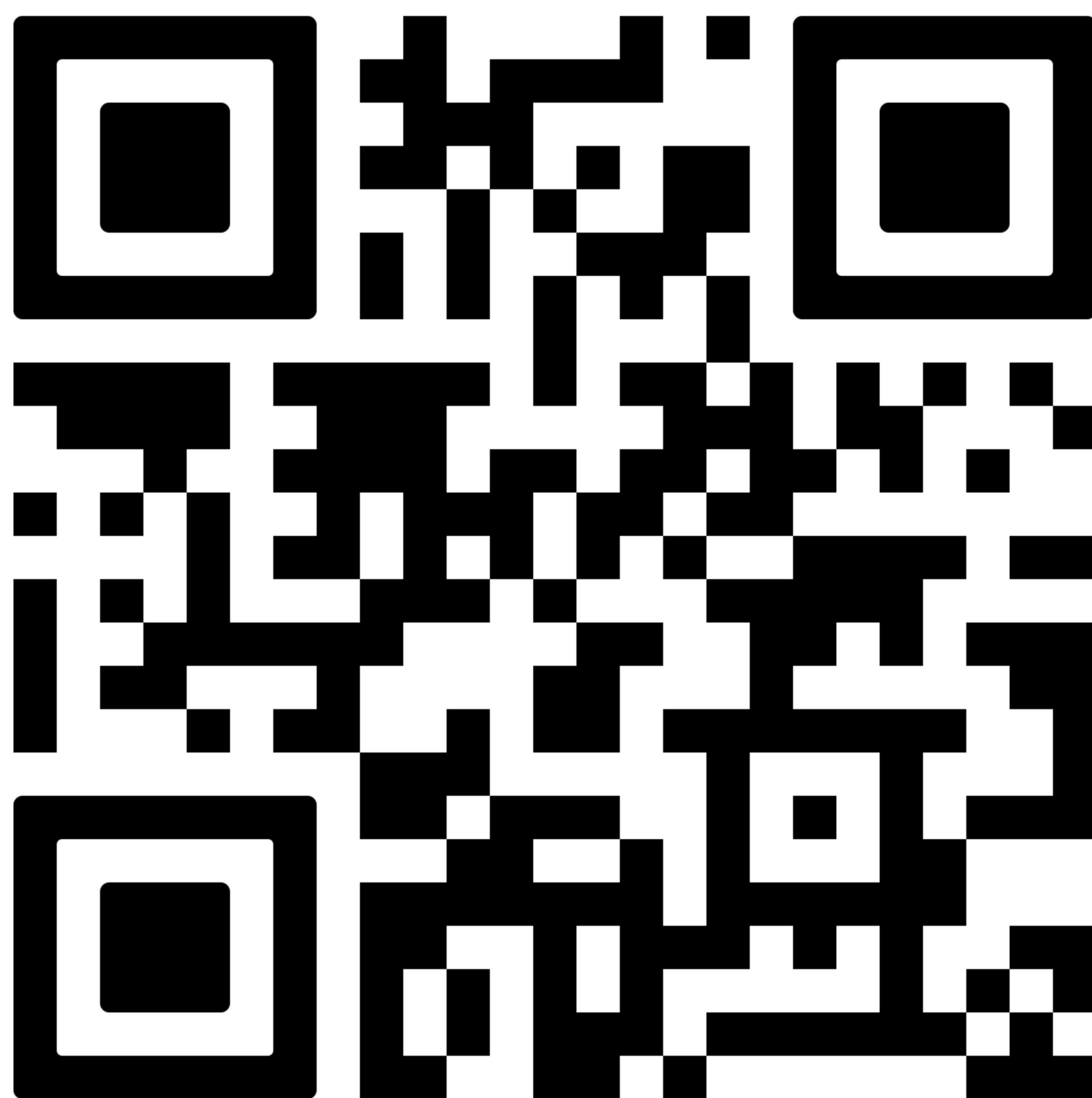
Root 22 Collective



FEEDBACK FORM

CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO FILL OUT OUR FEEDBACK FORM

Hello! Thank you so much for attending the very first public workshop of Earth to Venus. This workshop was just the beginning of what our team hopes to be a beautiful and fruitful journey ahead. We would love to hear your thoughts about the production so that we can continue to build into something wonderful. Any feedback is absolutely appreciated!



" W I L D G E E S E "

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you
mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue
air,
are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting

—

over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

—Mary Oliver