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culture special

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A strange interdisciplinary montage at the Ancon Theater

Groundwater: A Listening Project

by Eric Jackson, photos by Gale Cellucci

Agua/Tierra: Una Propuesta Para Escuchar

Groundwater: A Listening Project

written and produced by [Baraka de Soleil](#), [Tanisha Christie](#), [Awilda Rodríguez Lora](#) and [Katherine Zien](#)

directed by Baraka de Soleil

with Danny Calden, Lu'is Guillén, Enrique Jaramillo, Claudia Lamboglia, Omaris Mariñas, Mireya Navarro, Jaime Newball, Tanisha Christie and Awilda Rodríguez Lora

This reporter has only been going to productions at the Ancon Theater for about one-quarter of the Theatre Guild's 60-year history, so it would not be intellectually honest to declare that Groundwater was the strangest production every staged in that little wooden building. The August 23 performance of Groundwater was, however, the strangest thing this reporter has ever seen there. But of course, hippies, even aging ones, are *supposed* to be weird. Appreciation of strange things is our vocation, our *raison d'être*.

Groundwater was a bilingual but not all that highly verbal multimedia show, with audience participation, audience on the stage and performers in the audience. There were video installations --- but that scene with Awilda Rodríguez Lora eating the mango --- was that video, or some sort of a lower-tech back projection? Should we call parts of the performance "contemporary

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A FILM BY FRED SALAFF

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