

***Packing and Cracking* to be presented at the Philly Fringe**

Unique game-based experience about gerrymandering in Pennsylvania will have three showings online 9/23, 9/27, and 9/30

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Do we choose our politicians, or do our politicians choose us? *Packing and Cracking* is an interactive mapmaking event about gerrymandering: the pervasive practice of politicians choosing their voters rather than the other way around. Through digital drawing and map-drawing games, *Packing and Cracking* uses critical cartography, gerrymandering history, and interviews with politicians and reformers today to show how easy and disenfranchising gerrymandering can be and ask what, if anything, we should do about it.



While providing a national overview, *Packing and Cracking* focuses on redistricting and gerrymandering in one state at a time. The focus for the Philly Fringe is Pennsylvania, historically one of the most gerrymandered states in the country.

Packing and Cracking is created by Rachel Gita Karp and Joseph Amodei and is facilitated by Kalyne Coleman, Rory Kulz, Joshua Kery, and Jacob Russell. It has been presented through LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, The Wild Project, SFX Festival, and Carnegie Mellon University. *Packing and Cracking* received developmental support as part of the 2018 Artist Residency Program of The Drama League of New York (Gabriel Stelian-Shanks, Executive Artistic Director; Travis LeMont Ballenger, Associate Producer). It has received further development through Sokoloff Arts and Anonymous Ensemble and funding from the Network of Ensemble Theaters and The Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry.

“We are thrilled to bring *Packing and Cracking* to the Philly Fringe. Pennsylvania, like all states, will be redistricted next year, and the politicians elected this November will lead that process. In the past, politicians have severely gerrymandered the state. It’s imperative for voters to understand the importance of redistricting so that when they go to the polls this fall they vote for people who will draw districts they think are fair,” said the co-creators.

Performance Schedule: Wed 9/23 at 7pm, Sun 9/27 at 5pm, Wed 9/30 at 7pm

Location: Online | **Tickets:** \$5 | **More Info:** <https://fringearts.com/event/packing-and-cracking>

About the Creators:

Joseph Amodei (Creator/Designer) is a new media artist, theater designer, and activist. Their work combines innovative technology, extensive research, and hope for alternate futures to invite audiences into a communal process of debriefing and re-learning. Joseph received a BFA in studio art from UNC-Chapel Hill and their MFA in video and media design from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama. They are a newly-appointed Professor of Immersive Media at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. Recent work has explored voter suppression, mental health, the AIDS crisis, and attention's relationship to technology and has been presented at HERE Arts Center, Carnegie Mellon University, Temple University, UNC Process Series, Hidden Voices, and The Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry. www.jamodei.com

Rachel Gita Karp (Creator/Director) makes rigorously-researched performances about politics and public policy. She has developed and directed new performances through The Drama League, the Center for Artistic Activism, Actors Theatre of Louisville, PlayPenn, Irondale, Mabou Mines, Ars Nova, LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, The Wild Project, The Brick, The Flea, IRT, Dixon Place, Incubator Arts Project, Women Center Stage, SPACE on Ryder Farm, Barn Arts, Orchard Project, the Powerhouse and Samuel French Festivals, and Columbia University's graduate and undergraduate schools. Rachel is currently the Beatrice Terry Resident Director at The Drama League, a Creative Fellow at Town Stages, an Avant Gardens Resident through Anonymous Ensemble, and an Affiliated Artist with New Georges, and she is a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. She recently received her MFA from Carnegie Mellon University, where she studied theater and public policy. www.rachelgitakarp.com