

THE NEW YORKER

May 13, 2013

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

MAKING IT

"Made Here" is an online documentary series now in its third season. (The entire series can be viewed at madehereproject.org.) In it, we meet a variety of performing artists living and working in New York City, ranging from Lisa Kron to



Elizabeth Streb to Cherry Jones, who talk about the tough but ultimately fulfilling work we don't see them do as they struggle to make believe in front of a live audience. Produced by the writer and activist Tanya Selvaratnam and directed by Chiara Clemente, the series has an unexpected lightness, as the stars contemplate questions about performing in New York as opposed to not, dealing with critics, health care, and so on. The love in Clemente's lens is for all those overworked, usually underpaid theatre souls who would never consider living any other way, or doing anything else. Her direction is clear and gentle; she doesn't overwhelm her subjects with cinema. She knows that faces make cinema—particularly the faces that she and Selvaratnam are drawn to, the very faces that get us to the theatre in the first place.

—Hilton Als
