



in association with
Loco7 Dance Puppet Theatre Company
as Part of the La MaMa Puppet Series
presents

Lunch with Sonia



Created and Directed by
Federico Restrepo & Denise Greber

Ellen Stewart Theatre
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
September 29 - October 4, 2021

Lunch with Sonia

By Loco7 Dance Puppet Theatre Company

Created & Directed by

Federico Restrepo & Denise Greber

Choreographed by Federico Restrepo

Puppet, Light, Video, & Set Design by Federico Restrepo

Sound Design & Music by Leonie Bell

Costume Design by Becky Hubbert

Stage Manager: Emma Oppenheimer

Assistant Stage Manager: Adrienne Gomez

Assistant Light Design: Kathryn Wakeman

Video Consultant: Hao Bai

Featuring:

Marina Celandier, Zulivet Díaz,

Aaron Haskell, Hope Kroog, Chris Rehmann,

and Federico Restrepo

Voice of Sonia: Luz Beatriz Pizano

Performers in Kitchen Video: Alberto Quiroga,

with Esmeralda Pinzon, Carolina Restrepo,

Federico Restrepo, & Natalia Schönwald

Camera: Alberto Sierra Restrepo

Research & Selected Writings:

Diana Jaramillo & Catalina Restrepo

Final Song Arrangement & Vocals:

Chris Ignacio; Guitar: Yuto Kanazawa

Scenic Fabrication of Screen by Mark Tambella

Sound Capture (Colombia): Gabriel Ponce

Costume Design Assistant: Sidney Ritter

Technical Support: David Bonilla, Marielle Iliazoski, Juan Merchan, Pearse Redmond, Jack Reynolds, Mark Tambella, Mona Maria Damian Ilmu

The show runs 55 minutes, no intermission

Dedicated to
Sonia Jaramillo
(1940-2012)

for inspiring us to tell this part of her story.

Conversations about assisted dying bring up controversial and emotionally fraught issues: morality, religion, politics, and faith.

Loco7 hopes to acknowledge the incredible intimacy and the very personal nature of dying as the final event of living a self-actualized, individual human life and to move the dialogue from the philosophical arena to the realm of personal experience and stories related to the topic of Death with Dignity.

Loco7 Dance Puppet Theatre Company, founded by Colombian born artist, Federico Restrepo in 1985, develops and promotes creative productions of Dance, Theatre, Puppets, Visual Arts, and other forms of artistic expression. The company explores the junction of race, culture, history, and media in New York and throughout the global community.

Loco7's cultural policies emphasize pluralism, dialogue, and cultural transformation. Loco7's artistic mission has been to develop the use of puppetry as an Instrument for the dancer, a style that incorporates dance and design. Utilizing original music, musicians, dancers, body puppets, and larger than life marionettes, the objective is to merge these various elements and weave a choreography which extends beyond the body of the dancer. The undertaking of the ensemble is to deal with themes such as South and Central American Culture and History, the Immigrants' experience, and New York City Urban Life.

Currently our annual programming consists of workshops and performances for children and workshops and performances with seniors in affiliated senior centers, as well as a bi-annual fully realized adult production. Loco7 Dance Puppet Theatre is committed to improving our community through artistic and educational programming. Art has the unique power to unite communities and heal unseen wounds. Loco7 has facilitated workshops at Sirovich Center, The United Jewish Council, Grand Street Settlement, Bank Street Head Start, City Lore, PACT, and NYC-area public schools as well as many universities.

Loco7 has premiered many original pieces at La MaMa in New York City, with subsequent tours throughout the world. Most recently Loco7 premiered *Don Quixote Takes New York* (2018), *Seucy & Boto, epi 2* (2017), *Seucy & Boto, epi 4* (2016), *Undefined Fraction* (2016/2015), *Seucy & Boto, epi 1,2,3* (2015), *Plunge* (2013), *Free Falling* (2013), *Urban Odyssey* (2012), *In Retrospect* (2010), *Room To Panic* (2008), *Open Door* (2006), *Bokan - the Bad Hearted* (2004), *9 Windows* (2002), *Colores* (1998), *Aguirre, the Spiral of the Warrior* (1996), *Cosecha* (1990), *Loco7* (1989), and two other Gotham fantasies: *Locombia* (1986), *Carrera* (1988). In addition Loco7 premiered in Bogotá, Colombia, *Piratas de Papel* (1994) and *Mobile Urbano* (1986).

Federico Restrepo (Creator / Director / Choreographer / Puppet / Light Design) was born in Bogotá, Colombia and founded his company, Loco7, at La MaMa in 1986 to expand the use of puppetry in Dance Theater. With Loco7 he has created over twenty original productions, acting as creator, director and designer. He has appeared at La MaMa as a member of the Great Jones Repertory Company in Ellen Stewart's *Asclepius*, *The Raven*, *Perseus*, *Antigone*, *Mythos Oedipus*, *Dionysus Fillus Dei*, *Monk* and *The Hangman's Daughter*, *Seven Against Thebes* and *Draupai*. He is a resident puppet designer, choreographer, performer and director of La MaMa. In addition he has designed lights for over fifty professional productions in New York as well as abroad. Selected companies include: Great Jones Repertory, Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theatre, New Stage Theatre Company, Edward Einhorn, and Electric Black Productions. Federico is a teaching artist, teaching puppet, mask design and construction to adults, children and seniors. Residencies include: Sirovich Center, The United Jewish Council, Grand Street Settlement, Bank Street Head Start, City Lore, PACT, and NYC-area public schools as well as many universities throughout the U.S., including New York University, Trinity College, Hunter College CUNY, Queensborough Community College CUNY, among others. In addition Loco7 has performed and facilitated workshops internationally, in such countries as Colombia, Guatemala, Italy, Poland, Croatia, to name a few. He is the Producing Director of the La MaMa Puppet Series Festival.

Through Loco7, Restrepo, has received funding from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, The Ford Foundation, The Jim Henson Foundation, American Music Center-Live Music for Dance, Foundation of Contemporary Arts, The Indie Theater Fund Rapid Response Emergency Fund, Yip Harburg Lyrics Foundation, The Leon Levy Foundation, The Puffin Foundation, NALAC Diverse Arts Spaces Grant Program and the Ford Foundation Diverse Arts Spaces; Manhattan Community Arts Fund, supported by New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council; The Fund, supported by New York State Council of the Arts and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Ministerio De Cultura Colombia, Minister of Exterior Relations of Colombia, Instituto Distrital De Cultura Y Turismo Bogotá, Colombia and TeatroStageFest as well as individual donors

Denise Greber (Creator / Director) has been a member and managing director of Loco7 since 2001. She has been involved with the creation in Loco7 productions as writer, director, costume designer, and performer: *Don Quixote Takes NY*, *The Adventures of Seucy and Boto*, *Urban Odyssey* (nominated for a 2012 NY Innovative Theatre Award for best performance piece), *In Retrospect*, *Room To Panic*, *Open Door*, *Bokan*, *The Bad Hearted* (for which she was nominated Best Costume Design 2005 Innovative Theatre Awards), and *9 Windows*. She is an artist in residence at La MaMa, where she has been performing as well as touring internationally over the past twenty years. As a member of La MaMa's Great Jones Repertory Company she has been involved in *Asclepius*, *Herakles*, *Perseus*, *Seven*, a seven show repertory of Greek Plays, which included: *Antigone*, *Seven Against Thebes*, *Mythos Oedipus*, *Dionysus*, directed by Ellen Stewart; *Electra*, and *Trojan Women*, created by Elizabeth Swados and Andre Serban. In addition she has work with Ms. Stewart in *Diana di Cantelmo*. In New York she has performed at the Ontological Theatre, Ohio Theater, and HERE theatre; internationally she has performed in Colombia, Italy, Poland, England, Austria, Croatia and Yugoslavia. Film: *Charlie*, *Planet Earth: Dreams*, *The Cloud of Unknowing*, which screened at the Tribeca Film Festival. She appeared in Bruno de Almeida's digital short film series *The Collection*, in shorts titled *The Super*, *The Super II*, and *The Getaway Car*. In addition Denise has been a teaching artist for children ranging 3 to 18 years old as well as with University level students. Denise is the Director and Curator of the La MaMa Puppet Series Festival as well as the La MaMa Kids Children Program.

COMPANY

Leonie Bell (Sound Composition and Design) is a German-American theater-maker and sound designer from Berlin, based in New York. Her pieces are bilingual, highly-physical, interdisciplinary landscapes with an absurdist hue, which center matriarchal lineages, imagine nature as a main character, and often endow the audience with more creative powers (where snacks are always served). Leonie also facilitates the performance project LOCAL GRANDMA, a free-form theater project devoted to rigorous play, communal care-taking, and causing a ruckus. LG's upcoming *Sonntags wird Gelogen Or We Only*

Lie on Sundays will premiere at the Brick Theater in December 2021. Recent sound credits include: *Phase One: The Underbrush* (New Phase Collective), *I Don't Want to Interrupt You Guys* (Mabou Mines), *Sing, Goddess!* (HERE Arts), *Women Screaming* (The Tank), *Cracked* (Theater at the 14th Street Y), *An Easy Guide to Time Management* (Dixon Place). Leonie also works as one of the sound demons for shows at Target Margin Theater (dir. David Herskovits). Sound design Awards: La MaMa DesignFest 2020, Indie Shorts Awards Cannes 2021 (*Phosphor*). BA: Bard College, MFA: Sarah Lawrence College. <http://leoniebell.org>

Marina Celandier (Ensemble) Marina received the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre's Red Socks Award 2014 for her contribution to Asian American theatre. In 2016 Marina was nominated for the Innovation In Performance Award for her solo show *Mermaid's Howl* at the Stockholm Fringe Festival. She was then invited to the Tony award-winning theatre La MaMa as part of their solo festival *Series Of One* 2018. Marina's solo show *Shakespeare's Sisters* was invited to perform at the Estrogenius Festival in NYC 2019. *Tree She*, a collaboration with Swedish composer Fredrik Söderberg, premiered at Estrogenius Festival 2020. *Tree She* was nominated for Best Movement Artist by the Young-Howze Theatre Awards. Marina's and Fredrik's continued collaboration, *Sea She*, premiered on The Six Foot Platform in Dumbo Sept 2021; a new form of residency on a small platform hosted by Brooklyn Arts Council and Dumbo BiD. As a hula student Marina has had the honor of studying with notable Kumu Hula (hula master teachers) for the last 20 years, and has then made it her mission to spread aloha and hula in New York City's public elementary schools. Marina Celandier is so delighted to be performing with Loco7 at long last.

Zulivet Díaz (Ensemble / Translator) graduated from the University of Puerto Rico with a BA in Theatre and continued her studies at the Stella Adler Academy of Acting and Theatre in Los Angeles. She relocated to NYC in 2015. Some of her favorite works on stage include: *Yerma*, *The Taming Of The Shrew*, *An Enemy Of The People*, *The Laramie Project*, *Suddenly Last Summer* and *Trojan Women*. New York credits include *Four By Jack*, *The Adventures Of Seucy And Boto*, *Don Quixote Takes New York* and *14 Little Red Huts*.

Adrienne Gomez (Assistant Stage Manager) was born and raised in Southern California and has been in the theater since kindergarten. She attended California State University, Northridge where she majored in Theatre and minored in Philosophy. From 2012 to 2019, she wrote, acted, and produced sketch comedy in Los Angeles. Gomez is a founding member of Women Of Color Anonymous (WOCA), a sketch comedy team composed entirely of women of color writers and performers. WOCA enjoyed an eight-season residency at Upright Citizens Brigade Sunset. In May 2021 she received her Masters in Dramatic Writing at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Gomez is currently working with Loco7 as Assistant Stage Manager on *Lunch With Sonia*. She lives in Brooklyn is now writing plays of her own.

Aaron Haskell (Ensemble / Sonia Puppeteer) started working with Loco7 as a dancer/puppeteer in 2004 with *Bokan The Bad Hearted* (La MaMa NYC and Colombia- Iberoamericano Theatre Festival 2006) where he jump started his life as a puppeteer and puppet maker. Since then, he has toured extensively nationally and internationally with *War Horse* (Joey/Topthorn), *Cirque du Soleil's Toruk: First Flight* (Spirit Puppeteer), as well as other productions. Some credits as a Creator and Director are: *Wake Up, You're Dead* (2010 La MaMa), *Me_irl: The Crow* (2016 Horror Play Festival NYC). In addition, he is in development with two pieces: *The Pact* (St. Ann's Warehouse Labapoluza, Dixon Place Puppet Block, international venues), and *Dream Sequence 1: Find the Light* (Workshopped at Dixon Place). He has worked as a puppet technician for *Lion King Broadway*, Acheson Walsh Studios NYC, as well as developing and creating puppets/theatre spectacles for projects around the world. For more info please visit AaronHaskell.com. He is very excited and grateful to be back again with Loco7 developing and performing in *Lunch with Sonia*!

Becky Hubbert (Costume Design) designs and builds costumes for puppets, actors, and dancers in New York City, where she has lived and worked since 1998. Becky is honored to have costumed shows at La MaMa, for various companies in different spaces. With Loco7, Becky has designed for *Don Quixote Takes New York* (2018-2019) and *Undefined Fraction* (2015). Other La MaMa highlights include *Ravaged by Romance* (2003), directed by Julie Atlas Muz; *The Bad Hostess* (2008), directed by Linda Simpson; *The Etiquette of Death* (2012), directed by Everett Quinton and Julie Atlas Muz; *Horseplay: The Fickle*

Mistress (2014), directed by Elyse Singer for Theater Askew, and *The Expanded Unicorn Gratitude Mystery* (2017), directed by Karen Finley. Collaborations in film and television include a wide range of commercial work, including a few films and tv shows. As a 829 union member Becky's work schedule, like everyone, has been interrupted by COVID. She is so happy to be back in the theater after this crazy past year and a half and has enjoyed collaborating with everyone working on this production. She is thankful to La MaMa and Loco7 for having her once again.

Chris Ignacio (Development Ensemble 2018-2021 and Final Song) is a Filipino-American theatre artist, musician, puppeteer, producer and educator. He has toured nationally and abroad since graduating from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and is currently pursuing an MFA in Theater/Interdisciplinary Media from ASU's Herberger Institute of Design and the Arts. He is a Culture Push Fellow for Utopian Practice, and Queens Council on the Arts: Community Engagement Commissioning grantee. Chris most recently served as Producer for the NYT Critic's Pick *TJ Loves Sally 4 Ever*, at JACK, and previously as Associate Producer for the Ma-Yi Theater's KPOP. As a performer, Chris often shares the stage with La MaMa artists such as Loco7, Watoku Ueno, Yara Arts Group, Jane Catherine Shaw and Theodora Skipitares — all of whom taught him what it means to be an artist.

Hope Kroog (Ensemble) is thrilled to be performing with Loco7 and sharing the stage with such a wonderful, creative, and generous group of performing artists. She also originated roles in Loco7's *The Adventures of Seucy and Boto Series* and *Undefined Fraction*. Other credits include Lucky Tongue's *My Generation Show*, as well as working with noted dance companies: Dance Visions NY, Sarah Berges Dance and Boulder Ballet.

Emma Oppenheimer (Stage Manager) is a New York City based multidisciplinary theatre artist with a strong connection to Lummi Island, Washington. Her passion for stage management and set design began at Sarah Lawrence College where she was a member of the production team for many shows including *Elsewhere*, *The Blacker the Barry*, and *Smart People*. Her interest in the visual arts and Spanish led her to Cuba where she studied ceramics and metal sculpture at the national art school Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA). She loves

theatrical carpentry and has built scenery for *Beau, Chicken & Biscuits*, *The Drew Barrymore Show*, and Miami City Ballet.

Beatriz Pizano (Voice of Sonia) is an award-winner actor/director and playwright. She is the founder and Artistic Director of Aluna Theatre in Canada, a company recognized for its unique approach to creation, its daring political work, and its experimentation with multi-language productions. She has received a number of prestigious awards including the John Hirsch Prize, the Chalmers Fellowship, the K.M. Hunter award and numerous Dora awards and nominations as playwright and director. She is the first Latinx actress to win a Toronto Critics award and a Dora for her performance in *Blood Wedding*. As a playwright she has participated numerous times at the Banff Centre for the Arts Playwright's Lab and in 2019 she was invited back as the senior playwright in residency. That year Beatriz was also named one of TD's 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians. Most recently Beatriz has appeared in the acclaimed productions of *Alien Creature* (TPM), *Dividing Lines* (Aluna Theatre), and *Four Sisters* (Paradigm Productions/ Luminato Festival). She will soon appear as Bernarda Alba in a co-production between Aluna and Modern Times Stage Company.

Chris Rehmann (Ensemble) is performer based in New York City & Brooklyn. Chris has performed and presented work at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, Mabou Mines / P.S. 122, The P.I.T., The Wild Project, The Martha Graham Studio Theatre, Dixon Place, Pig Iron (Phil.), Daniel's Spectrum (Toron.), House of Yes, and more. Chris has also appeared in several films including Todd Verow / Bangor Films' Goodbye Seventies, which played festivals internationally and streams online (Aritizical, Apple TV). NYU:TSOA (Experimental Theatre Wing) 2013. Instagram: @theotp____

The 9th La MaMa Puppet Festival Fall 2021 has been made possible with public support by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council on the Arts, and support from the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Jane Henson Foundation, the Jim Henson Foundation, Puppet Slam Network, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Shubert Foundation. Additional support from Cheryl Henson is gratefully acknowledged.

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Much Gratitude To

All the company for your dedication towards the creation of this production.

The Correa, Garcia-Pena, Jaramillo, Restrepo,
Vasquez Families for supporting this project.

Lunch with Sonia was in a process residency at The Eugene O'Neill Arts Center, September 2021. The Jim Henson Foundation Puppetry Residency is an annual residency at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, which in addition to rehearsal space, room and board offers dramaturgical support.

Additionally Loco7 was in residence at La MaMa during its 59th Season. Gaining access to rehearsal and performance space to further develop this piece.

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Loco7 Dance Puppet Theatre Company, Inc.
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LA MAMA



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Rendering: 74 East 4th St.

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld

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September 29 - October 4, 2021
Ellen Stewart Theatre

The Tall Keyaki Tree

September 30 - October 4, 2021
The Downstairs

The Jim Henson Foundation Presents:

**American Puppet Theater Today
The Photography of Richard Termine**
September 29 - October 10, 2021
La Galleria

Out of the Shadows Panel with Leslee Asch and Cheryl Henson

October 3, 2021
Ellen Stewart Theatre

COMING SOON

When I put on Your Glove

October 7 - 10, 2021
The Downstairs

Body Concert

October 7 - 10, 2021
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Puppet Slam

October 13 - 15, 2021
The Downstairs

Dreaming

October 14 - 17, 2021
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Jump Start

October 21 - 24, 2021
The Downstairs