as Part of the La MaMa Puppet Series

presents

Jump Start

a presentation of works-in-progress

The Downstairs and Ellen Stewart Theatre
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
October 21 - 24, 2021
Jump Start
A Presentation of Works in Progress

Developmental residencies were the core of La MaMa’s 59th Season. Resident artists explored how new works were created, performed, and experienced during a pandemic. This edition of Jump Start invites our five 59th Season puppet resident artists (a program funded in part by The Jim Henson Foundation and Cheryl Henson) to showcase a live presentation of their works-in-progress.

ORDER OF RUN

Growing Not Dying
Created and performed by Leah Ogawa

The Autobipuppetry of Jeghetto
Concept and design by Tarish “Jeghetto” Pipkins

Lady Xøk
Created by Rebekah Crisanta de Ybarra

Mia M.I.A.
Written and directed by Charlotte Lily Gaspard

Sounding the Resonant Path
Puppetry and design by Tom Lee
Lights by Federico Restrepo
Stage Manager: Adrienne Gomez

*Including a 15 minute intermission, the show runs 2 hours in total*

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.
Growing Not Dying
Created and Performed by Leah Ogawa
Co-Directed and Music by John Chao
Stage Manager: Hye Young Chyun

Leah Ogawa is a mixed race artist, puppeteer, dramatist, self-detective, and model based in New York City. Raised in Yamanashi, Japan, Leah has worked with puppeteers, artists, and companies including The Metropolitan Opera, Phantom Limb, Dan Hurlin, Tom Lee, Nami Yamamoto, Loco7, and others. She has performed across the US as well as at the Quai Branly in Paris and across Asia. Leah is a recipient of the Jim Henson Foundation’s workshop grant for her original piece, Growing Not Dying. Website: leahogawa.com
Instagram: @leahogawa

John Chao is a producer, artist, and composer based in New York City. He works at the intersections of art, sound, and interactivity, and he is particularly interested in ideas about memory and about immigration and diasporas. He is a recording artist signed as Misha to TOMLAB records, and he has composed scores and created sound installations for artists and galleries in the United States and Asia, including Special Special Gallery and La MaMa Experimental Theatre in New York. Website: https://www.empirepostcards.com/

Hye Young Chyun is a multidisciplinary experimental theatre and performance artist from Korea who specialize in acting, puppet and mask design, and production assistance. She received her BFA in Theatre Arts at Mount Holyoke College and MFA in Theatre Arts at Sarah Lawrence College. (where she met Leah!) She is excited to be working on this production at La MaMa as a stage manager, Thank you Leah! She has previously worked as a stage manager for Leah before.

Funders
The Jim Henson Foundation
LMCC New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA)

Special thanks to La MaMa, to Denise and Federico for allowing me to have space and time to develop this piece. Jim Henson Foundation and LMCC for their continuous support in my work. To my Patreon supporters: Shih Hui, Jeffery, Diana, Andrea, Maria, Emily, Huda, Susie, Carolyn, Elisa, Anne, Sean, and John. To my Grandma who turned 100 this year and my mom!
Tarish Pipkins A.k.a. Jeghetto, was born in a small steel mill town called Clairton, PA, located south of Pittsburgh, PA. He is a self-taught artist and has been creating art from a very young age. As a teenager, he moved to the East Side of Pittsburgh and graduated from Taylor Allderdice High School. In the late ‘90s, Tarish joined the BridgeSpotters Collective and became known for his live paintings and poetry. He was also a barber for over 20 years. He moved to North Carolina in 2005, where he launched his career in puppetry. There, he fine-tuned his skills by doing street performances with his puppets. In 2008, he started working with Paperhand Puppet Intervention. He has built puppets and performed in several Paperhand productions. Most recently, Jeghetto had the pleasure to work with national recording artist Missy Elliott on her music video, *WTF (Where They From)* controlling the Pharell puppet and doing some puppet building. He also worked on the Amazon *Echo* commercial featuring Missy Elliott and Alec Baldwin as puppets. Tarish is a former teacher at Just Right Academy, a private alternative school for children with special needs. Tarish is married and a proud father of five children. Jeghetto’s passion is promoting oneness through the magic of puppetry.
Rebekah Crisanta De Ybarra A.K.A. Lady Xøk (Maya-Lenca tribal citizen) is a Twin Cities-based anti-disciplinary artist, musician, and culture bearer whose work is rooted in Indigenous Futurisms. Lady Xøk creates body-immersive installations of light, shadow, and music for interdisciplinary experimental storytelling mixing dance, songwriting, and electric and Mesoamerican instruments. Her ongoing experimental installation performances have been developed in part by Redeye Theatre, New Native Theatre, Monkeybear’s Harmolodic Workshop, Catalyst Arts, ArtShanty, and her current residency with New York-based theatre La MaMa. Rebekah’s intergenerational puppet play Star Girl Clan is touring with New Native Theatre with production support from The Jim Henson Foundation. She is a 2021–22 Jerome Hill Artist Fellow. IG@ladyxok

Xilam Balam Ybarra is an interdisciplinary contemporary visual artist and music producer whose work is a fusion of Pre-Columbian Indigenous art forms and contemporary hip-hop and graphic arts. He is a 2018 Mcknight Ceramics Fellow. He works in a variety of mediums including music, ceramics, painting, screenprinting, stone carving, and epigraphy. Ybarra has performed across the country and in Mexico, producing, exhibiting and teaching locally. He is a co-founder of Electric Machete Studios, a Latinx art & music production house.
Mia M.I.A.

Written and directed by Charlotte Lily Gaspard
By Midnight Radio Show
Starring Malik Work, Sarin Monae West, Shabbi Sharifi, Charlotte Lily Gaspard
Songs & Score by
Malik Work, Jessie Davis, Doc Frost
Puppets designed/created by Charlotte Lily Gaspard

Malik Work is a NYC based, born and raised poet-actor-writer-DJ-musician. He is fresh off tour with the Public Theater's Mobile Unit, where the abridged version of his one-man hip hop theater show: Verses @ Work, became their first ever touring non-Shakespeare piece. The full version of the show garnered him a nomination for Best Solo Performance at the AUDELCO Awards. He is a founding member of The Real Live Show, a groundbreaking jazz/hip hop conglomerate. He's a member of, creator for, and long time contributor to Midnight Radio Show. He is also currently the host of Layerhythm, a revolutionary experimental jam session that centers improvisational dance and live musicians.

"Part celestial creature, part sophisticated human" is how Charlotte Lily Gaspard has been described by Faerie Magazine when contemplating the ethereal artist and her work in one of their features. Shadow puppet artist, educator, entertainer, and “bona fide fairy princess” (DUMBO Living), Charlotte's mission is to activate imaginations and celebrate playfulness wherever she goes. As founder and artistic director of Midnight Radio Show, the shadow puppet sci-fi fairytale theater collective, Charlotte and her team are known for devising innovative avant-garde enchantments, infused with puppets, poetry, music and dance, for the stage and beyond.

Sarin Monae West is an actor, writer, and teaching artist originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Recent credits: Merry Wives at Shakespeare in the Park (Dir. Saheem Ali), RedBull Theatre's Romeo and Juliet (Dir. Nathan Winkelstein), Bulrusher (dir. Michele Shay) and Intimate Apparel (dir. Arin Arbus) at NYU Graduate Acting. You can find ICKY: a pandemic musical, written by Sarin wherever you listen to your podcasts. MFA: NYU Grad Acting.

Shabbi Sharifi is an Iranian American theatre artist and writer based out of Brooklyn. She graduated from LIU Post in 2017 and since then has toured and has been appearing in shows in the Manhattan area. She is a children's theatre enthusiast and has done a lot of theatrical work concerning sexual education for grade school students and teens. She's currently training at Matthew Corozine Studio and has been working on preparing the launch of her theatre company which is scheduled to happen later this year/early next year. Follow her @shabbisharifi on instagram.
Deeply rooted in purpose; **Jessie “DJ Nebraska” Davis** is a producer, performing artist, DJ, cultural ambassador and educator committed to finding healing and connection through Art. Davis has spent the past 5 years touring extensively throughout the US, Europe, and Latin America. From the Best Buy Theater in NYC, to Untold festival in Romania, to headlining LoopFest in Oregon, Davis brings the heat from the NYC underground to stages and dance floors all around the world. Her list of collaborators includes Grammy award winner Louis Cato, Roots crew member Ray Angry, and hip hop pioneer Rob Swift. Her music has appeared in films and TV shows, including CSI LA and the George Lopez special on HBO among others. In 2019 she was selected by the state department to serve as a hip hop ambassador in Mexico and developing countries around the world. Most recently, she has been awarded the City Artist Corps grant for her work bringing art and music therapy to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. She is currently working on her 4th recording project, “The Deep End,” an audio visual exploration of the cycles of grief, healing and transformation.

**Leigh-Antony Rucker Floyd**, better known as L.A. has had a varied career in the industry as a writer, actor, composer, and musician. Over the years L.A. has been a key figure in both pre and post production for the New York New Media Association, Third World Newsreel, BRIC arts, INIVA, and Penup! Writers Collective. L.A. has dedicated his life to creativity, growth, and discovery. L.A. believes “An exploration of art should be as limitless as the depths of your imagination”. L.A. has a reputation for breaking barriers and working with the brightest talent from the vanguard to the darkest corners of the underground. Most recently L.A. has composed and contributed music to the latest adventures of Charlotte Lily Gaspard’s “Midnight Radio Show”. L.A. says “If I can make you laugh, smile, or reflect on your own journey then I consider my mission accomplished.”

**Special Thanks**
Denise Greber and everyone at La MaMa, Cheryl Henson and the Henson Foundation, Heather Henson and everyone at Handmade Puppet Dreams, C.Spot/Fairyland Krewe, the Gaspards, the Swanns, the Dengels, the Taylors, and everyone at Midnight Radio Show.
Tom Lee is a designer, director and puppet artist from Hawai‘i. He has performed as puppeteer in War Horse on Broadway, Madama Butterfly at the Metropolitan Opera and is a longtime student of Koryū Nishikawa V, master of the kuruma ningyō (cart puppetry) style. His own work includes Shank’s Mare, Tomte (Gnome) presented by La MaMa Kids, and place(no)place at the Pesta Boneka Festival in Indonesia. Tom is co-director of Chicago Puppet Studio and teaches nationally and internationally. Tom is honored to perform at La MaMa, where he began his career with the encouragement of Ellen Stewart.

Perry Yung has been with La MaMa’s Great Jones Repertory group since 1993. Among his favorite works is Trojan Women composed by Elizabeth Swados and directed by Andrei Serban. He is probably most recognized as Father Jun from the HBOMax series Warrior. Perry is grateful to be a shakuhachi student of Ralph Samuelson and ecstatic to be performing with him and Tom in Sounding the Resonant Path.

Ralph Samuelson is an internationally acclaimed performer and teacher of the shakuhachi, based in New York. He was a long-time student of the late Living National Treasure Yamaguchi Goro, whose shakuhachi playing is among several “messages from earth” that are embedded in the Gold Record of the Voyager spacecraft.
Chris Carcione is a multi-disciplinary theater artist, video designer, and arts educator. He has collaborated with Tom Lee on numerous projects including Shank’s Mare, Dan Hurlin’s Demolishing Everything With Amazing Speed, and the forthcoming Akutagawa, among others. He is an Adjunct Professor of Theater at Westchester Community College and Manhattanville College, and is the Director of Communication for CO/LAB Theater Group. www.christopherjcarcione.com

Special Thanks to
Tatsu Aoki, Kioto Aoki and Asian Improv Arts Midwest for additional music development, Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, Pesta Boneka Puppet Festival, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Yara Arts Group, Andreea Mincic, Mark Tambella, Kevin White, Marisa Fenley.
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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Lunch with Sonia
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

When I put on Your Glove
October 7 - 10, 2021
The Downstairs

Body Concert
October 7 - 10, 2021
Ellen Stewart Theatre

NOW PLAYING

Puppet Slam
October 13 - 15, 2021
The Downstairs

Dreaming
October 14 - 17, 2021
Ellen Stewart Theatre

La MaMa Kids
Evolution: A Tale of Friendship
October 16 - 17, 2021
The Downstairs

Jump Start
October 21 - 24, 2021
The Downstairs