in association with Talking Band

presents

Lemon Girls or
Art for the Artless

The Downstairs
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
March 11 - 27, 2022
Lemon Girls or Art for the Artless

Written and Composed by Ellen Maddow
Directed by Paul Zimet
Choreography by Sean Donovan
Set and Video Design by Anna Kiraly
Costume Design by Kiki Smith
Lighting Design by Mary Ellen Stebbins
Sound Design by Tyler Kieffer
Production Stage Manager: Kristin Rose Kelly
Assistant Costume Designer: Jill St. Coeur

With
Ellen Maddow*, Patrena Murray*, Lizzie Olesker,
Tina Shepard*, Louise Smith, and Jack Wetherall*

Assistant Choreographer: Brendan Washington
Light Board Operator: David Bonilla
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Piotr Gawelko

*appearing courtesy of Actors Equity Association

**The show runs 90 minutes, no intermission**

Actors’ Equity Association, founded in 1913, represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers nationwide. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors’ Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.
Talking Band’s original interdisciplinary performance work has been a cornerstone of New York City’s avant-garde theater community for 44 years. Founded by Ellen Maddow, Tina Shepard and Paul Zimet, the company has produced over fifty new works illuminating the extraordinary dimensions of ordinary life, combining richly textured music-theater with striking visual imagery. Collectively, the company and founders have earned 15 OBIE Awards and numerous other honors. Talking Band is resident company at La MaMa and has performed at nearly all of New York City’s celebrated downtown venues. Its original productions have toured throughout the U.S. and internationally to 14 countries. For more info visit talkingband.org.

SEAN DONOVAN (Choreographer) is an actor, dancer, writer, choreographer and director. His recent plays include Cabin (Bushwick Starr), and The Reception (HERE Arts). Sean has been nominated twice for BESSIE Awards for Outstanding Performer. He’s worked with Heather Christian, Faye Driscoll, Miguel Gutierrez, Jane Comfort, The Builders Association, Witness Relocation, John Jesurun, and many others. Recent credits include Oratorio for Living Things at Ars Nova, Thank You for Coming: PLAY at BAM, Elements of Oz at The Skirball Center. He’s a graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. He’s trained, performed, and taught throughout the U.S. and abroad.

KRISTIN ROSE KELLY (Production Stage Manager) Original work includes: Momologues (Fresh Fruit Festival): a queer maternal documentary play, Big Kitty in the Big City (The Tank): a fat liberation cabaret, Duets of Difference (University Settlement): a dance-theatre piece exploring disparate community identities, A Chip On Her Shoulder, a documentary play about women in Engineering (NYU,Columbia University, City, Queens, and Brooklyng College). She is thrilled to be working again with Talking Band and has previously stage managed City of No Illusions and Fusiform Gyrus. She is currently working on a documentary play about midwives and labor and an anthology film about suburbia. Teaching Artist/ Director for Brooklyn Acting Lab. MFA Directing and Public Dialogue, Virginia Tech www.kristinrosekelly.org
TYLER KIEFFER (Sound Designer) is a Brooklyn based sound designer for new plays, opera and immersive theatre. Recent works include Efflorescence (Talking Band), Iron & Coal (Prototype Festival), Tumacho, Plano (Clubbed Thumb), Is Anyone Alive Out There (Minetta Lane Theater), Evanston Salt Costs Climbing (White Heron Theatre Company), Sound House (The Flea), Counting Sheep (3 Legged Dog); This Tree, The Reception (HERE Arts Center), Made In China (Wakka Wakka, 59E59), All Day I Imagine How to Act (Live Collision, Dublin), Every Morning I Wake Up and Seem to Forget (Body & Soul Music Festival, Ireland). tylerkieffer.com

ANNA KIRALY (Set Designer) is a visual artist, set and video designer. She's collaborated with the Pig Iron Theater Company, The Play Company, the Talking Band, Peter Sellars and universities such as Barnard/Columbia, Fordham, The New School, Montclair, Colgate, designed visuals for operas and concerts. She is a recipient of a NYSCA grant for an upcoming Beckett project with Sharon Fogarty, the Arts Link Grant, the NEA/TCG Program for Designers, the TCG New Generations and the Jim Henson Foundation's grant. She teaches set and media design at Barnard College/Columbia University and set design at the Hungarian School of Theater and Film. www.annakiraly.com

ELLEN MADDOW (Playwright/Composer, Lorca) is a founding member of Talking Band. Plays she has written and composed include, Fusiform Gyrus - A Septet For Two Scientists and Five Horns, Fat Skirt Big Nozzle (with Louise Smith). Burnished By Grief, The Golden Toad (with Paul Zimet). The Peripherals, Panic! Euphoria! Blackout, Flip Side, Delicious Rivers, Painted Snake in a Painted Chair and five pieces about the avant-garde housewife, Betty Suffer. She also composed music for Talking Band's production of City Of No Illusions and The Room Sings, Taylor Mac's Walk Across America For Mother Earth, and Liz Duffy Adam's Buccaneers (Children's Theatre of Minneapolis) among others. Drama Desk award for her performance in Clare Barron’s Dance Nation, 2020 NYC Women’s Fund for Media, Music, and Theatre award, OBIE Award, Frederick Loewe Award in Musical Theatre, Member of the Open Theatre, alumnus of New Dramatists.

LIZZIE OLESKER (Topo) has appeared with the Talking Band at La MaMa and on tour in New Cities, and was a contributing writer for The Necklace (Ohio Theater) and Obskene (Here). Her own plays were developed and seen at New Georges, Dixon Place, Invisible Dog, Clubbed Thumb, Cherry Lane, and the Public Theater. She co-directed the hybrid documentary film The Washing Society with Lynne Sachs, currently on Criterion Channel. She teaches playwriting at the New School and NYU where she works with her adjunct faculty union UAW Local 7902.

TINA SHEPARD (Fran) was a member of The Open Theater, The Winter Project and The Other Theater, all under the direction of Joe Chaikin. When The Open Theater disbanded, Paul, Ellen & Tina gathered a group of actors for workshops to keep on exploring the interplay of language, image and music. That became The Talking Band. 50 years later: here we are!

KIKI SMITH (Costume Designer) Other Talking Band productions include City of No Illusions, Fusiform Gyrus, The Room Sings, Burnished by Grief, The Golden Toad, Marcellus Shale, Hot Lunch Apostles, Panic! Euphoria! Blackout!, Bitterroot, Star Messengers, The Parrot, Belize, Imminence, Flipside, Radnevsky’s Real Magic, Delicious Rivers and Painted Snake in a Painted Chair, for which she received an Obie Award with the rest of the company. Founding member of Shakespeare & Co. in Lenox, MA, where she has designed for over 25 years. Other companies include Sandglass Theatre, Ko Theatre, Company of Women. Professor of design at Smith College.
LOUISE SMITH (Pinny) actor, writer and therapist, was a member of Ping Chong and Company for eleven years and worked with The Talking Band, Otrabanda Company and other artists at La MaMa before relocating to Yellow Springs, Ohio in 1994. She played the lead role in Lizzie Borden’s seminal film *Working Girls* (Criterion Collection). She is the recipient of an Obie, a Bessie, and several Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Excellence Awards. She has created 17 solos and duets since 1984 and recently retired after 25 years teaching at Antioch College. She is grateful to be here.

JILL ST.COEUR (Assistant Costume Designer) I just had a realization that I have been working with The Talking Band for close to 20 years as a costume designer. I am so glad to have this experience. I am thrilled they made it through the pandemic without missing a beat. Onward and upward with work that continues to be fun, joyful and relevant.

MARY ELLEN STEBBINS (Lighting Designer) Previous Talking Band: *Fusiform Gyrus, City of No Illusions*. Recent credits include MCC Theater, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Florentine Opera, Working Theater, Northern Stage, Prototype, Harvard University. Member of Sightline Arts. Resident Designer for HOWL ensemble and Third Space. 2019 Opera America Tobin Finalist, a 2016 Henry Hewes Award nominee, a 2014 Live Design Young Designer to Watch, the 2011 USITT Barbizon Lighting Design Award winner, and a 2009 Hangar Theatre Lab Company Design Fellow. Member USA 829. MFA, Boston University; AB, Harvard College www.maryellenstebbinsdesign.com

BRANDON WASHINGTON (Assistant Choreographer) is a dancer, model, and performance artist, currently living in Brooklyn. He received his BFA in Dance from the University of Florida and has been teaching movement at NYU’s Experimental Theater Wing. Past collaborations include Ryan McNamara, Adidas, JW Anderson, Faye Driscoll Dance Group, Sean Donovan, Radiohead, Orange Grove Dance, Mark Dendy, Hermès, and Jane Comfort among others. He has enjoyed travelling and performing internationally in festivals all over the world and can’t wait to do so again. @branwashed
JACK WETHERALL (Sid) Select Roles: title role in *The Elephant Man* (Broadway); originated role of Mario in *Tamora* at the Park Street Armory, Elliot Isaac in *Skintight* at the Roundabout, and many roles for the Talking Band (Off-Broadway). Regional: Prospero, Macbeth, Cyrano, Shotover, Pericles, Richard II, Orsino, Mercutio, Berowne, Jack Absolute, Lopahkin, Orestes, Valmont, Oscar Wilde, Edward in Retreat From Moscow, Lyman In Other Desert Cities. Drama-Logue awards for Dionysus in *The Bacchae* and Jack Tanner in *Man and Superman*. Stratford, Canada (Robin Phillips, Artistic Director): *Henry V*, Orlando in *As You Like It* and Konstantin in *The Seagull* (opposite Dame Maggie Smith). Television: Vic on *Queer As Folk*. Recent: Directing an audio recording of Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis*.

PAUL ZIMET (Director) is the Artistic Director and a founding member of Talking Band. Wrote and directed, *The City of No Illusions, The Room Sings, The Golden Toad* (with Ellen Maddow) *Marcellus Shale, New Islands Archipelago, Imminence, Belize, The Parrot, Star Messengers, Bitterroot, Party Time, Black Milk Quarter* and *NewCities*. Directed many new works for Talking Band including, *Burnished by Grief* (Ellen Maddow) and *The Walk Across America for Mother Earth* (Taylor Mac) and Part I of *The Lily's Revenge* (Taylor Mac). Obie award for direction, and three Obie awards for work with the Open Theater and Winter Project directed by Joseph Chaikin; The Frederick Loewe Award in Musical Theater, and a Playwrights Center National McKnight Fellowship: playwright alumnus of New Dramatists; Associate Professor Emeritus in Theatre, Smith College.

Board of Directors: Anthony Sheldon, President. William Badgett, Naomi Bushman, Fletcher Copp, Joan Ellis, Rev. M. Zell Schwartzman, Linda Sue Stein, Paul Vidich, and Wendy Wasdahl.

Talking Band receives administrative service and support from Pentacle/Dance Works, a leading voice and resource for some of today’s most exciting contemporary dance and performance artists. To learn more about Pentacle’s artist services please visit: www.pentacle.org/artistservices_fiscal.asp

Special Thanks to those who contributed to the creation of this work - James Tigger Ferguson, Michael Lynch, Mary Shultz, and Connie Winston. Also many thanks to Naomi Goldberg Haas and Dances for a Variable Population, Sandra Indig, Sally Lesser, Smith College Theatre Department, Elizabeth Sinnigen, Joe D’Emilio, Tei Blow, Kuba Gontarczyk, Joey Moro, and as always the staff and crew of La MaMa.
Funding credits

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Friends of Talking Band

A full program with information on this production can be found on the Lemon Girls or Art for the Artless page of the La MaMa website.

In addition you can scan the QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby for access to the digital program.
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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