



presents

UNDERNEATH THE SKIN

A Penetrative Portrayal of a Queer Giant

Based on the life and work of Samuel Steward 1909-1993



Ellen Stewart Theatre
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
Dec 1 - 18, 2022

UNDERNEATH THE SKIN

**A Penetrative Portrayal of a Queer Giant
Based on the life and work of
Samuel Steward 1909-1993**

PRODUCTION CREDITS:

**Direction, Choreography, Video Design and
Animations, Set Design - John Kelly**

Original Texts - Samuel M. Steward

Lighting Design - Nicholas Houfek

Costume Design - Ramona Ponce

Directorial Consultant - Kevin Malony

Stage Management - Sarah Rae Murphy

**Cinematographer on Gertrude Stein and
Older Sam sequences - Josef Astor**

Piano arrangement for 'The Kiss' - Matt Kanelos

Production Consultant - Craig Hensala

Production Associate - Alyce Dissette

Music -

**Russ Columbo, Jóhann Jóhannsson, Ludwig van
Beethoven, Jean Lenoir (sung by Lucienne Boyer),
Judee Sill, Iron Butterfly, Bessie Smith, Lucille Bogan,
Ma Rainey, George Hannah, Peg Leg Howell, Kokomo
Arnold, Gene Malin, Gladys Bentley, Jimmy Rodgers,
Wal-Berg and Camille Francois, Claudio Monteverdi.**

CAST:

John Kelly

- Samuel Steward

Hucklefaery

- Student, Cocktail Buddy, Le Loup, Sailor,
Phil Andros, Walt Whitman

Estado Flotante

- Student, Cocktail Buddy, La Licorne, Sailor,
Gay Dude, 1994 Man in hospital gown

John William Watkins

- Student, Cocktail Buddy, Le Cochon, Sailor,
Tattoo Master, Leather Stud, Oscar Wilde,
voice of Alfred Kinsey

Lola Pashalinski

- Gertrude Stein (on video)

Running time 85 minutes with no intermission

TEXTS:

All the words contained in this work – spoken live, as audio narration, projected as video (including the words of Gertrude Stein and Alfred Kinsey) are Samuel Steward's actual words, culled from his essays, unpublished autobiography, short stories, and interviews. They are rendered on video in American Typewriter font; other generic or descriptive texts (i.e., who is Jean Cocteau, etc.) are in the Baskerville font.

DEVELOPMENT CREDITS:

Underneath The Skin' was made possible by a 2019 commission from the Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. This work has been funded through The New York State Council on the Arts, The Jerome Robbins Foundation, The Gerald J. & Dorothy Friedman Family Foundation, The Good Works Foundation, and the Friends of John Kelly Performance. This work was developed through residencies at the Ucross Foundation Residency Program, Performance Space New York, The Dixon Place Hot! Festival, The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and Yaddo.

JOHN KELLY PERFORMANCE is dedicated to the creation, performance and preservation of the work of artistic director John Kelly. Our work depends on the support of individuals and organizations to advance our vision and share it with the public. Tax-deductible contributions can be made through Fractured Atlas. For more information visit www.johnkellyperformance.org

SPECIAL THANKS:

Jay Wegman, Mia Yoo, Beverly Petty, Mary Fulham, Ron Lasko, John Issendorf, Yael Haskal, Allison Hsu, Pearse Redmond, Mark Tambella, Martha Clarke, Chris Harder, Laura Donnelley, Craig Hensala, Cynthia O'Neal, Ellie Kovan, Jane Friedman, Linda Chapman, Jenny Schlenzka, Carol Lipnik, Ron Walker, Paul Katz, Hjördis Linn-Blanford, Matt Kanelos, Hebe Joy.

ESTADO FLOTANTE (Student, Cocktail Buddy, La Licorne, Sailor, Gay Dude, 1994 Man in hospital gown) is an artist based in Brooklyn whose practice ranges from dance/movement to music/sound, and video/visual composition consolidated through his pop music and live performance. Originally from Santiago de Chile where he became dancer, teaching artist and maker, he moves to New York City in 2012 where he has performed and collaborated with various Dance and performance artists like Antonio Ramos, Miguel Gutierrez, Daria Fain, Ishmael Houston Jones and John Kelly among others. Currently has been releasing his first singles online and producing his first EP to be released on all music streaming platforms.

NICHOLAS HOUFEK He/Him (Lighting Designer) is a NYC based Lighting Designer working in Music, Dance, and Theater. Selected projects include: Claire Chase's Density Project (The Kitchen,) International Contemporary Ensemble, *Oyá* by Marcos Balter (NY Philharmonic, Soloist for Light,) Natalie Merchant, Maya Beiser, Ojai Music Festival, Silk Road Ensemble, Tyshawn Sorey's *Perle Noire* directed by Peter Sellars, Marc Neikrug's *A Song* by Mahler, Anohni's *She Who Saw Beautiful Things* at The Kitchen, Suzanne Farrin's *La Dolce Morte* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art directed by Doug Fitch, George Lewis' *Soundlines* featuring Steve Schick and directed by Jim Findlay (Skirball,) Anna Thorvaldsdottir's *In The Light of Air*, Ash Fure's *The Force of Things* (Mostly Mozart,) *The 39 Steps* (Olney Theatre Center). In addition to traditional lighting for live performance Mr. Houfek has been developing a light organ software interface called the ColorSynth that acts as an intermediate between a performer and their lighting. Houfek has also designed for the Martha Graham Dance Company, Cedar Lake Contemporary Dance, and Ian Spencer Bell Dance; is an ensemble member of the International Contemporary Ensemble, a member USA829, and a graduate of Boston University.

HUCKLEFAERY (Student, Cocktail Buddy, Le Loup, Sailor, Phil Andros, Walt Whitman) is thrilled to return to *Underneath the Skin* by John Kelly at La MaMa after performing in its world premiere at NYSkirball in 2019. What a privilege to celebrate the

life and writings of Samuel Steward. Over the years Hucklefaery has worked with various directors and NYC artists including: Maria Irene Fornes; David Petrarca; Vivian Matalon; Stephan Wadsworth; and Justin Vivian Bond ... performing at: the Kitchen; Dixon Place; the Wild Project; Theatre for the New City; Dallas Theatre Center; the Ochre House and more. He has served as an advocate and organizer for Reclaim Pride's: 2019 Queer Liberation March and Rally; and the 2020 Queer Liberation March for Black Lives and Against Police Brutality. Hucklefaery continues to serve as advocate and organizer for the NYC Drag March, championing the march for over 25 years.

JOHN KELLY (Samuel Steward) is a performance and visual artist. His performance works dramatize the lives of characters - whether actual or fictional - revealing their challenges, foibles, and humanity. Some of these works are directly autobiographical - others are inspired by the realities and hurdles of cultural outsiders, and political realities they navigate. His performance works have been performed at MET Live Arts, The Kitchen, La MaMa, Lincoln Center, the Warhol Museum, the Whitney Biennial, NY Live Arts, BAM's *Next Wave Festival*, REDCAT, and London's Tate Modern. He has received 2 Bessie Awards, 2 Obie Awards, 2 NEA Awards American Masterpieces: *Three Centuries of Artistic Genius Awards*, a CalArts/ Alpert Award in Dance/Performance, a Visual AIDS Vanguard Award, the Ethyl Eichelberger Award, and a Mabou Mines 'Ruthie' Award. His visual art practice is based in self-portraiture, and frequently relates to the subjects of his performance works, including drawing, painting, photography, and video. 2 of his films are in the permanent collection of MOMA, and he recently completed his first graphic narrative 'A Friend Gave Me A Book', based his weathering a catastrophic trapeze accident. Creative residencies include Yaddo, MacDowell, The Park Avenue Armory, Civitella Ranieri, The Bogliasco Foundation, and the LMCC Process Space Artist in Residence Program. He was a Guest lecturer at Harvard University and Visiting Artist in Residence at Bard College. Mentorship involvement includes the Queer Art Mentorship program, and the Helix Queer Performance Network.

KEVIN MALONY (Directorial Consultant) is a director and producer whose work has been seen internationally for the past 35 years. He is the founder and artistic director of TWEED TheaterWorks, a non-profit producing organization that has been a forerunner in the downtown New York arts community for over thirty years. He is currently working with Josef Astor, John Kelly and Charles Busch on a new project, and curating the performance series Sundays @7@ Pangea. www.tweedtheater.org

SARAH RAE MURPHY (Stage Manager) is a theater designer and technician who has been working in downtown NYC theater since 2002. She graduated from Montclair State University with a BA in Theater Production and Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland with a Masters of Philosophy in Theater. Favorite credits include running nearly every show in The Club at La Mama from 2009-2016, stage managing Joseph Keckler's *I am and Opera*, lighting design for Dane Terry's *Bird in the House*, and working closely with artists such as Reggie Watts, And Stover, Belarus Free Theater, Nicky Paraiso, and Dan Fishback.

LOLA PASHALINSKI (Gertrude Stein) is a founding member of The Ridiculous Theatrical Company where, with writer/director Charles Ludlam, she created 17 roles in 13 years. She received two Obie awards for her work with the company. Since leaving the Ridiculous in 1980, Lola worked extensively Off-Broadway and regionally in productions directed by Lee Breuer, Richard Foreman, JoAnne Akalaitis, Elizabeth LeCompte, Les Waters, Anne Bogart, David Gordon, Neil Bartlett, among others. With her life-partner Linda Chapman, she wrote and performed *GERTRUDE AND ALICE: A Likeness to Loving*, receiving her third Obie in 2000. Lola made her Broadway debut in *FORTUNE'S FOOL* with the late Alan Bates. She's appeared in many films and on television.

RAMONA PONCE (Costume Designer), nominated for both the Innovative Theater and Henry Hewes Design awards, has spent the last 40 years costuming theater and film actors, opera singers, dancers, cabaret artists, drag queens, performance artists and rock-and-rollers. She started at The Ridiculous Theatrical Company, working with the great Everett Quinton, with whom she still collaborates. She has enjoyed dressing many of La MaMa's artists over the years. These days, she's also involved in virtual and augmented reality projects, including *The Parksville Murders*, the first VR horror opera, and The Operacades "Opera In A Box" pandemic-safe mobile solo performance spaces, both through Opera On Tap, the world's largest opera company. She has long-term design relationships with a variety of art families, including Untitled Theater Company No. 61, The Hotel Savant, The Fabulous LuLu LoLo, and Trinity Liturgical Dance. In addition to costumes, she does specialty needlework for fashion designers and fine artists and has styled visual elements for a variety of applications, from human skeletons doing sports to edible wall art. Her work has been displayed at galleries in New York and Arizona. She designs special occasion wear for women and men, lectures on costume topics, and greatly enjoys a glass of bubbly.

JOHN WILLIAM WATKINS (Student, Cocktail Buddy, Le Cochon, Sailor, Tattoo Master, Leather Stud, Oscar Wilde, voice of Alfred Kinsey) Off-Broadway: *The Gold Room* (i am a slow tide), *Sleep No More* (Punchdrunk), *The Threepenny Opera* (Atlantic Theatre Company), *The Jack Plays* (TerraNOVA Collective). Regional: *Wink* (world premiere), *The Grand Inquisitor*, *Sonnets for an Old Century*, *The Lonesome West*, *Guys On Ice*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *King Lear*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *Richard III*, *Hamlet*, *School for Scandal*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. TV: "Gotham," "Blacklist."

**A full program with information on this
production can be found on the
UNDERNEATH THE SKIN
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



RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



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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July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

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Ellen Stewart Theatre

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Puppet Works in Progress**

Dec 1 -4 , 2022

The Downstairs

The Weak and The Strong

Dec 8 - 18, 2022

The Downstairs

Krymov Lab

Dec 9 - 22, 2022

Downtown Arts

Coffeehouse Chronicles #168:

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Dec 10, 2022

Ellen Stewart Theatre

COMING SOON

Poerty Electric:

Romeo & Juliet Tribal

Dec 13, 2022

The Downstairs

La MaMa Kids:

Winter Wonderland

Dec 17, 2022

The Downstairs

The Indigo Room

Jan 6 - 22, 2022

Ellen Stewart Theatre

**King Gilgamesh &
the Man of the Wild**

Jan 12 - 22, 2022

The Downstairs