in association with The Public Theater’s Under the Radar Festival

Presents

KING GILGAMESH & THE MAN OF THE WILD

Created by Ahmed Moneka, Jesse LaVercombe & Seth Bockley

The Downstairs
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
Jan 12 - 22, 2023
KING GILGAMESH &
THE MAN OF THE WILD
Created by Ahmed Moneka,
Jesse LaVercombe and Seth Bockley

A TRIA Theatre and Soulpepper Theatre production

Seth Bockley - Creator and Director
Jesse LaVercombe* - Creator and Performer
Ahmed Moneka* - Creator and Performer

Demetrios Petsalakis - Music Director
Lorenzo Savoini - Scenic and Lighting Designer
Adrian Shepherd-Gawinski - Sound Designer
Guillermo Verdecchia - Dramaturg
Patrick Fries* - Stage Manager
Paul Howells - Sound Engineer / Mixer
Sara Schwartz Geller - Producer
Nadja Leonhard-Hooper - Touring Producer
Waleed Abdulhamid - Musician
Jessica Deutsch - Musician
Max Senitt - Musician
Selcuk Suna - Musician

* These actors and stage manager are members of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Place: Ancient Mesopotamia and Modern Toronto

Time: Ancient Days and the Recent Past

Running time 90 minutes with no intermission

Developed with support from Jungle Theater and as part of the Pivot Arts Festival.

Special Thanks: Heather Litteer and Anne Hamburger.
Waleed Abdulhamid is a Canadian Multi-instrumentalist; Composer; Vocalist, Music and Film Producer, known for his striking vocals, and virtuosic ability to play 20 instruments. He has been an active member of the Toronto music scene since his arrival, in 1991, from Sudan. He is currently a faculty member in the music department of the University of Toronto. He has recorded, performed and toured with celebrated artists including David Clayton Thomas of the Grammy Award winning band Blood, Sweat & Tears and Motown legends, The Drifters. He is most proud of his role as a mentor to acclaimed younger artists such as D’bi Young, Ngozi Paul, and Zaki Ibrahim.

Seth Bockley is a writer of stories, plays, and screenplays, and a theater artist specializing in literary adaptation (two stories by George Saunders, the novel ‘2666’ by Roberto Bolaño). His stage works have been seen in Mexico City, Singapore, rural Ireland, Canada and all over the USA. An inaugural member of Chicago’s Goodman Theater Playwrights’ Unit, for three years he served as Writer in Residence at Goodman Theater. He is Director of Creative Engagement at the Amsterdam-based environmental nonprofit Sovereign Nature Initiative, and his first film, “The Cartographer,” premiered in 2022 at the Berlin Short Film Festival. His story “Repertorio” in Boulevard magazine was recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize. He teaches performance and literary adaptation for the stage at the University of Chicago. sethbockley.com

Jessica Hana Deutsch is an in-demand violinist, vocalist, bassist, arranger, MD, producer and composer in Toronto’s music scene. She was classically-trained from the age of 3 and a three-time national finalist in the Canadian Music Competition. She has a new project with Tyler Emond called Hush, in which she sings and co-writes adventurous indie pop music. She also leads and composes the music for her band Ozere, which mixes classical chamber music with world folk styles. She works with many artists, including Leif Vollebekk, Tyler Shaw, Sarah Slean, Jayme Stone, Tara Moneka, Ventanas, and Beyond the Pale. She also played fiddle in the hit Mirvish musical Come From Away. jessicadeutsch.com

Jesse LaVercombe is an award-winning writer and actor who works across film, TV, and theater, splitting his time between the U.S. and Canada. As a screenwriter, he worked on two feature films coming out in 2023, Float (Lionsgate/Collective Pictures) and Code 8: Part II (Netflix/Collective Pictures), and he continues to write upcoming films with Collective Pictures. He also won the Playwrights Guild of Canada Emerging Writing Award for his three-act play, Hallelujah, It’s Holly. As an actor, he won the 2021 Toronto ACTRA Award and received a Canadian Screen Award nomination for his work in Violation (TIFF, Sundance, SXSW, New York Times Critic’s Pick). He’s also known for portraying Jack Walker for four seasons on Murdoch Mysteries (CBC) and has performed on stages across the U.S. and Canada. Training: National Theatre School of Canada, Canadian Film Centre Actors Conservatory. jesselavercombe.com
Ahmed Moneka Since his arrival in Toronto from Baghdad seven years ago, Ahmed has made significant contributions as a performing artist in music and theatre. The arts community has warmly embraced and celebrated his Iraqi artistic heritage – his stories and songs - and welcomed him into the city’s growing cultural narrative. He has enriched himself through many collaborations, including with the Canadian Opera Company, Soulpepper Theatre, Aga Khan Museum, Tafelmusik, Driftwood Theatre Group, TD Toronto Jazz festival, Kroner Hall, Modern Time Stage, Aluna Theatre, Jabari Dance Theatre, and Small World Music. He is one of the founders of Moskitto Bar and the creator and leader of Moneka Arabic Jazz. He has been an artist-in-residence with Driftwood Theatre Group, a member of Soulpepper Academy, and one of the Stingray Rising Stars finalists in 2019 at the TD Toronto Jazz festival and Stingray Rising Stars winner 2022 at Mundial Montreal. ahmedmoneka.com

Demetri Pesalakis Originally from Athens Greece, Demetri Petsalakis is a Toronto based musician performing in a variety of styles with a focus on Greek and Middle Eastern lutes. Demetri has composed for, recorded and performed with many groups including Kune, Niyaz, Tafelmusik, Sultans of Strings, Ventanas, Near East Trio, Zephyr, Turkwaz, Moneka Arabic Jazz and Moskitto Bar. In 2020 Demetri was appointed the musical director of Kune, a Royal Conservatory world music orchestra with members from eleven different countries. Demetri has a Master of Music degree in jazz guitar performance from the University of Toronto, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from York University.

Max Senitt Juno Award winning Drummer/Percussionist Max Senitt is a highly regarded and in-demand freelance musician specializing in music from around the world. Besides performing with acclaimed Grammy and Juno award winning artists such as: Josh Groban, Alex Cuba, Kiran Ahluwalia, and Hilario Duran, he is also a proud member of Moneka Arabic Jazz band, Avataar, Kazdoura, Fractal Sufi and WAPAMA. As an educator, Max teaches privately, is a frequent contributing writer for various music magazines, and a faculty member at Centennial College in Toronto, Canada where he lives.

Selcuk Suna was born in Istanbul, Turkey in 1981, comes from a family of musicians. He currently resides in Toronto, Canada, where he is a freelance musician. His most recent album “Turkish Standards / Non-standard” is out now. While living in Turkey, Selcuk played a weekly late-night show (Beyaz Show) for 13 years; he also played for numerous Turkish pop-stars (Ajda Pekkan, Kayahan, Mustafa Ceceli etc.) Now, he performs traditional Turkish music with Istanbul Band throughout Toronto. Selcuk is a member of the Royal Conservatory’s New Canadian Global Music Orchestra, KUNÉ; and has played with many well known groups such as Sultans of String and Ahmed Moneka Arabic Jazz.
SUPPORT THIS PRODUCTION’S EPIC JOURNEY

If you would like to follow or contribute to the show’s future, please scan the QR code and help this production on its own epic journey!
A full program with information on this production can be found on the *KING GILGAMESH & THE MAN OF THE WILD* 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
We thank our supporters who are indispensable to La MaMa as we continue to expand and strengthen our artistic community. You help make space for artists to create and share new stories, present diverse perspectives, and keep us all connected in our 61st Season!

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King Gilgamesh & the Man of the Wild
Jan 12 - 22, 2022
The Downstairs

Fedeli d'Amore (Love's faithful)
Jan 26 -28, 2023
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Audience
Feb 2 - 19, 2023
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Coffeehouse Chronicles #169:
Circus Amok
Feb 4, 2023
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Feb 16 - 19, 2023
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The Hip Hopera of 5P1N0K10
Feb 16 - 19, 2023
The Club

La MaMa Kids:
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Feb 18, 2022
The Community Room

La Machine De Turing
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Ellen Stewart Theatre

Han!
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