

Friday, February 16, 2018, 8pm  
 Saturday, February 17, 2018, 2pm and 8pm  
 Sunday, February 18, 2018, 3pm  
 Oakland Metro Operahouse

## *Counting Sheep* A Guerrilla Folk Opera

### Creators

Mark and Marichka Marczyk  
 with Lemon Bucket Orkestra

### Directors

Kevin Newbury and Mark and Marichka Marczyk

### Cast

Volodymyr Bedzvin	Michael Louis Johnson	Jaash Singh
Eli Camilo	Oskar Lambarri	Natalia Telentso
Nathan Dell-Vandenberg	Mark Marczyk	Ian Tulloch
Tamar Ilana	Dima Nechepurenko	Stephania Woloshyn

### Revolutionaries

Matt McGill

<i>Set Design</i>	Matthew Cherkas
<i>Costume Design</i>	Vita Tzykun
<i>Lighting Design</i>	Eric Southern
<i>Sound Design</i>	Brandon Wolcott and Tyler Kieffer
<i>Projection Design</i>	Greg Emetaz
<i>Production Supervisor</i>	Karen Szpaller
<i>Production Manager</i>	Rory Howson
<i>Creative Producer/Tour Director</i>	Michael Rubinfeld
<i>Movement Director</i>	Chloe Treat
<i>Fight Director</i>	Joseph Travers
<i>Music Director</i>	Marichka Marczyk
<i>Associate Lighting Designer</i>	Cheyenne Sykes
<i>Producers</i>	Selfconscious Productions in association with Hot Feat USA
<i>Tour Coordinator</i>	Clayton Lee

*The artists of Counting Sheep acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$153 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country.*

*This performance will last approximately 80 minutes  
 and will be performed without an intermission.*

*Cal Performances presentations in Oakland  
 are generously underwritten by Signature Development Group.  
 Cal Performances' 2017–18 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.*



*Counting Sheep* is an immersive “guerrilla folk opera” that retells the story of the 2014 Maidan Revolution in Ukraine that ousted the sitting government. It is performed using Ukrainian polyphony choral music, with exuberant musical performances and vibrant visuals offering a view into the lived experiences of those who were involved in the Maidan, and, to an extent, any modern-day political revolution.

The production was first workshopped at the St. Vladimir Institute in February 2015, followed by a development period and a sold-out run at the SummerWorks Performance Festival in August 2015. The production then enjoyed a second sold-out run in Toronto (May/June 2016, winning a Dora Award) and was the smash success of the 2016 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, winning several awards, including the Scotsman Fringe First and the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award. *Counting Sheep* has toured to the Ruhr Festival in Germany, the Kilkenny Arts Festival in Ireland, the Freedom Festival in England, and recently completed a run in New York City at 3LD. For more information, please visit [countingsheeprevolution.com](http://countingsheeprevolution.com).

Mark and Marichka Marczyk (*creators and co-directors*) met and fell in love on Independence Square in Kyiv at the height of the Revolution of Dignity. They have traveled across Ukraine, volunteering, performing for soldiers and DPs, and writing about their experiences (*Brick Literary Magazine, Humber Literary Review, NOW Magazine, Carte Blanche, CBC*). Together, they created *Counting Sheep* and perform in Lemon Bucket Orkestra, Toronto’s infamous Balkan-klezmer-gypsy-party-punk-super-band. They are currently working on a new guerrilla-pop project called *Balaklava Blues*, which is based on traditional music from the Donbas region, as well as a screenplay about the 242-day battle for the Donetsk Airport. In May 2015, at their wedding at Dufferin Grove Park, they raised \$20,000 in wedding gifts for Patriot Defence, an organization that provides NATO-grade medical kits to combat and civilian medics alike, and teaches them how to use them in extreme situ-

ations. (The organization’s founder was recently appointed the new minister of health of Ukraine and has implemented sweeping reforms that combat corruption and strive for universal coverage). In Toronto, Mark and Marichka also teach traditional Eastern and Central Ukrainian singing workshops.

Kevin Newbury (*co-director*) is a theater, opera, and film director with more than 60 original productions to his credit. Recent highlights include the world premieres of *Fellow Travelers* (Cincinnati Opera, *New York Times* Best Opera of 2016, Prototype Festival NYC), *Bel Canto* (Lyric Opera of Chicago and PBS *Great Performances*), and *Kansas City Choir Boy* (with Courtney Love, NYC and national tour). His work has also been seen at the Park Avenue Armory, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Barcelona Liceu, San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Bard Summerscape, L’Opéra de Montréal, Minnesota Opera, the Wexford Festival (Ireland), San Francisco Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Portland Opera, and Glimmerglass Opera. New York theater work includes the GLAAD-award winning play *Candy & Dorothy*. His two short films, *Monsura is Waiting* and *Stag*, have screened at 40 film festivals collectively, winning several awards.

The Lemon Bucket Orkestra is Canada’s only Balkan-klezmer-gypsy-party-punk-super-band. Born on the streets of Toronto as a busking band in 2010, the original quartet of guerrilla-folk troubadours quickly amassed a battalion of troops armed with brass and bows and started touring the world. LBO has been nominated for several awards, heralded as ground-breaking by international media, and performed at international festivals across the globe, but the group’s greatest achievement is its ability to embody the dynamic space between “home” and “exotic” and to welcome audiences into the celebration of that space. LBO’s members have even gone as far as the eastern front of the war in Ukraine, using their music as catharsis, support, and even a platform for storytelling and informa-

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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tion sharing in a political arena obfuscated by propaganda and misinformation. For more information, please visit [lemonbucket.com](http://lemonbucket.com).

**Selfconscious Productions** is a Canadian-based production company dedicated to the development of new Canadian projects for national and international presentations. Executive artistic director Michael Rubinfeld has been working with *Counting Sheep* since its initial workshop production, and he has developed and toured the work with the creators since 2015. Selfconscious is also the production company behind CanadaHub at the Edinburgh Fringe—a stand-alone venue that features several Canadian performance projects from across the country. The company is touring the productions of *Mouthpiece* and *Foreign Radical* (CanadaHub 2017) in the UK and United States, and *We Keep Coming Back* in Canada, and will once again produce CanadaHub for the 2018

Edinburgh Fringe. In 2018 Selfconscious welcomed Clayton Lee as its first managing producer. For more information, please visit the website at [selfconsciousproductions.com](http://selfconsciousproductions.com).

**Hot Feat USA Ltd** is a theatrical production company dedicated to supporting and producing live theatrical work in the United States, Canada, and throughout the world. The company supports and develops unique and relevant productions, with the goal of assisting them in reaching their full potential. In addition to *Counting Sheep*, Hot Feat has also produced *The Color Purple* (the Tony Award-winning Broadway revival and the US tour), *Something Rotten* (Broadway and US tour), and *Hand to God* (Broadway and London West End). Currently, the company is producing *Ride the Cyclone*, a new musical that will open next month in Seattle (a co-production with ACT and Seattle 5th Avenue).