



Friday, March 16, 2018, 8pm
Saturday, March 17, 2018, 2pm and 8pm
Sunday, March 18, 2018, 3pm
Zellerbach Playhouse

Manual Cinema *Ada/Ava*

Director Drew Dir
Score and Sound Design Kyle Vegter and Ben Kauffman
Design Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, and Julia Miller
Additional Drums, Synthesizer, and Piano Michael Hilger
Wigs and Costumes Mieka van der Ploeg
Mask Design Julia Miller

Cast

Ada/Puppeteer Vanessa Valliere
Ava/Puppeteer Kara Davidson
Puppeteer Drew Dir
Puppeteer Sam Deutsch
Puppeteer Charlotte Long

Vocals/Guitar/Live Sound Effects Quinn Tsan
Synthesizer/Guitar Michael Hilger
Cello/Keyboard Kyle Veger

Sound Engineer Kim Kozak
Company/Stage Manager Shelby Glasgow

*This performance will last approximately 60 minutes
and will be performed without an intermission.*

Cal Performances' 2017–18 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.



Manual Cinema is a performance collective, design studio, and film/video production company founded in 2010 by Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Ben Kauffman, Julia Miller, and Kyle Vegter. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to create immersive stories for stage and screen. Using vintage overhead projectors, multiple screens, puppets, actors, live-feed cameras, multi-channel sound design, and a live music ensemble, Manual Cinema transforms the experience of attending the cinema and imbues it with liveness, ingenuity, and theatricality.

Manual Cinema has been presented by, worked in collaboration with, or brought its work to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and the Under the Radar Festival (New York City); the Kennedy Center (Washington, DC), the Kimmel Center (Philadelphia), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago); Davies Symphony Hall (San Francisco), the Ace Hotel Theater (Los Angeles), the O, Miami Poetry Festival, La Monnaie-DeMunt (Brussels), the Noorderzon Festival (Netherlands), the Tehran International Puppet Festival (Iran), and elsewhere around the world. The company has collaborated with StoryCorps (NYC), Erratica (London), the Belgian Royal Opera (Brussels), Hubbard Street Dance (Chicago), *Pop-up Magazine* (San Francisco), Nu Deco Ensemble (Miami), *New York Times* best-selling author Reif Larsen (NYC), and three-time Grammy Award-winning eighth blackbird (Chicago).

In 2018, the company will have debuts in Cairo and Holland.

PUPPETEERS

Kara Davidson (*Ava*, puppeteer) is an actor and playwright living in Chicago. Previous shows with Manual Cinema include *Ada/Ava*, *The End of TV*, *My Soul's Shadow*, *The Electric Stage*, and *Pop-up Magazine*. She is a company member with the House Theatre of Chicago and has also worked with Lookingglass Theatre Company (Chicago), Chicago Shakespeare

Theater, Actors Theatre of Louisville (KY), Nebraska Repertory Theatre, Aporia Theatre (NYC), and Project Y (NYC), among others. Davidson holds degrees in theater performance and French from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She also trains in aerial/circus arts, and does motion and performance capture for video games. She most recently completed the cinematic performance capture for Supergirl in *Injustice 2*.

Sam Deutsch (*puppeteer, company member*) is a performer and designer based in Chicago, and a proud company member of Manual Cinema. Select performance and design credits include: Denise (the fish) in *Mistakes Were Made* (world premiere at A Red Orchid Theatre, Chicago; Off Broadway at Barrow Street Theatre, 2011 Henry Hewes Design Award nominee) and Zoopy (the dog) in *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money* (world premiere at Chicago Children's Theatre; Off Broadway at the Atlantic Theater). He is a co-producer and artistic council member with The Inconvenience, a multidisciplinary arts organization based in Chicago.

Drew Dir (*director, designer, puppeteer, co-artistic director*) is a writer, director, and puppet designer. Previously, he served as the resident dramaturg of Court Theatre and a lecturer in theater and performance studies at the University of Chicago. Dir holds a master's degree in text and performance studies from King's College London and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Charlotte Long (*puppeteer*) is a Chicago native with a liberal arts degree from Sarah Lawrence College in New York, concentrating in literature and performance. She has a dance and writing background, and has studied under Dan Hurlin in puppetry, David Neumann in movement/creation, and Pig Iron in devising. Long has worked with Manual Cinema on performance and video for over four years, touring all over the US as well as the Netherlands, Taiwan, and Berlin in *Lula del Ray*, *Ada/Ava*, *Mementos Mori*, and *My Soul's Shadow*. In 2017 she was seen as Lula in *Lula del Ray* at the Public Theater's

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Under the Radar Festival. Long is a proud member of Red Tape Theater in Chicago, has worked for many storefront theaters, and is represented by the Grossman & Jack Talent Agency. On her own, she makes small dance-text-driven pieces using humor and representative choreography.

Vanessa S. Valliere (*Ada, puppeteer*) is currently in her sixth season as a member of a group of performers for Tour De Fat, a national touring festival. She has performed in Chicago with the Neo-Futurists and the New Colony and in New York City at Lincoln Center Education with Theater Unspeakable, a Chicago company with which she has been devising, touring, and performing for five years. Valliere frequently performs her short solo clown-puppetry shows in Chicago and she also tours her work nationally in Le Tigre, a 100-seat vaudeville tent. She has presented her work in Brooklyn, Asheville, and Los Angeles, and has developed a full-length clown-puppetry show with the support of Chicago's Pivot Arts. Valliere has performed with Big Nazo Puppet Company in Providence (RI) and she is a proud nerd-cheerleader for Chicago's 30-piece circus punk marching band: Mucca Pazza. This is her first production with Manual Cinema.

MUSICIANS

Michael Hilger (*guitar, synthesizer, vocals, company member*) is a composer, sound designer, and multi-instrumentalist based in Chicago. His sound design and composition credits include Redmoon Theater's 2012 Youth Spectacle, Manual Cinema's own *Show & Tell*, the short film *Kept* by Kacey Meyer, *Amygdala Rest* by Erasing the Distance, and *Mariko's Magical Mix*, a collaboration between Hubbard Street Dance and Manual Cinema. He has produced two EPs with Thin Hymns, a group he founded and fronts. Hilger is currently working on new music and performing as a soloist under the name Michael Albert.

Quinn Tsan (*live sound effects, guitar, vocals*) is a producer, performer, songwriter, and organizer in Chicago. She has released two EPs and an award-winning short film titled *Bedrooms*, and is a founding cast member of *The Fly Honey Show*. In 2017 Tsan co-founded State Matters, a nonprofit organization that produces video content explaining the most impactful and/or pressing legislation in the Illinois State Legislature. She has collaborated with artists and organizations including Manual Cinema, Salonathon, Alphawood Gallery, Constellation Arts, Ohmme, and Erin Kilmurray.

Kyle Vegter (*cello, keyboard, music and sound design, co-artistic director*) is a composer, sound designer, theater artist, and managing artistic director of Manual Cinema. As a composer he has been commissioned by such groups as Tigre, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's MusicNOW series, the Chicago Composer's Orchestra, and Homeroom Chicago. Vegter's production credits span multiple genres and include recent releases by Thin Hymns, Spektral Quartet, Tim Munro (of eighth blackbird), and Color Card. His past composer/sound designer credits with Manual Cinema include *Lula Del Ray*, *Ada/Ava*, *Fjords*, *Mementos Mori*, *My Soul's Shadow*, and various other performance and video projects. Vegter has been an artist-in-residence at High Concept Laboratories, and co-founded Chicago's only contemporary classical music cassette label, Parlour Tapes+.

STAFF AND CREATIVE TEAM

Ben Kauffman (*music and sound design, co-artistic director*) is a composer, director, interactive media artist, and co-artistic director of Manual Cinema. His work has been shown at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion and the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum (Chicago), and CUNY's Baruch College (NYC). Kauffman has lectured and given workshops at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York University, and

Parsons The New School of Design. His past composer/sound designer credits with Manual Cinema include *Lula Del Ray*, *Ada/Ava*, and the documentary *The Forger*. He holds a master's degree from New York University's Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP).

Sarah Fornace (*puppet design, co-artistic director*), a co-artistic director of Manual Cinema, is a director, puppeteer, choreographer, and narrative designer based in Chicago. Outside of Manual Cinema, Fornace has worked as a performer or choreographer with Redmoon Theater, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Court Theatre, Steppenwolf Garage, and Blair Thomas and Co. Most recently, she wrote the story mode for the video game *Rivals of Aether*. In 2017 she directed and edited the first episode of the web series *The Doula is IN*. In 2016 Fornace directed and devised an "animotion" production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* with Rokoko Studios for HamletScen at Kromborg Castle in Elsinore, Denmark.

Shelby Glasgow (*company/stage manager*) is a freelance stage manager who loves to travel. She joined Manual Cinema in September 2016 as the company's touring stage manager and company manager, and has since toured within the United States and internationally with *Ada/Ava*, *Lula Del Ray*, *Mementos Mori*, and *The*

End of TV. Glasgow graduated from the University of Central Florida with a BFA in stage management and has stage-managed all over the country. Thank you to Manual Cinema for this amazing opportunity!

Kim Kozak (*sound engineer*) is a freelance audio engineer based in Chicago. She is excited to be working with Manual Cinema again.

Julia Miller (*mask design, co-artistic director*) is a director, puppeteer, and puppet designer. Her work with Manual Cinema provides her with an outlet for many artistic impulses, including—but not limited to—breathing life into the inanimate, making delicate small things, and telling stories without words. In Chicago she has worked as a performer and puppeteer with Redmoon Theater and Blair Thomas and Co. In 2017 Miller helped produce, direct, and edit the second episode of the new web series *The Doula is IN*.

For all North, Central, and South American booking enquiries please contact:

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