

CONTACT: **Louisa Spier**  
**Cal Performances**  
(510) 919-6649  
[lspier@calperformances.org](mailto:lspier@calperformances.org)

**Jeanette Peach**  
**Cal Performances**  
(949) 378-7338  
[jpeach@calperformances.org](mailto:jpeach@calperformances.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 1, 2020

Updated October 6, 2020 in red.

[Press Room](#)

[Cal Performances at Home online press kit](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS  
MANUAL CINEMA'S *FRANKENSTEIN*  
IN *CAL PERFORMANCES AT HOME*,  
PERFORMING ARTS STREAMING SERIES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 AT 7PM (PDT)**

Fall 2020 streaming series features a premiere each week  
October 1, 2020 through January 14, 2021

UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ discusses Mary Shelley and *Frankenstein* in a talk with  
Drew Dir, one of Manual Cinema's five Artistic Directors

This performance is part of the [Illuminations: Fact or Fiction](#) series

**Berkeley, October 1, 2020** — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents Manual Cinema performing *Frankenstein* in a virtual premiere that will begin streaming on Thursday, October 29 at 7pm (PDT). The performance is one of 16 new, professionally produced full-length performances in the *Cal Performances at Home* performing arts streaming series. The recording of a new performance will premiere each week beginning October 1, 2020 through January 14, 2021. On the evenings of each streaming premiere, a special digital “watch party” will feature a participatory live chat element. More information about *Cal Performances at Home* can be found at [calperformances.org/at-home/](http://calperformances.org/at-home/).

**WHO** Chicago-based Manual Cinema, a collective of musicians, composers, theater artists, and filmmakers, captivates with its handmade and marvelously imaginative creations as seen in its mesmerizing production of *Ada/Ava* presented by Cal Performances in 2018. *Frankenstein*, co-commissioned by Cal Performances, weaves together the plot of Mary Shelley's gothic tale with themes of desire, birth, and loss from the author's own biography—asking us to consider our responsibility to, and for, our modern-day creations. The company's performers manipulate hundreds of paper puppets to create a silent animated film in real time, featuring live actors and an immersive score performed onstage by four musicians. For *Cal Performances at Home*, Manual Cinema

created a new iteration of its acclaimed *Frankenstein* production, made especially for home video viewing.

**WHAT** Professionally produced, full-length streaming performance.

Program: *Frankenstein* (Cal Performances Co-commission)

**WHEN** Streaming premiere Thursday, October 29 at 7pm (PDT). Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months **until January 27, 2021**.

**WHERE** Viewable online, streamed to any device with an internet connection. Access to the event will be provided upon registration. For more information on how to view *Cal Performances at Home*, please visit [calperformances.org/at-home/frequently-asked-questions](https://calperformances.org/at-home/frequently-asked-questions).

**TICKETS** \$15 for a single viewer, \$30 for two viewers, and \$60 per household viewing. \$5 tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. *Cal Performances at Home* content is also a benefit for Cal Performances donors at the \$225 level and above. For more information on becoming a donor, please visit [calperformances.org/friends](https://calperformances.org/friends).

Tickets are available at [calperformances.org/at-home](https://calperformances.org/at-home) or by phone at (510) 642-9988.

## **MORE**

**CONTENT:** Video of a conversation between Drew Dir, co-artistic director of Manual Cinema, Carol Christ, UC Berkeley Chancellor, moderated by Cal Performances executive and artistic director Jeremy Geffen will be live beginning one half-hour before the streaming premiere. Chancellor Christ, who has lead the university since 2017, is a Victorian literature scholar by training and is teaching a freshman seminar “Frankenstein and Its Rewritings” this semester.

By the time Manual Cinema’s performance premieres on October 29, the *Cal Performances at Home* library of offerings will feature performances streamable on demand by **violinist Tessa Lark** and **pianist Andrew Armstrong**, the **Tetzlaff Quartet**, **Nathalie Joachim** and **Spektral Quartet**, and **Darcy James Argue’s Secret Society**. All performances are available for three months following their premiere date except where indicated, and can be found at [calperformances.org/at-home](https://calperformances.org/at-home).

Over 40 *Now, More Than Ever* YouTube playlists of the performing arts, curated by Jeremy Geffen since the beginning of sheltering-in-place orders, can be found at [news.calperformances.org/now-more-than-ever](https://news.calperformances.org/now-more-than-ever).

**PRESS** Complimentary press passes are available for reviewing journalists who wish to view the streaming premiere live on Thursday, October 29 at 7pm (PDT). To request a press pass for the streaming premiere, please email [publicrelations@calperformances.org](mailto:publicrelations@calperformances.org).

Photos of Manual Cinema are available to download from the [online press kit](#).

Advance access to Chancellor Christ's discussion of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* with Manual Cinema co-artistic director Drew Dir is available for journalists by request. Send inquiries to [publicrelations@calperformances.org](mailto:publicrelations@calperformances.org).

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**STREAM PREMIERE**

**Thursday, October 29, 7pm (PDT)**

**Manual Cinema**  
*Frankenstein*

**Program:** Chicago-based Manual Cinema, a collective of musicians, composers, theater artists, and filmmakers, captivates with its handmade and marvelously imaginative creations as seen in its mesmerizing production of *Ada/Ava* presented by Cal Performances in 2018. *Frankenstein*, co-commissioned by Cal Performances, weaves together the plot of Mary Shelley's gothic tale with themes of desire, birth, and loss from the author's own biography—asking us to consider our responsibility to, and for, our modern-day creations. The company's performers manipulate hundreds of paper puppets to create a silent animated film in real time, featuring live actors and an immersive score performed onstage by four musicians. For *Cal Performances at Home*, Manual Cinema created a new iteration of its acclaimed *Frankenstein* production, made especially for home video viewing.

This performance is part of the [Illuminations: Fact or Fiction](#) series.

Tickets: \$15 for a single viewer, \$30 for two viewers, and \$60 per household viewing. \$5 tickets are available for UC Berkeley students.

Following the premiere, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months **until January 27, 2021**. Pre-performance programming begins at 6:30pm (PDT).