



presentation
HOUSE THEATRE



A Marionetas de la Esquina and
Presentation House Theatre co-production

LEARNING & FORGETTING

April 2-10, 2022

A MARIONETAS DE LA ESQUINA AND
PRESENTATION HOUSE THEATRE CO-PRODUCTION

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April 02 – 10, 2022
at Presentation House Theatre

Eva and her brother lift Grandpa's spirits on moving day as he transitions into a new home.

Follow along as they find joy in the moment and learn understanding for a lifetime.

This joyful theatrical experience for kids aged 3 - 7 explores intergenerational love with warmth, laughter & puppetry.

Written by **Amaranta Leyva**

Co-Directed by **Kim Selody** and **Lourdes Pérez Gay**

Performers – **Raes Calvert, Linda A. Carson, Manami Hara, Kim Selody**

Special guest artists as Grandfather – **Patti Allan, Bernard Cuffling,
Tim Gosley, Sam Seward**

Puppet Choreography – **Amaranta Leyva** and **Lourdes Pérez Gay**

Puppet design and construction - **Emiliano Leyva, Humberto Camacho
and Lourdes Pérez Gay**

Memory Puppet Design – **Robert Leveroos**

Lighting Design – **Brad Trenaman**

Original Music – **Rodrigo Flores López**

Video Design – **Emiliano Leyva**

Video Production – **Joel Grinke**

Set Design – **Gabriel Pacale**

Stage Manager – **Giselle Clarke-Trenaman**

Production Assistants – **Jackie T. Hanlin**

Scenic Carpenter – **Mark Burge**

Props & Set Assistant – **Monica Emme**

Head Technician – **Kaedon Atkinson-Hill**

Special thanks to Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des arts du Canada and Vancouver Foundation for their support of this international collaboration.



Marionetas
de la
esquina



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This artistic collaboration began more than three years ago when playwright Amaranta chose to delve into her experiences with her father Lucio, who has dementia. We started with the idea of a grandchild learning, as her grandfather forgot. We wanted to discover how they connected through play. The pandemic interrupted this cross-border creative process several times, even making it impossible for the Marionetas team to be here for this Canadian step in the show's progress. But we've never stopped. Last fall we mounted an "in process" public staging of the show in Mexico with Lucio performing with dementia. It was an unexpected and welcome return to the stage by the Marionetas founder. The result was touching for the public, healthy for Lucio, and healing for the family.

I would like to thank the whole Marionetas team for their talent, hard work, skills as artists, and their generosity in sharing Lucio's story. A special thanks to Lourdes, Lucio's partner and co-director of the show, and Amaranta, Lucio's daughter and current Artistic Director of the company. Their bravery and talent have inspired us all. This project could not have been realized without the incredible dedication and talent of the team here. Everyone has given their best towards this project. We all know someone who has been impacted by memory loss. *Learning & Forgetting* has helped us understand the importance of playing as long as you can.

As we continue to explore and revise this play, your feedback is vital to the process. We invite you to share your thoughts with us after seeing the show via this [very short survey](#).

– Kim Selody



Presentation House Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

When my father Lucio stopped performing because his memory began to fail, I accepted it as a marked fact of no return. I did not imagine that several years later we could find a way for him to return to the stage. *Learning & Forgetting* is the new play created by Marionetas de la Esquina and Presentation House Theatre to pay homage to those among us who are losing their memory. Call it Alzheimer's, call it Dementia, call it whatever you call it, those holes in the memory of people we love become sinkholes of loss and sadness for those of us close to the one who forgets.

Is there a way to talk about this process that is not so sad? Is there a way to be with them from joy? Yes. Through the eyes and acceptance of children, who live in the present, who play, who live without questioning or so many emotional burdens, they are just there. It is the children who guided me to *Learning & Forgetting*. Above all, this is a story of the love between a grandfather and his granddaughter. She learns, he forgets. I like the way Eva decides how we live this transitional day with her grandfather. That is why I share it and invite you to join me to see what happens on stage.

– Amaranta Leyva



Lucio Espindola performs in *Learning & Forgetting*. Photos provided by Marionetas de la Esquina.

CREATIVE TEAM

Raes Calvert Performer

A circular black and white portrait of Raes Calvert, a young man with short dark hair, smiling and wearing a dark jacket over a dark shirt.

Raes Calvert is a Métis theatre artist who lives and works in Vancouver. As a performer he has toured nationally and international with such companies as Axis Theatre, GreenThumb Theatre, Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Newworld Theatre and Presentation House Theatre. After graduating from Studio 58 at Langara College in 2010, he and colleague Sean Harris Oliver began Hardline Productions. His love for physical theatre and theatrical movement have influenced and been a part of the 20+ pieces that Hardline has produced. Since 2013, Hardline shows have been nominated for 16 and received three Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards. Raes is a five-time Jessie Richardson Theatre Award nominee and two-time recipient. He is also a recipient of the Reveal Indigenous Arts award from the Hnatyshyn Foundation.

Linda A. Carson Performer

A circular black and white portrait of Linda A. Carson, a woman with long dark hair, smiling and wearing a dark top.

Linda, a graduate of Vancouver's Studio 58, has performed in theatres across Canada, Japan, Europe, Australia and the States. She has written several plays including *Mom's The Word* (co-wrote), *George and Martha* (adapted from James Marshal), *Here to Hear* (Carousel Players), *Jack and The Bean* (YPT), and *So How Should I Be?* (Nominated for a 2019 Tom Hendry Award). Serendipity Theatre will premiere Linda and Suzanne Ristic's new play, *Driving Me Crazy* this June 2022 at PHT. Linda would like to thank all the staff and artists at Marionetas de la Esquina and Presentation House Theatre for making this wonderful opportunity happen. She would also like to thank her Auntie Margaret and Marion Selody for their courage. They taught Linda how to literally live and play in the moment.



Giselle Clarke-Trenaman Stage Manager

Giselle has roots in the Toronto theatre community and holds a B.F.A. Hons in Theatre from York University. She has worked with CanStage/Volcano Theatre on the acclaimed *Another Africa* as well as The National Arts Centre/ Young Peoples Theatre's production of *i think i can*. Now a resident of Vancouver B.C., she was recently nominated for a Jessie Award for her work in Stage Management. Giselle has worked with Presentation House Theatre, Carousel Theatre, Goh Ballet, SoulPepper, Highlands Opera Studio and Opera Atelier to name a few. She is also on the Black Theatre Caucus 101 Black Stage Managers Celebration list. Since 2014 Giselle has been the Production Coordinator at Presentation House Theatre in North Vancouver helping artists and companies from all over the world realize their visions. She sits on the Board for Nova Dance and is the Founder of Black History Matters.



Rodrigo Flores López Original Music

With two Master's degrees in film composing from the University of Bristol and New York University, Rodrigo has amassed more than fifty credits in film, television, theatre, dance, and the concert hall. His music has been performed throughout Europe and the Americas. He has composed for Beanca Films, FOX, Televisa, Wratistavia Chamber Orchestra and Marionetas de la Esquina, among many others, and is a member of the National System of Art Creators in Mexico.

Winner of the Silver Goddess 2015 for Best Original Score (the equivalent of the Golden Globes in Mexico) and nominated for Best Score -Drama- at the Reel Music Awards 2014 (UK) for the film *Guten Tag, Ramón* (2014).



Manami Hara Performer

Manami immigrated from Tokyo, Japan to pursue a theatre career in North America. She's an actor, playwright, instructor, interpreter/translator, dramaturge, producer and a director. She's worked with companies across Canada including NAC, Theatre Passe Muraille, Factory Theatre, Grand Theatre, Globe Theatre, One Yellow Rabbit, Arts Club, Boca del Lupo, Carousel Theatre, The Cultch, Firehall Arts Centre, Frank Theatre, Gateway Theatre, ITSAZOO, NeWorld Theatre, Pi Theatre, Playwrights Theatre Centre, Presentation House Theatre (PHT), Ruby Slippers, Rumble Productions, Theatre Replacement, Touchstone Theatre, vAct, Vancouver Playhouse and Yayoi Movement Theatre. Manami loves working as a Director of Applied Theatre with her amazing team at PHT. You will catch her next in her new play *COURAGE NOW* premiering at Firehall Arts Centre in June, 2022. She's a graduate of Studio 58.



Amaranta Leyva Playwright, Puppet Choreography

Playwright Amaranta Leyva is puppeteer and playwright who uses puppet theatre as a means of expression in developing works for young audiences. In her own words, "To explore a child's world allows me to find my most hidden, profound and intense emotions of being human." Born into a theatre family, Amaranta was introduced to the puppetry world at a very early age which influenced her life and writing and inspired her to explore and develop the art form. She is a leading children's theatre playwright in Mexico, creating stories that speak of children and their dreams, desires, fears and happiness. Her work is esteemed by the Mexican public and has been toured internationally. These include: *El cielo de los perros* (Dog's Heaven); *Dibújame una vaca* (Emilio and the Enchanted Cow), featured at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC; *El Vestido* (The Dress), awarded the National Award of Theatre for Children in Mexico; and *Mía*, a play that has been produced by many companies throughout Mexico. In 2015, her novel *The Intruder* won the National Young Literature Award. Amaranta has been a member of Marionetas de la Esquina since 1989.



Lourdes Pérez Gay Co-Director,
Puppet Choreography

Lourdes Pérez Gay is an actress, activist, puppeteer, director, and active contributor to the vibrant cultural fabric in Mexico. In 1965, she founded the theatre group Mascarones and in 1977, with Lucio Espíndola, Marionetas de la Esquina where she has served as artistic director and executive producer of the company for more than 45 years. Her work has resulted in more than ten thousand presentations, nearly 600 workshops, seminars and courses, and has been featured in 71 international theatre festivals and puppet shows across Mexico, the US and Europe. In this company she has directed more than 16 of its productions. Today she continues as the artistic director, executive producer, actress and puppeteer at Marionetas de la Esquina.



Kim Selody Co-Director, Performer

Kim Selody has worked as a writer, director and actor in Canadian theatre for over 30 years, directing more than 100 productions, many world premieres for youth and young audiences. He's delighted to co-direct and perform in *Learning & Forgetting* at PHT this spring. Playwriting credits include *Silverwing*, *The Hobbit*, *Fool's Angel*, *Synthetic Energy*, *Suddenly Shakespeare* and *The Last Drop*. Kim wrote and co-created *L'en Vol Du L'ange* for Montreal's Dynamo Theatre and co-created and directed a musical version of *The Cat Came Back* with Jay Brazeau and Fred Penner for MTYP. Kim has served as Artistic Director of the Playwrights Theatre Centre, Carousel Players in Southern Ontario, and at Presentation House Theatre since 2011.



Brad Trenaman Lighting Designer

Brad's previous PHT credits include *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Baking Time*, *So How Should I Be?* (set and lighting design) and *The Magic Hour* (in association with Electric Company Theatre / Innovation Lighting). Vancouver productions include *Redpatch* (Hardline Productions / Arts Club Theatre - Jessie nomination), *Salmon Girl* (Raven Spirit Dance - Jessie award), *Kismet*, *Things Have Changed* (The Chop Theatre), *Mortified* and *Cerulean Blue* (Studio 58). Brad has designed for many of Toronto's top dance companies and choreographers including Shawn Byfield, Ballet Creole, Debbie Wilson, Menaka Thakkar, Janak Khendry and The Stepcrew. Other notable projects include *CATS* (Panasonic Theatre, Toronto), singer Matt Dusk (Las Vegas Hilton), The National Chinese Acrobats with the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony (Sony Centre), His Holiness The Dalai Lama (Rogers Centre, Toronto), *Menopause the Musical* (Luxor Hotel, Las Vegas), and tours with the Virsky Ukrainian Dance Company and illusionists Ted and Marion Outerbridge. Upcoming designs include *White Noise* (Savage Society / Firehall Arts Centre) and *Kindred* (Belfry Theatre, Victoria). Brad is a regular contributor to Professional Lighting and Production Magazine, and he is a member of Associated Designers of Canada (IATSE ADC 659).

WHAT'S AHEAD AT PHT?

Visit www.phtheatre.org for details on upcoming shows, HUB Happenings, community programs and more!



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