

Learning *and* Forgetting



Photo by Emily Cooper

Written by Amaranta Leyva

Co-Production with Marionetas de las Esquinas and Presentation House Theatre

AGES
3-7

Apr 27 & 28, 2024

presentation
HOUSE THEATRE

Learning and Forgetting

Written by Amaranta Leyva

Co-Production with Marionetas de las Esquinas and Presentation House Theatre

Dates and Times:

April 27 & 28, 2024

Show length:

Approximately 60 minutes long with no intermission

Audience (adult, youth, children):

Ages 3-7

PRODUCTION/CREATIVE TEAM

Written by Amaranta Leyva

Directed by Kim Selody

Performers: Victor Mariano, Linda Carson, Jonathan Dai

Special Guest Artist as Grandpa: (varies for each performance)

Stage Manager: Giselle Clarke-Trenaman

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

Backstage Hand: Adrien Hodgson



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



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE



This artistic collaboration began more than four 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. In the fall of 2022, 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, and we at Presentation House Theatre are beyond excited to take this show on a Canadian tour this spring. We all know someone who has been impacted by memory loss. ***Learning and Forgetting*** has helped us understand the importance of playing as long as you can.

– *Kim Selody, Director*

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE



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 and 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 sink-holes 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 and 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, Playwright*

CREATIVE TEAM & CAST



Kim Selody – Director

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. 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.



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.

CREATIVE TEAM & CAST



Giselle Clarke-Trenaman (she/her) – *Stage Manager*

Giselle has roots in the Toronto theatre community and holds a B.F.A. Hons in Theatre from York University. Now a resident of Vancouver B.C., Giselle was recently nominated for a Jessie Award (2019) for her work in Stage Management and highlighted by the Black Theatre Caucus for their 101 Black Stage Managers Celebration. Recent Stage Management credits include working with Presentation House Theatre on ***Heavy and Light***, ***Pop! Pop! So, How Should I Be?*** and ***Learning and Forgetting***, the International tours of ***Jack and the Bean*** and ***Where the Wild Things Are*** and the National tour of ***Baking Time***. She has worked with Carousel Theatre, Goh Ballet, Soulpepper, Highlands Opera Studio and Opera Atelier to name a few. As the founder of Black History Matters, she has presented to schools in the Vancouver area reaching over 3,000 students with her tailored age-appropriate presentations. She currently sits on the Board for Nova Dance and ASSITEJ Canada and is a member of the Black Pledge Collective.



Victor Mariano (he/him) – *Performer*

Victor (he/him) is a Vancouver-based theatre artist with a focus on physical theatre and work for young audiences. Recent and favourite stage credits include: ***Heavy and Light***, ***Learning and Forgetting***, ***Where the Wild Things Are***, and ***Pop! Pop!*** (Presentation House Theatre), ***The House at Pooh Corner*** and ***The Velveteen Rabbit*** (Carousel Theatre for Young People), ***Suddenly Slaughter*** (The Biting School), and ***Die Hard: The Musical-ish*** (District 13 Presents). Since 2008, Vic has also worked extensively as a drama instructor and workshop facilitator at several elementary schools in the North Vancouver area (The Firefly Project), at Carousel Theatre for Young People, the Gateway Academy, the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, and the School for the Contemporary Arts (Simon Fraser University), where he received his BFA in Theatre Performance.

CREATIVE TEAM & CAST



Linda A. Carson – Performer

Linda, a graduate of Vancouver's Studio 58, has performed in theatres across Canada, Japan, Europe, Australia and the US. Linda has written several plays including **Mom's The Word** (co-wrote), **George And Martha** (Adapted from James Marshall), **Hear To Here** (Carousel Players), **Jack and The Bean** (YPT), **So How Should I Be?** and **Driving Me Crazy** (Co-wrote with Suzanne Ristic). Linda would like to thank the dedicated board of directors of Presentation House Theatre and the creative, hard working staff of PHT for making this show possible.



Jonathan Dai – Performer

Jonathan, an actor and puppeteer based in Mexico City, hails from the State of Guanajuato, Mexico. He honed his craft at the Popular School of Fine Arts in Morelia and CasAzul Artes Escénicas Argos. During his tenure from 2010 to 2015 with the Theater Group Historias, Jonathan collaborated as an actor, assistant director, and assistant producer in multiple productions. From 2015 to 2023, Jonathan worked as an actor-puppeteer with the Marionetas de la Esquina Company, stationed at the La Titería Cultural Center in Mexico City. He performed in over 15 productions, often portraying multiple characters, and during both national and international tours. He received the Best Actor award for his solo performance in the play **Tú eres Tú** (You are yourself). Jonathan has also collaborated with Presentation House Theater before, lending his skills as an actor and puppeteer to the Spanish adaptations of **Jacky and the Bean** and **Learning and Forgetting**. In 2023, he resumed collaboration with the Theater Group Historias on the play **Expuestos**. He is thrilled to be part of the Canadian production of **Learning and Forgetting** in 2024.



PRESENTATION HOUSE THEATRE STAFF

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