

# La MaMa

Experimental Theatre Club

presents

## Silent Green

Created by Watoku Ueno



Photo by Watoku Ueno

*“...pay attention when plants come to you; they’re bringing you something you need to learn”*

Robin Wall Kimmer “Braiding Sweetgrass”

Community Arts Space  
74a East 4th Street, NYC, 10003  
December 4-7, 2025

# Silent Green

Through scenes inspired by the Native American story of the Sky Woman who carried seeds of life, the strength of trees, the flowing spirit of water, the show unfolds as a meditation on balance and belonging. Woven as a collage of shadow and light, grief and renewal, the piece invites audiences to listen, to remember, and to dream of a world where humans and nature once more live in reciprocity.

## Scenes:

- Sky Woman falling to Earth
- The Birth of a Forest – Mother Tree and Fungi\*
- Tree talk
- Animals of the See and the Earth
- Toryanse (Please Pass Through), Fungi\* with tree roots-health of the forest.
- Braiding /Whale/Ship- harmony with nature versus dominance
- Planting Trees
- Forester/Scientist Diary- Nature and Human Activity
- Destruction of forests - Death of the Natural World
- Epilog song “I Know Why” – lyrics Watoku Ueno, music Susan Hwang

Created and Directed by Watoku Ueno

Music Composed by Shu Odamura

Performers: Kanami Kusajima, Susan Hwang, Olenka Tsyhankova

Puppet Design and Construction, Set and Light Design: Watoku Ueno

Production Assistant: Zlata Godunova

Costumes: Luba Kierkosz

**WATOKU UENO (director)** began his journey at La MaMa ETC, where he discovered his passion for avant-garde theatre. His creative adventures have taken him from Ukraine to Kyrgyzstan and Siberia, forging deep collaborations with local artists. Known for his poetic puppet shows, often exploring themes of trees, Ueno's artistry has earned him grants from the Jim Henson Foundation for *The Tall Keyaki Tree* and the Bronx Council on the Arts Vision Fund for *Silent Green*. With two American Theatre Wing nominations and the NEA/TCG fellowship, Ueno has collaborated with Ping Chong and Company and is a founding member of the Yara Arts Group, a resident company at La MaMa. He continues to make significant contributions to the vibrant world of theatre. [www.watokueno.com](http://www.watokueno.com)

**This event was made possible by:** The Bronx Council on the Arts – 2025 Production Vision Fund, Yara Arts Group for help with the rehearsal space rental.



**SHU ODAMURA (Music Composition)** is a New York based guitarist and composer originally from Kyoto, Japan. He has been actively performing in jazz, free improvisation, and the contemporary theater scene in New York. He has released three albums, toured in Asia, and performed at notable venues and festivals on the East Coast and in other states. This is my eighth collaboration with Watoku, and I'm so glad to be part of this project! [www.shuodamura.com](http://www.shuodamura.com).

**KANAMI KUSAJIMA (Sky Woman, Mother Tree, Scientist)** is a dancer, performing artist, and choreographer born and raised in Japan. She has performed in dance works by various choreographers, including Francesca Harper, Yoshiko Chuma and Ana Maria Lucaci. She is also known as "Let Hair Down," a street performer in Washington Square Park who combines live painting and improvisational dance. Her unique style of performance drew the attention of different media, such as Voice of America, New York Magazine, AM New York, and PIX11 News, among many others. [/www.kanamikusajima.com/lethairdown](http://www.kanamikusajima.com/lethairdown); IG: @LetHairDown / @Kanami\_Kusajima

**SUSAN HWANG (Vocals, Fish, Fungi)** tells stories and makes collapsible things like songs and times. She plays accordion, janggu (Korean drum) and piano, but physical objects she can't play, wear or eat intimidate her. She's the founder/producer of international, literature-inspired arts non-profit, The Bushwick Book Club. Not a great vacationer, she leaves NYC for theater and with bands like The Debutante Hour, Lusterlit and Soozee Hwang and The Relastics. Susan plays accordions because they're lighter than pianos (barely) and drums because it's healthy for a girl to hit things. [susanhwanglalala.com](http://susanhwanglalala.com); [bushwickbookclub.com](http://bushwickbookclub.com); IG: @soozee3

**OLENKA TSYHANKOVA (Puppeteer)** loves creating with threads, fabric, beads, and wor(l)ds, blending storytelling with fiber art, and weaving textures into theatrical expressions. A newly initiated puppeteer and emerging bandura player, Olenka has recently joined the production team for Yara Arts Group and Tom Lee's *The Magic of Light* on their tour to Chicago.

**LUBA KIERKOSZ (Costume Design)** is a full-time librarian and occasional costume designer. She always believed in the magic of storytelling and is happy to be part of this project.

**ZLATA GODUNOVA (Production Assistant)** is a puppeteer, performer, and designer. She puppeteered in *The Magic of Light* with Yara Arts Group and Tom Lee at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, *Don Quixote Takes New York* with Loco7 Dance Puppet Theatre Company at Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, and was part of the International Puppet Slam in 2024. You can find her in Central Park, where she works as a puppeteer/scenic designer at the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater. [Inst@Zlata\\_god](mailto:Inst@Zlata_god)

**A full program with information on this  
production can be found on the  
*Silent Green***

**In addition you can scan the  
QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby for  
access to detailed information on this program.**

# LA MAMA



## RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



*Rendering: 74 East 4th St.*

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street underwent an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit [www.lamama.org/remakeaworld](http://www.lamama.org/remakeaworld)

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Dec 4-7, 2025  
Community Arts Space

**Protest Song**  
Dec 4-21, 2025  
The Club

**From the Other Side**  
**Reimagining Theatre From**  
**The Balkans, Edition 1.0**  
Dec 4-14, 2025  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

**Oklahoma Samovar**  
Dec 5-21, 2025  
The Downstairs

**La MaMa Kids:**  
**Winter Wonderland**  
Dec 13, 2025  
The Club

## COMING SOON

**Birth + Carnage**  
Dec 19-21, 2025  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

**Christmas in Nickyland**  
Dec 22-23, 2025  
The Club

**The Ford/Hill Project**  
Jan 7-11, 2025  
The Club

**The Rest of Our Lives**  
Jan 7-17, 2025  
The Downstairs Theatre

**La MaMa Kids:**  
**Don Quixote Takes New York**  
Jan 9-11, 2025  
Community Arts Space