

# La MaMa

Experimental Theatre Club

presents

# Mary Had A Little Lamb

**AND ALSO A  
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER**

**A New Musical  
By Molly Reisman &  
Clayton Daniel Briggs  
Directed By Mary Tomei**

**La MaMa Kids  
74 E 4<sup>th</sup> St. NY, NY  
Sat, May 30 @ 2 PM  
Sun, May 31 @ 12 PM  
[lamama.org](http://lamama.org)**



# ***Mary Had A Little Lamb And Also A Substitute Teacher***

Words: Molly Reisman  
Music: Clayton Daniel Briggs

Director: Mary Tomei  
Assistant Director: Mattie Tindall

Starring:  
R. Hart, Matt Gelfer, Morgan Smart, Erica Gerold

Music Direction: Brian Fitzsousa  
Orchestrations: Matt Gelfer, R. Hart, Clayton Daniel Briggs

Puppet Design: Ben Durocher  
Little Sam Puppet and Crankie: Amanda Glynn Card

Lighting Design: Zackry Childers  
Sets: Clayton Daniel Briggs  
Props: Molly Reisman  
Projection Design: Molly Reisman

Production Stage Manager: Zackry Childers

## **A Note from the Director**

Working on this production of *Mary Had a Little Lamb and Also a Substitute Teacher* has been an absolute blast. In storytelling, making music, and playing pretend together, we've developed a community that we can't wait to share with you.

These days, it's easy to get stuck in our screens and caught in the quick pace at which our world moves. Thank you for choosing to come to the theater this afternoon. We invite you to be present with us as we remind you just how much fun can be had in 45 minutes.

No matter how old you are, and whether you consider yourself an artist or not, I hope this production inspires you to go out into the world and create.

Mary

**R. Hart (Storyteller)** is a performer and writer of plays, songs, musicals, and the occasional opera. She has been acting since before she could talk and making stories and music for only a slightly shorter time. She lives, writes, sings, acts, and edits this bio in NYC. @rebeccahartworld @rebeccahart.bandcamp.com

**Matt Gelfer (Storyteller)** is a multi-instrumentalist performer, educator and composer. He teaches orchestra in the Syosset school district on Long Island. He plays fiddle and mandolin with the Brooklyn based Americana band The New Students, and together they have released four albums of original music. He plays in numerous other bands in the New York area, including the indie-folk outfit Rebecca Hart & The Wrong Band (along with his fellow storyteller, Rebecca!).

**Morgan J Smart (she/her) (Mary/Kell)** is a Brooklyn-based multidisciplinary artist from Chicago, Illinois who has made a career of using her own multifaceted identity to tell stories through scene and song. She is the bookwriter & lyricist for the Broadway-bound musical *Six Triple Eight*, executive produced by Blair Underwood (*A Soldier's Play*) and Tamara Tunie (*Spring Awakening*), inspired by the true story of the first and only all Black, all woman unit of the US Army to serve overseas during WWII. Morgan's work has been produced at Goodspeed Opera House, Lincoln Center New Works Diversity Series, New York Theatre Barn, NYU Tisch's New Musical Theatre Workshop, and elsewhere. As a dramaturg, Morgan has worked with Hi-Arts NYC, New Victory Theatre on Broadway, Seattle's Village Theatre, and the Portland Opera, where she co-authored the libretto for the award-winning opera *The Factotum*, an adaptation of *The Barber of Seville*, in collaboration with Grammy Award-winning baritone Will Liverman. Morgan is a graduate of NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing program.

**Erica Gerold (she/her) (Sam/Larry/Mr. Crocus)** is an Actor/Marketer based in Jersey City, originally from Philadelphia. She holds B.A.s in Theatre Arts and Public Relations from Rowan University. Off-Off-Broadway: *The Vengeance Room* (G) at Under St. Marks, *The Comedy of Errors* (Luciana) [BroadwayWorld Nominee] tour. Favorite credits: *The Trail to Oregon!* (Son), *Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties* (Betty #1), *Urinetown* (Cladwell's Secretary), and *Girl in a Striped Dress* (Rosalie). Directorial credits: *Clyt; or, the Bathtub Play* (Director), *Perfect Arrangement* (Assistant Director). Erica would like to thank her family and friends for their unwavering support, Ashley for her recommendation, Molly and Clayton for taking a chance on her, and the cast and creative team for their uplifting encouragement and sense of play! For Mrs. Greco. IG/TikTok: @erica.gerold

**Clayton Daniel Briggs (he/him) (Music)** is an award-winning musical theater composer based in Brooklyn, New York. He has been featured Off-Broadway and internationally as a writer, performer, orchestrator, and copyist. Notable writing credits, primarily alongside frequent collaborator Molly Reisman, include *Electric Circus* (NMI and Disney Imagineering's New Voices Project Award, Mary Pickford Foundation Commission, Michigan State University Musicalurgy Artist In Residence), *Dangerous* (Catwalk Art Institute Artist in Residence), *The Three Dolls* (La MaMa Commission), and *Stop Clock* (NYU Tisch). Originally from Fresno, California, Clayton was born into a family of musicians and thespians. He holds an MFA from NYU Tisch's Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program and a BA in Music Theory and Composition with a concentration in vocal performance from Pepperdine University, and is an alumnus of the Core Curriculum at New Musicals, Inc. claytonbriggs.com

**Molly Reisman (she/her) (Words)** is a Brooklyn-based Canadian lyricist, librettist and producer. Her writing focuses primarily on alienation and animals, and has been produced Off-Broadway and abroad. Awards include New Voices Award from New Musicals Inc. and Disney Imagineering for *Electric Circus*, written with Clayton Briggs, and the inaugural Emerging Librettist award from Amas Musical Theater for *Keaton and The Whale* written with Emily Chiu. Molly has been artist in residence at Catwalk Artist Residency and Fingerlakes Musical Theater Festival. Select credits: *Keaton and The Whale* (Ghostlight Theatre 2021, ART Theatre NY 2019); *Electric Circus* (Pepperdine University 2019); *Heartbeat* (54 Below 2019); *WE WROTE THIS* (Atlantic Fringe Festival 2014; Winner Best of Fest). Molly has an M.F.A from NYU's Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program and a B.F.A from Toronto Metropolitan University.

**Mary Tomei (she/her) (Director)** is a NY-based theater director with a passion for new work development. Most recently, she worked as the Writer's Assistant on the world premiere of *STARSTRUCK*, a new musical by Emily Saliers (Indigo Girls), Beth Malone, and Mary Ann Stratton at Bucks County Playhouse. Directing Credits: *The Angel Makers* (Connelly Theater with SheNYC Arts), *Slap Ass Friday* (The Yard with Hollywood Fringe), *Halfway There* (Amateur Comedy Club with The Snarks), *John Ertman & Friends* (54 Below), *Night of New Work* (Green Room 42), *Itchin' for an Itch: The Mosquital* (New York Theater Festival), *Into the Woods*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Bright Star*, *James and the Giant Peach* (Ghostlight Theater Camp). Assistant Director: *King of Pangea* (SYC Productions). Directing Observer: *King of Pangea* (NAMT). Mary studied Theater with a concentration in Theater for Young Audiences at Northwestern University. SDC Associate Member. [www.marytomei.com](http://www.marytomei.com). @Mary2veronica. Mary would like to thank the MHLL team for such a fun few weeks and Spencer for inspiring her every day!

**Mattie Tindall (Assistant Director)** is an NYC-based teacher, playwright and director with roots in southern Virginia. Mattie's plays have been produced at A.R.T., Hudson Guild Theater, Davidson College, Hollins University, Wild Project, and more. Mattie is working towards a Masters in Theater Education. [www.mattietindall.com](http://www.mattietindall.com)

**Ben Durocher (Puppet Design)** is a two-time Emmy Award winning puppet designer, actor, and puppeteer. Credits include *Rob Lake Magic with Special Guests The Muppets* (Broadway), *Life of Pi* (National Tour), *Avenue Q* (off-Broadway), *Madama Butterfly* (Met Opera), *Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock*, (AppleTV+), *Helpsters* (Sesame Workshop), *Pineapple Playhouse* (Nickelodeon), *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* (Paramount+), *Dying For Sex*, (FX), and *Mr. Crocket* (Hulu). Puppet builder and wrangler for "Sesame Street" and The Jim Henson Company, where he has worked for over a decade. BFA Musical Theatre: CCM.

**Brian Fitzsosa (he/him) (Music Director)** is a pianist, composer, and music director. He has performed at many of New York's most notable venues including Carnegie Hall, Joe's Pub, 54 Below, and Sony Hall. Currently he is a member of the Music Staff at the Metropolitan Opera, and also collaborates frequently with American Ballet Theater and the Mark Morris Dance Group. He is a composer in the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theater Workshop.

**Zackry Childers (He/Him/His) (Lighting Design, Production Stage Manager)** is a writer, stage manager, and lighting designer based in New York. His work has been featured by TNNY's Soundbites Festival (Jack & Jill), American Opera Projects (Petronilla), Oklahoma's Best Emerging Poets Anthology (Waking Up), and numerous performance venues across the country. His lighting design and stage management work has included projects off-broadway, with National Asian Artist Projects, British International School of New York, New York University, and the Resident Acting Company. He holds a double BA in English with an Emphasis in Writing and Vocal Music from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and an MFA in Musical Theatre Writing from NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. [zackrychilders.com](http://zackrychilders.com), [@zackrychilders](https://www.instagram.com/zackrychilders)

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Andrew Lynch  
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Lynn Kelso  
Northwestern University's Purple Crayon Players  
Rives Collins  
Spencer Lutvak

And all of our teachers and substitute teachers.

### **PRODUCTION HISTORY**

May 2022 - La MaMa Kids - Commission & World Premiere, New York, NY  
July 2022 - Ghostlight Theater Camp, Oakland, ME  
May 2023 - TYA/USA National Conference Song Slam, Phoenix, AZ  
April 2024 - Children's Musical Theaterworks, Fresno, CA

**A full program with information on this production can be found on the La MaMa website page of *Mary Had a Little Lamb and Also a Substitute Teacher***

**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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We thank our supporters who are indispensable to La MaMa as we continue to expand and strengthen our artistic community. You help make space for artists to create and share new stories, present diverse perspectives, and keep us all connected in our 64th Season!

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May 27-31, 2026

The Club

### La MaMa Kids:

#### Mary Had A Little Lamb and Also A Substitute Teacher

May 30-31, 2026

Community Arts Space

### La MaMa's Squirts

June 4-7, 2026

The Club &

Community Arts Space

### La MaMa Kids

#### luzAzul

June 4-7, 2026

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June 10-11, 2026

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June 18, 2026

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### Migration Diaries:

#### New York City

June 25-28, 2026

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June - September

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