

LA MAMA
EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB

Presents

MIGRATION DIARY

NEW YORK CITY EDITION

Beneath New York's skyline are thousands of migration stories, about leaving, arriving, belonging, and starting over.

June 25th - 28th, 2026

La MaMa
The Club, 74A East 4th Street,
NYC, 10001

DIRECTED BY CARMEN LIDIA VIDU

Romanian theatre director, documentary filmmaker, and multimedia artist whose work transforms real-life stories into immersive visual experiences.

FEATURING AN INTERNATIONAL CAST:

Sam XU
Ana Maria Bandean
Lia Fietz
Ellen Ko

**CONCEPT, RESEARCH, SCRIPT
& ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Carmen Lidia Vidu

MULTIMEDIA ARTIST

Sabina Costinel

MEDIA DESIGNER

Constantin Simon

LIZHEN MEI

Styling

PRESS REPRESENTATIVE:

David GIBBS / DARR Publicity

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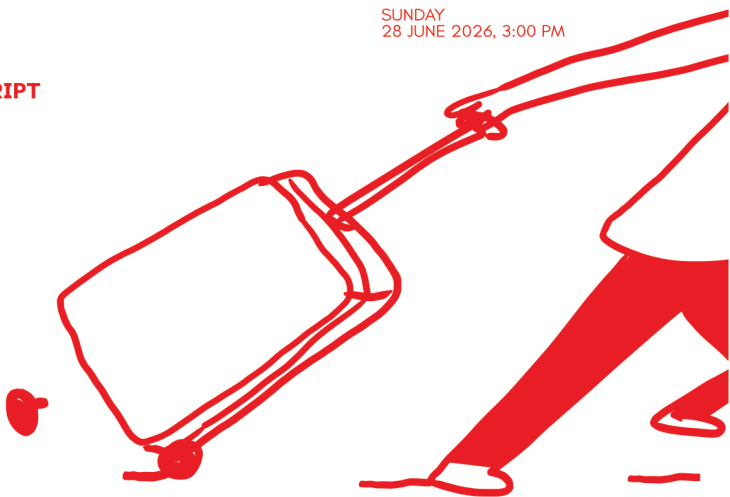
THURSDAY
25 JUNE 2026 7:30 PM

FRIDAY
26 JUNE 2026, 7:30 PM

SATURDAY
27 JUNE 2026, 6:30 PM
followed by a Q&A with
the director and cast

SUNDAY
28 JUNE 2026, 3:00 PM

Graphic design GEORGE ROSU



LA MAMA



TBS
I.L. CARAGIALE



MINISTERUL CULTURII ȘI
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The Club

74a East 4th Street, NYC, 10003

June 25-28, 2026

MIGRATION DIARY. NEW YORK CITY EDITION

CARMEN LIDIA VIDU –

Concept, Research, Script & Artistic Director

SAM XU – Performer

LIA FIETZ – Performer

ANA-MARIA BANDEAN – Performer

ELLEN KO – Performer

SABINA COSTINEL – Multimedia Artist

CONSTANTIN ŞIMON – Media Designer

LIZHEN MEI - Styling

Press Representative

David Gibbs / DARR Publicity

Special Thanks To

Mrs. Dana Bucin, Honorary Consul of Romania to Connecticut, and Partner at Harris Beach Murtha, for her legal support; and to Ana-Maria Bandean for her additional support in developing this project. Nita's Bakery and Amavi Vinum - for generously supporting the reception offered by the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Beneath New York's skyline are thousands of migration stories about leaving, arriving, belonging, and starting over. Every city is built from stories—some become history, while most remain invisible.

“Migration Diary. New York City Edition” is dedicated to those invisible stories: the ones that unfold in kitchens, airports, and late-night phone calls, in the spaces between departure and arrival. Because migration is not only about those who leave—it is also about those who stay, those who wait, and all of us who continue crossing invisible borders throughout our lives.

Presented by La MaMa in collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York in partnership with “I.L. Caragiale” National Theatre of Bucharest. With the support of the Ministry of Culture of Romania, and additional support of the Consulate General of Portugal to New York



MINISTERUL CULTURII ȘI
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Carmen Lidia Vidu (Director) is a Romanian theatre and documentary film director based in Bucharest, whose work spans theatre, film, installation, and visual arts.

For over two decades, her practice has been driven by a single impulse: listening to real people and turning their stories into art.

She is the only director in Romania to have received both the country's highest theatre directing award and its highest documentary film award — and only the third woman in Romanian theatre history to be honoured in this way. Since 2017, she has served as multimedia director for the George Enescu International Festival, one of the world's premier classical music events.

Her work at the festival earned two nominations at the International Opera Awards. In 2026, her video mapping work received the Silver Trophy at the Eventex Awards in the Art Event category.

Her directing vision has also crossed into fashion: Vogue Italia featured her work in both 2025 and 2026.

Press coverage of her work has appeared in Deutsche Welle, Radiotelevisione Italiana, Le Point, Tribune de Genève, and The Theatre Times. Her projects have been presented in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Italy, India, Australia, and the United States. <https://www.carmenlidiavidu.com>

CAST

Sam Xu (actress) is an actress based in Brooklyn, originally from Datong, whose artistic work unfolds at the intersection of film and theatre. Trained under the renowned acting teacher Susan Batson, Sam Xu has developed a remarkable international career through her involvement in major film productions. Among her achievements is her participation in the short film *Three*, selected for the La Cinéfondation competition and premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2024. She has also appeared in productions such as *Challengers*, directed by Luca Guadagnino, and *Confess, Fletch*, directed by Greg Mottola, further consolidating her presence in the contemporary American film industry.

Lia Fietz (actress) is an award-winning actress working between the United States and Europe, distinguished by her linguistic and performative versatility. Based in New York City, with professional connections in Portugal and Berlin, Lia trained at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute and completed the full improvisation program at Upright Citizens Brigade. Active in both film and improvisational theatre, she is a member of the independent troupe Up To No God. Her recent projects include the short film *The Reminder*, which received multiple international awards, including at the Berlin Indie Shorts Film Festival and the World Film Festival Cannes. A member of SAG-AFTRA, Lia Fietz performs in English, Portuguese, and German.

Ellen Ko (actress) is an award-winning actress and improviser based in New York City, whose artistic practice focuses on comedy and physical theatre, with influences from clowning, mask work, and mime. She has performed in theatres across New York, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and in numerous independent film productions. Alongside her stage work, Ellen serves as Artistic Director of Floor Five Theatre Company and as Adjunct Professor of Theatre at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where she contributes to the training of new generations of artists. Her artistic practice reflects an interdisciplinary approach and an ongoing interest in exploring physical expressivity and comic language in a contemporary context.

Ana-Maria Bandean (actress) is an award-winning actress and producer based in New York City, with a strong international artistic background and professional experience spanning Europe and the United States. She has performed on stages in Bucharest, London, Edinburgh, and New York. In film, she received the “Best Upcoming Comedic Actress” award at the International Film Festival Manhattan for “Curbside Pickup”. In addition to performing, Ana-Maria has extensive behind-the-scenes production experience, including work as a producer, script supervisor, and in the art department.

David Gibbs/DARR Publicity (Press Representative) (he/him) is the founder of DARR Publicity, a boutique entertainment press agency specializing in theater, comedy, dance, film, music and unique theatrical events. David has publicized shows at many Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway venues throughout NYC. His clients have won Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, Obie and Off Broadway Alliance Awards, and have been nominated for Bessie and Chita Rivera Awards. www.DarrPublicity.com

**A full program with information on
this production can be found on the La
MaMa website page of
MIGRATION DIARY.
*NEW YORK CITY EDITION***

**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

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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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July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

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June 22-28, 2026
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Migration Diaries:
New York City
June 25-28, 2026
The Club

Shares At La MaMa
June - September
All Venues

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La MaMa's
65th
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September 2026
Thru
June 2027

All Venues