LaMaMa

presents

As part of the La MaMa Puppet Festival

La MaMa Kids:
The Dandelion's Wish

By Fatima Sambo Schoenfelder



Community Arts Space
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
November 14-15, 2026

The Dandelion's Wish

Created by Fatima Sambo Schoenfelder

Director/Puppeteer – Kervin Peralta

Shadow Puppet Designer & Puppeteer – Shabbi Sharifi

Puppeteer – Alyssa Parkhurst

Lighting & Sound Tech – Elise Gomez

Press Representative: David Gibbs/DARR Publicity

Fatima Sambo Schoenfelder was a first-generation Ghanaian-American multi-disciplinary artist. For nearly a decade, she has been a puppeteer at the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre, one of New York City's premier puppet performance stages. She is the author and illustrator of The Dandelion's Wish, her first children's picture book and creator of the companion table top puppet show about the wildflower achieving dreams through patience and luck. Fatima graduated from LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and the Performing Arts with a degree in Fine Arts, and Hunter College with a BA in Film and Theatre Production.

La MaMa Kids 2026–2027 is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Additional support provided by The William C. Bullitt Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, The Jim Henson Foundation, and The SQA Foundation. Additional funding from The Venable Foundation and the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

Kervin Peralta is an Emmy-nominated producer, actor, puppeteer, and percussionist hailing from the Bronx. Kervin has performed on the stages of esteemed companies such as The Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, Theater for the New City, Teatro SEA, and GI60, among others in New York. He also showcased his puppeteering skills at the renowned Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater in Central Park and was part of the original 2023 production of *The Dandelion's Wish*. Currently, Kervin co-produces and lends his voice to JB8 in *Eco Leaders*, a BronxNet project that earned him an Emmy nomination as a producer. He holds an MFA in Theater from Sarah Lawrence College.

Elsie Gomez (they/them) was born and raised in Brooklyn, discovering their passion for theater in high school. They earned a Bachelor's degree in Theater Design and Technical Production from Brooklyn College. Since then, they have worked at the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre as a puppeteer and technician. They puppeteered and built alongside Samantha Sing in Han and Friends, and served as the Program Operator for *The Dandelion's Wish* (directed by Fatima Sambo Schoenfelder) and Tillie the Terrible Swede (produced by Cinna Vesterberg).

Alyssa Parkhurst is a puppeteer and actor based in Brooklyn. She works as a marionette puppeteer at the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater and Puppetworks Inc. She also creates hybrid performance and visual art with her partner, Emma Alosi, under the name Double Jointed Studios. (Instagram: @alyssa.parkhurst, @doublejointedstudios)

Shabbi Sharifi is a multidisciplinary artist working across puppetry, performance, writing, and youth education. Her practice is rooted in storytelling, self-exploration, and advocacy, focusing on the role of art in building connections, strengthening communities, and encouraging empathy and care.

David Gibbs (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. 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

Special Thanks to John Schoenfelder for his support and for allowing us to present Fatima's work. Fatima Schoenfelder's dream of bringing this production to La MaMa has been realized by these incredible artists. We share her work with great passion and pride, ensuring her legacy lives on through this project and the storybook adaptation. Many thanks to Bruce Cannon for helping make this presenation happen, Denise, Federico, and the rest of the crew at La MaMa for sharing their truly amazing theatre with us.

La MaMa

Puppet Festival

Week 1

Wednesday, Nov 11
8:30 PM: Endless Forms

Thursday, Nov 12
7 PM: Endless Forms
8:30 PM: Tiresias...
9:30 PM: Endless Forms

Friday, Nov 13
7 PM: Endless Forms
8:30 PM: Tiresias...

Saturday, Nov 14
11 AM: The Dandelion's Wish
12 PM: Endless Forms
2 PM: Tiresias...
6 PM: Tiresias...
8 PM: The Undercity

Sunday, Nov 15
12 PM: The Dandelion's Wish
2 PM: Tiresias...
3 PM The Undercity
5PM: Tiresias...
6 PM: The Undercity

Week 2

Monday, Nov 16
7 PM: The Undercity

Thursday, Nov 19
7 PM: Everything that Follows
8:30 PM: Where did you go, Connie?

Friday, Nov 20
7 PM: Everything that Follows
8:30 PM: Where did you go, Connie?

Saturday, Nov 21
10 AM: From Concept to Ask Workshop
2 PM: Everything that Follows
4 PM: Where did you go, Connie?
6 PM: Everything that Follows

Sunday, Nov 22
2 PM: Everything that Follows
4 PM: Where did you go, Connie?

NYC Cultural Affairs
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NOV 11-DEC 6, 2026

DENISE GREBER, DIRECTOR & CURATOR
FEDERICO RESTREPO, PRODUCING DIRECTOR

Puppetry has been an integral part of La MaMa's programming since 1962. By setting objects in motion, puppet artists can penetrate linguistic and cultural barriers to tell stories that are accessible to audiences around the world. In 2004, we introduced the La MaMa Puppet Series, a biannual festival showcasing new contemporary puppet theatre. Since then, La MaMa has produced twelve puppet festivals.

The Downstairs
66 East 4th Street, basement level

The Club
74a East 4th Street, 2nd floor

The Community Arts Space
74a East 4th Street, 3rd floor

For Tickets
visit lamama.org
Box Office: 646-430-5374
Mon - Fri 11am to 5pm

Week 3

Monday, Nov 23
7 PM: Everything that Follows

Friday, Nov 27
7 PM: Mirror Pool
8 PM: Jump Start

Saturday, Nov 28
12 PM - 3 PM: Intuitive Hand Puppets Workshop
2 PM: Mirror Pool
4 PM: Jump Start
6 PM: Mirror Pool

Sunday, Nov 29
2 PM: Mirror Pool
4 PM: Jump Start

Week 4

Thursday, Dec 3
7 PM: En Mer Avec Louise Bourgeois
8 PM: Husks From Iran

Friday, Dec 4
7 PM: En Mer Avec Louise Bourgeois
8 PM: Husks From Iran

Saturday, Dec 5
2 PM: En Mer Avec Louise Bourgeois
3 PM: Husks From Iran

Sunday, Dec 6
2 PM: En Mer Avec Louise Bourgeois
3 PM: Husks From Iran

Weeks 1, 3, & 4

Nov 12-Dec 6
Assortment
A collection of stop-motion and digitally animated films running on loop in the lobby of building 74a E 4th Street.

The 12th La MaMa Puppet Festival Fall 2026 is made possible by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, the Howard Gilman Foundation, The Jim Henson Foundation, and The Shubert Foundation. Additional support from Cheryl Henson is gratefully acknowledged.

DAVID GIBBS | DARR PUBLICITY
PRESS REP

A full program with information on this
production can be found on the
La MaMa website page of
La MaMa Kids: The Dandelion's Wish

In addition you can scan the
QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby
for access to the digital 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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July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

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(Mon - Fri 11am to 5pm)

NOW PLAYING

Endless Forms
La MaMa Puppet Festival
Nov 11-14, 2026
The Downstairs Theatre

Tiresias' New Weird Future
La MaMa Puppet Festival
Nov 12-15, 2026
The Club

The Undercity
La MaMa Puppet Festival
Nov 14-16, 2026
The Downstairs Theatre

La MaMa Kids
The Dandelion's Wish
La MaMa Puppet Festival
Nov 14-15, 2026
Community Arts Space

Where Did You Go Connie?
La MaMa Puppet Festival
Nov 19-24, 2026
The Downstairs Theatre

COMING SOON

Everything That Follows
La MaMa Puppet Festival
Nov 19-23, 2026
Building 74a E 4th Street

Mirrored Pool
La MaMa Puppet Festival
Nov 27-29, 2026
The Downstairs Theatre

Jump Start Works-in-Progress
La MaMa Puppet Festival
Nov 27-29, 2026
The Club

En Mer Avec Louise Bourgeois
La MaMa Puppet Festival
Dec 3-6, 2026
Community Arts Space

Husks From Iran
La MaMa Puppet Festival
Dec 3-6, 2026
The Club

Special Events
Assortment - Nov 11- Dec 6
One-Day intensive Workshop - Nov 21
Hand Puppet Making Workshop - Nov 28