LaMaMa

presents

As part of the La MaMa Puppet Festival

Endless Forms

Monica Lerch & Jeshua Bratman
Co-creators



The Downstairs
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
November 11-14, 2026

Endless Forms

Monica Lerch
Co-creator, Director, Lead Fabricator & Designer, Puppeteer

Jeshua Bratman
Co-creator, Writer, Producer, Digital Puppetry Designer

Sean Devare
Visual Development, Puppet Co-Designer, and Puppeteer

Esme Roszel – Shadow Puppetry Designer & Puppeteer

SJ Munford – Puppeteer

Kayta Thomas – Puppeteer

Maya Tsou – Stage Manager

Kyle Reid – Sound Design and Composer

Diane Boyle – Ocean Creature Puppet Fabricator

Jim Freeman – Puppet Fabricator

Callie Richards – Set Designer

Will Carter – Octopus Puppet Fabricator

MI Leggett – Costume Designer

Federico Restrepo – Lighting Designer

Daniel Montuoro – Set Construction

Rae Lindsay – Anemone Design & Fabrication

Paprika Velour – Puppet Wig Stylist

Aki Nikolaidis – Story Development

Ash Winkfield – Outside Eye

There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.

- Charles Darwin

A Note from the Creators

We live in a world where we change ourselves beyond the forms we were born with. We dress and decorate ourselves, reshape our bodies with medicine and surgery, extend our minds with our phones, and increasingly share our thoughts with artificial intelligence. Some of this is survival. Some of it is that peculiar human drive to grow, to become more than we were given.

In *Endless Forms*, Syx changes for both reasons. They begin by fighting to stay alive, and find themselves reaching for new forms. That journey is strange and sometimes alienating, as every transformation is, but also familiar. As we change ourselves faster than ever, what will we keep with us? What will we leave behind?

This show was itself transformed by many hands. So many people jumped in to build puppets, compose music, choreograph, design, sculpt, paint, sew, program, wire, perform, and dream with us. We are so grateful for the time and talent everyone poured into this ambitious piece; it has truly been a community effort. Our thanks to La MaMa, and to Denise Greber and Federico Restrepo, for the opportunity to grow this show from a work-in-progress into a premiere; to the Jim Henson Foundation and our generous donors for thier support; and to you for being here.

- Monica Lerch & Jeshua Bratman

Monica Lerch (Co-creator, Director, Lead Fabricator & Designer, Puppeteer) (she/any) is a Brooklyn-based puppet artist, director, performer, and fabricator whose work ranges from large-scale spectacles to intimate, character-driven performance. She has worked across theater, opera, and film, with credits including *El Niño* at the Metropolitan Opera, *Lunch with Sonia* with Loco7 Dance Puppet Theatre, and *Song of the North* by Hamid Rahmanian. She also served as head puppeteer for Tiptoe, the 17-foot reindeer created with Phantom Limb Company for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Her puppetry has been supported by The Jim Henson Foundation and presented at venues and festivals including BAM, La MaMa ETC, St. Ann's Warehouse, Schaubude Berlin, and Festival Casteliers. On screen, she has appeared in HBO's *Random Acts of Flyness*. Most recently, she has been developing *Cynthia*, a drag-puppet play with a creative team based in Berlin, where she serves as puppetry director, performer, and co-fabricator. *Endless Forms* is, far and away, the most ambitious project she has ever co-created, and one she is particularly excited to bring to life.

Jeshua Bratman (Co-creator, Writer, Producer, Digital Puppetry Designer) (he/him) is a New York–based writer, comedian, and multi-disciplinary artist making comedy, puppetry, and speculative fiction about strange minds: artificial, biological, collective, or otherwise hard to invite to dinner. He was head writer of EndGames Sketch Company, created and staged the ensemble sketch shows *The Examined Life* and *Corporate Meditations*, and wrote and produced the stop-motion puppetry short *Goodnight Moon*. Trained in machine learning and cognitive science, he writes stories that turn complex systems — intelligence, evolution, technology, embodiment — into human stakes. For *Endless Forms*, which he co-created with Monica Lerch, he wrote the script; built the show's digital puppetry, including motion capture that turns the puppeteers' movement into projected light; and did a little of everything else it took to make the show happen. He is now writing *Voices from the God Factory*, a comedy radio play about a secret lab trying to manufacture a god.

Sean Devare (Visual Development, Puppet Co-Designer, and Puppeteer) (he/him) is a NYC-based interdisciplinary designer, director, actor, musician, and educator. His passion for puppetry and ancient performance traditions has brought him to Bali, India, Ecuador, and Sicily. His original devised work has been featured at Mabou Mines, HERE Arts Center, Puppet BloK at Dixon Place, KinoSaito, and Williams College, where he was a resident artist and visiting faculty in the theatre department. Past puppet and mask fabrication clients include The Public, The Chase Brock Experience, Flint Rep, PAO Arts, and Think!Chinatown. Associate Artist at Fault Line Theatre; Associate Director at Kinding Sindaw. BFA Illustration, RISD; MFA Theatre, Sarah Lawrence. seandevare.com

Esme Roszel (Shadow Puppetry Designer & Puppeteer) (he/him) is a puppeteer and illustrator based in Brooklyn, NY. He holds a BFA in Puppet Arts from the University of Connecticut. His work has been seen at BAM, Symphony Space, Dixon Place, Puppet Showplace Theater, and The Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry. When not performing he has taught puppetry workshops at UConn, Inly School, The Woodward School, Thayer Academy, and many other small-town theaters across New England. See his funny doodles at @esmeroszel.

SJ Munford (Puppeteer) (they/them) is a Brooklyn based artist using a variety of mediums to create new work including puppetry, dance and installation. SJ is the resident set designer and puppet captain of Little Did Productions. Recent credits: *Study for the Glass Curtain Call* (Puppet BloK at Dixon Place), *I Wish I'd Never Been Born [Again]* (The Tank) and *The Rest of It* (Puppet Lab at St. Ann's Warehouse). SJ holds a BS from Skidmore College with additional training from the Moscow Art Theater School, SITI Company and Headlong Performance Institute. They also work as a teaching artist in public schools across NYC.

Kayta Thomas (Puppeteer) (they/them) is a passionate performer, puppeteer, dancer and theatre maker born and raised in New York. Kayta trained at NYU Tisch in the Experimental Theatre Wing, earning their BFA in Drama. They toured last summer across Europe as a Zebra and Giraffe puppeteer with *The Herds*, a global protest calling for climate action! Kayta was the voice of Emma on *Dora and Friends: Into the City!* (2014-2017) on Nickelodeon, bringing joy and representation to children who look like them. Kayta recently made their Off-Broadway debut in the New York Times Critic's Pick *Dad Don't Read This*. They are so honored to be a part of the fantastical life of *Endless Forms*. Kayta would not meet this moment without their parents, two Caribbean immigrants from Belize and Guyana, who poured love and hope into Kayta's dreams.

Maya Tsou (Stage Manager) is a New York–based artist, performer, composer, and Performing Arts Fellow with Creature Conserve. Working across theatre, puppetry, poetry, movement, music, and visual art, her practice explores the relationships between body, image, sound, and the natural world. She is a member of Great Jones Repertory Company at La MaMa, where her work spans performance, puppetry, sound design, and stage management. Her recent collaborations include performances with Theodora Skipitares at the Wassaic Project and work with Loco7 Dance Puppet Theatre Company. Her original play, *The Last Flower Standing*, premieres at La MaMa in April 2027. Her heartfelt thanks to Jeshua, Monica, and the entire *Endless Forms* team for their imagination, trust, and generosity.

Kyle Reid (Sound Design and Composer) is a Colorado-based composer, producer, and sound designer best known for his recording project GILA. Across releases on XL Recordings and Lex Records (Genkidama, Energy Demonstration, Domain Expansion), his work explores the collision of digital precision and organic decay. For Endless Forms, Reid brings this tactile, transformative approach to the stage with an evolving score that mirrors the show's passage from biological weight to digital transcendence.

Diane Boyle (Ocean Creatures Fabricator) is delighted to have been involved in this production! She's new to puppetry but caught on after spending 30 years as an Art Director/Creative Director in advertising making television commercials and doing print ads. Prior to getting delightfully swept up in puppet fabrication by her daughter Monica, she spent her retirement painting miniature pet portraits in oil. "Puppetry is a fascinating combination of Art, Drama, Math, Physics and Engineering," she said. "I'm ready for more!"

Jim Freeman (Puppet Fabricator) (he/him) focuses on solving difficult fabrication and engineering problems for puppetry artists. He's best known as the builder and technical advisor for the eight-month Object Movement Puppetry Festival residency in New York, is the principal technical partner for Tristan Allen, and serves a roster of independent artists. Jim also builds and programs custom microprocessor-based electronics for lighting, audio, and animatronics. He learned his craft in the 1970s, working for Nicolo Marionettes.

Callie Richards (Set Designer) is a multimedia artist based in New York City. Using methods of painting, photography, and sculpture, Callie's work focuses on examining the poetry of form and magical realist self expression.

William PK Carter (Octopus Puppet Fabricator) (she/he/they) is a quilter and puppet artist based in Central Valley, New York, bridging the puppet and fine art worlds by fabricating wondrous creatures that exist at the intersection of queerness and blackness. She received her BS in Studio Art from Skidmore College in 2023, and her work has been exhibited and performed in theaters, galleries, and museums across the country, including Puppet Showplace Theater, La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, Dixon Place, Textile Arts Center, The Ritz Theatre, the Tang Teaching Museum, Wonzimer Gallery, and The Trout Museum of Art. She is the recipient of the Jim Henson Foundation Workshop Grant (2026), recently completed Ann Street Gallery's Emerging Artist Fellowship, and is currently a resident artist at La MaMa developing *Beautiful Without Consequence*. WilliamPKCarter.com

MI Leggett (Costume Designer) channels a fierce passion for gender freedom and repurposing resources into their anti-waste fashion label, Official Rebrand, which has saved thousands of pounds of textile waste through an ever-growing repertoire of upcycling techniques. They have shown work at New York and Berlin Fashion Weeks and collaborated with brands including HBO, Nike, and SoundCloud. A guest lecturer at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, they won the first season of the design competition show *Upcycle Nation* and have been recognized as "one to watch" by the CFDA. Their work has appeared in The New York Times and Vogue Italia.

Federico Restrepo (Lighting Designer) has been a noted creator of puppet theater and a lighting designer for theatre productions in New York and abroad since moving to New York from Colombia in 1999. He is a resident puppet designer, choreographer, performer and director at La MaMa and Producing Director of La MaMa Puppet Festival. He has designed lights for over fifty professional productions in New York and abroad, including productions of Great Jones Repertory, Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theatre, New Stage Theatre Company and Electric Black Productions. He is Artistic Director of Loco7 Dance Puppet Theatre, with which he has created and performed a number of original pieces and toured internationally over the past forty years. www.loco7.org

Daniel Montuoro (Set Construction) is a carpenter and fabricator specializing in furniture and custom designs for shows and stages. With over 10 years of experience in theater and live productions, he brings a deep background in audio, video, and lighting to his physical builds. Daniel is thrilled to support the production of *Endless Forms* by constructing the custom set pieces featured in the show.

Rae Lindsay (Anemone Design & Fabrication) is a general tinkerer and artist who has been hanging around on the edges of event and theater design for the past 15 years, making bits and bobs for unique projects.

Aki Nikolaidis (Story Development) (he/him) has spent 15 years at the intersection of neuroscience, mental health, and technology, developing tools that make science more human-centered. He's fascinated by the past, the future, and how both cultural and digital technologies shape our understanding of the human condition. When he's not trying to make sci-fi ideas into reality, he's often cooking for friends, exploring creative projects, or out dancing. This is his first puppet show.

Ash Winkfield (Outside Eye) (xe/xem/xyr/they) is a multidisciplinary artist working primarily in theater and the puppetry arts. Winkfield specializes in new and devised work presented in New York City, and has toured domestically and internationally with Basil Twist (*Rite of Spring, Sister's Follies, Book of Mountains and Seas*), Torry Bend, *The Walk with Little Amal*, Mabou Mines, and Yaa Samar Dance Theater (*Gathering*). They directed Alva Rogers' *The Harlem Doll Palace* in 2024. Winkfield is passionate about creating work that speaks to the emotional experience of humanity in the face of injustice. @ashleyk.music

Special Thanks
Tony Pasik: Inspiration music curation
Ari Rifkin: Sea creature character design
Iliana Garcia: Voice acting coaching
Liz Dangerously: Costume alterations, and the original octopus puppet for the work-in-progress show
Robert Lerch, Stephen Braun, Tiana Tuttle

Work-in-progress collaborators
Ash Winkfield, Maria Camia, Aaron Haskell

Funders
Funded in part by the Jim Henson Foundation, Bee Hive Productions, and individual donors.

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?

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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.

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PRESS REP

A full program with information on this
production can be found on the
La MaMa website page of
Endless Forms

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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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