LaMaMa

presents

As part of the La MaMa Puppet Festival

Tiresias Presents New Weird Future: a Work in Process



The Club
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
November 12-15, 2026

Tiresias Presents New Weird Future: a Work in Process

Writer, Director, Composer, Producer: Tiresias

Performers: Synead, Wes Olivier aka Klondyke, Ellen Zahniser, Mizuho Kappa, Nicki Kissil, Emily Batsford, & Tiresias

Musicians:

Darian Donovan Thomas, Angélica Negrón, & Tristan Allen

Production/Stage Manager & Associate Producer: Celia Krefter

Lead Puppet Designer: Tom Lee

Puppet Captains: Tristan Allen & Emily Batsford

Puppet Builders: Zachary Sun & Averly Sheltraw

Headpiece Builder: Jacky Kelsey

Costume Design: Ezra Moth

Lighting Design: Celia Krefter

Scenic Design: Caratoes

Choral Direction: Wes Olivier aka Klondyke

Choreography: Mizuho Kappa

Bird Automaton Designer: Deborah Maris Lader

Dramaturges: Nicolas Baird & Helena Pennington

Fairy Godfather: Theresa Buchheister

Press Representative: David Gibbs/DARR Publicity

New Weird Future is presented as a work in process, and is seeking sources of funding and support to continue to develop the work. If you feel moved to help bring the new weird future into being, please reach out to Tiresias at whoistiresias@gmail.com.

Please be advised there are flashing lights, lights shining at eye level during the show

Tristan Allen is a composer and puppeteer based in Brooklyn, NY. With a background in piano, bass, electronic music, and marionette theater, Tristan combines music and movement to conjure works of wordless fantasy. Supported by RVNG Intl. and the Jim Henson Foundation, Tristan is building a world through an ongoing series of puppet symphonies, including *Tin Iso and the Dawn* and *Osni the Flare*. @audiotootoo / tristanallen.org

Nicolas Baird is an artist and paleobiologist whose work frames the world as a network of strange kin. In their artistic practice, they explore mutability and magic through photography, poetry, and performance. In their scientific research, they look back in time to understand how bodies, landscapes, and climate have influenced each other in the evolution of mammals. Alongside these practices, they co-direct the Institute of Queer Ecology (@queerecology), a continuously evolving collaboration that creates and commissions projects for a more beautiful, queer, (bio)diverse world.

Emily Batsford (they/them) is a theater maker and educator living in Brooklyn, NY. Their artistry prioritizes inclusion and accessibility, and includes immersive and physical theater practices, puppetry, & experimental forms. Their full-length, nonverbal puppet piece, *CUMULO*, was a 2026 Drama Desk Award nominee for Outstanding Puppetry. www.cumuloshow.com Emily has an extensive performance history, traveling internationally and across the United States. True to their passion for devising new work, Emily has also participated in countless work-in-progress showings at theatrical incubators across the five boroughs. They are an Artistic Associate with Concrete Temple Theatre, and sit on the Board of the Puppetry Guild of Greater New York (PGOGNY). When not performing, Emily is a Teaching Artist for the New Victory Theater, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Child's Play NY, CO_LAB Theater Group, and New York City Children's Theater. IG: @efcbatsford

Caratoes is a worldbuilder of Chinese Belgian ancestry whose practice spans monumental murals, immersive installations, performance and wearable sculpture. Nomadic since 2013 and now based in New York, she has created permanent works across the globe, collaborated with Nike, Facebook and Four Seasons, and shown at the Saatchi Museum in London. She has been featured in Juxtapoz and Hi Fructose. She builds worlds for everyone who never had the words for what they felt.

Darian Donovan Thomas is an interdisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, and a ferociously gay blaxican from Texas. Being at the intersection of so many identities means having the opportunity to speak to and create for multiple people at once. His goal is to create spaces where everyone feels heard, acknowledged, and communicated to. To remind people - even if for just a moment - that they're alive right now, and present in this moment. He tours the world with Arooj Aftab, Balùn, Wild Up, Moses Sumney, and as a solo artist. His classical compositions have been premiered by the Cabrillo Festival for Contemporary Music Orchestra, Ensemble Signal, Sō Percussion, Jennifer Koh, Adam Tendler, and many others. He is currently in perpetual motion around the U.S.

Mizuho Kappa is a choreographer and performing artist originally from Osaka, Japan, with a degree in Entomology. Kappa is currently a Resident Artist at LaMaMa, and at the Cell Theater '27-'28. As a performer, she has recently performed with Punchdrunk's *Sleep No More* NY, Peridance Contemporary Dance Company, Yoshiko Chuma & The School of Hard Knocks, Zvi Dance, and Ballet Collective, among others. Her interdisciplinary choreographic works have been presented at The Shed, La MaMa, Gene Frankel Theater, TheaterLab, CPR, The Brick, Ars Nova, NOoSPHERE ARTS and more. She frequently collaborates with cross-disciplinary artists, including a neuroscience researcher, a transmedia playwright, a hybrid writer, and a puppet designer. These collaborative works have been showcased at the New Museum, New York Hall of Science, Open Source Gallery, Grace Exhibition Space, City University of Hong Kong, House of Yes, the Chocolate Factory, and beyond. Her choreographic voice is recognized for conveying narrative through raw expression, unexpected physicality, and striking surrealistic tableaux, described as "evoking and unhinged" by *Brooklyn Magazine* and "potent" by *The New York Times*.

Nicki Kissil (she/they) Actor, puppeteer, singer, dancer, burlesque, clown, performance & adornment artist, mystic enchantress, vintage femme, vaudevillian, retrogothic antimatter, long dead victorian harlot, the specter lurking in the corner of your eye. Previous Theatre and Puppetry: *Lilith In Pisces* (The Flea), *How to Kiss Trees, Raise the Dead, and Make Love* (New Orleans Giant Puppet Festival), Various NYC DIY theatre ventures. Film: *Skimmer* (NYU Grad. Film), The Jam (NYU Grad. Film). Clown/ Burlesque: Clown Cult, Lovebomber Ball. Nicki is actively seeking representation! nickikissil@gmail.com, @sk4nk.sinatra

Celia Krefter is a director, choreographer, writer, and lighting designer who creates original works of dance-theatre. Recently: *Im Dunkeln sieht man besser* (LOCAL GRANDMA/The Brick), *HOW TO BE NORMAL AND REGULAR* (Brick Aux), *Math Live!* (Collapsable Hole), *Constance: A Confession* (Experiments in Opera/ HERE), *Actua 1* (Object Collection/Collapsable Hole). Celia is from Hamburg, Germany and Cape Cod, MA, and plays accordion in the musical duo Outdoor Cats. @galactic_celia / celiakrefter.art

Tom Lee is a director, designer, and puppet artist based in Chicago & New York. www.tomleeprojects.com

Ezra Moth is an interdisciplinary artist based in NYC. Their work lives at the intersection of ecology and queer liberation. Using synthetic biology, sculpture, and collaborating with organisms like algae, plants, fungi and bacteria. Hypothetical agriculture interventions and performance artworks become methods of storytelling, reinforced by laboratory research. Moth holds an MFA from Goldsmiths, University of London, and a BS in biology and sustainable agriculture. Part mad scientist, part community farmer, and part drag persona, their art practice ricochets from sublime hopefulness to post-apocalyptic despair, presenting radical alternatives to the climate catastrophe while centering nonbinary and nonhuman perspectives. ezraportfolio.com

Angélica Negrón is a Puerto Rican composer and performer who writes music for voices, orchestras, ensembles and film as well as robots, toys, and plants. At the intersection of classical and electronic music, she blends unusual instruments, and acoustic, electronic and found sounds "to underscore the inventive sound world that she brings to her music..." (*San Francisco Chronicle*). Rooted in her experience as a Puerto Rican artist living in the diaspora, her work explores migration, memory, absence, and belonging. Recent and upcoming projects include a cello concerto commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic for Yo-Yo Ma and Gustavo Dudamel, and The Puerto Rico Experiment, a song cycle for Roomful of Teeth and Balún commissioned by PAC NYC that examines Puerto Rico's history as a site of political, scientific, and economic experimentation.Her music has been commissioned and performed by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Kronos Quartet, Brooklyn Rider, and Sō Percussion. She has also created multidisciplinary projects with drag performers, filmmakers, botanical artists, and comedians. Negrón was the first composer-in-residence at the New York Botanical Garden and has received honors including the Hermitage Greenfield Prize. Her screen credits include the HBO docuseries *Menudo: Forever Young*, the Netflix documentary *Karol G: Tomorrow Was Beautiful,* and *Through Our Eyes* for Sesame Workshop. Her arrangements can be heard on Rosalía's acclaimed 2025 album *LUX* (Columbia Records). A founding member of the tropical electronic band Balún, she lives in Brooklyn, where she looks for ways to incorporate her love of drag, comedy, and the natural world into her work.

Synead Cidney Nichols (she/all) is a polydisciplinary performance artist whose practice is rooted in the pursuit of individual and collective healing, awareness, and liberation. Through her studies in Black feminist theory, movement, sound, and experimental performance, she explores and reimagines the ever-evolving nature of humanity and the diverse experiences that shape our existence. In recent years, she was awarded the New York City Trust Van Lier Fellowship and was an apprentice of Urban Bush Women. She has performed in a series of works including *The Hang* (Taylor Mac/HERE Arts), *Blanks* (Getsethmane Herron-Coward/Signature Theatre), *Second Skin: MONSTER* (Magnus Works/ Judson Memorial Church), *Blackbirding* (Queen Esther/WP Theater), *A MEAL* (LEIMAY/7Stages) & so much more. Currently pursuing a Master's at London Contemporary Dance School, Synead is developing new movement and sound works that challenge societal norms and expand her artistic boundaries. Her work invites audiences to engage in deeper self-reflection, cultivate personal transformation, and recognize the power of inner change as a catalyst for collective liberation and a more conscious world. | @synead | synead.com

Wes Olivier is your never average black, trans, fat, neurodivergent, disabled, Tolkien obsessed, theatre-drag-sideshow artist. When they're not composing experimental musicals as Wes, they're Klondyke: The Alien-Klown Traggot! Child of a black hole and a supernova, raised by a 4th-dimensional rockstar, and The Black Cherry Sideshow's Professor of Grotesque! But whether they've got the Klown mouth on or not, they can be caught music-ing anywhere/time. Listen!

You might just hear them in the walls (they're very loud). Keep a-titty of their galavanting at @klondyke_drag (IG). (Credits: *Scarecrow* by Wes Olivier at Chinkapin Craftstead, 2026; *Bark of Millions* by Taylor Mac & Matt Ray at Berliner Festspiele 2024, BAM & Zellerbach Hall 2024, Sydney Opera House 2023; Sasha Velour's *Nightgowns* at Le Poisson Rouge, 2025; *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by Taylor Mac and Jason Robert Brown, Goodman Theatre, 2024)

Helena Pennington is a new play dramaturg and creative producer. She oversees the Literary Department of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, an institution dedicated to nurturing bold new work for the stage and the people who make it. There, Helena oversees the script submission and selection process for the National Playwrights Conference and National Music Theater Conference. Helena has dramaturged new works of puppet theater that have gone on to tour nationally and internationally: highlights include *Bill's 44th* by Official Puppet Business, a Drama Desk nominee for Best Puppetry and New York Times Critics Pick, which has toured around the world since 2022. She served as workshop dramaturg for *Chimpanzee* by Nick Lehane (UK: The Barbican, France: Charleville-Mézières), *Shinnai Meets Puppetry* by Sachio Takahashi (Canada: Festival International de Casteliers, France: Charleville-Mézières), and many more. She recently dramaturged *Parched* by Official Puppet Business, which enjoyed a sold-out premiere at HERE Arts Center's Puppetopia Festival. Helena has also provided dramaturgical and developmental support to new plays and musicals on Broadway and off. Highlights include *Walk on Through* by Gavin Creel (MCC), *Teeth* by Michael R. Jackson and Anna K. Jacobs (Playwrights Horizons, New World Stages), *THE APIARY* by Kate Douglas (Second Stage), *Prayer for the French Republic* by Joshua Harmon (Broadway, MTC), and many more.

Averly Sheltraw is a visual artist and puppeteer. She has worked at the Chicago Puppet Studio since 2022. Past projects include *Mirrored Pool* (Center for Puppetry Arts), *The Little Mermaid* (Drury Lane), *See What I Wanna See* (Out of the Box Theatrics), *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Joffrey Ballet), *The Matchbox Magic Flute* (Goodman Theater), and *Florencia en el Amazonas* (The Metropolitan Opera). Bugs are her favorite type of puppet to make!

Zachary Sun is a Chicago-based interdisciplinary artist working across writing, puppetry, performance, sculpture, installation, video, and whatever else the project demands. His ongoing project, *Fortuitous Peaks of Almanac*, follows farmed oysters and fossils across oceans, cities, and bodies, exploring migration, ecology, memory, and the relationships between bodies and their environments. He received a 2025 Jeff Award for Artistic Specialization and works with the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival. Zach also co-runs HOOK SPACE, enjoys watching weird films as a screening committee member for the Onion City Experimental Film Festival, and once served as the artistic director of the Great River Parade on the Chicago River in a spectacular downpour.

Tiresias is a hybrid writer, director, composer, performer, puppeteer, mythmaker, shapeshifter, drag-thing, songbird, and ritualist. Called "a rara avis of experimental theatre" by *The New Yorker* and "one of the most enchanting performers in New York City" by *The Brooklyn Rail*, their work explores queer ecologies, weird mythologies, and speculative futures. Tiresias is a 2027 Bogliasco Fellow, the 2026 Jim Henson Foundation Puppetry Resident at the O'Neill Center, the Inaugural Artist in Residence at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin (2026), a 2025 Ucross Fellow, an Inaugural 2025 Princess Grace Artist Fellow, and a 2023 MacDowell Fellow. @whoistiresias / whoistiresias@gmail.com

Ellen Zahniser is a Providence-based performing artist and writer. Recent works include *Orpheotic* (Lost Bag Space, Mayo Street Arts, Future Space), *Machiniac* (Life World, Dirt Palace, FringePVD), and numerous other ridiculous performances at Philly Fringe, The Brick, Vanishing Performance Festival NOLA, and other delightful east coast locales!! As an actor, Ellen has participated in theatrical extravaganzas with Tiresias, Center Aquidneck, Strange Attractor, The Wilbury Theatre Group, and Brown University. Ellen loves dessert and beach roses, and is honored//PSYCHED to be learning from and collaborating with this team of visionaries!! insta: @shmelzs

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

Funders
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Developed through the Jim Henson Foundation Puppetry Residency at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, as well as during residencies at Ucross, Monson Arts, Bali Purnati, Chicago Puppet Studio, and Millay Arts, and a project week at The Mercury Store with Monica Sanborn, Erin Noll, Roberto Tolentino, Vann Dukes, & Zachary Desmond.

Special Thanks: Cheryl Henson, The Jim Henson Foundation, the cell theatre, Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival/Chicago Puppet Studio (in kind puppet construction space & support), Theresa Buchheister, Inclusive Communication Services, Denise Greber, Federico Restrepo, Helena Pennington, Sunny, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Caroline Granoff, Jon Earle, Stevie, Luz Lorenzana Twigg, YaYa Harrison, Virginia García, Deborah Lader, Michael Silver, Rowan Magee, Justin Perkins, Marvin Lader, Barb Farah, Marisa Silver, Kim Laurel, Sarah Silver, Renacio Reyes, Erik Bergrin, Joy Ding, Ucross, The Mercury Store, SoMad, Millay Arts, Monson Arts, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute, Institute of Queer Ecology, Dr. Mirjam Knörnschild, Owen Goodchild, The Princess Grace Foundation, Bali Purnati, CultureHub, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Donna Haraway, Ursula K Le Guin, Broadway Green Alliance, Mauricio Rivas.

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.

DAVID GIBBS | DARR PUBLICITY
PRESS REP

A full program with information on this
production can be found on the
La MaMa website page of
Tiresias Presents New Weird Future:
a Work in Process

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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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