

LA MAMA⁵⁶

EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB

in association with

CZECHOSLOVAK-AMERICAN
MARIONETTE THEATRE & GOH Productions

present

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD



First Floor Theatre

74a East 4th Street, NYC, 10003

November 2 - 19, 2017

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD

or, The Most Unnatural Murder and Dastardly Assassination of John F. Kennedy by that Bloodthirsty Villain Lee Harvey Oswald (or someone else), as represented by our best hand-carved Marionettes and life-like Mannequins of Choicest Linden Wood.

a co-production of Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theatre
and Theatre Kapow

Writer/Director Vít Hořejš

Co-Director in New Hampshire Matthew Cahoon

Performed by

THE CZECHOSLOVAK-AMERICAN MARIONETTE THEATRE

Deborah Beshaw-Farrell, Michelle Beshaw, Vít Hořejš, Sarah
Lafferty, Valois Mickens, Jon L Peacock, Jeffrey Roth, and Ben Watts

Set and Costume Design Michelle Beshaw

Choreography by Martha Tornay

Lighting Design by Federico Restrepo

Original Design Concepts by Theresa Linnihan

Additional Design by David Michael Friend

Ventriloquist Dummies: Václav Krčál

Marionettes: Miloš Kasal

Dummy Costumes: Eva Pecháčková

Dummy Bodies and Wigs: Marcela Krčálová

Additional Marionette Construction and Costume: Emily C. Wilson

Jackie Puppet Painting: Sierra Schoening

Jackie Puppet Chanel Postume: Sarah Lafferty

Flyer, Postcard and Video: Coraline Yijie Wang

Made possible. in part, with public funds from The National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and from Council Member Rosie Mendez. Additional support: Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, the Henson Foundation, Materials for the Arts, Czech Center NY, and private donors. Thanks to all the support staff at Stockbridge Theater

Oswald/JFK Timeline

1939

October 18: Lee Harvey Oswald is born, two months after the death of his father, Robert. He has an elder brother, Robert Jr., and half-brother, John Edward Pic, Jr., from his mother's prior marriage. His mother, Marguerite, moves the household multiple times before Oswald completes tenth grade.

1956

Joins Young People's Socialist League. Drops out of high school. Enlists in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he learns marksmanship and electronics.

1957

Soviet Union launches Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite.

1959

Fidel Castro's guerillas march on Havana and overthrow Dictator General Fulgencio Batista.

Oswald defects to Soviet Union. The Soviet government provides apartment and factory job in Minsk.

1961

U.S. invades Cuba, landing at Bay of Pigs. The disorganized mission is easily quashed by Castro's forces.

1962

Oswald returns to the U.S. Settles in Dallas with Russian wife, Marina Prusakova.

1963

April: Purchases firearms via mail order. Attempts to kill retired General Edwin Walker by aiming his rifle at the general's window.

May: Establishes office for the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee and distributes leaflets.

October: Gets job at the Texas School Book Depository.

November 21: Sneaks rifle onto the sixth floor of depository near a window.

November 22: President John F. Kennedy arrives in Dallas and travels past the depository in motorcade.

November 22:

Noon: Oswald shoots JFK from depository window. Witnesses describe Oswald to the police.

1 p.m. Kennedy is pronounced dead.

1:15 p.m. Police Officer J. D. Tippit confronts Oswald. Oswald fatally shoots Tippit and flees to the Texas Movie Theatre.

2:00 p.m. Witnesses identify Oswald as Tippit's shooter. While in custody, Oswald is identified as "the man who killed the president."

2:38 p.m. Lyndon B. Johnson is sworn in as president of the United States.

November 24: Oswald is transferred from police headquarters to county jail. Nightclub owner Jack Ruby shoots Oswald. Oswald dies two hours later.

November 29: President Johnson establishes the Warren Commission to investigate the JFK assassination and its aftermath.

1964

September: The Warren Commission releases an 889-page report.

November: Warren Commission publishes additional twenty-six volumes of supporting documents, including testimony and depositions of 552 witnesses and 3,100 exhibits

2017

October 26: Records pertaining to the assassination must be fully declassified, per the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992. To be continued....

CZECHOSLOVAK-AMERICAN MARIONETTE THEATRE is dedicated to the preservation and presentation of traditional and not-so-traditional puppetry. CAMT's first New York season in 1990 featured *Johannes Dokhtor Faust, a Petrifying Puppet Comedy* with a cast of antique Czech puppets discovered by Vít Hořejš at the Jan Hus Church, a historic cultural center nestled in the heart of Manhattan's original Czech neighborhood. CAMT's 1994 *Faust* was presented as part of the Obie Award-winning Faust Festival in SoHo. At Theater for the New City CAMT has performed *King Executioner; Mr. M.; The Very Sad Story of Ethel & Julius, Lovers and Spies*, and about *Their Untymelie End while Sitting in a Small Room at the Correctional Facility in Ossining, N.Y.* At La MaMa, where the company is in residence, CAMT has performed *Golem*, co-produced by La MaMa and later featured in the 1998 Jim Henson International Puppet Festival; *The Twelfth Night; Once There Was a Village; The Life and Times of Lee Harvey Oswald; Don Juan, or The Wages of Debauchery; The Prose of the Transsiberian and of the Little Joan of France; Rusalka, the Little Rivermaid; A Christmas Carol, OY! Hanukkah, Merry Kwanzaa*; and in 2016 *Dvořák in America*. Other New York seasons and touring shows include *The Bass Saxophone; Hamlet; The Historye of Queen Ester, King Ahasverus and the Haughty Haman; Kacha and the Devil; The White Doe, Or, The Piteous Trybulations of the Suffering Countess Jenová; Sněhurka, the Snow Maiden; and Twelve Iron Sandals*. The company has played to acclaim in thirty-seven states in the U.S. at venues including Metropolitan Museum of Art; World Trade Center; Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors; the Winter Garden of World Financial Center; the Smithsonian; the Antonín Dvořák Festival in Spillville, Iowa; Heart of the Beast in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Lowell Folk Arts Festival in Lowell, Massachusetts; and Bohemian National Hall in New York City. CAMT has also performed at international festivals in Poland, Turkey, Pakistan, Korea, and the Czech Republic. The company conducts workshops at universities, schools, and festivals, recently at International Director's Symposium at La MaMa Umbria in Italy.

DEBORAH BESHAW-FARRELL (Ensemble, School Psychologist, JFK, Intourist Guide) is a puppeteer and cabaret performer residing in Brooklyn. Her roles in CAMT productions include: Socrates, Xantipa, etc. in *The Republic, or, My Dinner with Socrates*; Perl in *Golem*; Mailbox, Mrs. Shtern, Mrs. Čížková, and Mrs. Čivrná in *Mr. M.; Valentine, Sir Toby, Olivia, and Antonio in Twelfth Night*; Peter Minuit and others in *Once There Was a Village*; Blond Singer, Jarmila, and Blanka in *The Bass Saxophone*; Gertrude, Horatio, Ophelia, and Fortinbras' Army (all of it) in *Hamlet*. Other favorite performances include *The Napier Project* for the Mabou Mines Artist in Residence Project and *KafKa* with the Drama of Works. Deborah works regularly with Puppeteers' Cooperative, and she much enjoyed working with her sister, Michelle, on *Sheep Musing in the Valley of Sleeping Dogs* at the Labapalooza! Mini Festival of New Puppet Theatre Lab at St. Ann's Warehouse.

MICHELLE BESHAW (Ensemble, Marguerite, Marina) is a Brooklyn theatre artist, designer, writer, performer and storyteller who has enjoyed working in venues from La MaMa and PS 122 to city parks, monuments, community centers, street corners, stairwells, and broom closets. Favorites from among her many and wonderful adventures in New York theatre include CAMT's *The Life and Times of Lee Harvey Oswald* as Oswald's wife and mother; *The Prose of the Transiberian and of the Little Joan of France; Twelfth Night* as Viola, Sebastian, Sir Andrew Aguecheek, and Curio; *The White Doe* as Cook Drago, Tristan, Guard, and the White Doe; and *The Very Sad Story of Ethel & Julius* as Roy Cohn and costume designer, for which she won the 2009 Innovative Theatre Award. Others include *The East Village Fragments* with Peculiar Works Project; all projects with The Puppeteers Cooperative; and her own original works: *A Thundering Notion*, presented at Los Kabayitos Puppet Theatre; *The Napier Project*

as a resident artist in Mabou Mines Suite, 2000; *Lulu: A Woeful Highseas Rhapsody of Sunken Wishes and Curious Fishes* for The Puppet Library in the Arch at Grand Army Plaza; *Sheep Musing in the Valley of Sleeping Dogs* in St. Ann's Warehouse's Labapalooza! 2011; *En Mer Avec Louise Bourgeois* in the 2016 Philadelphia Fringe Festival ; and a collection of children's puppet plays based on her *Tulip Forest Tales*.

MATT CAHOON (New Hampshire collaborator) is a tKAPOW co-founder and has directed many productions for the company including: *Agamemnon*, *A Dream Play*, *Buried Child*, *Time Stands Still* and the February 2014 production of *Penelope* which won three NH Theatre Awards including Best Director. He currently serves on the boards of the Arts Presenters of Northern New England and the Greater Derry Arts Council. Matt's theatre training includes work with Double Edge Theatre Company, SIT1 Company, New England Center for Circus Arts, and Range of Motion Arts. In 2013, Matt attended the International Symposium for Directors at LaMaMa Umbria in Spoleto, Italy where he met Vit Horejs and Bonnie Sue Stein. As his "day job" Matt serves as the Director of Cultural Programming at Pinkerton Academy. In 2011, Matt was named to the New Hampshire Union Leader's "40 Under Forty" program.

VÍT HOŘEJŠ (Director, Ensemble, Agent 001) moved to New York from Prague in 1979 and toured the world with Ta Fantastika Black Light Theatre in the 1980s. In 1984, Vit discovered a treasure trove of 69 marionettes ranging in age from 100 to 200 at Jan Hus Church in Manhattan and in 1990 founded the Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theatre (CAMT) with other émigrés from Prague. He's been the artistic director ever since. Vit has translated, written, adapted and directed over two dozen string-puppet plays for CAMT, many of them at La MaMa where he is a resident artist. Vit has performed on stage, in films, and on TV. On screen, he played Krojack in Woody Allen's *Don't Drink the Water*. His published works include *Twelve Iron Sandals*, (Prentice-Hall, 1985); *Pig and Bear* (Four Winds /Macmillan, 1989; Dutch translation, 1990); and *Faust* (Dilia Press, Prague, 1993). He co-produced *Faust on a String*, an award-winning documentary about Czech puppetry, and wrote the lead essay for *Czechoslovak-American Puppetry* (GOH Productions, 1994). Vit has received commission grants from: The Henson Foundation, the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, National Foundation for Jewish Culture, Columbia University and New York Foundation for the Arts.

VÁCLAV KRČÁL (marionette design) started at Prague Central Puppet Theatre in 1989, and since has created marionettes for Prague Minor Theatre, and productions in Belgium, Germany, Japan, Poland, Great Britain and the U.S. For CAMT he created the spectacular Haman marionette for *The Historye of Queen Esther, of King Ahasverus & of the Haughty Haman*, a Water Spirit, The Artist Formerly Known as Prince, Madonna, Michael Jackson, and a marionette string quintet for *Rusalka, the Little Rivermaid*; and a clarinet player for *King Executioner*, along with many puppets for productions of *Faust*, *Káča and the Devil* and *The Twelve Months*.

SARAH LAFFERTY (Ensemble, Dolores, Jack Ruby) is happy to reprise her role in CAMT's *The Life & Times of Lee Harvey Oswald*. Since the premiere of LHO in 2004, Sarah has enjoyed being a performer in NYC's puppetry scene. Some of her favorite rolls have been: Bea Baxter in *Senseless: A Brick Foley Adventure* at Theater for the New City. A Priestess in Lindsay Abromitis Smith's ritual piece, *Epyllion* at HERE. Roland and Melisendra in *Master Perdo's Puppet Show* for The Castleton Opera Festival. She has also toured the country as an Art Cheerleader. Sarah is a puppet builder and costumer, currently with The Jim Henson Company and has an Emmy for Outstanding Costumes and Styling for her work on *Sesame Street*.

HJØRDIS LINN-BLANFORD (Stage Manager) has stage managed at The Signature Theatre, La MaMa ETC, The Kitchen, The Performing Garage, Ohio Theater, New York Stage & Film, and in Nantes, France. Currently she is stage manager for the Czechoslovak American Marionette Theatre, and a performer in recent work by Susana Cook. "Ars longa, Vita brevis."

THERESA LINNIHAN (Associate Director/CAMT) worked with CAMT for 20 years as a performer, song composer, costume and set designer, and toured with the company in the U.S., Turkey, Pakistan, Prague and Korea. With CAMT, she originated a wide variety of roles: the Czech everyman and clown Kašpárek, Polonius, rebels from Czech and American history, Ethel Rosenberg, and a pigeon and performed and built puppets for *The Bass Saxophone* and performed in *Once There Was a Village*, *The Life and Times of Lee Harvey Oswald* (2004), and *The Prose of the Transiberian*, all at La MaMa. She played the Prince in *Rusalka*, the Princess in *Twelve Iron Sandals*, Kašpárek (aka Pimprle in *Faust*, *Don Juan* and *Queen Ester* among others. A producer, designer and songwriter, she also creates puppet pageants and parades at various New York sites with The Puppeteers Cooperative. She currently resides in Minneapolis and works as a freelance puppetry and theater artist.

VALOIS MARIE MICKENS (Ensemble, Chess-player) has been acting since 1970. She is an original member of the Great Jones Repertory Company and a member of SAG AFTRA. She was last seen in CAMT's *Dvorak In America* and CultureHub's *HiFi WiFi SciFi*. Other upcoming projects include two nights of *Pylade* and performing with the international company Motus, in *Panorama*, opening In January 2018 at La MaMa.

JON L PEACOCK (Ensemble, Musician, Officer Tippit, Jackie Kennedy) is so grateful to join the Czechoslovak-American Marionette Company at the wonderful La MaMa. His most recent credits are with Shakespeare in the Park's production of *Julius Caesar*, by The Public Theater of New York, & *Twelfth Night* (Sir Andrew) with The Colonial Theatre of Rhode Island. Other NYC: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Dogberry), *Uncle Vanya* (Waffles), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Caiaphas), *Ilsa*, *Queen of the Nazi Love Camp* (US Premiere). Other Regional: *Richard III* (King Richard), *Twelfth Night* (Duke Orsino), *Fifth of July* (John Landis), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom), *Little Rock* (World Premiere). Thank you for this wonderful opportunity! www.jonLpeacock.com.

FEDERICO RESTREPO (lighting design) is Artistic Director of Loco7 Dance Puppet Theatre Company. As a resident artist at La MaMa, he has created and performed a number of original pieces and toured internationally over the past thirty-years. This is Federico's fourteenth production with CAMT. He designed lights for *Dvořák in America*, *The Republic*, *The Magic Garden*, *King Executioner*, *Golem*, *Mr. M.*, *Once There Was a Village*, *Faust*, *Don Juan*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Bass Saxophone*, *The Very Sad Story of Ethel & Julius*, and *The History of Queen Ester* and *The Prose of the Transsiberian and of the Little Joan of France*. www.loco7.org

JEFFREY ROTH (Lee Harvey Oswald) is a NY/NJ native actor/musician and has studied both Stanislavski and Meisner techniques at Drew University as well as Shakespeare at the London Dramatic Academy. Recent credits include *The Pillowman* (BBPAC), *Masquerade* (dir. Sam Helfrich), Open Hydrant Theater Co.'s Fall Shorts Festival, *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues* (Alpha NYC), *The Angels of Mons* (March Forth Productions), *Muse of Fire* (Manhattan Rep.), *The Last White Family on Dorchester Road* (Brainspunk Theater), *Street Scene* (Brave New World Rep.), *Nicholas III* (La MaMa ETC), and the world premiere reading of Lisa Kron's *The Verizon Play* (dir. Anne Kaufmann) amongst various small film/television appearances. Jeffrey is a member of Rhapsody Collective (rhapsodycollective.com) where new works are devised from the ground up with a collaborative ensemble and his music can be heard at youtube.com/90jeffroth.

MARTHA TORNAV (Choreographer) performed for over 18 years with numerous regional and international ballet and modern companies including Newport News Ballet (Virginia), Israel Ballet (Tel Aviv) and The Robert Kovich Company (NYC). She founded East Village Dance Project (EVDP) in 1997 and is the Artistic Director and co-founded Avenue C Studio with GOH Productions. In addition to directing EVDP, Martha teaches at New York University's Experimental Theater Wing, summer workshops for Bates Dance Festival and curates dance for the annual LUNGS Festival on the Lower Eastside, where she lives.

BEN WATTS (Ensemble, Dr. Rosenstein), a theater school graduate from England, studied and danced with numerous choreographers and dance companies in the USA throughout the 80's and early 90's. From 1993 to 2015, Ben and his life partner Tiina Dohrmann, set up and operated the Greenspan Center, a multi use Physical Arts and Watsu (Water Shiatsu) facility in Williamsburg, where he hosted and produced gallery showings, photography sessions, ran workshops, and organized classes. He also directed and appeared in performance art events and theater productions at the center during this period. Ben has been a member of the Dzieci Service and Art Theater Group, (from 2013 to 2015), participating in paratheatrical events and performing in their productions of *Macbeth*, *The Passion*, and the annual *Fool's Mass*. Most recently he appeared in Paul David Young's production of *Faust 3, or the Turd Coming* at Judson church. Ben enjoys working with Vit Horejs and the Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theatre and performed in their productions of *The Three Golden Hairs of Grandfather Wisdom*, and as *Dvořák* in *Dvořák in America* at La MaMa and Bohemian Hall.

CELESTE WROTEN (production assistant) is an aspiring puppeteer, and began training in puppetry with CAMT. She was born and raised in the Lower East Side and is excited to be joining the company in this production. She is working with CAMT as part of the Maturity Works Program.



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This Fall 2017, GOH Productions is hosting Enton Kaca, theatre artist from Albania as part of the ArtsLink Residency program. ArtsLink Residencies offer artists and arts managers from 37 overseas countries five-week residencies at non-profit arts organizations throughout the US. The program enables artists and communities across the US to share artistic practices with artists and arts managers from abroad and engage in dialogue that advances understanding across cultures.

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GOH's programs have received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Trust for Mutual Understanding, Open Society Institute, CEC ArtsLink, Rockefeller Foundation, Japan Foundation, Japan-US Friendship Commission, U.S. Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and others. Current programs: Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theatre, East Village Dance Project, Art in Odd Places, Polli Talu Arts Center, Carrie Beehan's Trystette, The School of Hard Knocks, Remote Theatre Project, and Raphael Mostel's Babar Project.

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NOW PLAYING / COMING SOON

Conquest of the Universe

November 2 - 19, 2017

Ellen Stewart Theatre

Don't Feed the Indians

November 2 - 19, 2017

The Downstairs

The Life and Times of Lee Harvey Oswald

November 2 - 19, 2017

First Floor Theatre

Coffeehouse Chronicles: Charles Ludlam and the 50th Anniversary of The Ridiculous Theatrical Company

Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 3pm

Ellen Stewart Theatre

Experiments 18: PEARL

November 13, 2017

La Galleria

La MaMa Kids - Creativity for Kids | Connect Through Play

November 18, 2017

The Downstairs

Perforations Festival

November 21 - 26, 2017

Ellen Stewart Theatre