



citizens

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Humanities Festival Presents Manual Cinema's *My Soul's Shadow*

Midwest Premiere Nov. 6-8 at Mana Contemporary

CHICAGO, IL—Oct. 7, 2015—The Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) presents *My Soul's Shadow* by Manual Cinema, running Nov. 6-8 at Mana Contemporary (S Allport St & W Cermak Rd) as part of the **26th Fall Festival: Citizens, Oct. 24–Nov. 8**. Created by Manual Cinema artistic directors Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Ben Kauffman, Julia Miller, and Kyle Vegter, *My Soul's Shadow* is a cinematic shadow puppet installation based on the poetry of Federico García Lorca. The production will feature puppeteers Sam Duetsch, Charlotte Long, Kara Davidson, Julia Miller, and Jose Nateras. Tickets range from \$20–25 and are available at chicagohumanities.org or by calling the CHF Box Office at (312) 494-9509.

My Soul's Shadow is a bilingual, immersive audio-visual installation that invites audiences to encounter Lorca's elegiac verse anew, through projections and live, original music. The shadow projections are created using six overhead projectors, five puppeteers, two screens, and dozens of handmade paper shadow puppets. Original music by Kyle Vegter is performed live by a chamber ensemble. The installation includes the text of the poems that are turned into moving images in the performance.

To date, Manual Cinema's work has been featured at The Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC), the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, The Noorderzon Festival (Netherlands), The O, Miami Poetry Festival, The Tehran International Puppet Festival (Iran), and elsewhere around the world. They have collaborated with StoryCorps (NYC), Erratica (London), Hubbard Street Dance, Nu Deco Ensemble (Miami), *The New York Times* bestselling author Reif Larsen (NYC), and three time Grammy Award-winning eighth blackbird.

The production features puppeteers Sam Duetsch, Charlotte Long, Kara Davidson, Julia Miller, and Jose Nateras (also playing Federico García Lorca). The chamber ensemble includes violinist Ellen McSweeney, cellist Alex Ellsworth, flutist Deidre Huckabay, and clarinetist Zachary Good.

The creative team includes direction by Sarah Fornace, original music and sound design by Kyle Vegter, installation design by Sarah Fornace and Ben Kauffman, puppet design by Drew Dir and Julia Miller, associate puppet design by Lizi Breit, and sound engineering/production management by Mike Usrey. Text is by Federico García Lorca and translations are by Catherine Brown, Greg Simon, and Steven F. White.

Manual Cinema is a performance collective, design studio, and film/ video production company founded in 2010 by Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Ben Kauffman, Julia Miller, and Kyle Vegter. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to create immersive stories for stage and screen. Using vintage overhead projectors, multiple screens, puppets, actors, live feed cameras, multi-channel sound design, and a live music ensemble, Manual Cinema transforms the experience of attending the cinema and imbues it with liveness, ingenuity, and theatricality.

My Soul's Shadow loosely adapts imagery, themes, and characters from Lorca's poetry, dividing his body of work into three acts. The first act is based on poems Lorca wrote early in his career in Granada and Madrid; many of these poems take inspiration from Spanish folk tradition, and are steeped in nature imagery, as well as portraits of Granada's gypsy community. The second act is based on poems Lorca wrote while visiting New York City, and the third is based on *The Divan Tamarit*, which Lorca wrote near the end of his life, and which takes inspiration from the Arab-Andalusian poetic tradition. The performance of *My Soul's Shadow* is bookended by the character of Lorca himself, and is based on biographical details of his life, including his ultimate imprisonment and assassination at the hands of Nationalist militia in the early days of the Spanish Civil War.

EVENT INFORMATION:



**[Manual Cinema: My Soul's Shadow](#) | *Karla Scherer Endowed Series for the University of Chicago*
Mana Contemporary | \$20/25/20
Friday, Nov. 6 | 7:30 p.m. | **SOLD OUT**
Saturday, Nov. 7 | 5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 7 | 7:30 p.m. | **SOLD OUT** | PRESS OPENING
Sunday, Nov. 8 | 5 | **SOLD OUT**
Sunday, Nov. 8 | 7:30 p.m.**

TICKETS:

Tickets to *My Soul's Shadow* are \$25, with discounted tickets for CHF Members and students/teachers. Tickets are available at chicagohumanities.org or by calling the CHF Box Office at (312) 494-9509 Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To become a member, visit supportchf.org.

ADDITIONAL FALL FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES:

Prices = General/CHF Member/Students & Teachers



**[Champion-ing the American Songbook](#) | *The Helen B. and Ira E. Graham Family Concert*
Saturday, Oct. 24 | 6:30 p.m.**

Northwestern University: Bienen School of Music, Mary B. Galvin Recital Hall | \$20/25/12
Jazz pianist and vocalist **Champion Fulton**, along with her quartet, will perform classics ranging from Gershwin to Dinah Washington.



**[Anthony McGill: An Evening of Performance and Conversation](#) | *The Allstate Program*
Sunday, Oct. 25 | 7 p.m.**

University of Chicago: Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, Performance Hall | \$12/15/10
Born and raised on Chicago's South Side, **Anthony McGill** was recently appointed principal clarinet of the New York Philharmonic after a decade with the Metropolitan Opera. McGill returns home to perform and discuss his career, his family, and the state of diversity in classical music.



**[Spokaoke](#) | *Co-presented with the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago*
Tuesday, Oct. 27 | 6 p.m. | MCA Café | Free for Illinois Residents**

Wednesday, Oct. 28 | 8:30 p.m. | Haymarket Pub & Brewery Drinking & Writing Theater | \$10
Come experience the joys of "Spokaoke!" Artist **Annie Dorsen** brings her participatory event to Chicago, inviting people to perform iconic political speeches, from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" to Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman?" and Ronald Reagan's "Tear Down this Wall!"



**[Four Women: Josephine, Eartha, Nina, and Tina](#) | *The William and Greta Wiley Flory Concert*
Monday, Nov. 2, 2015 | 6 & 8:30 p.m. | \$12-25**

Francis W. Parker School, Diane and David B Heller Auditorium
Musical theater artists **Rob Lindley** and **Doug Peck**, bring us an evening exploring the lives and music of four iconic expatriates: Josephine Baker, Eartha Kitt, Nina Simone, and Tina Turner.



**[Escuela](#) | *Co-presented with the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago*
Friday, Nov. 6 | 7:30 p.m. | **PRESS OPENING****

Saturday, Nov. 7 | 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 8 | 3 & 7:30 p.m.
MCA Chicago, Edlis Neeson Theater | \$24/30/24 | *In Spanish with English supertitles.*

A new play from Chilean actor/playwright Guillermo Calderón, *Escuela* tells the story of a group of masked left-wing youth who resist Chilean police forces during a military dictatorship in the 1980's.



Bodies at the Center

Saturday, Nov. 7 | 5:30 p.m.
UIC Forum, Meeting Room GHI | \$9/12/5

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, CHF commissioned an original performance with two artists who are at the heart of the conversation—**Gregg Bordowitz** and **Marissa Perel**. Together these two illuminate the ways in which disability culture is allied with feminist and gay rights, exploring what can be accomplished when shared vulnerabilities become a tool for revolution. *Presented in partnership with the ADA 25 Chicago.*



The Seldoms: RockCitizen | Elizabeth A. Liebman Program

Sunday, Nov. 8 | 4 p.m. | \$15/20/10
Benito Juarez Community Academy, Auditorium

Whether or not you saw **The Seldoms's** triumphant *Power Goes*, you won't want to miss the contemporary dance theater company's preview of their companion piece, *RockCitizen*. Join artistic director **Carrie Hanson** and Northwestern University historian **Michael J. Kramer** for a preview performance and discussion.

SAVE THE DATES:

- **Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015** – Fifth annual Morris and Dolores Kohl Kaplan Northwestern Day on the Northwestern University campus in Evanston
- **Sunday, Oct. 25, 2015** – Ninth annual Hyde Park Day on the University of Chicago campus
- **Monday, Oct. 26–Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015** – Chicago Humanities Festival in and around downtown Chicago
- **Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015** – First Pilsen Day

About the Chicago Humanities Festival

For more than 25 years, the Chicago Humanities Festival has celebrated the questions that shape and define us as individuals, communities, and cultures. For the curious at heart, CHF's vibrant **year-round programming** and robust **Fall Festival** offer the opportunity to engage with some of the world's most brilliant minds. Collaborating with leading arts, cultural, and educational organizations, it presents scholars, artists and architects, thinkers, theologians, and policy makers that change how we see the world, where we're from, and where we're going. Under the leadership of **Executive Director Phillip Bahar**, **Marilynn Thoma Artistic Director Jonathan Elmer**, and **Associate Artistic Director Alison Cuddy**, CHF is one of Chicago's most vital presenting organizations. Visit chicagohumanities.org for more information.

About The Chicago Community Trust

The Chicago Community Trust, our region's community foundation, partners with donors to leverage their philanthropy in ways that transform lives and communities. Since its founding in 1915, the Trust has awarded approximately \$2.3 billion in grants to thousands of local and national nonprofits, including \$164.5 million in 2014. Throughout its Centennial year, The Trust will celebrate how philanthropy in all its forms—time, treasure and talent—strengthens our region and impacts the lives of its residents in countless ways.

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