HAPPENSTANCE THEATER

PRESENTS

JUXTAPOSE

A THEATRICAL SHADOW BOX

COLLABORATIVELY DEVISED BY

HAPPENSTANCE THEATER

DIRECTED BY

MARK JASTER &
SABRINA SELMA MANDELL

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— CAST —

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

SABRINA SELMA MANDELL

ROSABELLE, THE CONCIERGE

Joseph Cornell works: *Untitled (Teapot/Grand Hotel Couronne & Poste)* c. 1965; *La Physique*, 1969; *Untitled (Dovecote); The Sixth Dawn*, 1964; *Defense d'Afficher Object*, 1939; *Untitled Collage*, 1931; *Untitled*, 1959; *Untitled*, 1966; *Untitled (Beehive, Thimble Forest)*, 1948; *Rose Hobart, 16mm film (color, silent with music track)*, 20 min, 1936.

ALEX VERNON

BLUE

Joseph Cornell works: Object (Soap Bubble Set), 1941; *Untitled (Soap Bubble Set)*, 1936; *Trade Winds*, c. 1958, *Planet Set, Tête Etoilée, Giuditta Pasta (dédicace)* 1950.

SARAH OLMSTED THOMAS

ÉTOILE

Joseph Cornell works: Untitled (Hôtel de l'Etoile Series), 1954; *Untitled (Hotel De L'Etoile Series)*, 1952; *Untitled (Tamara Toumanova)*, ca. 1940; *Untitled (Celestial Fantasy with Tamara Toumanova)*, ca. 1940; *Original Scrapbook for Tamara Toumanova*, 1953; *Untitled (Zizi Jeanmaire Lobster Ballet)*, c. 1949; *Untitled (Pink Palace)*, c. 1950, *Untitled (Harlequin)*, 1935/38; *Homage to the Romantic Ballet*, 1942.

MARK JASTER

A COLLECTOR

Joseph Cornell works: *The "aviaries,"* esp. *The Caliph of Bagdad*, c. 1954; and *A Parrot for Juan Gris*, Winter 1953-54; *Observatory Corona Borealis*, 1950; *untitled, (Parrot & Butterfly Habitat,)* c.1948; *Untitled (Cockatoo with Watch Faces)*, ca. 1949; and *Solomon Islands*, 1940-42, esp. the specimens below the compass tray.

GWEN GRASTORF

SPILLETH

Joseph Cornell works: "Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them with your hands. But like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them you will reach your destiny."--Carl Schurz, Address, Faneuil Hall, 1957-1958; *Untitled (Blue Sand Fountain) series*, 1953-1956; *Andromeda: Grand Hotel de l'Observatoire*, 1954; *Constellation (Project for a Christmas Card)*, 1953; *Celestial Navigation series*, 1956-1958; *Soap Bubble Set (Lunar Space Object) series*, 1950-1959; *Fountain of Youth*, 1959, *Cassiopeia 1 (Verso)*, 1960.

— CREATIVE TEAM —

Directors..... MARK JASTER & SABRINA SELMA MANDELL
Costume Design ..... SABRINA SELMA MANDELL
Props & Set..... MARK JASTER, SABRINA SELMA MANDELL & ALEX VERNON
Puppet Design & Construction ..... ALEX & OLMSTED
Lighting Design..... DANIEL WEISSGLASS & KRIS THOMPSON
Sound Design..... MADELINE OSLEJSEK
Production Stage Manager ..... DARIELLE SHANDLER
Lead Production Support..... TORI MARTIN

— HAPPENSTANCE ENSEMBLE —

Producing Artistic Co-Directors..... MARK JASTER & SABRINA SELMA MANDELL
Managing Director/Visionary Tornado/Deviser ..... SABRINA SELMA MANDELL
Structure & Ground/Deviser..... MARK JASTER
Social Media Maven/Deviser ..... GWEN GRASTORF
Minister of Thoughtfulness/Deviser..... SARAH OLMSTED THOMAS
Lead Tinkerer/Deviser..... ALEX VERNON

Run time: 80 minutes with no intermission

— PARTICULAR MUSIC & TEXT —

"Park Avenue Fantasy" (1934) By Frank Signorelli, Matt Malneck, recorded by Paul Whiteman and His Concert Orchestra (1934)

"All Alone" (1924) By Irving Berlin, recorded by Bob Grant and his Orchestra

"Faithful Forever" (1940) By Leo Robin and Ralph Rainger, recorded by Victor Silvester and his Ballroom Orchestra

"Poor Butterfly Fox Trot" (1916) By Raymond Hubbell and John L. Golden, recorded by Jaudas' Society Orchestra

"The Lady With the Big Umbrella" (1955) By Danny Goodman & David Nelson, recorded by Dean Martin

"BWV 971 Italian Concerto" (1735) By J.S. Bach, recorded by Wanda Landowska (1935)

"The Planets Op 32: VII. Neptune, the Mystic" (1914-1916) By Gustav Holst, recorded by Berliner Philharmoniker, Herbert von Karajan (1981)

"Stardust" (1927) Written and recorded by Hoagy Carmichael

"Andromeda" (2006) By Nancy Hascall, recorded by Bells of the Sound

"Lunar Rhapsody" (1947) By Harry Revel, recorded by Dr. Samuel J. Hoffman, Les Baxter (*Music out of the Moon*)

"Tango Town" (1926) By L. Noiret, recorded by Chansonnier & Rio Grande Tango Band

"HWV 437 Sarabande from Suite in D Minor" (1703-1706) George Frideric Handel, recorded by Richard Kapp, Philharmonia Virtuosi of New York (1977)

"Tales of Hoffman: Barcarolle" (1881) By Jacques Offenbach, recorded by Arthur Fieldler, Boston Pops Orchestra (1956)

"Stairway to the Stars" (1939) By Matty Malneck, Frank Signorelli, with lyrics by Mitchell Parish. Kay Kyser and his Orchestra, vocals by Harry Babbitt (1939)

Excerpt from On Origin of Species by Charles Darwin (1859) "As new species in the course of time are formed through natural selection, others will become rarer and rarer and finally extinct...A grain in the balance will determine which individual shall live and which shall die - which variety or species shall increase in number, and which shall decrease, or finally become extinct."

— CO-DIRECTOR'S NOTE —

In 2006 Happenstance Theater debuted our first piece at the Inaugural Capital Fringe Festival. It was called ***PRUFBOX*** and was inspired by the works of Joseph Cornell and T.S. Eliot's "The Lovesong of J Alfred Prufrock." It portrayed a woman from the sea riding the cycle of existence and Eliot's hesitant hero. Through collected images, text, music, and gesture we created our first "theatrical collage."

The original version of ***JUXTAPOSE*** was developed in 2019 in a residency at Joe's Movement Emporium in Maryland. Its completion was halted by the Covid pandemic. We pivoted and turned it into an interactive theatri-virtual website experience. ***JUXTAPOSE | A Theatrical Shadow Box*** has evolved with us over the past five years and grown into an assemblage of images and visual, poetic theater inspired by the shadow boxes of Joseph Cornell, the films of Jean-Pierre Jeunet *(Amélie)* and Jacques Tati *(Mon Oncle)*, ephemera, mass-extinction, and the Anthropocene, discovery, creation, play, attachment, and letting go. Its aesthetic elements conjure nostalgia and nod to a time of looming instability. It could be now or between-the-wars, here or abroad. Our departure points for the characters, the aesthetic and the content are the surreal, magical shadow boxes and collages of Cornell.

As we now launch our 20th year we are delighted to share ***JUXTAPOSE*** with you. We hope your imagination is stimulated by our work, that it offers hope and a cosmic perspective, as pinholes of light in the night sky.

SABRINA MANDELL

MARK JASTER

(A Collector)



Mark Jaster has appeared in, co-created, and co-directed all Happenstance Theater productions since its founding in 2006, winning the Helen Hayes/Robert Prosky Award for his performance in ***IMPOSSIBLE! A Happenstance Circus***. He studied mime with Étienne Decroux and served as teaching assistant to Marcel Marceau. Teaching and consultation credits for mime, movement, and physical comedy include the Maryland Opera Studio at the University of Maryland, The Shakespeare Theatre, Catholic University, Round House Theatre, Center Stage, Theater J, and Olney Theatre. For 20 years he performed with the Big Apple Circus' Clown Care program at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC as "Dr. Baldy." His long performance career also includes many appearances with the Washington and the Cambridge Revels, and 40 seasons at the Maryland Renaissance Festival as ***A Fool named 'O'***.

www.MarkJaster.com

SABRINA SELMA MANDELL

(Rosabelle, The Concierge)



Sabrina Selma Mandell is the founder, artistic co-director, executive director, and "visionary tornado" of Happenstance Theater. Sabrina has written, produced, and performed prolifically since founding the company in 2006. She was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Actress in 2017 and has won two Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Costume Design. Sabrina performed for 10 years with the Big Apple Circus' Clown Care Program in DC and Baltimore and has taught Theatrical Clown and Physical Comedy at the Shakespeare Theatre DC, Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, Round House Theatre, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She is also a poet, visual artist, graphic designer, and vintage clothing enthusiast. She is overjoyed to be back at 59E59 Theaters.

www.SabrinaSelmaMandell.com

GWEN GRASTORF

(Spilleth)



Gwen Grastorf is a performer and actor based in the DC metro area. She has been a company member with Happenstance since 2012, as well as the social media maven. Gwen has worked in the DC area with Constellation Theatre, Taffety Punk, We Happy Few, Rorschach Theatre, Faction of Fools, the Tarot Reading, Washington Revels, and others. Raised in Maryland, Gwen has a strong background in dance and music and loves working on physical, ensemble-based shows. She holds a BA in Theatre Performance from the University of Maryland, College Park.

www.GwenGrastorf.com

SARAH OLMSTED THOMAS
(Étoile)



Sarah Olmsted Thomas is a fifth generation performing artist. She is half of Alex and Olmsted, an internationally acclaimed puppet theater and filmmaking company based in Baltimore, Maryland. A&O has toured original shows in France, Italy, South Korea, Germany, Denmark, and Canada and numerous theaters within the United States including the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Symphony Space, and HERE Arts in New York City, the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, The Detroit Institute of Arts, and many stages in their beloved city of Baltimore, Maryland. They were awarded the 2020 Independent Artist Award from the Maryland State Arts Council, the highest honor for performing artists in the State of Maryland; their works have been supported by the Jim Henson Foundation, recognized by the *New York Times*, and named an official selection of the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival, Paris Film Art, and others. Sarah is a company member with the award-winning Happenstance Theater with whom she devised 12 full-length productions. With Happenstance, Sarah was nominated twice for Outstanding Lead Actress at the Helen Hayes Awards. Sarah trained with Bread and Puppet Theater in Vermont, the Pig Iron Theatre Company in Philadelphia, and Le Samovar, École de Clowns, in Paris. BA, Sarah Lawrence College.

www.AlexAndOlmsted.com

ALEX VERNON
(Blue)



Alex Vernon has been a Happenstance company member since 2012. He is a DC-based actor and puppeteer whose previous work has been seen with Constellation Theatre, Pointless Theatre, Imagination Stage, Adventure Theatre, WSC Avant Bard, and Washington Revels. He is also the other half of Alex and Olmsted, with which he creates original puppet works that have toured internationally.

www.AlexAndOlmsted.com

HAPPENSTANCE THEATER

Happenstance Theater is a professional company founded in 2006 by Sabrina Mandell and Mark Jaster. The *Washington City Paper* says, "*Happenstance Theater's ensemble comedy is a gut-busting kind of funny.*" The *Washington Post* describes our work as "*visually striking and whimsical without being precious,*" and calls Happenstance Theater "*DC's leading peddler of whimsy.*"

We are committed to devising, producing and touring original, performer-created visual, poetic Theatre. Our ensemble is made up of multi-talented performers who craft all aspects of our work from concept to realization. We harvest imagery from the past and re-contextualize it in works that address universal themes of ephemera and mortality. With the simplest means - humor, whimsy, music, silence, text, physical comedy, object manipulation, vulnerability and generosity - we seek to elevate the moment when the performers and audience meet, to lift the encounter beyond the daily and pedestrian into the realms of dreams, poetry, and art. Meaning is often found by happenstance.

Two of our previous productions at 59E59, ***BAROCOCO*** and ***ADRIFT | A Medieval Wayward Folly*** were each nominated for a Drama Desk Award in the "Unique Theatrical Experience" category. We have also won five Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Ensemble, Outstanding Lead Actor, and twice for Outstanding Costume Design.

www.HappenstanceTheater.com

ADDITIONAL CORNELL IMAGERY INSPIRATION

Observatory – Corona Borealis Casement, 1950
Toward the Blue Peninsula, 1952
Untitled (For Trista), c. 1969
Untitled (Window Facade), 1950
Untitled (Solar Set), 1958
Andromeda: Grand Hôtel de l'Observatoire, 1954
Setting for a Fairy Tale, 1942
Untitled (Hotel - Winter Night Sky), 1953
Untitled No. 3 (Soap Bubble Series), 1955

SPECIAL THANKS

The Share Fund, The Morgan Fund at Seattle Foundation, The Nora Roberts Foundation, The Maryland State Arts Council, and those who have donated to Happenstance through Fractured Atlas. April & Gerry Blum, Nancy Rodriguez, Michael Cumella (phonograph DJ and restoration), Alex & Olmsted, Julianne Brienza and Capital Fringe, Sharon Crissinger (videography), Leah Huete (photography), Joe's Movement Emporium, Baltimore Theatre Project, Matthew Pauli, Marianne Ross

CURATOR'S NOTE

We are always excited to have our Co-Op Resident company, Happenstance, shaking things up around here. In grad school, I was introduced to the surreal and fantastical work of Joseph Cornell when my class of theater directors was assigned to assemble our own versions of "Cornell's boxes." That project, made with glue, cardboard, and found objects, was fundamental in inspiring the set design of my thesis production.

Happenstance took that inspiration and those boxes much further with this show. They consistently strike personal and relatable chords using their trademark whimsical subversiveness to deconstruct our greatest fears and highlight our most hopeful dreams.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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ELYSABETH KLEINHANS

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VAL DAY

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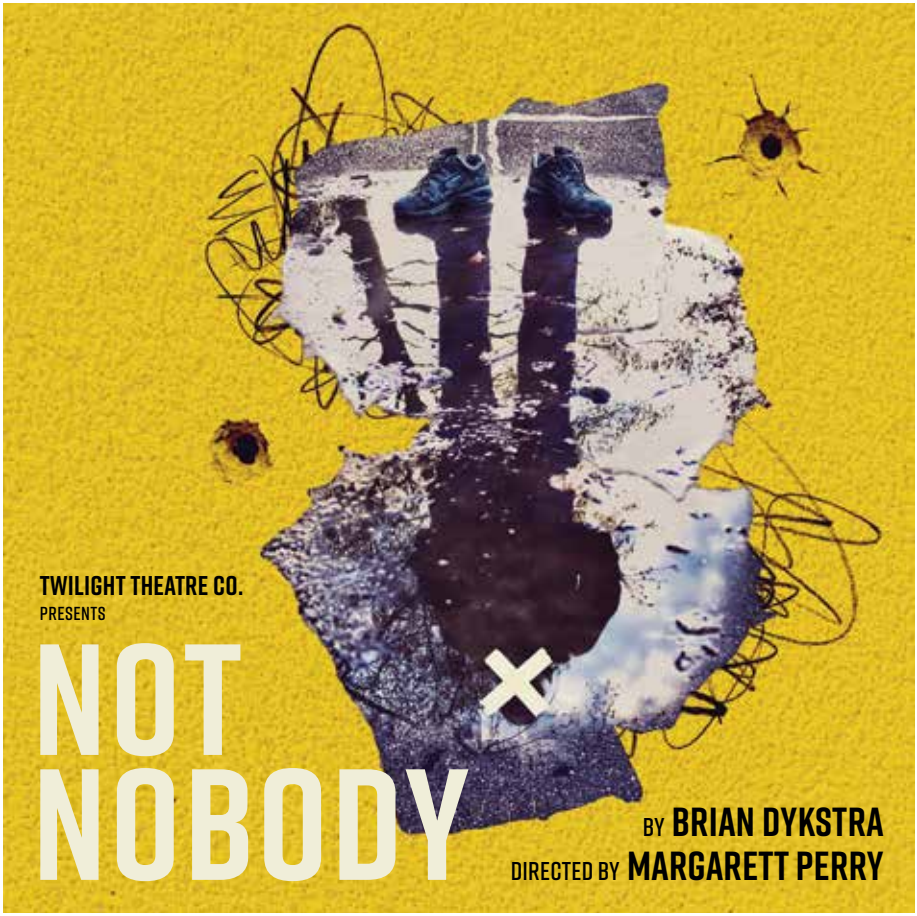
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NEXT IN **THEATER B** **FEBRUARY 5 — MARCH 1**



OUR MISSION

59E59 Theaters was established by the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation in 2004 to grant professional space and expertise to non-profit theater companies premiering their work in New York City. Under the leadership of Val Day, Artistic Director, and Brian Beirne, Managing Director, 59E59 Theaters presents a year-round curated program of Off Broadway plays and musicals that are nurtured and supported by providing performance spaces and equipment as well as production, ticketing, FOH, marketing, and press support. These theater companies receive 80% or more of the ticket revenue and pay no weekly rent to 59E59.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

This presentation is not a production of the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation, Inc., which offers its facilities, when available, for productions by not-for-profit theater companies. For further information regarding licensing this theater or other theaters in this Theater Building, contact Brian Beirne, Managing Director. The use of cameras and other recording devices in the Theater is prohibited by law. There is no smoking in this Theater or any part of the Theater Building.