



# 10<sup>TH</sup> PHYSICAL THEATER FESTIVAL CHICAGO

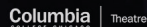


**JULY 08 – 16 / 2023**

**THEATER WIT**  
1229 W. BELMONT AVE

**NICHOLS PARK**  
1355 E. 53RD ST.

**ALOFT CIRCUS ARTS**  
3324 W. WRIGHTWOOD AVE



# Letter from Alice and Marc

What an absolute joy it has been to connect with artists and audiences from around the world and right here in Chicago for ten seasons! We are deeply grateful to our tireless staff, volunteers, artists, audiences, supporters, institutional partners, family members, babysitters and every single person who makes this Festival possible! Now, we come together to celebrate the amazing artists and witness their original, genre-defying work.

Over the past 10 years we have collaborated with more than 200 performing artists, presented works from more than 20 countries, debuted pieces from more than 50 Chicago artists and companies and reached thousands of audience members. We have expanded to different parts of the city and collaborated with renowned institutions to showcase the best physical theater from around the world and right here in Chicago.

This year, we would like to dedicate the 10th edition of the Festival to our dear, beloved friend, colleague and mentor, Paola Coletto. She had such an incredibly positive impact upon the Chicago physical theater community, and we are thankful for all the joy and sense of community that she gave us.

It is people like Paola and you who inspire us to keep going, to not take a year off (even in the midst of a pandemic!) and to keep believing in the wonder of Physical Theater. With your support and guidance, we hope to continue this annual celebration of visual, contemporary and physical theater for many years to come.

Thank you for joining us, enjoy the Festival,

Alice da Cunha and Marc Frost  
Founders and Co-Artistic Directors

LOCATION

# NICHOLS PARK

1355 E. 53rd St., Chicago, IL 60615

Saturday, July 8

1:30-8 p.m.

Family Friendly Event

## Opening Day Celebration

Together with Chicago Park District's Night Out in the Parks, Physical Theater Festival is returning to our favorite park for an opening day celebration of the 10th edition of the festival. The day will feature free entertainment for all ages by Alexander The Amazing, Eric Robinson, Austin + Ky, Benjamin Domask-Ruh, Jumping Juniors and Nouveau Sud Circus Project.



Sponsored by



LOCATION

VIRTUAL

*Sign up to receive the link.*

Sunday, July 16

## Panel Discussions

10a.m. - 11a.m

International Panel: The State of the Performing Arts 4.0  
(US, Hong Kong, South Africa & Spain)

12p.m. - 1p.m

Instagram Live Talk with Shane Shambu - Altered Skin (UK)

2p.m. - 3p.m

International Panel: Teaching Physical Theater





LOCATION

# THEATER WIT

1229 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60657

Monday, July 10 | 7 p.m.

## Scratch Night

Scratch Night is a curated theater showcase of works-in-progress featuring innovative local theater makers. Featuring ten previews of original contemporary, visual, and physical theater by different Chicago artists to foster their development. Produced by Scott Ray Merchant, Scratch Night aims to provide a social space for community, conversation, and collaboration.



LOCATION

# THEATER WIT

1229 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60657

Tuesday, July 11 7 p.m.

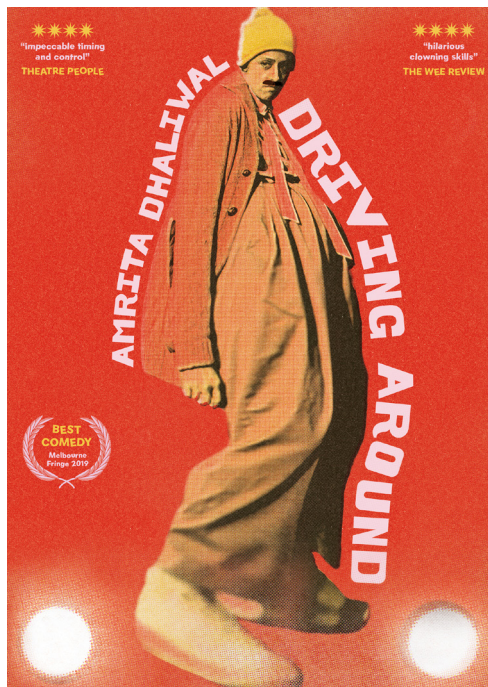
Wednesday, July 12 9 p.m.

## Driving Around by Amrita Dhaliwal (Chicago/Los Angeles)

A provocative brew of physical comedy, absurdism, and American naivety are on a fanciful bus ride. In a show full of insights into what unites us and separates us, the bus driver takes you on a ride that is so far past stupid that it becomes compelling. There are no seat belts in life, so just get on the BlundaBus!

**Amrita Dhaliwal** is a Punjabi-American comedian and devising artist based in Los Angeles whose style has been compared to Mel Brooks. Her work explores themes of humanity through the lens of the current political climate. She has won many awards, including Best Comedy at Melbourne Fringe 2019.

Ages: +16



Wednesday, July 12 | 6:30 p.m.

# The Art of Silence by Maurizius Staerkle DruX

## Free Movie Screening

### In Honor of the 100th Anniversary of Marcel Marceau's Birth

With his gestures and facial expressions alone, the mime Marcel Marceau captured audiences around the globe for decades. But the tragic background behind his work has remained hidden for a long time. *The Art of Silence* sheds new light on his life and unique art form, which his family and companions keep alive to this day.

Swiss-German filmmaker Maurizius Staerkle DruX (*Concrete Love - The Böhm Family*) grew up with a deaf father. With *The Art of Silence* he reflects on parts of his own life story.

Ages: +10



LOCATION

# THEATER WIT

1229 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60657





Thursday, July 13 7 p.m.

Friday, July 14 9 p.m.

Saturday, July 15 9 p.m.

## Asinamali by North West Development Agency [South Africa]

For the past 37 years, the classic story Asinamali (We don't have money), has been told only by male actors. Now, for the first time, it features an all-women cast. The play centers on five black prisoners who tell the stories of their lives and their road to prison under the apartheid regime. It was inspired by events that surrounded the 1983 rent strike in the Lamontville township, led by the martyred activist Msizi Dube, in which the rallying cry was Asinamali! A simply staged but powerful and enormously energetic piece of wonderfully synchronized improvisational theater, utilizing sounds, narrative, mime, and physical action in exciting ways to explore the backgrounds of the various characters and their experiences of life under apartheid.

**North West Development Agency** creates new productions through either workshops commissioned by the association or a client for their products. It also offers affordable training and workshops in acting, singing and dancing; theater technology; management, and lighting and sound design, among other disciplines. The NWDA also organizes and facilitates the casting of actors for all roles in theater and film.

Ages: +12

LOCATION

# THEATER WIT

1229 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60657



Co-presenting with:



International  
Latino Cultural Center  
of Chicago

Sponsored by:



Thursday, July 13 9 p.m.

Friday, July 14 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 15 7 p.m.

## Marrano – A Tale of the Inquisition by La Percha Teatro (Spain/Israel)

The city of Zaragoza was the scene of one of the most appalling crimes in its history in 1485: while praying in the cathedral, a Dominican monk was beheaded in cold blood by a group of assassins armed with daggers. The city was in shock and for less good reason: the victim was Pedro de Arbués, the highest representative of the Holy Inquisition in Aragon. The story begins by exploring the identity and reasons of one of the men responsible for the assassination: Diego de Sevilla, formerly known as Uriel. The shoemaker's son, Diego is a Jew whose life is turned upside down when religious intolerance snatched away everything he had, forcing him to renounce his faith, his world, and his own family.

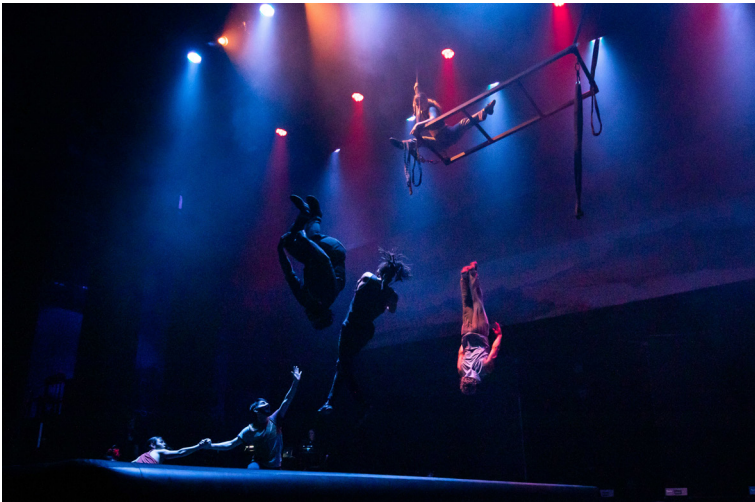
**La Percha Teatro** was founded in September 2020, although the seed of the project appeared during the training process at the Mar Navarro and Andrés Hernández International Theater School (2018-2020) based on the pedagogy of Jacques Lecoq. It is there where the five members of the company met. All of them from different origins, they decided to stay in Madrid with the idea of bringing together the classic and the classic and the contemporary through different theatrical languages.

Ages: +12

LOCATION

# ALOFT CIRCUS ARTS

3324 W. Wrightwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60647



Sponsored by:



Friday, July 14 | 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 15 | 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 16 | 5 p.m.

## La Bestia: A Circus Journey by Nouveau Sud Circus Project (North Carolina)

A show for all ages and a thought-provoking experience for the whole family, La Bestia is an homage to the Latinx community while also aiming to open conversation about the reality of immigration in the United States and around the world. Driven by the growing presence of Central Americans in the Charlotte metro region and the greater awareness of the calvary that is crossing Mexico for most immigrants, the Nouveau Sud Circus Project embarks on a theatrical investigation to bring attention to the treacherous journey that most endure.

**The Nouveau Sud Circus Project** is a contemporary social circus initiative rooted in the “underground” dance/acrobatic/physical theater scenes present in the vast array of cultures in the urban regions of Charlotte, North Carolina. Through physical language, these communities tell stories of their struggles, histories, traditions, transformations, and iconography, as the project examines the idea of what it is to be a citizen of the ‘new’ south.

Nouveau Sud will be doing their residency at the Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center where the company will reside rehearse and spend each day teaching the summer camp students circus skills.

Family Friendly



LOCATION

# THEATER WIT

1229 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60657

Saturday, July 15 5 p.m.

Sunday, July 16 3 p.m.

## Hodge Podge by Benjamin Domask-Ruh (St. Paul/Minneapolis)

Pink bubblegum-balls clash with a bubble machine on a stage adorned with a blue tarp, furnished by green grass, accented around a swinging umbrella, clanky tin cans, vibrant colors, and peacock feathers flying through a musical note filled airspace. Join us on this journey as we return to daydreaming.

**Benjamin Domask-Ruh** is a multi-disciplinary artist focused on circus and theatre's ability to bring people together and to create memories. As a juggler, clown, mime on-stage, he seeks to combine these disciplines into works audiences connect with on an emotional level.

Recommended for Children



LOCATION

VARIOUS

## WORKSHOPS

Physical Theater Festival is pleased to offer workshops with visiting and local artists during the festival. Hone your skills, add to your artistic toolbox, pique your curiosity, and meet physical theatre practitioners in an engaging setting.

Wednesday, July 12 10a.m. - 1p.m

Juggling and Object Manipulation by Benjamin Domask Ruh  
LOCATION Columbia College Chicago

Thursday, July 13 10a.m. - 1p.m

Keep your Shit Together by Amrita Dwalihal  
LOCATION Columbia College Chicago

Friday, July 14 10a.m. - 1p.m

Embracing the Empty Space by LaPercha Teatro  
LOCATION Columbia College Chicago

Saturday, July 15 10a.m. - 1p.m

Justice Driven Teatro y Circo by Nouveau Sud  
LOCATION Segundo Ruiz Belvis

Sunday, July 16 10a.m. - 1p.m

Evolution of Physical Theatre (Using Asinamali Theatre Play)  
by Northwest Development Agency  
LOCATION Theater Wit

*Sponsored by*



Be a part of Physical Theater Festival by donating!



[physicalfestival.com/donate](http://physicalfestival.com/donate)