

J PRODUCTIONS, MILAN PRESENTS

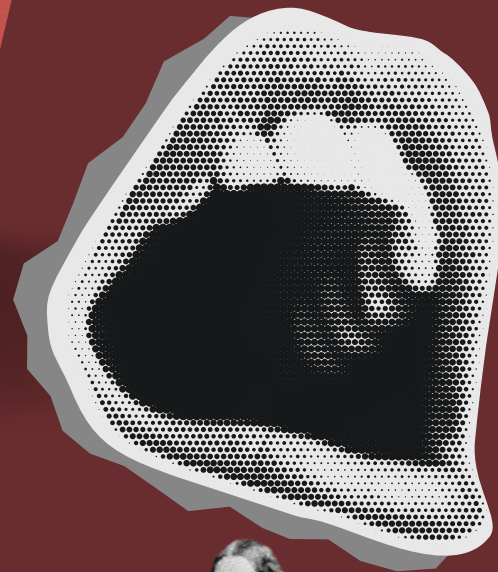


MAKING MARY

"A masterpiece on so many levels"

Dorothy Black

by CLARA FRANCESCA



Guy Masterson TTI in conjunction with Wild Tongues

Clara Francesca

MAKING MARX

Directed by

GUY MASTERSON

in association with WILD TONGUES PRODUCTIONS

CONTENTS

PROJECT PRESENTATION	1
• INTRODUCTION	1
• OVERVIEW	2
• SYNOPSIS	3
• PRODUCTION HISTORY	4
• REVIEWS	5
• CREDITS & AWARDS	9
COMPANY	10
TECHNICAL	12
LINKS	13
CONTACT	14

PROJECT PRESENTATION

INTRODUCTION

Dive into the captivating world of 'MAKING MARX', a riveting one-hour solo performance penned and portrayed by the acclaimed Clara Francesca, under the expert direction of Laurence Olivier Award Winner Guy Masterson. This groundbreaking show illuminates the life of Jenny Marx, the often-overlooked wife of Karl Marx, showcasing her as the relentless force behind the revolutionary ideas that have shaped our world—a poignant tribute to all the silenced women throughout history. With a female-led production team at the helm, this play challenges audiences to confront the unsettling question, "Why do we so easily distort stories?" Praised for its seamless blend of technical brilliance, impeccable physical comedy, and profound emotional depth, 'MAKING MARX' promises an unforgettable theatrical experience that will not only entertain but inspire you to think deeply about the narratives we inherit and revise.



PROJECT PRESENTATION

OVERVIEW

Absurdist and esoteric inspired by Ionesco, Brechtian and Pirandello plays, 'MAKING MARX' explores the life and struggles of Jenny Marx, the wife of Karl Marx, interweaving elements of performance art, physicality, and audience interaction. The play opens with an actor resembling Jenny Marx bound by puppet strings, symbolizing both the constraints of societal expectations and the struggle for self-identity. As the narrative unfolds, a voiceover monologue reflects on the vastness of the universe and the potential of individuals to make a difference, contrasting this expansive idea with the suffocating limitations placed on women, particularly Jenny, throughout history. The play introduces Jenny as a character trying to break free from the strings of her existence, exploring themes of empowerment, the impact of motherhood, and the often-overlooked contributions of women in the shadow of their more famous partners.

As the play progresses, Jenny undergoes a transformative journey, engaging with the audience and pulling them into her world of sorrow and resilience. Through a blend of clowning, physical comedy, and poignant moments of reflection, Jenny grapples with her identity, motherhood, and the sacrifices she made for her husband's cause. The dialogue challenges traditional narratives, allowing Jenny to reclaim her voice and express her frustrations about being marginalized in historical accounts. The play culminates in a powerful confrontation between Jenny and the writer, highlighting the struggle for female representation and the complexities of love, loyalty, and identity. Ultimately, 'MAKING MARX' serves as a thought-provoking commentary on gender roles, societal expectations, and the enduring legacy of women who have shaped history behind the scenes.



PROJECT PRESENTATION

SYNOPSIS

Act 1: The Puppet and the Voice

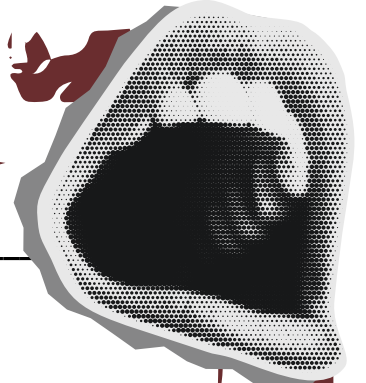
The play opens with Jenny Marx, depicted as an actor bound by puppet strings, symbolizing her entrapment within societal expectations and her role as a woman in the 19th century. As the audience enters, the atmosphere is set with a voiceover monologue that reflects on the universe and the potential for individual impact. Jenny struggles against the strings, attempting to reach out to the audience, representing her yearning for freedom and connection. As the act concludes, she resigns herself to her fate, establishing the tension between her desires and the constraints placed upon her.

Act 2: The Transformation

In this act, Jenny undergoes a metamorphosis, shedding her puppet-like constraints and emerging as a more vibrant character. Through a clown dance, she begins to rediscover her body and identity, connecting with the audience and inviting them into her experience. The act delves into her relationship with Karl Marx, exploring themes of love, sacrifice, and the burdens of motherhood. Jenny grapples with the challenges of being both a partner to a revolutionary thinker and a mother to their children. The interaction with the audience deepens, as she seeks permission to express herself and mimic their actions, symbolizing her quest for authenticity and acceptance.

Act 3: The Confrontation and Reclamation

The final act culminates in a confrontation between Jenny and the writer, highlighting the struggle for her narrative to be told authentically. As she challenges the writer's portrayal of her character, Jenny wrestles with her frustrations over being marginalized in history. The dialogue becomes a powerful reflection on gender roles, creative control, and the complexities of identity. In her pursuit of vocal expression, she transforms from a silenced figure to one demanding recognition and agency. The act ends with Jenny reclaiming her voice and asserting her place in history, leaving the audience with a poignant message about the importance of women's stories in the broader narrative of time.



PROJECT PRESENTATION

PRODUCTION HISTORY

- 2009 Performed as Tussy Marx with Jenny Marx Cameo in Servant of The Revolution
- 2010 - 2013 began clowning and creating Jenny Marx for what would become Making Marx (formerly Mrs Marx, then Manifesting Mrs Marx)
- Around 2010 did a proof of concept of the play at Harry Paternoster's Carnival of the Damned Funny
- 2013 Migrated from Australia to USA for Anne Bogart's Inaugural SITI Company Conservatory
- 2016 Won Best Performance Art with the piece originally called Mrs Marx for SaraSolo Florida, Sarasota, USA
- 2016 - 2017 took a version of Mrs Marx to mini box festival for Theresa Buchheister's Title:Point Theater Brooklyn, USA
- 2017 full Mrs Marx version at La Mama Theatre Melbourne 2017 with Liz Jones with support from Monash University Alumni, AUSTRALIA
- 2017 Toured that version to Waterbury Theater Center with Monica Callan & Grange Hall Cultural Center, USA
- 2018 Invited to present that version to The Brick Theatre Brooklyn with Michael Gardner, USA
- 2019 in preparation for Edinburgh Fringe Fest 2019, did a sample performance at Under St Marks Theater NYC with Alex Randrup, Conrad Kluck & Eli Reid for Feast Festival Live, USA
- 2019 Performed at Paradise In Augustines The Snug at Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2019, met Guy Masterson, SCOTLAND
- Re-development began
- 2019 J.Productions Milan & Tuscany re-development with Guy Masteron, ITALY
- New iteration Manifesting Mrs Marx toured to Central Standard Theatre with Bob Paisley, Kansas City, Missouri, U SA
- 2019 Partying With Mrs Marx: A Documentary of Theater After 2019 online theatre festival between NYC and Sarasota SaraSolo Fall, USA
- 2020 A deconstructed iteration for covid called Mrs Marx goes Void <https://www.voidpeople.art/mrsmarxgoesvoid>, USA
- 2022 truncated version to continue ensuring the play worked at New York Theatre Festival Spring/Summer <https://newyorktheaterfestival.com/manifesting-mrs-marx/>, USA with team A.Kasper Lighting Board, Ryan Bottitta Sound Board, Katryna Jackowicz and Shark Party Media
- 2024 Edinburgh Fringe Festival dir. Guy Masterson as guests of The Assembly Rooms.
- 2025 ff Featured in Edinburgh Fringe Festival Documentary with Xela Batchelder, Michael Lloyd and Fringe University.
- Special Thanks and past collaborators to many including Guy Masterson (Direction), Julia Holden & James Simon (Producers) Timothy McCown Reynolds (Voice Over), Alexis Kandra (Art & Photography), Sophie Traub, Carrie Able & She's Excited! (Music), Sky Rolnick, Jimmy Heil, Brittany Kurtinecz, Chloé Lee & XRE (Tech/VR Support), Jane Stein & Sam Horvath (Photography), Clinton Corbett (Poster), Jeff Nash (Lighting), Amelia Jackson & Chip Hamlett (Operations), Fiona Bulle, Matt Gray & Ryan Blackwood (Videography), Meg Lupardo (Wardrobe Assistance)

“**Thrilling**”



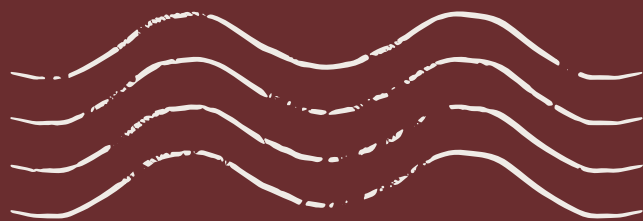
~NY Herald Tribute

“ a Roller

coaster

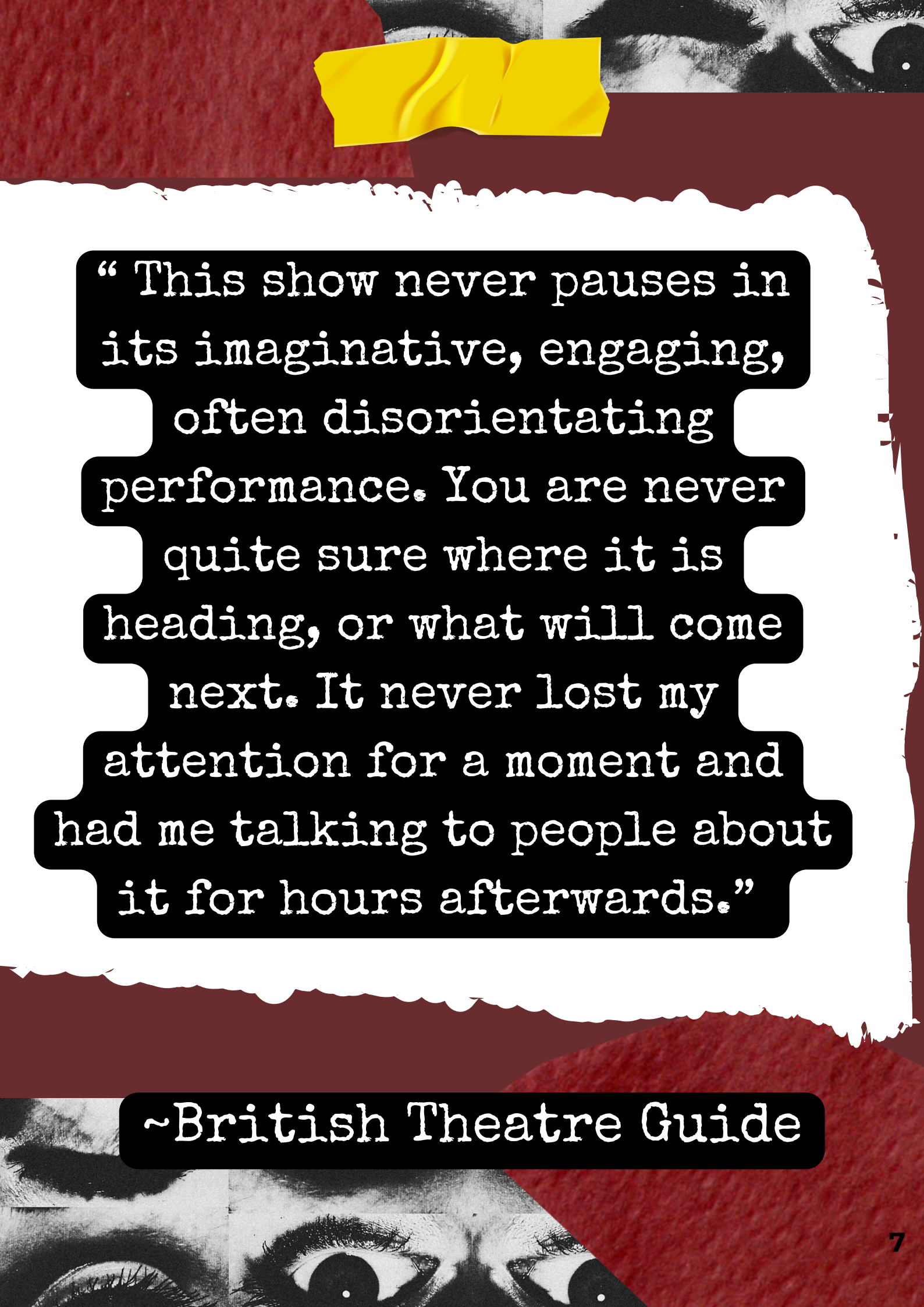
OF

EMOTIONS



”

~Fringe Review



“ This show never pauses in its imaginative, engaging, often disorientating performance. You are never quite sure where it is heading, or what will come next. It never lost my attention for a moment and had me talking to people about it for hours afterwards.”

~British Theatre Guide

PROJECT PRESENTATION

REVIEWS

★★★★

'This show never pauses in its imaginative, engaging, often disorientating performance... It never lost my attention for a moment and had me talking to people about it for hours afterwards.'

BRITISH THEATRE GUIDE

'Brilliant'

SARASOTA 98.9FM

'Thrilling'

HERALD-TRIBUNE

'A Roller Coaster of emotions! HIGHLY RECOMMENDED'

FRINGE REVIEW

'Clara's stunning performance is magical and unforgettable'

HI!DRAMA REVIEWS

'This multiplicity is Francesca's way of encompassing the breadth of the real Jenny's character.'

A YOUNG(ISH) PERSPECTIVE

'... Those who give it a chance will experience a highly entertaining performance, delivered by a fabulous actor. Existentialist, dark, funny, unusual and memorable!'

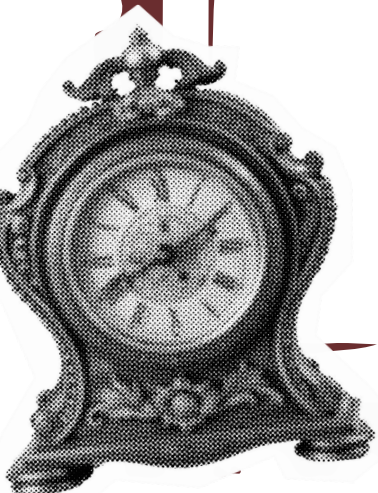
Dora Voros

'A masterpiece on so many levels'

Dorothy Black

'Treat yourself to this show... to FEEL something, and then be compelled to think as fast and deep as you can about those feelings'

Michael Duffin



PROJECT PRESENTATION

CREDITS & AWARDS

DIRECTOR Guy Masterson

WRITER Clara Francesca

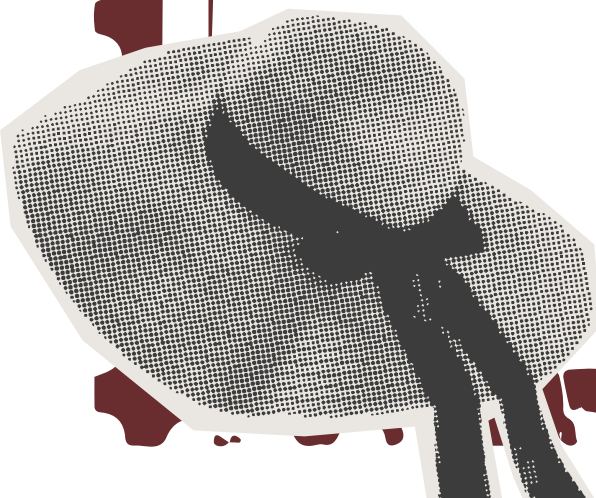
PERFORMER Clara Francesca

PRODUCTION MANAGER Samantha Hafey

WITH THE SUPPORT OF J Productions, Milan



Clara is a Dame Joan Sutherland Fund USA Recipient for Excellence in Performance, Winner of Best Actress at the Australian Arts Centre Stage Solo Show Award and Winner of the Federal USA-Austrian Assistance Award



PROJECT PRESENTATION

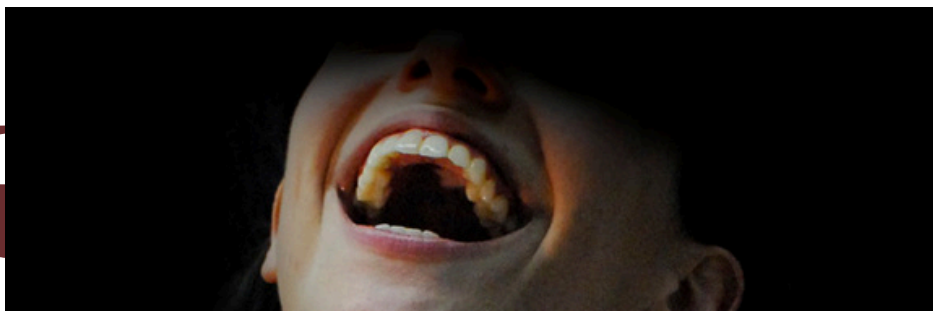
COMPANY

CLARA FRANCESCA: Writer, Performer

Clara is a multi-award winning creative. Her sold-out shows at 59E59 preceded her Edinburgh Fringe Tour. Clara is a proud alumnus of Anne Bogart's SITI Company's Inaugural Conservatory, with work ranging from traditional acting to poetic immersive avant-garde. Theatrical works include: Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Making Marx), Metamorphosis (KafkaTech), 43 Stages of Grief (The Tank), The Brick Theater (Macbeth, Hamlet, Three Sisters), Live Arts The Phoenix Theatre (Skin of Our Teeth, Wind In The Willows), NYC's Hayden Planetarium (MarsBand), La Mama (The Well), and Firenze Cinema la Compagnia (Speaking Dante: The Divine Comedy in 24 hours). Clara's selected television credits include: "FBI" (CBS) opposite Jeremy Sisto, and "New Amsterdam" (NBC) opposite Ryan Eggold. Film credits include supporting roles playing Lance Henriksen's daughter in "Reklaw", as well as co-starring in award-winning "Johnny Ghost".
www.clarafrancesca.com

GUY MASTERSON: Director

Director Guy is a multi-award winning theatre producer, actor and writer and has directed 50+ productions over a 35-year career including in London's West End and on Broadway. He won an Olivier Award for his production of Morecambe in 2010. He has presented over 150 productions at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival over 30 consecutive years since 1994 and many of its most celebrated hits including 12 Angry Men, and The Odd Couple (both starring Bill Bailey) Currently he is directing The Marilyn Conspiracy in London. In 2023 he co-directed the multi-award winning The Marvellous Elephant Man - The Musical in Australia and 'The Jaws Play' - The Shark Is Broken - in the West End (Olivier Award nominated for Best New Comedy), Toronto, and Broadway. His theatrical commitments have largely kept him out of mainstream film and television, however, he made the obligatory appearance on Casualty (Christmas Special 2004) and has been The Franziskaner Monk - the face of the premium German Weissbier - since 2007! His passion is to bring great new ideas to life and fresh talent to the stage. He is married to Brigitta and father to Indigo and Tallulah.
<https://www.theatretoursinternational.com/>



PROJECT PRESENTATION

COMPANY

SAMANTHA HAFEY: Production Manager

Samantha Hafey emerges as a versatile international multi-disciplinary, weaving her mastery across various crafts including producing, direction, writing, composition, creative direction, costume design, and now, in her inaugural foray, all things production management. She is the founder of eco feminist production company Wild Tongues, and serves on the board of San Diego NFP 'The Music Company'. Committed to lifelong learning, Samantha holds dual degrees from Monash University in Theatre and Performativity (BA) and Popular Voice (BMUS in part at NYU), earning the prestigious John Monash CTP Prize for Academic Excellence. Currently, she is expanding her expertise through a Global Award Scholarship at the Atlantic Acting Conservatory in New York City. Samantha enthusiastically embraces fringe festivals as vibrant platforms for innovative and avant-garde art. She has participated in both the Melbourne and Adelaide Fringe too many times to mention and with numerous collaborators. Notably, Samantha received a weekly award for best musical performance in her self-produced show, inspired by the spirit of blues legend Janis Joplin. She looks forward to immersing herself in the energy of Edinburgh Fringe, supporting a work and creative she's passionate about! <https://wild-tongues-productions.jimdosite.com/>

JULIA HOLDEN: Producer

Julia Holden is a theatre producer and founding artistic director of J. Productions Milan, specializing in hosting and producing top quality English-language theatre in Milan and throughout Italy. She is a partner in one of Italy's top IP law firms, Trevisan & Cuonzo, based in Milan, Rome, Parma and Bari. Since 2013, she has collaborated closely with award-winning British playwright Justin Butcher, Olivier-award winning director and actor Guy Masterson Mastroianni, renowned actor Rupert Mason and many other renowned artists from the UK and Italy to bring a diverse and original programme of English-language theatre to Milan.

CONTRIBUTING CREATIVES

Voice overs by Clara Francesca

Projection Art & Design by Alexis Kandra

Music courtesy of She's Excited! and inspiration from Sophie Traub

Sound support from Kodi Lynn Milburn

Photography by Jane Stein, Alexis Kandra, Melissa Segal and Sam Horvath

Continuing producing support by Clara Francesca Inc, Theatre Tours International, Wild Tongues, and James Simon

PROJECT PRESENTATION

TECHNICAL

The show is highly portable and can be set up in a variety of venues and spaces, inside or out. A minimum, clear stage area of 4 square meters is suggested. The set consists of a chair, stool, microphone and microphone stand. In a controlled theatre environment simple lighting switches between certain states. An annotated script with full LX, VX and SFX is provided in digital and hard copy. Sound design in QLab comes pre-installed on a laptop also provided by the company. All cues can be run by a single, competent, in-house stage manager or, if available, by two technicians operating sound and lights respectively. If required we can provide our own tech/stage manager. Outside of a theatre setting consideration will be given for page readings where professional sound and lighting systems are not available.

CAST: 1 performer

TECHNICIANS: 1 or 2 persons for sound and lights

RUN TIME: 60 minutes

SPACE: MINIMUM SIZE 4.9m wide by 2.4m

SET UP / TECH TIME: 60 - 120 minutes

TAKE DOWN TIME: 15 minutes

LIGHTING: General cover of alternating cold and warm lights, a single spot for opening and closing scenes, a light flash for one scene. Potential for projector.

SOUND: A minimum 80 db sound system with a mixer, laptop connection and working microphone with a lead.

SET DESIGN: An empty space with a single chair, stool microphone, microphone stand, grid to hang rope and clamps.

PROJECT PRESENTATION

LINKS

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/1064549092>

WEBSITE: www.clarafrancesca.com/tours/
www.theatretoursinternational.com/CurrentShows/MM.html

INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/clar_esca/
<https://www.instagram.com/wildtonguesproductions/>

J PRODUCTIONS WEBSITE: <https://www.jproductions.it/>

WRITER WEBSITE: <https://www.clarafrancesca.com/actor/>

DIRECTOR WEBSITE:

<https://www.theatretoursinternational.com/GuyMasterson/GuyMasterson.html>

MAKING MARX FEATURED ON:

<https://ayoungishperspective.co.uk/2024/12/26/feature-discussing-making-marx-with-clara-francesca/>

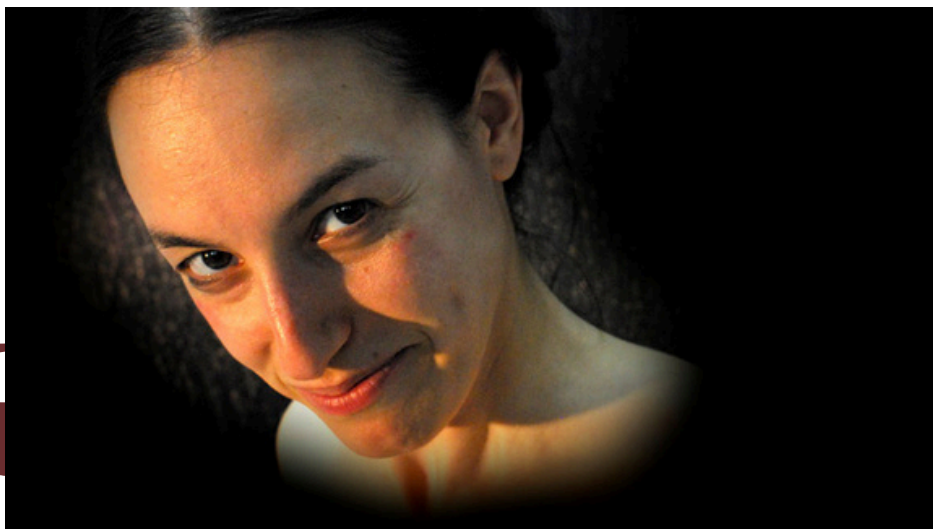
<https://getyourcoatson.com/2024/07/03/edfringe-talk-making-marx/>

<https://fringereview.co.uk/review/edinburgh-fringe/2024/making-marx/>

<https://www.britishtheatreguide.info/reviews/making-marx-assembly-rooms-23582>

PHOTOS

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/159551543@N06/albums/72157709770165117/with/48332171786>



PROJECT PRESENTATION

CONTACT

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