



Ada/Ava by Manual Cinema

Underbelly Potterow (Topside), 22 Potterow, Edinburgh, EH8 9BL

Wednesday 3rd – Monday 29th August 2016 (not 16th), 16:00

In their UK debut, presented with Underbelly Productions, Chicago-based Manual Cinema uses overhead projectors, actors, live music and hundreds of shadow puppets to tell a story of the fantastic and supernatural, exploring mourning, melancholy and self. *Ada/Ava* was recently nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatrical Experience.

Bereaved of her twin sister Ava, septuagenarian Ada solitarily marks time in the patterns of a life built for two. A traveling carnival and a trip to a mirror maze plunge her into a journey across the thresholds of life and death.

Director Drew Dir comments, *This is a psychological thriller along the lines of Hitchcock's Vertigo, but it was inspired by the personal experience of witnessing my grandfather's mourning process after my grandmother's death, and seeing how his grief was expressed in small acts of daily routine. We've toured this show from New York to Tehran and we're excited to finally bring it to the UK and the Edinburgh Fringe!*

Nearly three hundred handmade shadow puppets are manipulated on old school overhead projectors to create a live animated film. The projections in *Ada/Ava* are supported by an original musical score that's performed by a live ensemble of musicians. In making a story about identical twins, no dialogue was necessary as so much of the communication happens through shadow. Part ghost story, part suspense thriller, *Ada/Ava* is a very personal portrait of two characters.

This Chicago troupe is conjuring phantasms to die for in an unclassifiable story of spectral beauty called Ada/Ava. And its creators allow their audience to see exactly how they're doing what they're doing, which is nothing less than turning substance into shadow and shadow into substance (New York Times).

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Ada/Ava</i> by Manual Cinema
Performance Dates	Wednesday 3 rd – Monday 29 th August (not 16 th), 16:00
Running time	60 minutes
Location	Underbelly Potterow (Topside), 22 Potterow, Edinburgh, EH8 9BL
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk Previews: £7 Normal: £12 (£11) Weekend: £13 (£12)
Twitter	@ManualCinema, #AdaAva, @FollowTheCow
Trailer	https://vimeo.com/126791727
Notes	Ages 8+
Director	Drew Dir
Sound Design/Original Score	Kyle Vegter, Ben Kauffman
Designed by	Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Julia Miller
Puppeteering by	Lizi Breit (Ava), Sam Deutsch, Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Julia Miller (Ada)
Music performed by	Maren Celest (vocals and clarinet), Alexander Ellsworth (cello, keyboards), Michael Hilger (guitar, synthesizer, vocals)
Live Sound Effects by	Maren Celest
Sound Engineer	Mike Usery

About Manual Cinema

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.

About Underbelly

Underbelly is a UK based, live entertainment company. Their events and festivals division operates one of the largest operations at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe selling, in 2015, 215,000 tickets for over 140 shows over 25 days. 2016 marks the eighth year of Udderbelly Festival at Southbank Centre and the fifth year of London Wonderground at Southbank Centre. Elsewhere Underbelly also produces Edinburgh's Christmas and 2015 saw the first Udderbelly Festival in Hong Kong. Underbelly also produce West End Live in Trafalgar Square, and Pride in London, for Westminster City Council and the Society of London Theatre, and produced the 2015 Rugby World Cup fanzone in Richmond. Through their Underbelly Productions arm they produce and promote live shows in London, throughout the UK and on tour internationally. In 2015 Underbelly sold over 1.1 million tickets to their various events.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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