



**A piece about play, joy, and communication. A piece about dementia.**

*Directed by Roberto Salomon*

*Performed by Eric Bass, Ines Zeller Bass, Kirk Murphy*

*Music by Paul Dedell*

*Video by Michel Moyse*

*Lighting by Sabrina Hamilton*

*Puppets by Coni Richards, Ines Zeller Bass, Jana Zeller*

*Stories created by*

*The Residents of Pine Heights at  
Brattleboro Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation  
using Timeslips, (a collective creative story telling model  
developed by Anne Basting)*

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[www.sandglasstheater.org](http://www.sandglasstheater.org)

From playful story circles to dark private terror...

From lyrical inner visions to demanding confrontations...

From the reflections of caregivers to the fragmented memories of residents of care facilities...

*D-Generation* evokes a complex world of people living with dementia.

***D-Generation: An Exaltation of Larks*** is a full-length theater piece based on stories written collaboratively by groups of people with late-stage dementia. The work is performed by three puppeteers (the caregivers) and five puppets (the residents of a care-facility). Set to a compelling original score and striking animated video segments, *D-Generation* takes us into a world that is all too much a part of our lives.

*D-Generation* explores the rich creative potential and ability to communicate that exists in people with late-stage dementia. Their words, their images, and their creative imaginations, yield work that is poetic, humorous, and quite mysterious. From these stories, Sandglass Theater forms scenes of the inner life of the characters, and creates a piece that reflects both the stigma and the acceptance, the despair and the joy, that is equally present and possible, in both the person with dementia and in their caregivers and family members.

The collected stories, which are associative and non-linear, were gathered by Sandglass Theater's performers during 20 visits to care facilities, during which circles of people with dementia were guided through a collective story-making method called Timeslips. These stories reveal a humor, and playfulness, as well as the dark reality of the disease. They stand on their own as dramatic material from a remarkable source. These stories, combined with the compelling process of writing them, form the inspiration for *D-Generation*.

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***The idea of sensitively portraying Alzheimer's patients with puppets proved inspired. Sandglass has developed some superbly realized marionettes.***

-Thomas Garvey  
The Hub Review - Boston



*D-Generation: An Exaltation of Larks* is  
a production of Sandglass Theater, funded in part by:

**The New England Foundation for the Arts National Theater Project  
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*Sandglass Theater is an internationally acclaimed ensemble theater company specializing in combining puppets with music, actors and visual imagery. Since 1982, Sandglass has toured its broad repertoire of award winning pieces to over 24 countries, performing in theaters, festivals and cultural institutions. Sandglass also performs and teaches in its own 60-seat renovated barn theater in Putney, Vermont. Sandglass Theater is associated with the Sandglass Center for Puppetry and Theater Research, a not-for-profit organization.*

## Company Member Bios:

**Roberto Salomon, Director** Since 2003, Roberto Salomon has directed the Teatro Luis Poma, the first privately owned theater functioning year-round in his native El Salvador. In Geneva, Switzerland, he has been directing and teaching theater for the past 25 years. This is his third production with Sandglass Theater.

**Eric Bass, Performer** Co-Founding Artistic Director of Sandglass, has worked for thirty years as a director, playwright, performer and mask and puppet maker. In 1982, Mr. Bass founded Sandglass Theater in Munich, Germany, with his wife, Ines Zeller Bass. As a director, Mr. Bass has worked in America, Australia, Poland, and Finland, as well as the United States. In 1991, Mr. Bass was awarded the Figurentheater Prize of the City of Erlangen, Germany for his contributions to the field of puppet theater. He directed *The Story of the Dog*, a collaborative piece between Sandglass Theater and Sovanna Phum Theater in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which toured Cambodia in 2005 and premiered in the US in the Fall 2006. He served for five years on the board of the Network of Ensemble Theaters. In 2010, Eric received the Vermont Governors Award for Excellence in the Arts.

**Ines Zeller Bass, Performer** Co-Founding Artistic Director of Sandglass has been performing with puppets since 1968, when she became a member of the Munich marionette theater, Kleines Spiel. In 1978, she created her children's hand puppet theater, Punsch, which has toured Europe and America. In 1982, Ines co-founded Sandglass Theater with husband Eric in Germany and moved the theater to Vermont in the mid-1980s. Ines is the Director of Sandglass Theater's children's programs, collaborates with Eric on all of the theater's programming, works with local school children, and directs workshops and residencies for puppetry students. She is a UNIMA citation winner and in 2010, received the Vermont Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

**Kirk Murphy, Performer** has been both puppeteer and administrator with Sandglass since 2006, when he joined Sandglass Theater's collaboration with Cambodian Shadow puppet theater Sovanna Phum. He has also performed in Amanda Maddock's *Mrs Wright's Escape*, *Company of Strangers' Styles Under Sky*, and has developed a small repertoire of short pieces. He is a certified facilitator of *TimeSlips* (a creative storytelling method designed to be used with people with dementia and their caregivers), and has been a part of the D-Generation project since its earliest stages.

**Coni Richards, Puppet Builder** is a sculptor and photographer, living in Southern Vermont. She has been involved in the D-Generation project since 2011. She crafted the faces and hands of the five puppet characters.

**Sabrina Hamilton, Lighting Designer** is the Artistic Director of the Ko Festival of Performance where she also serves as resident designer, She has toured with Sandglass Theater throughout Vermont and to Cedar Rapids, Minneapolis, New Orleans and northern Quebec, She is currently serving her second term is on the Board of Directors of the Network of Ensemble Theaters.

**Paul Dedell, Composer** has written several scores for Sandglass Theater including *Conference of the Birds* and *One Way Street*. In addition he has written several large choral works, *Come Life, Shaker Life and Divine Chemistry* premiered by the Brattleboro Concert Choir as well as numerous musical theater scores, songs, anthems, and instrumental pieces. He is most often found at the Hilltop Montessori School in Brattleboro, Vermont, where he is the director of the adolescent program, teaches humanities, and enjoys writing and performing music with his students.

**Michel Moyse, Filmmaker** has worked as a free-lance Sound Designer in feature films with such directors as Woody Allen, Brian DiPalma, Jonathan Demme, George Roy Hill, and as a film editor for Cappy Productions, NYC. He was co-founder and Vice President of Domilin Films, Inc., a New York based film acquisition and development company. Presently, Moyse is founder/co-director of the Center for Digital Art, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to providing resources and promoting filmmaking, animation, and video art in Southern Vermont.

**The Residents of Pine Heights at Brattleboro and Holton Home**, creators of the stories we use in the piece and the inspiration for the direction this project has gone.

**“ It is so rare anymore that I see theater that engages me, has me leaning forward, leaning into the event. Sandglass did that . . . and more. It’s a beautiful piece. ”**

-Scott T. Cummings, Chair  
Theatre Department, Boston College

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