



sandglass theater

Presents

When I Put On Your Glove

A PIECE ABOUT BELONGING, MEMORY, AND INTERGENERATIONAL LOVE

"Shoshana's enactment of her inheritance is technically and artistically assured, a faithful replica that honors the original while placing the young performer's own creative stamp on it. The show as a whole is a kind of coming-of-age, as the daughter comes into her own as an artist and as the father, rather than simply retiring the show and the handmade, love-made puppets, passes his glove to the next generation."

*- Chris Rohmann
The Valley Advocate*



About The Show

When I Put On Your Glove is a puppetry, dance and spoken word piece that explores a daughter's relationship to her father's work building upon a premise that puppets are containers of memory. In it, a daughter explores what it means for her to slip into her father's art – and not just the form, but the actual pieces. This work addresses universal questions of belonging, childhood, fear of loss, death and the complicated nature of navigating generational artistic legacy.

Supported in part by the Vermont Arts Council, *When I Put On Your Glove* is an engagement with what legacy means in the field of puppetry, and how an art form endures, and transforms as it is handed to the next generation. *When I Put On Your Glove* is about the space in which the voice of the past meets the voice of the present, and is sung into the future.



Creative Team

Performer & Creator:

Shoshana Bass

Creator of the Original Autumn Portraits:

Eric Bass

Director:

Gerard Stropnicki

Choreographer:

Alison Mott

Sound Designer:

Maria Pugnetti

Music:

GlassDuo

Additional Design & Construction:

Ines Zeller Bass



History, Inspiration, and Legacy

In 2015, artist Shoshana Bass experienced an unimaginable fall from the trapeze. Not only did the fall result in the immediate end of her circus career, but it significantly limited her movement, which had been her trusted means of expression her whole artistic life.

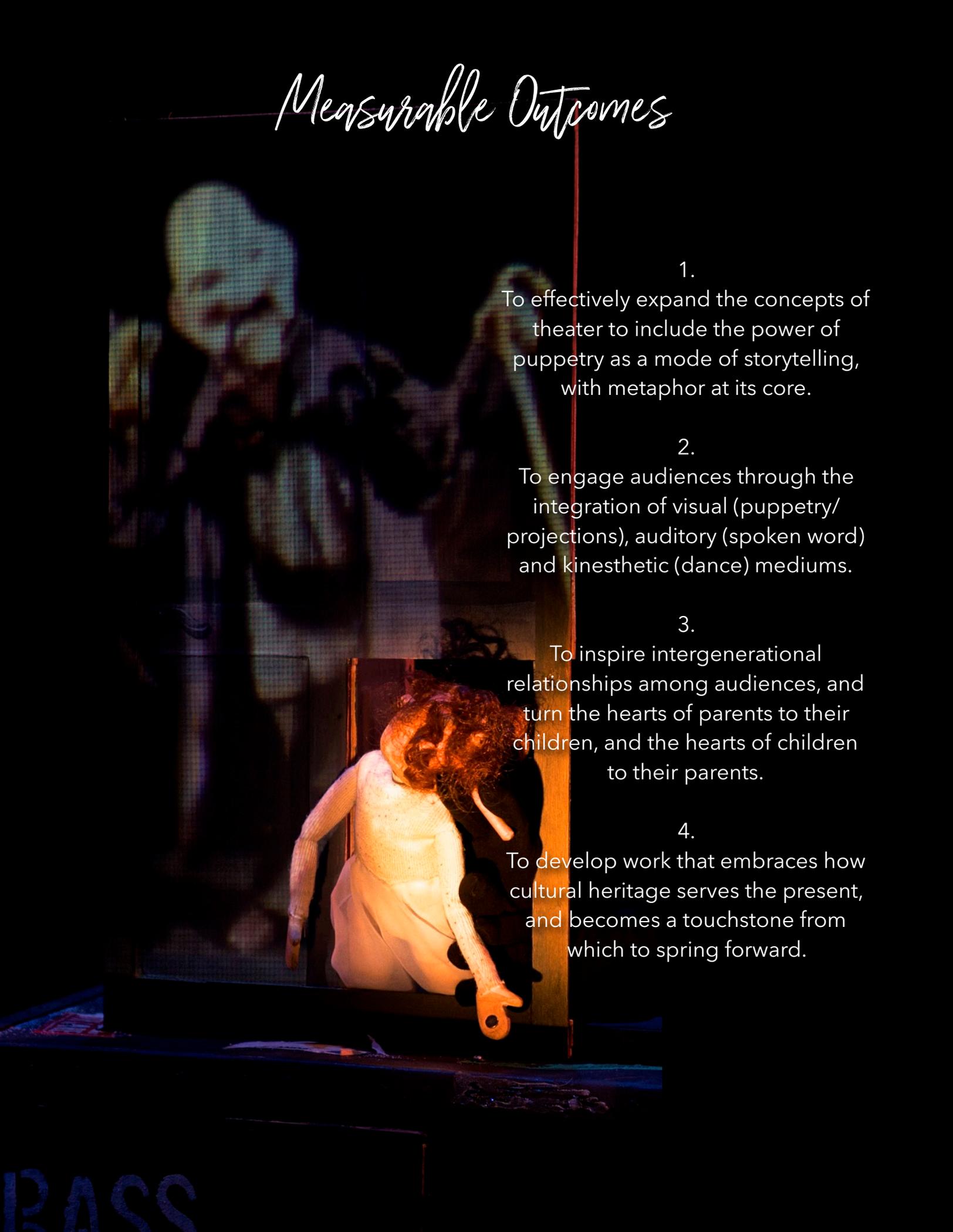
While struggling with questions of identity in the face of physical inability, Shoshana's father, Eric Bass, decided to teach her *Autumn Portraits*, his signature puppet vignettes. The pieces deal with the themes of identity, loss, mortality, and surrender and they became the framework for Shoshana's newest work, *When I Put On Your Glove*.

In this new context, the original *Portraits* became answers to moments of spiritual crisis, and are tied together by Shoshana's own reflections, questions and memories, spoken and danced. Lifetimes of memory are contained in these puppets: Shoshana's, her father's, and countless others who have met these evocative characters. The show layers Shoshana's own journey of recovery with these memories. *When I Put On Your Glove* honors the art of puppetry and it's legacy, as well as the capacity for truth, love, and transformation that puppets embody. The show layers Shoshana's own journey of recovery with the memories of her childhood, and her relationship to her father and his art. *When I Put On Your Glove* speaks honors the form of puppetry and it's legacy, as well as the puppets capacity for truth, love, and transformation.

The passing of these puppets into new hands marks a pivotal moment of generational transition for Sandglass Theater. It is an engagement with what legacy means in the field of puppetry, and how an art form endures, and transforms as it is handed to the next generation.



Measurable Outcomes



1.

To effectively expand the concepts of theater to include the power of puppetry as a mode of storytelling, with metaphor at its core.

2.

To engage audiences through the integration of visual (puppetry/projections), auditory (spoken word) and kinesthetic (dance) mediums.

3.

To inspire intergenerational relationships among audiences, and turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents.

4.

To develop work that embraces how cultural heritage serves the present, and becomes a touchstone from which to spring forward.

BASS

Audience



When I Put On Your Glove exemplifies the use of puppetry, and physicality as a means of exploring memoir for audience, and workshop participants. The performance can find relevancy in theater, puppetry and dance communities, and other cultural institutions. A performance residency aims to yield an inspiring and provocative experience for younger generations as well as adults. The work is supported by workshops and dialogues that further contextualize the content of the piece. The show is ideal for an audience between of 200 and 400, and can be performed in English, German, French (as of 2019) or Spanish (as of 2020). While some forms of puppetry and dance are intended for audiences of all ages, *When I Put On Your Glove* deeply analyzes mature subject matter, and is not appropriate for all viewers.

Outreach Strategy

OBJECTIVES:

1. To encourage inter-generational dialogue and interdisciplinary approaches to storytelling.
2. To deepen relationships within communities by encouraging exploration of personal testimony through workshops in puppet theater.

STRATEGY:

The *Autumn Portraits* pieces, that form the backbone of *When I Put On Your Glove*, contend with spiritual conundrums. The shoemaker, Reb Zedyl, negotiates with the angel of death; other pieces deal with our inner demons, the forces of human violence in the world, and human arrogance, among other themes. Shoshana is born of a German mother and Jewish father, and the relationship of these once opposing cultures has always been grappled with through the means of her parents' art. Organizations that might be interested in supporting a residency might include conflict transformation agencies, organizations that deal with personal development, and Jewish cultural centers.

WORKSHOPS:

Puppetry for Adults and Children: Participants learn to build and animate a customized rod puppet, and learn techniques for investigating storytelling in the classroom. The workshop focuses on breath and expression through the puppet, and navigates simple situations that can also be customized to a curriculum or subject of study.

Translating Memoir Into Performance: This workshop explores the potential of puppets to embody our own stories and the possibilities we have in giving these stories voice. The process looks at song, movement, and the actor/puppet relationship, to explore what makes the puppet a special medium for evoking testimony.

Interdisciplinary Art-Making: This workshop explores the work of the artist, and how one's voice can seamlessly cross disciplines. The workshop may span the fields of dance, circus, theater, and puppetry.



How often do we get to see a meta-puppet show, a puppet-piece about puppetry, a deep take on the creative processes of our art, and their origins in the robust inner child that has survived every puppeteer's actual childhood- a show that probes the making of this art in ways that look both backward and forward at the same time: the older puppeteer disappears behind his/her puppet table to make the puppet fully visible; the young puppeteer dances in the open space between the staging stations, portraying in her own body the journey she has willingly taken on. This gift from her dad which Shoshana has taken possession of as a way to tell her own story- Portrait of the Puppeteer as a Young Woman- I received it as a gift in turn from her to us, her fellow-puppeteers, exploring for us her initiation into what Julie Taymor calls "this rare and mysterious art."

-Wes Sanders

Founding Artistic Director (Retired)

Underground Railway Theater



Contact and Booking Info

For booking info, please contact:

Shoshana Bass

shoshana@sandglasstheater.org

For more project information, please visit:

www.sandglasstheater.org

For other inquiries, please contact:

Eric Bass

eric@sandglasstheater.org

