

MANUELA INFANTE *ESTADO VEGETAL*

Program
Notes

MCA
STAGE

Thu-Sun
May 9-12, 2019

Edlis Neeson
Theater

Eyes
Wide

Lights
Low

at MCA
Stage

Winter/Spring
2018-19

Estado Vegetal running
time is 90 minutes with no
intermission. Performed in
Spanish with English surtitles.

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FROM THE CURATOR

Manuela Infante describes *Estado Vegetal* (Vegetative state) as a “failed dialogue with nature,” an impossible world where human society and the complex agency of plants run parallel and intermingle. Here, what seems like a monologue is actually a swarm, a branching, layered network of voices. Using ingenious stage craft, sound design, storytelling, and slapstick, it nudges you, its human audience, to question the ways we communicate and think about ourselves in a world that does not completely belong to us.

Estado Vegetal asks us to alter our basic point of departure: humanity. What can theater become when plants are active participants? What is our capacity to perceive a story, a body onstage, a gesture, or an exclamation, if human beings are not at the center of our thinking?

We are deeply grateful to former MCA Curator of Performance Yolanda Cesta Cursach, for seeing the importance of this work and its potential to bring a wholly unique perspective and approach to Chicago theater audiences. I have heard audience members express, after seeing this performance, that they felt hesitant fascination and then delight and excitement, and I look forward to experiencing that progression with you, here on the MCA Stage!

Tara Aisha Willis
Associate Curator of Performance

Performance	Marcela Salinas
Direction	Manuela Infante
Writing	Manuela Infante and Marcela Salinas
Design	Rocío Hernández
Design and Props Construction	Ignacia Pizarro
Production	Carmina Infante
Surtitles	Alex Waghorn
Original Translation	Bruce Gibbons and British Council Chile
Revised Translation	Alexandra Ripp
Coproduction	Fundacion Teatro a Mil

SUPPORT FOR THIS
MCA STAGE PROJECT

This engagement of Manuela Infante is made possible through Southern Exposure: Performing Arts of Latin America, a program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.



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Chicago's True Independent Boutique Hotel

SUPPORT FOR THE
ARTISTS

Estado Vegetal was developed in residency at Baryshnikov Arts Center.



FUNDACIÓN
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ABOUT THE WORK

Estado Vegetal is a polyphonic, branching, exuberant, reiterative, divisible, and sessile monologue. Its protagonist is a woman, who is not an individual; she is a multitude, a swarm. This is not an animal play; it is a vegetable play.

Based on the revolutionary thinking of plant philosopher Michael Marder and plant neurobiologist Stefano Mancuso, the exploration consists of probing the ways in which new concepts such as plant intelligence, vegetative soul, or plant communication can transform creative practice.

If we accept that plants have other ways of thinking, feeling, communicating, other ways of being intelligent, a different form of consciousness and another notion of time, perhaps we can create a new understanding of how we, as human beings, think, feel, communicate, and remain aware. As Marder writes in *Plant-Thinking: A Philosophy of Vegetal Life*, "Recognizing a valid 'other' in plants is also beginning to recognize that vegetal other within us."

Estado Vegetal dances tirelessly around an impossible dialogue, that of humans and plants—a failed dialogue with nature that is, perhaps, our most innate monologue.

RELATED PROGRAMS

POST-SHOW TALK

Fri, May 10, immediately following the performance

Please stay after the performance for a brief conversation with the artists, moderated by Tara Aisha Willis, Associate Curator of Performance.

ACCESSIBLE EVENTS

ASL-INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE ♿

Fri, May 10, 7:30 pm

ASL-INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE WITH AUDIO DESCRIPTION AND RELAXED PERFORMANC ♿

Sun, May 12, 2 pm



ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

Select MCA Stage performances include open-captioning, sign-interpretation, listening devices, or are sensory relaxed.

Please call 312-397-4010 in advance to reserve seats and inclusive services.

OC



BUY TICKETS

ONLINE
mcachicago.org/stage

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312-397-4010

AT THE MCA
BOX OFFICE

220 E Chicago Ave
Chicago, IL 60611

Single performance tickets starting at \$30; \$10 for students, limited availability.

Groups of ten or more save 20% on full-price tickets; call 312-397-4010.

FREE MUSEUM ADMISSION WITH TICKET

Present your MCA Stage ticket stub to receive FREE ADMISSION* and 10% off your purchase at the MCA Store.** Or become an MCA Member and save 15%.

Ticket stub is valid during regular hours up to seven days after the performance date.

* Not accepted for special ticketed exhibitions.

** Regular price, in-stock merchandise only; no other discounts apply.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

MANUELA INFANTE (Writer/Director) is a Chilean theater playwright, director, scriptwriter, and musician. She has an MA in cultural analysis from the University of Amsterdam and is well known for offering scenic articulations of complex theoretical issues. With her group Teatro de Chile (2002-16) she wrote and directed work with the permanent support of the Chilean Funds for the Arts. Four of her plays have been published and translated into English and Italian. Her work has toured Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States. She has produced work at Hebbel am Ufer, Berlin; Festival de Modena, Italy; the Watermill Center, New York; Festivales de Buenos Aires (FIBA); Teatro a Mil International Festival Foundation (FITAM), Santiago; and TheaterWorks, Singapore. In 2015 she was the first woman to be appointed director of The National Festival for Dramaturgy (Muestra Nacional) in Chile.

ROCÍO HERNÁNDEZ (Designer) is a theater designer from the University of Chile. For the last ten years her creative practice has focused on theater set, lighting, and costume design. In addition, she has worked in creating audiovisuals for live entertainment. Her career in scenic design has comprised approximately forty theatrical productions for a diverse array of companies and directors both nationally and internationally. Hernández also has participated in several renowned international theater festivals.

MARCELA SALINAS (Writer/Performer) earned her degree in acting from the University of Chile in 2003. The same year she graduated, Salinas was selected to represent her university in the Aula Iberoamericana de Escuelas Superiores de Teatro, in Mexico City. She has had a fruitful career as an interpreter, and has been involved in more than fifty productions in Chile and around the world, working with well-known companies and directors. In 2009,

she directed *Dr. Mortis*, a cycle of radio theater works, which was nominated for Best Radio Contribution by the Asociación de Periodistas de Espectáculos (APES), Chile. Over the last decade, Salinas has served as a faculty member at Universidad Mayor, Universidad ARCIS, and Universidad de Chile, among other institutions and cultural centers. She specializes in vocal technique at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Since 2007, her research has focused on musical performance with her company Lágrimas, Celos y Dudas, where she currently develops creative material in various platforms such as theater, concerts, audiovisuals, and space interventions.

DATE NIGHT



Marisol Escobar. Photo: Herman Hiller.

Join us for dinner or drinks before or after the theater at Marisol, named one of the "hottest restaurants in Chicago" by Zagat and one of *Vogue's* "Six Chicago Restaurants You Should Know About Now." Call 312-799-3599 to make reservations.

MARISOL

RESTAURANT AND BAR
AT THE MCA

205 E PEARSON ST
CHICAGO, IL 60611

SEASON CALENDAR

2019 WINTER/SPRING

Jan 24-27	Mariano Pensotti <i>Arde brillante en los bosques de la noche (Burning bright in the forest of the night)</i>
Feb 7-10	Ingri Fiksdal and Jonas Corell Petersen <i>STATE</i>
Feb 11-13	Ingri Fiksdal <i>Diorama</i>
Mar 21-24	Annie Dorsen <i>The Great Outdoors</i>
Apr 18-21	Yan Duyvendak and Omar Ghayatt <i>Still in Paradise</i>
Apr 25-28	Yan Duyvendak and Roger Bernat <i>Please, Continue (Hamlet)</i>
May 2-5	Adrienne Truscott <i>THIS</i>
May 9-12	Manuela Infante <i>Estado Vegetal</i>

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Program notes
compiled by
Laura Paige Kyber

SUPPORT FOR MCA STAGE

Lead support for the 2018–19 season of MCA Stage is provided by Elizabeth A. Liebman.

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*Enact Chair
As of March 2019

MUSEUM OF
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ABOUT ENACT

MCA Stage is supported by Enact, a group of MCA donors dedicated to supporting the museum's renowned Stage programs.

Join today for opportunities to meet artists and gain behind-the-scenes access alongside MCA curators—all while providing vital support.

Circle Donor membership is required to join Enact. Enact donations begin at \$1,000 annually. For more information on benefits or to join, contact us at enact@mcachicago.org or 312-397-4044.

The MCA is a proud member of the Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District.

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ABOUT MCA STAGE

As an internationally renowned institution devoted to contemporary culture, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago presents the most thought-provoking visual art and performing arts of our time. MCA Stage is a vibrant series presenting theater, dance, and music by leading artists from the United States and around the world in the MCA's three-hundred-seat Edlis Neeson Theater.

MCA Stage's groundbreaking performances are an integral part of the MCA's artist-activated, audience-engaged programming. Along with the museum's exhibitions and educational initiatives, they encourage a broad and diverse community to experience and discuss the work and ideas of living artists.

PARKING

Validate your ticket at the coat check for \$12 parking in the MCA garage (220 E Chicago Ave) and the Bernardin garage (747 North Wabash). The \$12 parking is limited to six hours on the date of performance.

LOST AND FOUND

To inquire about a lost item, call the museum at 312-280-2660. Unclaimed articles are held for thirty days.

SEATING

Please switch off all noisemaking devices while you are in the theater.

Patrons are seated at the management's discretion. Food and open beverage containers are not allowed in the seating area.

REPRODUCTION

Unauthorized recording and reproduction of a performance are prohibited.

GENERAL INFORMATION

312-280-2660

BOX OFFICE

312-397-4010

VOLUNTEER FOR PERFORMANCES

312-397-4072

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