

FALL SEASON

Sep 19

Tanya Tagaq
Nanook of the North

Sep 27

Roscoe Mitchell
Trios

Oct 16-17

George Lewis,
Catherine Sullivan,
Sean Griffin
Afterword, an Opera

Oct 22-25

Niv Sheinfeld/Oren
Laor and Same
Planet Different World

Oct 27-28

Annie Dorsen
Spokaoke

Nov 6-8

Guillermo Calderón
Escuela (School)

Nov 12-14

Gisèle Vienne,
Dennis Cooper, and
Puppentheater Halle
*The Ventriloquists
Convention*

Dec 19-20

Tatsu Aoki/
Tsukasa Taiko
*Taiko Legacy 12
Reduction*

Museum of
Contemporary Art
Chicago

Nov 12–14, 2015

North American Premiere

Gisèle Vienne, Dennis Cooper, Puppentheater Halle *The Ventriloquists* Convention

Concept, direction, and set design	Gisèle Vienne
Text	Dennis Cooper, in collaboration with the performers
Light design	Patrick Riou
Music	KTL (Stephen O'Malley and Peter Rehberg)
Performed and created in collaboration with	Jonathan Capdevielle Kerstin Daley-Baradel Uta Gebert Vincent Göhre Puppentheater Halle: Nils Dreschke Sebastian Fortak Lars Frank Ines Heinrich-Frank Katharina Kummer.
Understudy (Chicago)	Jessica Kingsdale
Translation	Jean-René Etienne
Accessories, set design, and costumes	Gisèle Vienne, in collaboration with Angela Baumgart
Stage and set design assistant	Yana Zschiedrich
Stage assistant on tour	Anne Mousselet
Puppets conception	Gisèle Vienne
Puppets creation	Hagen Tilp

Makeup and wigs for Jonathan
Capdevielle

Mélanie Gerbeaux

Costume design for Kerstin
Daley-Baradel

José Enrique Oña Selfa

Ventriloquy workshop I

Marcus Geuss

Ventriloquy workshop II

Michel Déjenefte

Technical direction

Daniel Schreiner

Stage manager

Henryk Drownlok

Light manager

Arnaud Lavisce

Project manager in Halle, Germany

Katja Podzimski

Production and booking

DACM:
Anne-Lise Gobin
Alix Sarrade
Pauline Civard

Administration

Etienne Hunsinger

The Ventriloquists Convention is supported by the French-American Fund for Contemporary Theater (FACE), an initiative of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the US and the Institut Français, funded by the Florence Gould Foundation and the Catherine Pospelow Foundation for the Arts, with the special support of Institut Français, Région Alsace, Ville de Strasbourg, and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States.

Additional generous support is provided by the Goethe-Institut and the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The company thanks Laure Fernandez, Carena Schlewitt, Stefan Kaegi, Vent Haven Museum and Vent Haven Convention, Francesca Spinazzi, Zac Farley, Jean-Paul Vienne, and Dorothea Vienne-Pollak.

A production of Puppentheater Halle and DACM (Halle/Saale and Strasbourg).

A coproduction with Nanterre-Amandiers, centre dramatique national; Festival d'Automne à Paris; Les Spectacles Vivants, Centre Pompidou; Centre Dramatique National Orléans/Loiret/Centre; Le TJP, Centre Dramatique National d'Alsace Strasbourg; Le Maillon, Théâtre de Strasbourg-Scène européenne; La Bâtie Festival de Genève; Internationales Sommerfestival, Kampnagel, Hamburg; Kaserne Basel; Le Parvis, Scène nationale de Tarbes-Pyrénées; Theater Freiburg; Bonlieu, Scène nationale d'Annecy; hTh CDN de Montpellier; Fidena Festival, Bochum.

With the support of Kulturstiftung des Bundes; Pro Halle e.V.; Saalesparkasse; Bureau du théâtre et de la danse-Institut Français d'Allemagne; FachausschussTanz und Theater Basel-Stadt / Basel-Landschaft; Institut Français in the frame of Théâtre Export; Cultural Services of the French Embassy, New York; Bureau Théâtre et Danse-Institut Français d'Allemagne and Association Beaumarchais-SACD Paris in the frame of the help program in production.

The company is supported by le Ministère de la culture et de la communication-DRAC Alsace, la Région Alsace and la Ville de Strasbourg. The company is supported by Institut Français for international touring.

Gisèle Vienne is associate artist at the theater Nanterre-Amandiers from 2014 and at Parvis, Scène Nationale de Tarbes-Pyrénées since 2012.



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ARTISTS UP CLOSE

MCA Stage's series of artist-centered talks, workshops, and open studios engages the public with the artists in intimate settings and provides a closer look at the creative process. Join us today.

Sat, Nov 14
MCA Talk

Following the performance, audience members are invited to stay for a moderated Q & A with Gisèle Vienne and Lars Frank.

Thanks to the students and the faculty coordinators of the Theater Foundations Course (TFC), housed in Columbia College Chicago Theatre Department. With an international focus, TFC develops programs that explore the individual as creator within the context of original work and devised performance.

Earlier this week, Gisèle Vienne and puppeteers of Ensemble Puppentheater Halle led a master class for undergraduate visual art students and theater professionals, hosted at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

GISÈLE VIENNE

is a Franco-Austrian artist, choreographer and director. Born in 1976, she has a degree in philosophy and studied at the puppeteering school Ecole Supérieure Nationale des Arts de la Marionnette. There she met Etienne Bideau-Rey, with whom she created her first shows.

She collaborates regularly with a number of artists, including the writers Dennis Cooper and Catherine Robbe-Grillet, the musicians Peter Rehberg and Stephen O'Malley, lighting designer Patrick Riou, and the actor Jonathan Capdevielle. Since 2004, she has choreographed and directed, in collaboration with the writer Dennis Cooper, *I Apologize* (2004) and *Une belle enfant blonde/A Young, Beautiful Blond Girl* (2005), *Kindertotenlieder* (2007) and *Jerk*, a radioplay in the framework of the "atelier de creation radiophonique" of France Culture (June 2007), the play *Jerk* (2008), *This is how you will disappear* (2010), *LAST SPRING: A Prequel* (2011), and *The Pyre* (2013). In 2009, she created *EternelleIdole* in collaboration with an ice skater and an actor, and rewrote *Showroomdummies* with Etienne Bideau-Rey. The same year she rewrote *Showroomdummies* a second time with Etienne Bideau-Rey, returning to rewrite it in 2013 for CCN-Ballet de Lorraine.



Group picture from Vent Haven Convention 2014
Photo: Estelle Hanania

Since 2005, Vienne's photographs and installations have been regularly exhibited.

With Dennis Cooper, Peter Rehberg, and Jonathan Capdevielle, Vienne published an audio book in French and English: *JERK/Through Their Tears* (published by DIS VOIR). She also published the book *40 PORTRAITS 2003-2008*, in collaboration with Dennis Cooper and Pierre Dourthe (published by P.O.L.). Her collaboration with the Puppentheater Halle is among her works in progress, which include an exhibition at the Centre d'Art Contemporain in Geneva that opened September 2015, a forthcoming exhibition at the FRAC Alsace for 2016, and an interpretation of *Blue Beard's Castle* by Béla Bartok for La Monnaie-Brussels for 2017. For further information, please visit g-v.fr.

DENNIS COOPER

is a novelist, poet, and critic based in Paris and Los Angeles. He has published ten novels, most recently *Zac's Haunted House* (a novel composed of animated gifs) in January 2015, and he recently completed a feature film, *Like Cattle Towards Glow*, which he created in collaboration with the artist Zac Farley. He is also a contributing editor of *Artforum* Magazine and the editor of the American publishing imprint Little House on the Bowery.

Since 2004, he has collaborated with Gisèle Vienne, writing the complete texts in *I Apologize* (2004), *Kindertotenlieder* (2007), *Jerk* (2008), *This is how you will disappear* (2010), *LAST SPRING: A Prequel* (2011), *The Pyre* (2013), *The Ventriloquists Convention*, and *Une enfant blonde*. His work *A Young Beautiful Blonde Girl* (2006) is a collaboration with Catherine Robbe-Grillet. For further information on his work, please visit denniscooper-theweaklings.blogspot.fr.

JONATHAN CAPDEVIELLE

was born in 1976 in Tarbes, France and lives in Paris. He studied drama in Tarbes and at the Ecole Supérieure Nationale des Arts de la Marionnette. He has performed in many productions, including Pierre Joseph's *Personnage à réactiver*, (1994); *Performance* (1999) with Claude Wamplery; Natacha de Pontcharra's *Mickey la Torche* (2000), directed by Lotfi Achour, Tunis; *Le Dispariteur*, Le groupe St Augustin, Monsieur

Villovitch, *Hamlet and Marseille Massacre* (atelier de création radiophonique, France Culture), directed by Yves-Noël Genod (2004–2010); and *Bodies in the cellar*, directed by Vincent Thomasset (2013). The debut of his original work, *Jonathan Covering*, for the 2007 Festival Tanz im August, Berlin, was followed by his solo *Adishatz/Adieu* (2009). Recent collaborations include *Popydog* at the Centre National de la Danse in Pantin (2011) with Marlène Saldana, and a commission by the Far° Festival (festival of arts vivants/living arts) for *Spring Rolle*, (2014) with performers Jean-Luc Verna and Marlène Saldana.

He has collaborated with Gisèle Vienne as performer in most of her shows, including: Jean Genet's *Splendid's* (2000), *Showroomdummies* (2001 and 2009 rewrite), *Stéréotypie* (2003), directed by Etienne Bideau-Rey and Gisèle Vienne, *I Apologize* (2004), *Une belle enfant blonde/A Young, Beautiful Blond Girl* (2005), *Kindertotenlieder* (2007), *Jerk, a radioplay* (2007), *Jerk* (2008), *Eternelle Idole* (2009), *This is how you will disappear* (2010), and *LAST SPRING: A Prequel* (2011), directed by Gisèle Vienne.

THE PUPPENTHEATER HALLE

was founded in 1954 and restructured in 1995 by Christoph Werner, the current managing director, as a group of eight permanent puppeteers and as part of the TheaterOper und Orchester GmbH Halle in what was formerly East Germany. The



Seth Walentowski at Vent Haven Convention 2014
Photo: Estelle Hanania

individual members have all trained at the theater school Hochschule für Schauspielkunst "Ernst Busch" in Berlin. Some of them are also directors, educators, and puppet makers. The Puppentheater Halle artists use literature or an idea as the start of a creation, which they develop through improvisation. Each work in their four-to-six productions

per season focuses on a specific theme and is often created as a coproduction with theaters or festivals, such as the Wiener Festwochen, Schauspielhaus-Köln, Staatstheater-Stuttgart, or Volksbühne-Berlin. Their 2009–10 collaboration with Joël Pommerat was supported by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (the cultural institution



The Ventriloquists Convention
Photo: Estelle Hanania

of the Federal State) with the Wanderlust fund.

The Puppentheater Halle creates adaptations of children's books written for kids between the ages five and twelve and literature for adults that are seen by more than 20,000 attendees each season. The ensemble has toured Canada and India and throughout Germany for festivals such as the Berlin Children's and Youth Theatre "Augenblick mal!" Their productions *Kannst du pfeifen Johanna* (*Can You Whistle, Johanna*) (1999) and *Die Schöne und das Biest* (*Beauty and the Beast*) (2002) won the Traumspiele Festival Award of

North-Rhine/Westphalia and were broadcast on the German television station ZDF. Much of the Puppentheater Halle work is interdisciplinary; their collaboration with the independent group Nico and the Navigators resulted in *Shakespeare Sonnette*. Their production *Konzert für eine Taube Seele*, directed by Christoph Werner, featured pianist Ragna Schirmer performing Maurice Ravel, was recorded by ARTE, and was broadcast in April 2014 for the sixtieth birthday of the Puppentheater Halle. For more information on the Puppentheater, visit buehnenhalle.de/puppentheater.

Jan 28-30
at MCA Stage

Toshiki Okada/chelfitsch



Photo: Asian Arts Theatre (Moon So Young)

God Bless Baseball

Tickets at mcachicago.org

The MCA's newest affinity group, **Enact**, gives longtime performance fans and newcomers alike the opportunity to meet artists, discuss ground-breaking directions with leading curators, and choose key performers to sponsor.

Join Enact, a group of MCA Circle Donors dedicated to supporting and learning more about the renowned programs on the MCA Stage. Membership in Enact enhances your MCA experience by offering you backstage access to artists and insider information about our programs and the current state of the field.

Each year, Enact members choose—through discussion and voting—one performance to sponsor, thereby increasing the impact MCA Stage programming has on the community.

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- An annual preview of the upcoming season
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- All benefits of Circle Donors

Enact dues: \$1,000 annually
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For more information, contact us at enact@mcachicago.org.

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THANK YOU

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Generous support for MCA Dance is provided by David Herro and Jay Franke. Additional generous support is provided by Caryn and King Harris, and Lois and Steve Eisen and the Eisen Family Foundation.

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220 East Chicago Avenue
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As of November 2015

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 MCA's three-hundred-seat Edlis Neeson Theater.

MCA Stage's groundbreaking performances are an integral part of MCA Chicago'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 East Chicago Avenue) or the Bernardin garage (747 North Wabash). Discounted 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 noise-making 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 is prohibited.

GENERAL INFORMATION

312-280-2660

BOX OFFICE

312-397-4010

VOLUNTEER FOR PERFORMANCES

312-397-4072

mcastage@mcachicago.org

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday: 10 am–8 pm

Wednesday–Sunday: 10 am–5 pm

Closed Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

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Program notes compiled
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