

YAN DUUVENDAK AND OMAR GHAYATT
STILL IN PARADISE

Program
Notes

MCA
STAGE

Thu-Sun
Apr 18-21, 2019

Edlis Neeson
Theater

Eyes
Wide

Lights
Low

at MICA
Stage

Winter/Spring
2018-19

Still in Paradise running
time is 120 minutes with no
intermission.

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FROM THE CURATOR

What is performance, if not an encounter between artist and audience? Yan Duyvendak and Omar Ghayatt go one step further: *Still in Paradise* starts with an encounter between two artists, and invites audiences to join them in questioning the role each of us plays when confronted with a global crisis, and the ways our experience of live theater might provide a lens for considering our complicity. In their takeover of our theater, the performers reveal that you, the spectator, resemble them—simultaneously an individual and part of a group. (After all, are the performers any more distinct from you than you are from the audience member sitting next to you?) Creating a series of formats for sharing perceptions, unexpected intimacies, and ideological beliefs based on experience and cliché alike, Duyvendak and Ghayatt reveal how each decision we make is both specific and general, personal and social. By asking for our mutual participation, *Still in Paradise* also asks about the big-picture stakes of that participation: unexpected agreement, discord, tension, relief, rejection, inclusion.

I am excited to see *Still in Paradise* and *Please, Continue (Hamlet)* in quick succession over two weeks, pushing all of us to reconsider how theatrical fictions and illusions emerge in the world beyond the theater's walls, and the reverse—how theater can be a space to encounter the uncomfortable repercussions of our otherwise familiar social worlds. Many thanks to former MCA Curator of Performance Yolanda Cesta Cursach, for drawing the connection between these two works, framing them together with the conviction that Duyvendak, Ghayatt, and Roger Bernat's mode of theater-making "constructs an ephemeral social architecture" because "theater is everywhere." We hope you'll join us again next week!

Tara Aisha Willis
Associate Curator of Performance

Creation and Performance	Yan Duyvendak and Omar Ghayatt
Translation and Performance	Samy Ebeid
Set Design	in collaboration with Sylvie Kleiber
Graphic Design	Nicholas Robel, B.u.L.b grafix
Management	Marine Magnin
International Development	Judith Martin—Ligne Directe
Production and Communication	Charlotte Terrapon
Stage Management	Eric Mutel
Production	Dreams Come True, Geneva
Coproduction	ARSENIC—Centre d'art scénique contemporain, Dampfzentrale Bern, Théâtre du Grü, La Bâtie-Festival de Genève

----- MCA TECHNICAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Sound Engineer	Sam Clapp
Lighting Supervisor	Mike Goebel
Stagehand	Lena Aubrey
Theater Technicians	Danny Drust Devonte Washington Megan Turnquist Lea Braynan

SUPPORT FOR THIS MCA STAGE PROJECT

Many thanks to Yolanda Cesta Cursach, and to Securitas and the MCA security team for their flexibility.



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SUPPORT FOR THE ARTISTS

Still in Paradise is supported by the Ville de Genève, République et Canton de Genève, Fonds municipal d'art contemporain (Geneva), Loterie Romande, Pro Helvetia (Cairo), Pro Helvetia (Zurich), Swiss Foundation of Culture (Zurich), Valiart Bern, Foundation Meyrinoise du Casino, Foundation Leenaards, CORODIS.



ABOUT THE WORK

WE

So here we are in our own cozy West, where things aren't going too well, some of our media declare, but we know it's worse elsewhere. We indulge in navel-gazing, find it intriguing, and don't want others to disturb our tranquility.

Yet now, some of our politicians declare, they are invading us with their beards, their dark eyes, powerful voices, and different ways—all potential terrorists.

How easy it is, taking advantage of the situation, to spread hate of others. How efficient it is, to make the Muslim the scapegoat for our society, and avoid facing inconsistencies.

How to stay away from these xenophobic thoughts? How to tell the forest from the trees? And how to manage not to hate, in a binary and Manichaean way, the Other?

—Yan Duyvendak and Omar Ghayatt



Above, left: Yan Duyvendak and Omar Ghayatt, *Still in Paradise*, Avignon, 2017. Photo: Agnes Mellon.

Left: Yan Duyvendak and Omar Ghayatt, *Still in Paradise*, Le Palais de la Porte Dorée, Paris, 2018. Photo © Cyril Zannettacci.

RELATED PROGRAMS

YAN DUYVENDAK AND ROGER BERNAT

Please, Continue (Hamlet)

Thu-Sat, Apr 25-27, 7:30 pm, and

Sun, Apr 28, 2 pm, 2019

Copresented by the MCA Stage and the
Chicago Humanities Festival

Tonight's performance is presented in tandem with *Please, Continue (Hamlet)*, another work cocreated by Yan Duyvendak, which examines the inherent theatricality of the courtroom. Both works blur the boundaries between performers and spectators, and may be experienced separately or together. For more information, and to purchase tickets, visit mcachicago.org.



ACCESSIBLE EVENTS

ASL-INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE 

Fri, Apr 19, 7:30 pm

ASL-INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE
WITH AUDIO DESCRIPTION AND RELAXED
PERFORMANCE 

Sun, Apr 21, 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.

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BUY TICKETS

ONLINE
mcachicago.org/stage

BY PHONE
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

YAN DUYVENDAK (CONCEPT AND PERFORMANCE) was born in the Netherlands, and lives between Geneva and Marseille. Trained at the Ecole Supérieure d'Art Visuel in Geneva, he has worked in contemporary performance and live art since 1995. Since then, he has produced a chain of creations and performances at venues including Fondation Cartier, Paris; EXIT performing arts festival, Helsinki; Art Unlimited Basel; Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid; Ménagerie de verre, Paris; Vooruit, Ghent; Festival d'Avignon, France; Theaterspektakel Zurich; TheaterFormen Festival, Hannover; CDN, Montreuil; Wiener Festwochen, Vienna; and Foreign Affairs, Berliner Festspielen, Germany. Over the course of the years, he has increasingly become a point of reference in Swiss and European art. His art underlines in particular how the overwhelming mass of televised, computer, and mental images, as well as our social codes and other rituals of society, thicken the curtain between ourselves and reality. Yet Duyvendak's work never fails to affirm human dignity and reveal the ways that our image-dominated society imperils our welfare. His latest creations, *Made in Paradise* (2008), cocreated with Omar Ghayatt and Nicole Borgeat; *Please, Continue (Hamlet)* (2011), cocreated with Roger Bernat; *Sound of Music* (2015), and *ACTIONS* (2017), cocreated with Nicolas Cilins and Nataly Sugnaux-Hernandez, are his most political works to date. Duyvendak's videos are included in numerous public and private collections, for instance the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lyon and the Museum der Moderne (MdM) in Salzburg. He received the Swiss Art Award in three consecutive years (2002, 2003, and 2004), the Namics Kunstpreis für Neue Medien in 2004, and the Network Kulturpreis in 2006. He has also been selected for several artist-in-residence programs, which have taken him to Cité des Arts in Paris, Atelier Schönhauser in Berlin, and Pro Helvetia's Swiss Artistic Studio in Cairo (2007, 2008, and 2009). In 2010 he received the most prestigious Swiss award for

contemporary art, the Meret Oppenheim Preis. From 2012 to 2017, Compagnie Yan Duyvendak received financial support from the City and Canton of Geneva, as well as from the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia.

OMAR GHAYATT (CONCEPT AND PERFORMANCE) was born in Cairo in 1976; in 1998 he received his BA in arts and education. An early interest in drama, combined with a strong sense for the visual, led him to develop his characteristic blend of performance art, visual theater, and scenography. In 2003 Ghayatt received the first state prize ever awarded in Egypt for performance art. The following years, he performed in various countries, including Bosnia, France, Korea, Poland, and Turkey. Concurrently with his travels, he organized a long-term project in Egypt, Sabeel Cairo, to promote performance art. In 2007, Ghayatt traveled to Bern as a resident artist of Pro Helvetia, and in March 2008, he started *Made in Paradise*, a project in collaboration with the Swiss artists Yan Duyvendak and Nicole Borgeat. The performance has been presented all over Europe, at festivals such as Theaterspektakel Zurich and Temps d'Image, Ferme du Buisson, Marne-la-Vallée, France. In 2009 Ghayatt received a master's degree in scenography from the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), and in 2010 the city of Bern awarded him a grant for a studio in the PROGR center for culture production.

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

MCA
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SUPPORT FOR MCA STAGE

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

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Anne L. Kaplan
Anne and John Kern
D. Elizabeth Price and
Lou Yecies

*Enact Chair
As of March 2019

MUSEUM OF
CONTEMPORARY ART
CHICAGO

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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