

YAN DUYPENDAK AND ROGER BERNAT
PLEASE, CONTINUE (HAMLET)

Program
Notes

MCA
STAGE

Thu-Sun
Apr 25-28, 2019

Edlis Neeson
Theater

Eyes
Wide

Lights
Low

at MICA
Stage

Winter/Spring
2018-19

Please, Continue (Hamlet)
running time varies, up to
3 hours with one 20-minute
break.

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FROM THE CURATOR

Please, Continue (Hamlet) is a mock trial “in a new form,” as our Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) copresenters have called it: each night an actual Chicago judge, prosecutor, and defense lawyer tackle the case; the roles of Hamlet, Gertrude, and Ophelia must be relived anew by the actors; and you, as a member of the audience, might be selected to serve on the jury. And each night, a verdict is pronounced. Yan Duyvendak and Roger Bernat’s carefully constructed premise—part real-world, real-time trial, part classic drama—reveals something of theater’s fictions inherent in the courtroom, and the powerful consequences of each word and action, as only the stage can illuminate them. I can’t think of a better context than CHF’s current theme—Power—to frame a show like this, in the United States for the first time, in times like these. What happens when you ask an audience of theatergoers to pass judgement on one another? And to do so in the complicated context of Chicago’s legal, racial, class, and geographic inequities? What does justice look and feel like here, now?

Seeing *Please, Continue (Hamlet)* on the MCA Stage just a week after Duyvendak’s collaboration with Omar Ghayatt, *Still in Paradise*, has been a profound lesson in how theater can create encounters with the uncomfortable repercussions of our otherwise familiar social worlds. Many thanks to former MCA Curator of Performance Yolanda Cesta Cursach, for bringing these two works together with the conviction that Duyvendak, Bernat, and Ghayatt’s way of making theater “constructs an ephemeral social architecture” because “theater is everywhere.” And much gratitude to Alison Cuddy and all her colleagues at the Chicago Humanities Festival for their curiosity and generosity in taking the plunge with us!

Tara Aisha Willis
Associate Curator of Performance

In lieu of honorariums for the legal professionals, a donation will be made in their name to Cabrini Green Legal Aid.

PERFORMERS

Creation	Yan Duyvendak and Roger Bernat
Hamlet	Edgar Miguel Sanchez
Gertrude	Lily Mojekwu
Ophelia	Krystal Ortiz
With	local attorneys and judges

LEGAL TEAM CASTING SCHEDULE

Thu, Apr 25	Judge Joan Lefkow, Kim Foxx and Loukas Kalliantasis (Prosecution), Dena Singer (Defense), Chris Knight (Court Clerk), James Filkins (Medical Examiner)
Fri, Apr 26	Judge Anna Helen Demacopoulos, Daniel J. Collins (Prosecution), Marc Kadish and Patricia C. Bobb (Defense), Julian Dibbell (Court Clerk), Eric Eason (Medical Examiner)
Sat, Apr 27	Judge John Robert Blakey, Aileen Bhandari (Prosecution), Catharine O’Daniel and Michael D. Monico (Defense), Natalie Wayne (Court Clerk), Eric Eason (Medical Examiner)
Sun, Apr 28	Judge Arthur Hill Jr., Andrianna “Annie” Kastanek (Prosecution), Nigel F. Telman (Defense), Michael Bornhorst (Court Clerk), James Filkins (Medical Examiner)

PRODUCTION

Set Design	in collaboration with Sylvie Kleiber
Graphic Design	Marie Klara Gonzalez; 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/Cie Yan Duyvendak, Geneva

Copresented by the MCA Stage and the Chicago Humanities Festival

SUPPORT FOR THIS MCA STAGE PROJECT

Many thanks to Yolanda Cesta Cursach, and to Securitas and the MCA security team for their flexibility. Thanks also go to Jane M Saks, Karena Fiorenza, and the casting departments of Steppenwolf Theatre and Victory Gardens Theater. An additional huge thank you goes to our legal “guardian angel,” Mark Kadish, for his generous advice and coordination support, as well as Scott Falk, Gretchen Helfrich, Nigel F. Telman, Frank Valadez, Mira Hayward, Susan M. Weis, and Jeff Levine for their contributions to shaping the legal team.



SUPPORT FOR THE ARTISTS

Please, Continue (Hamlet) is a coproduction of GRÜ transthéâtre Geneva; Phénix National Theatre, Valenciennes; and Huis a/d Werf Utrecht, and was support by residencies at Montevideo Theatre, Marseille; Le Carré/Les Colonnnes, subsidized theatre, Saint-Médard-en Jalles/Blanquefort. Additional support was provided by the Ville de Genève, République et Canton de Genève, Fonds municipal d’art contemporain-Genève, Loterie Romande, Pro Helvetia Le Caire, Pro Helvetia-Fondation suisse pour la culture-Zürich, Valiart Bern, Fondation Meyrinoise du Casino, Fondation Leenaards, CORODIS.



ABOUT THE WORK

In a working-class suburb of a big city, in the midst of a wedding, a young man kills his girlfriend's father. She accuses him of murder. He says it was an accident . . .

Nearly two years later the trial begins. To preserve the anonymity of the participants, their names have been changed: the accused is called Hamlet, the victim Polonius, the witness Ophelia.

A near-universal case, familiar from grade school, based on a true story. A dramaturgy of the real. A story from the realm of great tragedy, transposed to the modern age.

RELATED PROGRAMS

YAN DUYVENDAK AND OMAR GHAYATT

Still in Paradise

Thu-Sun, Apr 18-21

Tonight's performance is presented in tandem with *Still in Paradise*, another work cocreated by Yan Duyvendak, which appeared on the MCA Stage last week and also blurs the boundary between performer and spectator. In that performance, Duyvendak and cocreator Omar Ghayatt invited audiences to join them in questioning the roles we play in consequential encounters between the Middle East and the West, Islam and capitalism. For more information, please visit mcachicago.org.

ACCESSIBLE EVENTS

ASL-INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE 

Fri, Apr 26, 7:30 pm

ASL-INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE
WITH AUDIO DESCRIPTION AND RELAXED PERFORMANCE 

Sun, Apr 28, 2 pm

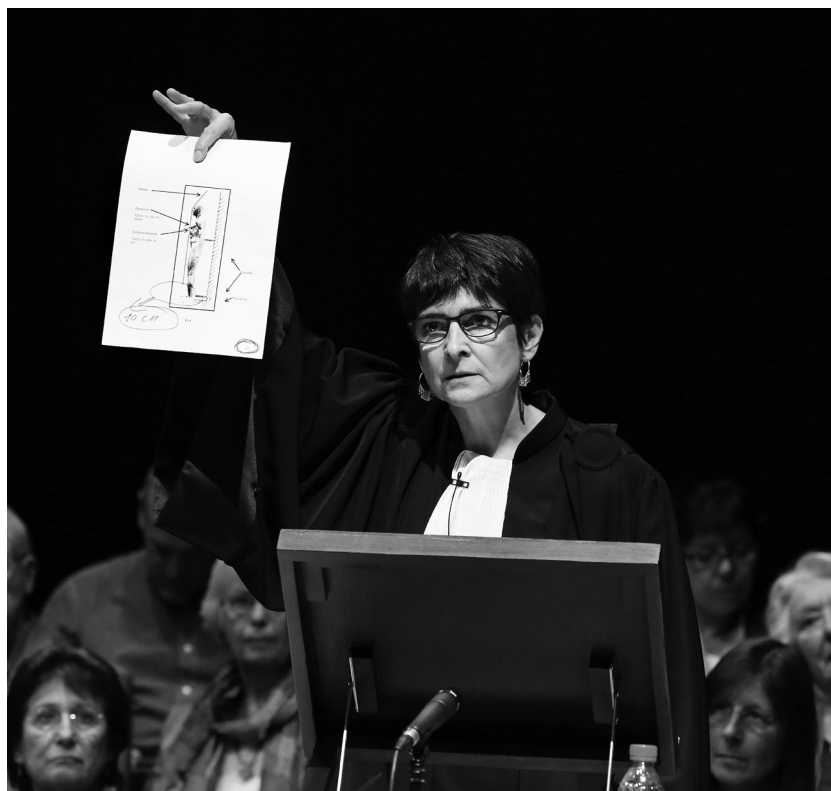
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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 Schönhäuser 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.

ROGER BERNAT (Concept and Performance) is a Barcelona-based artist, born in 1968, who creates works of theater shaped in collaboration with the public. He has worked with Thierry Salmon and Xavier Albertí. Between 1998 and 2001 he directed the company General Eléctrica together with Tomás Aragay and has received numerous Catalan Critics' Awards for his work. In 2008 he began to create setups in which the audience takes center stage. His shows include *Public Domain* (2008), *Purely Coincidental* (2009), *The Rite of Spring* (2010), *Please, Continue (Hamlet)* (2011), *Pending Vote* (2012), and *RE-presentation* (2013), *Desplazamiento del Palacio de la Moneda* (2014), and *Numax-Fagor-plus* (2014), which have been performed in over twenty countries.

LILY MOJEKWU (Gertrude) is delighted to make her MCA Stage debut in *Please, Continue (Hamlet)*. Lily recently returned from the SXSW film festival premiere of *Saint Frances*, which received both a Jury Award and the Audience Award. Recent stage appearances in Chicago include *Dada Woof Papa Hot* (About Face Theatre) and *A Christmas Carol and Objects in The Mirror* (both at the Goodman Theatre). Other Chicago credits include work with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Northlight Theatre (Skokie), Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, and Steppenwolf Theatre Company. Regional credits include six seasons with Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre (Frankfort, Michigan). Television credits include *I Love Dick* (Amazon TV), *The Chi* (Showtime), *Chicago Fire* (NBC), *Chicago Med* (NBC), *Mind Games* (ABC) and the web series *Brown Girls* (browngirlwebseries.com). Film credits include *Widows*, *Drive Slow*, *Princess Cyd*, *Rogers Park*, and the upcoming *Saint Frances*.

KRYSTAL ORTIZ (Ophelia) is a Chicago-based actor and playwright originally from Miami. You can next see her this spring in *For Services Rendered* at Griffin Theatre Company, Chicago. Her previous Chicago acting credits include *Lettie* (Victory Gardens Theater), *La Havana Madrid* (Teatro Vista, Goodman Theatre), *Thumbelina* (Lifeline Theatre), and *In Love and Warcraft* (Halcyon Theatre). New York



Yan Duyvendak and Roger Bernat, *Please, Continue (Hamlet)*, New Classics of Europe, Lodz, 2014
Photo: © Greg Noo-Wak

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

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* Not accepted for special ticketed exhibitions.
** Regular price, in-stock merchandise only; no other discounts apply.



acting credits include *Kid Prince and Pablo* (New York Stage and Film Poverhouse; Ars Nova). Television credits include: *The Exorcist* (Fox). Ortiz received a BFA in acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University, Chicago. She is rep-resented by Stewart Talent.

EDGAR MIGUEL SANCHEZ (Hamlet) was born in Dominican Republic, raised in Miami, and received his BFA in acting and minor in sociology from The Theater School at DePaul University, Chicago. His Chicago credits include *Sveat* (Goodman Theatre); *Macbeth*, *R&J in the Park*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *In The Next Room* (TimeLine Theatre Company); *Water by the Spoonful* and *Native Son* (Court Theatre); *The Wheel* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company). Among his regional credits are *Fences* (ATC, IRT, Milwaukee Rep); the title role in *Hamlet* (GableStage); *Twelfth Night*, *Richard III*, *Titus Andronicus*, *The Admirable Crichton* (American Players Theatre); and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Othello*, and *The Comedy of Errors* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). His television and film credits include *Sense8*, *Chicago P.D.*, and the film *Blueprint*.

AILEEN BHANDARI (Prosecutor), Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County, Criminal Prosecutions Bureau, Felony Trial Division

JUDGE JOHN ROBERT BLAKEY, United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Illinois

PATRICIA C. BOBB (Defense Attorney), President, Patricia C. Bobb and Associates, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jury Verdict Reporter Awards for Trial Lawyer Excellence, and elected Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers

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JUDGE ANNA HELEN DEMACPOULOS, Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County

KIM FOXX (Prosecutor), State's Attorney for Cook County, Illinois

JUDGE ARTHUR HILL JR., Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County

MARC R. KADISH (Defense Attorney), Director of Pro Bono Activities and Litigation Training at Mayer Brown (1999-2015), and coauthor of the legal brief for the Chicago iteration of *Please, Continue (Hamlet)*

LOUKAS KALLIANTASIS (Prosecutor), Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County

ANDRIANNA "ANNIE" KASTANEK (Prosecutor), Assistant United States Attorney, and Adjunct Professor at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, Chicago

JUDGE JOAN LEFKOW, Senior United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

MICHAEL D. MONICO (Defense Attorney), Partner, Monico and Spevack, Chicago; Past President of the American Board of Criminal Defense Lawyers; and recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

CATHARINE O'DANIEL (Defense Attorney), Law Offices of Catharine D. O'Daniel, and named a Top Ten Illinois Leading Female Criminal Defense Attorney by Leading Lawyers

DENA SINGER (Defense Attorney), Founding Partner, Bedi and Singer LLP, Chicago; Adjunct Professor at DePaul University College of Law, Chicago; recipient of the Excellence in Pro Bono Service Award.

NIGEL F. TELMAN (Defense Attorney), Partner, head of employment practice, and cohead of the Employment Litigations and Arbitration Group, Proskauer Rose LLP, Chicago

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

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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

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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 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 mcastage@mcachicago.org

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