Assorted press quotes from Manual Cinema’s ADA/AVA NYC run at The 3 Legged Dog
June 15-July 26, 2015

“Soaring enchantment.”
- The New York Times

“Theatrical experience is captivating.”
- theaterpizzazz.com

“Aesthetically stunning portrayal of grief.”
- nytheaternow.com

“ADA/AVA is a game changer.”
- theasy.com

“Shadow puppet tale of loss as losing half of oneself.”
- nytheaternow.com

“Ada/Ava” isn’t just transgeneric; it’s transgenerational, blending past and present, old and new into one all-embracing package.”
- The New York Times

“A masterful production whose imaginative intricacies transcend its two-dimensional resources.”
- stagebuddy.com

“The virtuosic group makes elegant live-scored “silent films” that evoke sweetness, poignancy and fright.”
- TimeOut NY

“You may have seen shadow puppetry before, but I can almost guarantee you’ve never seen it done with the level of complexity and precision of Manual Cinema.”
- nytheaternow.com

“Brings shadow puppetry and live music to the stage, creating a stellar haunted house show.”
- theaterpizzazz.com

“Some paper, some light, a wealth of plastic sheeting, and a row of dinky overhead projectors—that’s all that Chicago’s Manual Cinema needs to practice theatrical magic. This nearly wordless shadow-puppet play concerns a pair of elderly sisters who keep a lighthouse. Initially divided by death, they are mysteriously reunited after a visit to a carnival hall of mirrors. (Think Orpheus and Eurydice as retold by Shirley Jackson and art directed by Alfred Hitchcock.) Three women and two men, accompanied by live musicians, stand beneath a screen, manipulating paper cutouts and the projectors so as to suggest crosscuts and fade-ins, close-ups and blackouts. Sometimes the women, wearing strips of mask that alter and age their profiles, portray the sisters in silhouette. If the arc of the story is ultimately familiar, the methods are continually surprising, and the precision of the artists astounding.”
- The New Yorker