

Manual Cinema

For videos, photos, and more information about Manual Cinema:

<http://www.elsiemann.org/artist-roster/manual-cinema/>

<http://manualcinema.com/>

No Blue Memories: The Life of Gwendolyn Brooks

(virtual programming)

No Blue Memories: The Life of Gwendolyn Brooks brings to life the story of one of Chicago's most beloved figures. Gwendolyn Brooks was an icon, a poet laureate, and a Pulitzer Prize winner—but she was also a treasured educator and mentor to the countless writers and children who knew her as their very own “Miss Brooks.” Weaving together poetry, storytelling, sound design, original music, and striking visuals, *No Blue Memories* is an exploration of Brooks's beloved city and a story of how she navigated identity, craft, and politics over the course of one of the most remarkable careers in American literary history. The performance combines intricate paper puppetry, live actors working in shadow, and an original score for an unforgettable multi-media experience.

No Blue Memories: The Life of Gwendolyn Brooks trailer: <https://vimeo.com/254740822>

Commissioned by the Poetry Foundation for the Brooks Centenary, *No Blue Memories* is performed by an all persons-of-color cast of puppeteers, actors, and musicians. The show was written by African-American poets Eve L. Ewing and Nate Marshall (of [Crescendo Literary](#)) with a musical score by African-American composers [Jamila Woods](#) and [Ayanna Woods](#).

Venues can stream the edited, full-length recording with a customized pre-show introduction (recorded or - when possible - live) by the collaborating artists. Post-show Q&A's are possible.

Length of performance: 75 minutes

Available immediately



Photo: Drew Dir



Photo: Julia Miller

Leonardo & Sam

(for reduced audiences, available beginning February, 2021)

Leonardo is a terrible monster. He tries so hard to be scary, but he just isn't. Then Leonardo finds Sam, the most scaredy-cat kid in the world. Will Leonardo finally get his chance to scare the tuna salad out of an unsuspecting human? Or will it be the start of an unlikely friendship?

Inspired by the beloved children's books by Mo Willems, Manual Cinema's *Leonardo & Sam: the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World* premieres January 4-24, 2021 at the Kennedy Center and is for children ages 3-9.

This show utilizes a large "final" screen – onto which are projected the visuals created through shadow puppetry and actors in silhouette. Because the size of this screen can be very large, you can present this show in larger halls with 1,200+ seats.

The touring company for Manual Cinema's *Leonardo & Sam* is a total of five people: 3 puppeteer/actors, 1 musician, and 1 TD. They will tour as a family "bubble," or "pod."

For theaters that are able to welcome reduced audiences, pandemic programming assumes that it will be safe for the company to drive to you (from Chicago) without the need for road hotels en route - and that there will be safe housing available on site. The company would practice social distancing with your staff/crew and public.

Length: 50 minutes

Advance time required: 3 months

