

THE ARSONISTS

by Max Frisch

Translated by Alistair Beaton Directed by Stephen Heatley

January 29-February 8 | Telus Studio Theatre @ the Chan Centre theatrefilm.ubc.ca



Presented by Circular Textiles, Sustainable Fibre, Slow Fashion Research Cluster with SEEDS Sustainability Program, AMS Sustainability Office, Museum of Anthropology, Hatch Art Gallery, DreamStill, and UBC Arts & Culture District

Welcome from Department Head

Director's Notes



In her World Theatre Day message of 2023, Egyptian actress Samiha Ayoub explained some of what will be happening this evening:

"What we do in the world of theatre as playwrights, directors, actors, scenographers, poets, musicians, choreographers and technicians, all of us without exception, is an act of creating life that did not exist before we got on stage. This life deserves a caring hand that holds it, a loving chest that embraces it, a kind heart that sympathizes with it, and a sober mind that provides it with the reasons it needs to continue and survive."

I am grateful to the students, staff and faculty who have worked so passionately and diligently to bring The Arsonists to the Telus Theatre. As Ayoub explains, however, the life of such theatre relies on the engagement of audience members. What might this story mean for you right now?

First produced in Switzerland in 1958, this play by architect-turned-playwright Max Frisch is set in the bourgeois house of the Biedermanns. Their material comfort derives from Biedermann's position as a successful middle-class manufacturer and the play investigates the tension between his superficial sociability and his baser, cowardly instincts. Influenced by Brecht and other political playwrights, Frisch's play shows how this tension can be exploited by those who use terror to gain power.

At the heart of the play is also the burning of houses and communities, tragedies with which we are all too familiar right now. One way to talk about this play is in conjunction with climate change and sustainability. There will be a pre-show talk on January 31 hosted by the UBC Sustainability Hub and our department. We invite you to that alongside the other critical dialogues of Climate Emergency Week at UBC (Feb. 10-14, 2025).

We also invite you to the Frederic Wood Theatre in March for our final production of the season: The Last of the Pelican Daughters by UK Collective, The Wardrobe Ensemble. The opening production of our season, The Very Book Indeed, traced the origins of the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays. One of the plays included in that exceptional book, a copy of which now sits in the UBC Special Collections, is King Lear. In Act 3 Sc. 4, Lear describes his daughters, Goneril and Regan as "Pelican Daughters," a critique of their selfishness rooted in the belief at the time that pelicans nourished their children with their own blood. Although it will involve much more prosecco and comedy, The Last of the Pelican Daughters also centres parent, child and sibling relationships. First produced in 2019 at the Edinburgh Festival, the play mingles comedy and pathos as it sees four sisters grapple with their mother's death while also trying to divide her house and belongings amongst themselves.

We are grateful that you are here to be part of these lives created on stage and hope that you will you join us again in March!

Kirsty Johnston

Department Head, Theatre and Film

We acknowledge that the UBC Vancouver campus is is situated within the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.



Max Frisch was a Swiss playwright writing in the mid-20th century. The Arsonists (Biedermann und die Brandstifter) was first presented as a radio play in 1953 and found its way on to the stage in 1958. You may remember that Switzerland, famously, has always taken a neutral stance in world affairs. You may also remember that Switzerland is bordered by France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Austria...and Germany. And that some substantial events took place in Germany in the 30s and 40s. During these turbulent times on

the European continent where a mass murder was taking place, the neutral Swiss never intervened. I feel quite confident that this absolute lack of action by his home country in what turned out to be a moral disaster of epic proportions is what motivated his play.

Frisch calls it "A Moral Play Without a Moral". This subtitle has been a guiding phrase in our exploration of The Arsonists. Early in the rehearsal process, we asked each other if we had ever made a mistake and then, rather than admitting it, coming clean and starting over, we actually doubled-down on the mistake until we were so far in, we couldn't get out. (I told the story of losing my way in a car as a teenager, following what I thought were "directional signs" on to a sketchy-looking under-used logging road thinking it was the right direction to the cottage I was looking for, and actually getting out of the car to move a rotten log off the road so I could proceed. I was eventually bogged down in a swamp!). Today, the world is facing so many conflicts and conundrums; political ones, ethical ones, moral ones. Some of them are taking place across the world from us. Some are taking place in our own backyard. Mistakes are made. Whether we like it or not, each of these mistakes will eventually demand that we ask of ourselves, "as a citizen of the world, what is my responsibility to address the mistakes that have been made - or will I just pretend that they didn't happen?" This is the question the Biedermann of our play is wrestling with.

Directing The Arsonists has been a real privilege. I have loved the opportunity to re-engage with the concept of a theatrical chorus. How does this invested group connect to and reflect on the unfolding story, and how do they connect to you, the audience? And, as always, it is a delight to work with the next generation of theatre artists who have chosen to study with us at the University of British Columbia. Working on a production is the absolute best way to learn your craft as an artist, and the actors, designers, stage management and running crew have brought their "A" game to this process and learned so much through it. I thank them all for their dedication and commitment to presenting this story to you in as thoughtful and theatrical a way as possible. And thanks to all of you for joining us.

Stephen Heatley

Director

Show length: 1 hour and 40 minutes with no intermission

Audience Advisory: Flashing lights & violence

Behind the Scenes: The Costumes

Costume designer Teylor Pierre-Corno shares about her journey as a designer and what inspired the designs for The Arsonists.

What inspired you to become a Costume Designer?

Ever since I was a kid I would design and make clothes for my dolls. As I grew up I began to design and create full sized costumes. I have been immersed in the world of theatre from a young age, often attending costume fittings as a toddler. With a love for creativity and a passion for theatre and design it only made sense to pursue costume design further!

What is your process for designing?

My design process of course begins with reading the script, in which I'll often have a clear vision of how I would personally design the show. I then talk to the director to discuss their visions and goals with the show. Typically, I will have a clear idea in my head and begin sketching right away, though I have also been known to begin draping fabric directly on the mannequin! At this point in previous productions I would begin sewing, but for The Arsonists this is when I handed off my designs to the construction team and we worked together to bring the show to life!



Character: Biedermann Sketch by Teylor Pierre-Corno



Character: Chorus Member Sketch by Teylor Pierre-Corno

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The Arsonists

CAST

Chorus, Widow Knechtling

Ava Albaisa

Chorus Gottlieb Biedermann Riya Chahal

Miles Davies

Paula Goldie

Eisenring Anna

Ekaterina De Boni

Babette

Yan Ching (Rainbow) Hui

Chorus Leader Schmitz

Dahlia-Raphael Kerr Baltzer Musherure

Chorus, Dr. of

Isabel Salazar

Philosophy

Chorus

Chorus, Police Officer Japnaam Sarang

Fiona Silvis

CREATIVE TEAM

Director

Stephen Heatley

Assistant Director

Jenna Lee, Asa O'Connor-

Jaeckel

Scenic Design

Amy Currie

Asst. Scenic Design

Amelia Wagenaar

Lighting Design

Kaitlyn Fernandes

Asst. Lighting Design

Hana Yaguchi

Sound Design

Maddie Steppler

Asst. Sound Design

Hana Yoneyama

Costume Design

Tevlor Pierre-Corno

Asst. Costume

Vincie Lin

Design

Stage Manager

Camila Newton

Asst. Stage Manager

Stacey Kok, Naina

Sharma

Production Assistants Holly Theobald, Hana Yaguchi

CREW

Head Scenic Artist Asst. Scenic Artist Lee Funnell Marília Saito,

Head Electrician

Luella DeGreer **Damien Kwan**

Asst. Electrician

Amelia Wagenaar

LX Board Operators

Diego Camacho Chemor, Carol Tu, Michelle Lee Jonah Marshall

Operators

Sound Board

SET BUILD CREW

Thorn Austin, Nia Chauhan, Raina Compton, Kaitlyn Fernandes, Irena Hoti, Olivia Niese, Emily Nash, Jasper Oberst, Marilia Saito, Cristian Twist, Amelia Wagenaar, Hana Yaguchi

SET RUN CREW

Jasper Oberst, Nia Chauhan

COSTUME BUILD CREW

Wren Harlow-Gillespie, Eunsong Huh, Elly Ich, Emma McDonald, Emily Nash, Jasper Oberst, Lauren Rankin, Willow Tiessen

COSTUME RUN CREW

Monet Ghinis, Wren-Harlow Gillespie, Galen Leftwich

PAINT CREW

Annika Chan, Eunseong Huh, Olivia Niese, Maddie Steppler, Jaddi Sze, Sylena Wong, Stephanie Zheng Feng

PROPS BUILD CREW

Thorn Austin, Luella DeGeer, Kaitlyn Fernandes, Wren-Harlow Gillespie, Irena Hoti, Cole Joliat, Judy Lee, Emma McDonald, Jasper Oberst, Willow Tiessen, Cristian Twist, Helena Ventosa

LIGHTING CREW

Camila Newton, Maddie Steppler, Diego Camacho, Sylena Wong, Michelle Lee, Carol Tu, Raina Compton

FAULTY ADVISORS

Department Head

Kirsty Johnson

Direction

Leora Morris

Scenic Design

Emily Dotson, Patrick Rizzotti

Technical

Brad Powers

Direction & Crew

Scenic Paint

Advisor

Lorraine West

Lighting Advisor

Mimi Abrams

Sound Advisor

Mishelle Cuttler, Patrick Parra Pennefather

Costume Advisor

Jacqueline Firkins Susan Miyagishima

Stage Management Advisor

Movement Advisor **Daisy Thompson Alana Hawley Purvis**

Intimacy Coach

Vocal Coach

Natasha Martina

STAFF

Academic Advisor

Mia Booth

Production Manager

Borja Brown Sarah Crauder

Film Program

Administrator Administrator

Cam Cronin

Jodi Jacyk

Kirsten Dougans

Assistant to the

Head

Head of Wardrobe

Audience Services Tony Koelwyn

Manager **Head of Properties**

Amanda Larder

Film Collections Coordinator

Dmitri Lennikov

Stuart MacFarlane

Film Program Technician

Stage & Lighting Specialist

Communications

Linda Pitt

Ryan Murcar

Specialist Department

Secretary

Karen Tong

Technical Director Wardrobe Cutter

Jeremy Vreeken **Holly Anderson**

Costume Shop UAA

Madeleine Polak

WORK LEARN STUDENTS

Costumes/Props Asst. Jenna Lee

Costume Assistant

Lauren Rankin

Properties Assistant

Lee Funnell

Communications

Assistant

Aidan Scott

CREATIVE COLLABORATORS

Graphic Designer

Jonathan Wood

Photographer

Department Doggos

Javier R. Sotres

5

Gracie, Lolo, Oz, Teddy, Vegemite

Cast



Ava Albaisa Chorus, Widow Knechtling Ava Albaisa is a theatre artist from the unceded territories of the Kumeyaay nation known as San Diego, California. She is interested in exploring performance as a tool for community building and platforming historically unheard voices. Recent credits include Amy in The Theory of Relativity (UBC MTT), Shyla in Theatre Review (Festival Dionysia), and Truffaldino in The Servant of Two Masters. She thanks her loved ones for their endless support.



Paula Goldie Anna

Paula Goldie (she/her) is a Chilean-Canadian actor, singer, and dancer currently pursuing a BFA in Acting at UBC. Paula's recent theatre credits include: The Very Book Indeed (UBC), Puttin On the Glitz (Kempenfelt Community Players), "Mack" in Tomorrowlove (UBC), Commedia D'elle Arte (UBC), "Jack" in Into the Woods (UBC MTT), and "Kristine" in A Chorus Line (UBC MTT). Screen Appearances include I Woke Up A Vampire (Netflix), Circuit Breakers (Apple TV+) and The Coroner (CBC). Paula would like to thank her family, cohort, and partner for their love and support!



Riya Chahal Chorus

Riya Chahal is in her third year as a UBC BFA Acting student. Riya is a graduate of Douglas College's acting program. Her past credits include UBC's Commedia Dell'Arte show A Servant of Two Masters (Susan Bertoia), A Vampire Story (Claire Fogal), and Unity 1918 (Deborah Neville). She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support!



Yan Ching (Rainbow) Hui Babette

Rainbow is an international student from Hong Kong who is in her final year of the BFA Acting program at UBC. She would like to express her gratitude to her acting cohort, her profs, and everyone she has worked with before. Her past credits include Commedia dell'arte (Susan Bertoia), Saint Joan of the Stockyards (Jacob Zimmer), Naked Cinema (Joshua Brad-Lee Garrido), and The Very Book Indeed (Moya O' Connell). She is thankful for the opportunity to act and the characters she's played, who allowed parts of herself to be seen and represented on stage. Finally, a shout-out to her family!



Miles Davies Gottlieb Biedermann
Miles Davies (they/them) is a disabled,
queer, nonbinary theatre artist originally
from Esterhazy Saskatchewan. As a fourthyear BFA acting student, Miles was last
seen in The Very Book Indeed (Isaac
Jaggard) and TomorrowLove (Jessie).
Miles's main interests lie in disability and
trans-specific theatre as well as building
Lego sets. Miles would like to thank their
friends and family as well as their cohort for
three amazing years together.



Dahlia-Raphael Kerr Chorus Leader

Dahlia-Raphael is a nonbinary queer performing artist currently in their 4th year of UBCs BFA acting program. They are the recipient of a Centennial Scholars award and a graduate of Douglas College's acting program. They have performed in theatre shows, indie films, commercials, and in drag as Phoenix HellFire. They hope to grow not only as a performer but also as a creator and leader in Vancouver's entertainment industry. They believe that art can make meaning and beauty out of the most uncomfortable truths we have to live through and challenges us to keep searching for joy in the midst of chaos.



Ekaterina De Boni Billy Eisenring

Ekaterina is an Italian-Russian actress from Belgium. You may recognise her from TomorrowLove (Casey), For the Love of Citrus! (Clarice/Bob the Bumpkin), and The Very Book Indeed (Mrs. Jaggard/Cleopatra). After graduating she hopes to share her passion for film and theatre with the world and continue to represent third culture kids from all around. She's eternally grateful to her family for their endless love and support.



Baltzer Musherure Schmitz

Born and raised in Uganda, Baltzer is a Vancouver based actor in his 4th year of the BFA Theatre & Acting program. Recent credits include: Jaques & Sir Edward Derring in The Very Book Indeed, Jo in TomorrowLove, and The King in The Commedia Show. He hopes this play will get audience members to think about objective moralities.

Cast Cont.

Creative Team



Isabel Salazar Chorus, Dr. of Philosophy Isabel Salazar (she/her) is a passionate Filipino artist in her third year of the BFA Acting program at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Her recent theatre credits include Clarice in A Servant of Two Masters and Doug in Gruesome Playground Injuries. She also performed a duet from Waitress: The Musical in the UBC Musical Theatre Troupe's Winter Cabaret and starred in the student mockumentary A Death in the Dorm.



Stephen Heatley Director

Stephen has worked in professional theatre for over 50 years. During his 12-years as Artistic Director of Theatre Network in Edmonton, he directed over 30 world premieres. He spent five years as Associate Artistic Director of the Citadel Theatre. His most recent production was Where You Are at the Station Arts Centre in Rosthern, Saskatchewan this summer. For Theatre at UBC, he directed Hosanna, Twelfth Night, Caucasian Chalk Circle and The Madwoman of Chaillot. From 2015 to 2023, he was Head of Theatre and Film.



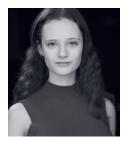
Japnaam Sarang Chorus, Police Officer
Japnaam Kaur is a Sikh-Canadian actor in her
third year of her BFA. Recent credits include a
devised Commedia show, A Servant of Two
Masters (Beatrice), and Les Misérables
(Inspector Javert). She loves getting to study the
art of living truthfully. She strives to be a vessel
for voices that go unheard through her acting
and poetry. She is grateful for all who have
supported her in following her dreams.



Jenna (Hajung) Lee Asst. Director

Jenna had her directorial debut on a production

Jenna had her directorial debut on a production of Lepers for MetFest, and is excited to be on a directing team again. She is grateful and honored for this opportunity to Assistant Direct The Arsonists. She is a theatre/film artist studying Theatre Design & Production and enjoys working various roles. Her recent works include Stage Managing Daughters (IGNITE!), Costume Designing Camp Goneaway (Ragamuffin), and Art Directing Fast & Furious (SNG FilmFest).



Fiona Silvis is a third-year BFA student from Camas, Washington. Her most recent credit is her role as Singora Pantanola in The Servant of Two Masters Commedia Del'Arte show (UBC). Fiona is grateful to her family, friends, and parents Tim and Terri for all their unconditional love and support. Fiona is excited for everyone to see The Arsonists and hopes the performance

sparks intriguing conversation.

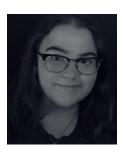
Chorus

Fiona Silvis



Asa O'Connor-Jaeckel Asst. Director

Asa O'Connor-Jaeckel is an emerging performer, director, and all-around theatre enthusiast currently completing a BFA in Acting at UBC. They have worked with numerous theatre companies in Vancouver and on the Island over the past several years, including the Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival, Ragamuffin Productions, luvenis Productions, and the Vancouver OR Festival. Asa is thrilled to be a part of the fabulous team bringing you The Arsonists. Enjoy the show!



Amy Currie Scenic Design

Amy (she/they) is a "Vancouver" based artist and designer in her final semester in the Theatre Design and Production BFA at UBC, with a focus on lighting and set design. While at UBC she has designed 12 shows (including: The Very Book Indeed (UBC 2024) Deathtrap (UBC Players Club)) and worked in the Art Department of 6 short films. She won best production design for Bindweed (Juliette Leach, 2023) at POV film festival. You can see more of her work at @amycurriedesigns on instagram.

Creative Team Cont.



Amelia Wagenaar Asst. Scenic Design

Amelia is in their Fourth year in UBC's Theatre; Production and Design program. Recent credits at UBC include TomorrowLove Act 2 (Stage Manager), Concord Floral (Assistant Stage Manager). Outside of UBC, credits include The Importance of Being Earnest (Lighting Designer, Metrotown Theatre) and Cauldron (Lighting Design, Jericho Arts Center). Up next, they are excited to work on The Last of the Pelican Daughters as an Assistant Technical Director.



Hana Yoneyama Asst. Sound Design

Hana is in her third-year studying Theatre Design and Production here at UBC. She has recently contributed to several UBC productions, working as part of the props and scene build crews. She is excited for people to watch (and hopefully enjoy) the show!



Kaitlyn Fernandes Lighting Design

Kaitlyn is a fourth-year Theatre Design and Production student who has transferred from Douglas College. They work and reside on the stolen land of the x^wməθk^wəýəm (Musqueam) Nation. Their previous experience includes The Ash Girl as Head Scenic Carpenter, Concord Floral as Head Electrician, and Production/Site LX Crew at Bard on the Beach. They would like to thank Amanda, Jeremy, Ryan, and Mimi for their continued support.



Teylor Pierre-Corno Costume Design

Teylor is delighted to be a part of UBC theatre's 2025 production of The Arsonists. She has recently worked on YouTheatre's production of Handcuffed as the costume designer, though she grew up surrounded by theatre and could often be found participating in school and community productions. When she isn't working on a show, Teylor can still be found creating, often designing clothes and costumes for her and her friends. Her hobbies include dancing, watching old films, and of course, watching live theatre!



Hana Yaguchi Asst. Lighting Design

Hana is a third-year Theater Design and Production student at UBC. She is excited to join the lighting design team for the first time. Her previous credits include serving as Assistant Technical Director for Saint Joan of the Stockyards and Assistant Production Manager for The Very Book Indeed. Hana would like to thank her teachers, friends, and family for their continued support.



Vincie Lin Asst. Costume Design

Vincie is a 4th-year BFA theatre production and design student. Previously, she was involved in Concord Floral as a sound designer and as an assistant stage manager in Tomorrow Love, allowing her to explore different aspects from different positions. She aspires to become a production manager or event planner after graduation and is open to exploring various opportunities.



Maddie Steppler Sound Design

Maddie is an emerging lighting and sound designer and theatre technician pursuing her dream of working in the world of live performance. She is in her third year in the BFA Production and Design program and this is her first mainstage design role. Credits include lighting design for Commedia '24 (UBC Theatre); lighting and sound design for Festival Dionysia '24 (UBC Players); and co-sound design for Commedia '23 (UBC Theatre).



Camila Newton Stage Manager

Cami Newton is a Dominican-American 3rdyear theatrical design and production student at UBC. Being a third-culture kid, they adapt well to new and diverse environments and enjoy expressing their creativity, learning, and collaborating with new people. Most recently, they held the role of ASM for The Very Book Indeed (UBC) and are set to work as the assistant lighting designer for The Last of the Pelican Daughters (UBC).

Creative Team Cont.



Stacey Kok Asst. Stage Management

Stacey is a Chinese Canadian artist in her second year of Theatre Design and Production at UBC. With an interest in sound and stage management, she hopes to work all over the entertainment industry in the future. Recent credits include Sound Coordinator for The Servant of Two Masters (UBC) and Art Director for Winter Tamarind (UBC). She would like to thank her family for all their love and support.



Naina Sharma Asst. Stage Management

Naina is a second year theatre design and production student from North Vancouver. Her focus is costume design and stage management. This is her first show assistant stage managing. Most recently she worked run crew for Saint Joan of the Stockyards (UBC). She hopes to continue to pursue stage management and looks forward to working on more shows!



Holly Theobald Production Assistant

Holly Theobald is an artist from Toronto in their 4th year of UBC's Theatre: Production and Design program. Holly's recent credits include Heathers The Musical - Stage Manager and Sound Designer (Sherwood Theatre Co.), Commedia Dell-Arte- Stage Manager, St Joan of the Stockyards- Assistant Stage Manager (UBC, 2024) (UBC, 2024) TomorrowLove- Act 1 Stage Manager (UBC, 2024), Matilda: The Musical- Assistant Stage Manager (Theatre Under The Stars, 2023), The Birds- Assistant Stage Manager (UBC, 2023).

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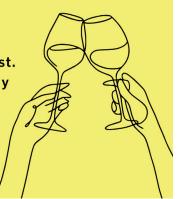
PRIMITIVO - LUCCARELLI PUGLIA, ITALY

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HARRISON WADE

MARCH 21, 2:30-4 PM
"You Draw Fireworks like Bombs": Digital
Form in Obayashi Nobuhiko's Casting
Blossoms to the Sky



DR. KEREN ZAIONTZ

FEBRUARY 28, 2:30-4 PM Exilic Performances of Ukrainian Solitude in the Public Realm

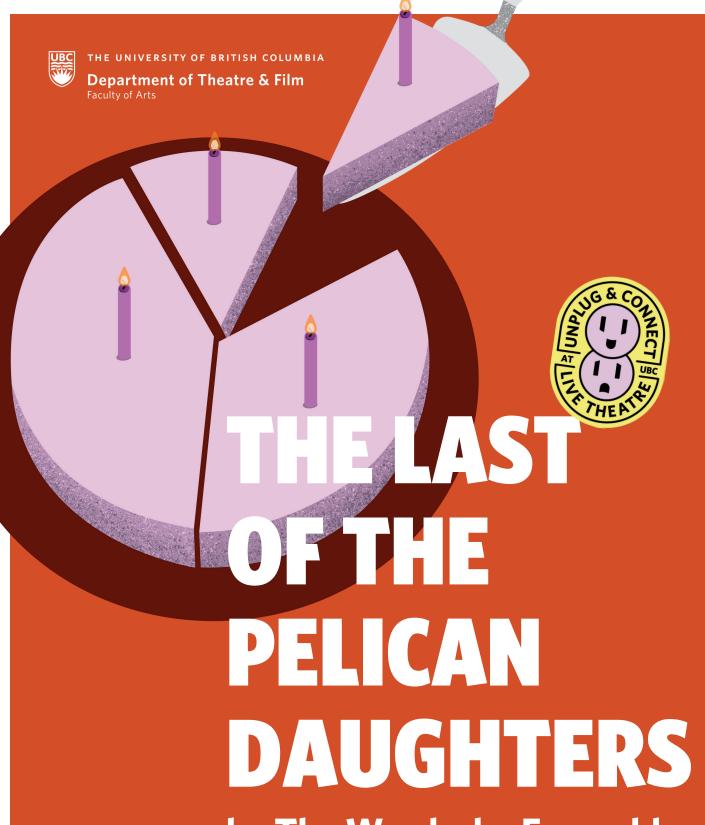
Photo of: Shot Figure series (2024), Maria Kulikovska.



DR. LAURA U. MARKS

APRIL 11, 2:30–4 PM Microcosmic media, from Islamic talismans to small-file movies

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by The Wardrobe Ensemble Directed by Fay Nass

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