

**HEALING ART CHICAGO**

# **LOST & FOUND**

Sat Nov 23 & Sun Nov 24 at 7:00pm  
Location: Links Hall

**Co-Directors:** Chih-Jou Cheng & Agnotti

**Puppetry Designer:** KT Shivak

**Sound Designer:** Otto Anzures Dadda

**Devised Ensemble:** Jean Claudio, Rowena Liu, De Momento, Mari DeOleo, Otto Anzures Dadda

In collaboration with the Community

How can we reclaim the agency of our lives?

Join us for an interactive community theatre experience where stories, memories, and a wanderer puppet's journey weave together to explore belonging, struggle, and the paths we take.



# Lost & Found

How do we reclaim the agency of our lives, piece by piece, story by story? Lost and Found is a journey into this question — an interactive community theatre experience brought to life with the Healing Arts Chicago program, woven through the voices and memories of artists and participants.

This show features the powerful stories of four immigrants and highlights community discussions around self-agency, built through a series of four workshops leading up to the event. The performance begins with an invitation: bring an object that travels with you, a fragment of your life. As you share its tale, a "memory box" is crafted — a home for the journey it represents. Together, we trace the lines of where we've come from, where we stand now, and where we are headed.

Guiding this journey is the wanderer, a puppet creature on a ceaseless quest, gathering forgotten tales and treasures along its path. It invites you to pause, to reflect, to join in its voyage of discovery. Alongside the wanderer's quest is the story of our main character: newly arrived in the city, overwhelmed by the noise and demands of the world, drained by the weight of mental struggle.

Too weary to unpack their own life, they stumble upon a mysterious box—an artifact not their own, yet brimming with stories from those who came before.

Through shared memories, found objects, and the wanderer's endless search, Lost and Found delves into the act of reclaiming our agency, of finding threads of connection in the chaos. It becomes a reflection on the paths we take and the courage to ask: What can we do now, and what lies ahead?

## ABOUT THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED

Theatre of the Oppressed was created by Augusto Boal in Brazil in order to engage the audience (spect-actors) in a rehearsal for revolution. Through Theatre of the Oppressed techniques, the spect-actors are asked to practice solutions and engage in community dialogue. Lost and Found will use some of this pedagogy and techniques creating an interactive and poignant performance.



# Co-Directors

## CHIH-JOU CHENG



Chih-Jou Cheng is a Taiwanese physical theatre creator, movement artist, puppeteer, and co-artistic director of the Dawn Theatre Project, currently based in Chicago. As a performer, select credits include *The Dream King* (Teatro Vista) and *The King and I* (Drury Lane). Her recent projects include “Above the Water”, “Unfinished Island Songs”, and “Arriving at Dawn”, exploring themes of migration, identity, and healing. She is dedicated to creating works that foster compassion, challenge perspectives, and promote collective healing through innovative, interdisciplinary physical theatre. Her work has been supported by Chicago Cultural Center Dance Studio residencies. She has been awarded the Chicago Arts & Health Pilot For Creative Workers and the 2024 Princess Grace Honoraria.


For more of Cheng’s work: [www.chihjou-cheng.com](http://www.chihjou-cheng.com)

---

## AGNOTTI



Agnotti (they/she) grew up in Logan Square, Chicago and is passionate about the intersection of social justice, community dialogue, and performing arts. They facilitate workshops employing a variety of pedagogical techniques such as InterPlay, Theatre of the Oppressed, Clowning and Devising. Since 2013, she has been hired by InterPlay to produce and facilitate events around the world as well as becoming their Development Director in 2020. After several years of working for Opera-Matic as a performer, they stepped into the role of Co-Director in 2021. They received a bachelor’s degree in Theatre and Sociology from Beloit College, spending a year abroad in Ireland and Hungary doing cross-cultural research and performance. In Ireland, they attended Gaiety School of Acting learning performance techniques and creating original works. They are also freelancing for a number of theatre companies and schools, as a teaching artist, performer, and facilitator offering workshops in drama, puppetry, storytelling, musical theater, and movement. Visit [agnotti.com](http://agnotti.com) for more info.



“*LOST & FOUND*” BEGAN IN 2023 WITH COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS AT URBAN THEATRE COMPANY, EXPLORING THE PERSONAL JOURNEYS OF MIGRATION—CHALLENGES, JOYS, AND STORIES WOVEN WITHIN. IT WAS DURING THESE INITIAL WORKSHOPS THAT THE SEED FOR THIS PROJECT TOOK ROOT AND EVOLVED INTO SOMETHING DEEPER. DUE TO LIMITED RESOURCES, THE PROJECT PAUSED UNTIL THIS OCTOBER WHEN AGNOTII JOINED TO HELP BRING IT TO LIFE.

THIS PRODUCTION CENTERS ON RECLAIMING AGENCY IN OUR LIVES, ESPECIALLY AMIDST SOCIETAL CHALLENGES, PERSONAL TRANSITIONS, SYSTEMIC ISSUES, AND THE RELENTLESS DEMANDS OF A CAPITAL-DRIVEN SOCIETY.

OUR DEVISED PROCESS UNFOLDED IN TWO PARTS. AGNOTII AND I LED A SERIES OF FOUR WORKSHOPS AT THE NORTH RIVER MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC, CREATING A SPACE WHERE PARTICIPANTS COULD RECONNECT WITH THEIR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE—TO REMIND OURSELVES THAT WE CAN MAKE CHOICES AND MOVE FORWARD. IN ADDITION, WE WORKED WITH FOUR IMMIGRANT ARTISTS, EACH USING THEIR CHOSEN MEDIA TO SHARE PERSONAL STORIES. INCORPORATING THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED AND FORUM THEATRE STRATEGIES, WE INVITED AUDIENCE MEMBERS TO BECOME “SPECT-ACTORS,” FOSTERING SHARED INSIGHTS AND DIALOGUE.

DESPITE LIMITED TIME, WE CREATED THIS PRODUCTION IN ONE MONTH, AN INITIAL ITERATION FUELED BY THE BRAVERY OF ARTISTS WILLING TO SHARE THEIR STORIES. IN A TIME FILLED WITH UNKNOWNNS, WE HOPE THIS PERFORMANCE INSPIRES CONNECTION, REFLECTION, AND THE REMINDER THAT WE CAN BUILD THE COMMUNITY WE WISH TO SEE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

“*LOST & FOUND*” IS MORE THAN A PLAY—IT’S A TESTAMENT TO RESILIENCE AND SHARED HOPE. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.

WITH GRATITUDE,  
CHIH-JOU  
PROJECT LEADER OF “LOST & FOUND”



# Puppet Designer

**KT SHIVAK**



KT Shivak is an artist and puppeteer working in Chicago. She holds a degree in sculpture and performance from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where an interest in woodcarving led her to start working in the puppet theater. Her puppets have appeared in the New York Times, at the Chicago International Puppetry Festival, and in Puppetry International Magazine.

# The Ensemble

**JEAN CLAUDIO**



A circus and physical theater performer from Puerto Rico established in Chicago since 2016. In 2013 he traveled to Argentina to train and learn more about the circus world. Co-founded his own circus and physical theater company along with his spouse, Raquel Torre. In 2016 decided to move to Chicago to start the Actors Gymnasium Circus Program. Since then he has been working and collaborating with companies like, Emerald City Theater, Theater Oobleck, Actors Gymnasium, Cabinet of Curiosities, Barrel of Monkeys, La Vuelta Ensemble and many more. In 2018 entered the Cirque du Soleil Data Base as a clown and Physical Performer. He loves pistachio ice cream and green plantains.

# The Ensemble

## MARI DEOLEO



Mari DeOleo is an Afro-Latinx clown, multimedia artist, writer/director, teaching artist, creative entrepreneur, project and production maven based in Chicago. Their creative practice pushes the boundaries with a bombastic syncopated fusion of style and media. Mari's work can be seen from the carnival streets to theater seats and everywhere in between whether it be virtual worlds or immersive realities. They are currently working on updating their creative practice for a new era. Mari is currently working as an improv and storytelling teacher at the Second City Training Center and for the Lyric Opera of Chicago as the Program Facilitator for EmpowerYouth!, a multidisciplinary youth performance ensemble and as the Opera in the Neighborhoods Tour Manager. They are honored to be a part of the Lost & Found ensemble and share a bit of their story.

---

## OTTO ANZURES DADDA



Otto is a Mexican artist, educator, and entrepreneur born in Chiapas, where he was also raised, based in Chicago since 2020. Otto started his music career as a cellist for the first ever Mayan rock band Sak Tzevul in 1999. Since then, he has participated as musician, composer, puppeteer, producer, and director in diverse projects; recording albums, and performing in diverse venues, schools, festivals, and even very rural communities across México, Canada, Spain, Guatemala, and the USA. He also has created, and managed cultural spaces and festivals for the promotion of the music and other arts.

Otto's greatest passion is to bring culture to the youngest generations with the project "Changosnkedog", to make them reflect on their own culture and that of others, and to motivate them to find solutions to the problems that afflict our society like cultural and racial inequality, gender inequality, and economic and social inequality.



# The Ensemble

## ROWENA (YUQIAN) LIU



Rowena (Yuqian) Liu is a Chicago-based visual artist, dancer, and choreographer, originally from Shanghai, China. She earned her BFA in Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2023, with a focus on soft sculpture, ceramics, and performance. Her work spans scenic design and puppetry productions such as *Yangyang Xiushui* (Shangyin Opera House, 2021), *Florencia en el Amazonas* (Metropolitan Opera, 2023), *Matchbox Magic Flute* (Goodman Theatre, 2023), *See What I Wanna See* (Out of Box Theatrics, 2024), *Invincible Summer* (Denison Theatre, 2024), and *The Little Mermaid* (Drury Lane, 2024). As a dancer and choreographer, she is currently a dance instructor and performance director at Elivy Art Institute. She directed and choreographed the opening show for the NBA Chicago Bulls Chinese New Year Game in 2023 and the halftime show in 2024, aiming to celebrate Chinese festive culture by blending traditional Chinese dance elements with modern hip-hop, jazz funk, and waacking choreography. As a member of The PieceMakers Competition Dance Company, she earned 2nd place at World of Dance Chicago in 2022 and performed in ABC7Chicago's Emmy Award-winning production New Year's Eve Countdown in 2023 and 2024.

---

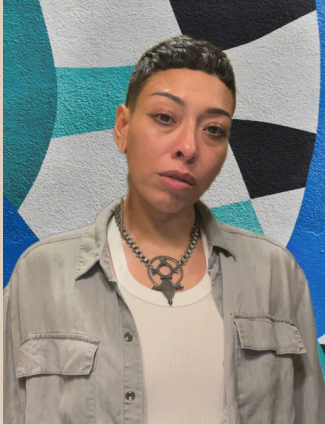
## TANIMA



Tanima (they/he/she) clowns around, makes theatre and puppets, writes poetry, and plots the revolution. In any free time, Tanima teaches and finishes up a PhD, though secretly hopes to be a private detective someday..

# The Ensemble

## VEE VILLARREAL



Vee (THeY/Them) is a queer, Midwest made, multidisciplinary artist with experience in film production and fashion design. They have recently found a passion in theater production and are looking to expand their experience in this realm of imagination and creation. They have collaborated with companies such as Blue In The Right Way and Urban Theater Chicago and look forward to their collaboration with this collective.

---

## SPECIAL THANKS

We extend our gratitude to DCASE Healing Arts, Links Hall, Opera-Matic, Grace Needleman, Daphne Agosin, Urban Theatre Company, Ben Zucker, and our community for their support.

A special thanks to our brave ensemble of artists, whose courage and creativity brought this project to life. Lastly, hug thanks to Jean who jump in the last 4 days.