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For Immediate Release

Luigi Pirandello's Children's Story 'Ciaula Scopre la Luna' Becomes Theater Art Installation, "S 16 – Luna Nera" At La MaMa/Galleria

Co-Produced And Presented By
La MaMa, The Work By Pioneers
Go East Collective Premieres,
November 15 -December 2



La Galleria/La MaMa will be transformed into a riveting theater art installation when Pioneers Go East Collective, the seven-year-old group of writers, actors, designers, composers, singers and choreographers, takes over the space, November 15-December 2, 2012 to present the premiere of "S 16-Luna Nera" (S 16- Black Moon). The hour-long work is presented by La MaMa.

Inspired by and loosely based on Luigi Pirandello's poetic children's story "Ciaula Scopre la Luna" (Crow Discovers the Moon), the production centers on Ciaula, a young Sicilian miner whose entire youth has been spent underground in the sulfur mines until one night when he discovers the regal beneficence of the moon shining in full splendor in the sky. Prior to that, Ciaula's life had been so regulated by the darkness of the mines and the cruelty of his employers that he preferred the dark and dampness of the mines to the open air of the night above ground. Ciaula's sudden awareness of the moon's luminous beauty becomes a transformative, magical moment for the young man, one in which his heart swells with new hope.

The action takes place in a sculpted set comprised of two darkened chambers that suggest the isolation and claustrophobic life experienced by Ciaula and his fellow miners. The performance inside one—a tunnel—is projected onto screens, while the performance in the other chamber unfolds behind a scrim.

The production's four actors perform in silence, while the live vocalists, one who represents the moon and sings traditional Sicilian folk songs, and the other, who sings in English, narrate Ciaula's journey from darkness to light. An electronic score is used to mirror and amplify the harsh environment of the mines, while the sweet beauty of the Sicilian singer's acoustic guitar suggests the human and communal spirit that exists among the miners.

Pioneers Go East Collective is comprised of Artistic Director and Founder Gian Marco Lo Forte (director/concept/libretto in Sicilian dialect and English); Maura Donohue (choreographer); Adam Cuthbert (sound designer/composer); Kat Yew (songwriter of Sicilian passages/soprano); Ashley Windland (soprano/narrator); Rebecca Hudelson (clarinet); Jiyoun Chang (lighting designer); Abby Felder (costume and make up design); Mark Tambella (visual artist); Rocco D'Santi and Kathryn Lieber (projection/video designers).

MORE

PERFORMANCE TIMES

Thursday, November 15 at 8pm
 Friday, November 16 at 8pm
 Saturday, November 17 at 8pm
 Sunday, November 18 at 5:30pm

Tuesday, November 20 at 8pm
 Saturday, November 24 at 8pm
 Sunday, November 25 at 5:30pm
 Tuesday, November 27 at 8pm
 Thursday, November 29 at 8pm
 Friday, November 30 at 8pm
 Saturday, December 1 at 8pm
 Sunday, December 2 at 5:30pm

Please Note: There will be **no performances** Wednesday, November 21-Friday, November 23, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

WHERE TO GO

La MaMa/Galleria is located at 6 East 1st Street (between Bowery and 2nd Avenue). Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for students). Advance tickets are available at the La MaMa box office located at 74A East 4th Street (between Bowery & 2nd Ave), or by calling 212-475-7710 and online at lamama.org. Tickets can also be purchased at the door, CASH ONLY.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Pioneers Go East Collective, founded in 2005 and directed by La MaMa resident artist Gian Marco Lo Forte, develops live video and visual installations that utilize theatrical and operatic vocabularies to expand the terrain and potential of live performance, develop interactive work and engage new audiences.

Lo Forte, who was raised in Italy and moved to the United States in 2001, is committed to using the Collective to bridge the gap between the two cultures by presenting Italian historical figures that have impacted society in art, science and religion. He employs Italian dialects and English idioms as a representation of our shared values. Past work created by PGEC includes a movement piece with techno music titled “Butter Melts Away;” full-length operas “Caravaggio Chiaroscuro” and “I Fioretti in Musica;” and gallery performance and live video installation “Alli Uccelli e Al Lupo.”

www.pioneersgoeast.org

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The production of “S 16- Luna Nera” is funded, in part, by the Puffin Foundation and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

Top photo of Ian Cherry by Gian Marco Lo Forte.
 Design by Michael Bonfiglio.