DocFest2018
September 6-16, 2018

Over The Moon
Adapted by Maura Kidwell* and Katie Relkin*
Directed by Lydia Milman Schmidt

Learning 101
Adapted by Mariana Green* and Heather Schwartz
Directed by Kira Silverstein

*Erasing the Distance Artistic Company member
DocFest2018 Schedule

THURSDAY, Sep. 6
7:30 pm - Karen Monologue read by Brenda Barrie**
8 pm - Over the Moon

FRIDAY, Sep. 7
7:30 pm - Cheryl Monologue read by Stacy Stoltz**
8 pm - Learning 101

SATURDAY, Sep. 8
2 pm - Trauma & the Body Workshop
4:30 pm - Marie B Monologue read by Melanie Thompson
5 pm - Over the Moon
7:30 pm - Jamie Monologue read by Stephen O’Connell**
8 pm - Learning 101

SUNDAY, Sep. 9
2 pm - Food & Mood Workshop
4:30 pm - Ariel Monologue read by Katie Relkin*
5 pm - Over the Moon

THURSDAY, Sep. 13
7:30 pm - Steph Monologue read by Nik Zaleski*
8 pm - Learning 101

FRIDAY, Sep. 14
7:30 pm - Josh Monologue read by MT Cozzola
8 pm - Over the Moon

SATURDAY, Sep. 15
4 pm - NAMI Walks Chicago**
4:30 pm - Grace Monologue read by Diana Clegg
5 pm - Learning 101
7:30 pm - Mike Monologue read by Mike Rice
8 pm - Over the Moon

SUNDAY, Sep. 16
2 pm - Emotion In Motion Workshop
4:30 pm - Monologue read by Wannapa Pimtong-Eubanks*
5 pm - Learning 101

* Erasing the Distance Artistic Company member
+ Member of Actor’s Equity Association

** This is not an ETD event. If you would like to join the ETD Family as we walk for NAMI, go to namiwalks.org to sign up!

Visit erasingthedistance.org for details.
Welcome to DocFest! This year, the festival has offered an opportunity to expand the amount of artistic voices in the room, experiment with the topics we haven’t explored in the past, and transform the way we think about documentary theatre.

In collecting the source material for Over the Moon, the adaptation team veered from the typical one-on-one interview process. After conducting a group collection with nine female-identifying individuals, they built a script for two actors incorporating elements of nearly all the voices in the room to capture a unique and honest exploration of the intersection between the life cycle of the female reproductive system and mental health.

Learning 101 moves beyond traditional diagnosis and explores the ways in which institutionalized racism, privilege and power can all be factors in the way the educational system may affect our mental health. The stories in this piece navigate experiences from overt trauma of violence and loss, to more insidious traumas developed over time. To me, experiencing this piece illuminated the intricacy of these complicated issues and the extent of their impact.

Along with the featured productions, we added a new element to the festival this year! As you may know, the bulk of our work at Erasing the Distance is presented to private audiences during work events, conferences, school programs, etc. The monologue format can be very powerful and so many stories have yet to be performed publicly.
A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR CONT.

Each night, a different monologue will be featured before the main production to give you a chance to experience more stories in the format that has made such an impact on so many people. They will include completed monologues, stories in progress, as well as alternative forms of storytelling. All are based on verbatim text about personal experiences surrounding issues of mental health, such as bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, PTSD, grief, disordered eating, and more.

Although the goal of this year’s festival is to focus on experimentation, our mission at Erasing the Distance remains central: to spark dialogue, disarm stigma, educate and promote healing surrounding issues of mental health. I’m hopeful that this new body of work can extend our traditional methodology with new ways of illuminating connections between our experiences, our bodies, and our mental health.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

OVER THE MOON

CAST
Performer .............................................................................................................. Claire Alpern
Performer ......................................................................................................... Claudia DiBiccari

PRODUCTION
Adapters .............................................................................................................. Maura Kidwell* and Katie Relkin*
Director ........................................................................................................... Lydia Milman Schmidt
Stage Manager ................................................................................................ Kit Ryan
Clinical Company Liaison .............................................................................. Carly Bueltel, PsyD

LEARNING 101

CAST
Michelle ........................................................................................................... Meghan Harkins
VP ..................................................................................................................... Rolo Rodriguez
Leon .................................................................................................................. PJ Walker

PRODUCTION
Adapters .............................................................................................................. Mariana Green* and Heather Schwartz
Director .......................................................................................................... Kira Silverstein
Stage Manager ................................................................................................ Melanie Thompson
Clinical Company Liaison ............................................................................. Beto Chavez, MA

DocFest Designers
Lighting .............................................................................................................. John Kelly
Sound ............................................................................................................... Steve Labedz

*Erasing the Distance Artistic Company member
There is more that we can do to help improve people’s lives. Driven by passion to realize this goal, Takeda has been providing society with innovative medicines since our foundation in 1781.

Today, we tackle diverse healthcare issues around the world, from prevention to care and cure, but our ambition remains the same: to find new solutions that make a positive difference, and deliver better medicines that help as many people as we can, as soon as we can.

With our breadth of expertise and our collective wisdom and experience, Takeda will always be committed to improving the future of healthcare.
Join us for our DocFest2018 healing and wellness workshops! 
Each workshop begins at 2 pm and will last approximately 90 min.

**Trauma and the Body**  
**Saturday, September 8, 2018**
Beto Chavez, a member of the Erasing the Distance clinical company, guides us through an informational session about trauma and its manifestation in our bodies. Participants learn about the impact trauma has on our mental health.

**Food and Mood**  
**Sunday, September 9, 2018**
Led by Sheila Petersen, a graduate of the Institute for Integrative Nutrition, this workshop is about how different foods impact our brains and therefore influence our emotional lives. Sheila is a writer, teacher and change coach dedicated to helping people who are ready to make changes in their lives through one-on-one coaching.

**Emotion In Motion**  
**Sunday, September 16, 2018**
Erasing the Distance company member Wannapa Eubanks guides a workshop exploring storytelling using Butoh-inspired movement. Using meditation, mindfulness, flowing energy through Qi-qong, and some Noguchi Taiso technique (Water Body movement), Wannapa is joined by theatre artist and sound teller Laura Crotte who sets the soundscape for our time together with a collage of unique percussion instruments from around the world.

All workshops are free to attend, but seating is limited. Please make reservations at boxoffice@erasingthedistance.org.

Visit erasingthedistance.org for details.
PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Claire Alpern (Performer-Over The Moon) is so excited to be working with Erasing the Distance, especially on this production. She was last seen in The Cake at Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, and has also worked with About Face and Prologue Theatres. Claire has appeared in such TV shows as Chicago Fire, Law & Order, and Third Watch. She's also worked with numerous theater companies in New York, including LAByrinth, Naked Angels, and Keen Company. Claire will be seen this fall in Remy Bumppo’s Frankenstein. Special thanks to supermom and director Lydia, and Michael, Augie, and Henry for their support at home. She's represented by Big Mouth Talent.

Claudia DiBicarri (Performer-Over The Moon) is beyond thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Erasing the Distance, and to be a part of DocFest2018 at Strawdog Theatre! She’s been a fan since Day 1, where she read the audition pieces and instantly connected with the characters! You may have seen Claudia perform at Steppenwolf Garage in Heatwave, or possibly in your own living room, as she has been in dozens of commercials. Claudia has been blessed with many roles on stage, on camera, and even on the radio, but her favorite role so far: Playing a real-life Mother of one, with a second on the way! My sincerest gratitude to Lydia, Heather, and Katie for giving this pregnant Mom the opportunity to work, and for your kindness and support along the way!

Mariana Green (Co-Adapter-Learning 101) is a QPOC freelance teaching artist, writer and stage manager who works for companies all over Chicago including Manual Cinema, 2nd Story, Old Town School of Folk Music, and many more. She is a proud company member at Erasing the Distance, For Youth Inquiry and Barrel of Monkeys, and she enjoys working on devised and movement-based projects that authentically center the experiences of marginalized people. She is also a founding member of FEMelanin, a performance collective of femmes of color devoted to lifting up our unsung voices in ethical, celebratory, and delightfully rageful ways.

Meghan Harkins (Michelle-Learning 101) returns to Erasing the Distance after performing in Custom Programs last year. Previous theater work includes Women at War (Rivendell Theatre Ensemble) and TEN (The Gift). She is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at Erikson Institute and is continuously looking for ways to bring the worlds of theater and social work together.

John Kelly (Festival Lighting Design) is excited to be working with Erasing the Distance for the second time. Other designs; Great Expectation (Jeff Nom.), D.O.A (Jeff Nom.), Pillars of the Community, Charles Ives Take Me Home (Strawdog Theatre), Significant Other, I Am My Own Wife (Jeff Nom), Abraham Lincoln was a Faggot (About Face Theatre), Trust Us/Screw You, Mike Mother, Food Show, Tangles and Plaques, Empty Threats (The Neofuturists). He has been an ensemble member at Strawdog Theatre since 2013 where he has worked in over 15 productions and has been the Lighting Supervisor at Chicago Children’s Theatre also since 2013. He is also a lighting designer for Blue Man Group for their corporate events.

Maura Kidwell (Co-Adapter-Over The Moon) is thrilled to be part of Erasing the Distance’s annual festival again. Gratefully
involved with Erasing the Distance since 2009, Maura co-adapted Breathe With Me for SPARKFest 2017 along with Millie Hurley, and has acted in dozens of Erasing the Distance roles. Other Chicago acting credits include the upcoming world premiere of Downstate (Steppenwolf), Alias Grace (Rivendell); The Doyle and Debbie Show (Royal George); The New Sincerity (Theatre Wit). Maura is represented by Gray Talent Group and Artists First.

**Steve Labedz** (Festival Sound Design) is a sound designer and composer based out of Chicago. Other works include The Light Fantastic at Jackalope and United Flight 232 at The House. They are very happy to be a part of DocFest, and hope you enjoy it.

**Katie Relkin** (Co-Adapter-Over The Moon) has been an Erasing the Distance company member since 2011. Since her first performance in 2010 Katie has performed with Erasing the Distance in many venues and has had the honor of sharing many peoples’ stories. She also appeared in Erasing the Distance’s public production of Good Enough. Katie graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2005 with a BFA in Theatre Arts. She has been lucky enough to work with New Leaf, The Gift Theatre, Raven, Collaboration, Chicago Dramatists, Big Picture Group, Metropolis, The Nine, Theatre Seven, Fox Valley Rep, and Signal Ensemble Theatre, where she was a company member. Thanks and love to family and friends, and to Josh for being at my side through all of these new adventures.

**Rolo Rodriguez** (VP-Learning 101) is thrilled to be working with Erasing the Distance. He hails from Springfield, MO, where he studied acting at Missouri State University and just last year was a student of the School at Steppenwolf -Class of 2016. As an actor his favorite roles include Tim from Noises Off! and Jason in Rabbit Hole. While in Chicago he’s had the pleasure of working with ALTA, Pride Film and Plays, About Face Youth Theatre, Eclectic Full Contact Theatre, and The New Colony. He can be seen in the Chicago based web series “Afternoon Snatch.” As a solo performer his work has been presented in Chicago institutions: Uptown Poetry Slam, HOMOLATTE, Poonie’s Cabaret, and SALONATHON. Rolo is a Pisces, dog lover, and resident of Rogers Park.

**Kit Ryan** (Stage Manager-Over The Moon) is thrilled to be working with Erasing the Distance again after having previously stage managed Holidays Unwrapped, The Lies We Tell, Will You Stand Up?, and Coming Home. She has stage managed for several Chicago theater companies, including the Plagiarists, Living Canvas, InFusion, and Cold Basement Dramatics. She is currently the artistic director of Nothing Special, a theatre company best known for its stage combat showcase, Fight Night.

**Lydia Milman Schmidt** (Director-Over The Moon) is a Chicago-based director and teaching artist. She holds an MFA in Theatre Directing from East 15 Acting School in London. She teaches at the University of Chicago Lab School and directs the Northbrook Theatre Children’s Company. She has directed and taught throughout Chicagoland. In London, Lydia was Director in Residence at the Rose and Crown Theatre, which specializes in rare musical revivals. Lydia is the founder of Parents in Chicago Theatre and is the Chicago chief rep for the Parent Artist Advocacy League (PAAL).

**Heather Schwartz** (Co-Adapter-Learning 101) is thrilled to be devising with Erasing the Distance, an organization she greatly admires. As an educator specializing in social emotional learning, she is committed to creating learning environments where all students thrive. Heather earned her M.A.
Erasing the Distance can create a custom experience for you!

We have a vast repertoire of true stories that explore various mental health issues and feature a diverse range of perspectives.

Our professional actors travel to schools, faith groups, businesses, conferences and community organizations throughout Chicagoland and across the country. Every performance is followed by a moderated, interactive talkback.

“ This show inspired me to find help again. It really opened me up. ”

Contact Custom Programs Manager Jana Ross at jana@erasingthedistance.org for details.
PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES cont.

in Performance Studies from Northwestern and M.Ed from Columbia University Teachers College. Thanks to Kira and Mariana for the collaboration!

Kira Silverstein (Director-Learning 101) is a theatre artist and educator whose work centers around exploring community engagement, social justice issues & the body through theatre. She has worked as a teaching artist in Chicago, New York, and Italy, and is just beginning a full time role as Creative Movement and Theatre Specialist at Christopher House Elementary School. Much of Kira’s work is inspired by the idea that our bodies have the ability to heal themselves through story, movement and community. She is honored to be directing with Erasing the Distance again.

Melanie Thompson (Stage Manager-Learning 101) is delighted to be working with Erasing the Distance for the second time! Past credits include: The Laramie Project (Aston Rep), Songs for a New World (DUPAC), Erasing the Distance: Dominican, Chapter 2 (DUPAC), Shockheaded Peter (Black Button Eyes Productions), The Addams Family (DUPAC), and The Seagull (DUPAC). She’d like to thank her friends, family, and Prince the Cat for all their love and support.

PJ Walker (Leon-Learning 101) is thrilled to be working with Erasing the Distance on this wonderful project! He is a born and raised Chicago actor with a degree in Theatre from Millikin University. Recent credits include working with Theatre momentum in Fugue State, Suessical at Windy City Music Theatre as The Cat, understudying in Hellcab with The Agency Theatre Collective. He has also had similar docu-theatre experience working with the Walking Mechanics and their annual production of El Stories at the Greenhouse Theatre. He is thrilled to be helping Erasing the Distance create this theatre experience!

TO SEE OR NOT TO SEE?

LEAVE YOUR REVIEW OF THE SHOW ON FOOTLIGHTS.COM
Help fill the seats of the next performance with a timely and favorable review to ensure that the arts will be here for the next generation.

1. BROWSE UPCOMING EVENTS ON FOOTLIGHTS.COM
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Uniformed Responders Showcase
November 12-14, 2018
Chicago Dramatists

In the line of duty, firefighters, paramedics, and law enforcement officers encounter traumatic events daily. These routine experiences, unaddressed, can lead to significant mental health challenges. These challenges can be compounded by a culture of stigma and silence around the impact of trauma. Join us at Chicago Dramatists this fall for a showcase of new stories from this sphere, followed by facilitated dialogue.

That Night
Spring 2019

This world premiere, developed out of The Criminal Justice Project, follows the story of a man who was wrongfully convicted of two serious crimes. Through this production we experience his path to incarceration, his fight for exoneration, and his mental health journey transitioning back into the outside world after nearly a decade in prison.

Visit erasingthedistance.org for details.
ABOUT ERASING THE DISTANCE

Erasing the Distance is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of performance to disarm stigma, spark dialogue, educate, and promote healing surrounding issues of mental health. Since 2005, we have reached over 65,000 audience members through our custom programs and public productions, as well as our customizable training workshops for students, artists, mental health advocates and health professionals. For more information, please visit us online at www.erasingthedistance.org.

Mental Health Resources
For a comprehensive list of local and national mental health resources, including illness- and age-specific information, please visit the RESOURCES section of our website at www.erasingthedistance.org.

ERASING THE DISTANCE FAMILY

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