A FREE VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE PRESENTS

FOOD

Devised by Geoff Sobelle and the acting company

Contains adult language and themes including cannibalism, disembowelment and self-mutilation.

MARCH 4-6
7 P.M. PST

UC DAVIS
COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE
CHAIR’S WELCOME

Making theatre during the pandemic has been one of the most inventive and resourceful ventures that our creative teams and students have faced.

The challenges of each actor/performer essentially becoming their own production team is enormous. From finding a space large enough to rehearse in, to making sure that their internet systems are strong enough to lining up their own props, these individuals have mastered a new set of skills outside of just being responsible for their own performance.

*FOOD* is a unique collaboration that has been devised by Geoff Sobelle, Granada Artist-in-Residence, and the acting company. Collectively the company invites the audience into their kitchens where they have prepared a singular feast of gargantuan proportion. Created specifically on Zoom, the performance is the result of a hive-mind meditation on the fuel that keeps the modern human animal moving through the chaos we call “everyday life.”

We are deeply grateful to Sobelle for his commitment not only to the production but to teaching a course during the winter quarter as he juggled a three-hour time difference.

The *FOOD* creative team includes graduate students Danielle Levin, assistant director, and Barnaby O’Rorke, original composition, and in the cast Verónica Díaz-Muñíz, Ann Marie Dragich and Joseph Fletcher. The company features undergraduate students Amanda Romero, Julia Silvera, Ananya Yogi and Kaiden Zaldumbide in the cast and behind the scenes Arden Siadek, stage manager, and Maria Solis-Morales, assistant stage manager.

Thank you for supporting this performance. While we continue to reach out and connect to our global community, we look forward to seeing you in person at our events in the future.

*Larry Bogad*
UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance
Presents

FOOD

Co-devised and Directed by Geoff Sobelle
Granada Artist-in-Residence

Co-devised with Veronica Diaz-Muniz, Ann Marie Dragich
Joseph Fletcher, Amanda Romero, Julia Silvera
Ananya Yogi, Kaiden Zaldumbide

Original Composition
Barnaby O’Rorke

Assistant Director
Danielle Levin

Technical Coordinator
Patrick O’Reilly

Video Editor
Megan Kimura

Animation
Julian Crouch

Production Supervisor
Joseph Fletcher

Stage Manager
Arden Siadek

Assistant Stage Managers
Maria Solis-Morales
Ananya Yogi

The production contains adult language and themes including cannibalism, dismemberment and self-mutilation.

FOOD is performed without intermission.
Dear audience,

Welcome to “FOOD,” and thank you so very much for joining us this evening.

Most evenings, over the past two months, this ensemble gathered on Zoom and improvised together. We began with the largest of subjects: “food.” Early on, we invited one another into our kitchens and prepared meals that were either from our families, or from our repertoire of “what we know how to cook best.” We explored what we are drawn to and why, what disgusts us, what we eat, and what eats us…

In a way, this point of departure and center of our exploration, food, became (as it often does) the thing that binds us, but also became secondary to so many other forces at play. Ultimately, this piece is largely about solitude; about being alone, together. Is there a better way to describe the endless “zoom” experience of this past year than “being alone together?”

This piece could only have been made in this pandemic moment - (as all shows are to their respective moments I suppose.) But there seems something particular in this present circumstance. I have been continually moved as this group of artists have tried against all odds to reach one another, to connect, to share this proverbial meal with each other and now with you - to try and find some common language and create theatre outside of the theater. To realize this work, the performers have learned to record themselves, edit film on the fly, broadcast live, mix sound and navigate the complexities of their laptops all while simultaneously improvising and dancing. Each member of the ensemble has had to become their own technical director and embrace the 1s and 0s keeping this thing together. It has been amazing to watch this group adapt - and so I also feel that the work is an ode to all of the invisible labor that has gone into making these incredible and varied programs that have made this creative work possible, and kept our eyes/ears open to one another throughout the pandemic.

Thank you, and … enjoy!

Yours,
Geoff Sobelle
The Cast

Veronica Diaz-Muniz
Ann Marie Dragich
Joseph Fletcher
Amanda Romero
Julia Silvera
Ananya Yogi
Kaiden Zaldumbide

Verónica Díaz-Muñiz is a Chilean director, playwright, and theatre educator with a background in the area of movement research and documentary theatre. Her work engages with questions of gender and womanhood aiming to create alternative theatrical spaces where grim humor converges with politics.

Ann Marie Dragich has presented tap dance in various NYC shows including the Emerging Choreographer’s Series, Flamenco Certamen USA and “Somthing’s Afoot,” and at venues such as Symphony Space and the Lincoln Center Performing Arts Library. She also steps and was featured in Rick Owens Spring 2014 Women’s show.

Joseph Fletcher is a content creator, director, producer, and arts administrator. He holds a BFA in Theatre from University of Central Florida and is in the first year of his MFA in dramatics arts focused on civic Practice theatre. Founding member Artists Laboratory Theatre and Breaker/Fixer Productions. Currently, he manages the Veterans Memorial Theatre for the City of Davis.

Amanda Romero is a first year undergraduate student at UC Davis. She has been participating in theatre since she was young. It’s been her absolute passion ever since childhood. Being a part of FOOD has been an amazing experience and she is thrilled for people to see this.

Julia Silvera is thrilled to be in her first department production! Julia grew up in a small town in Northern California, where her first performances were for her dogs, cats, sheep, and ponies. She is a second year at UC Davis, majoring in Theatre and Dance. Her favorite roles include Kira in Xanadu and Peggy in Godspell.

Ananya Yogi is a freshman and is ecstatic to be a part of FOOD. She has been in C3T and Studio 301 productions. Selected credits include Emily Webb in Our Town, Baker’s Wife/ Rapunzel in Into the Woods, and music directing pieces for The Mad Ones Lab.

Kaiden Zaldumbide (he/they) is a Latinx genderqueer artist, actor and rising playwright. They are currently a third year student at UC Davis
double majoring in theatre and dance and studio art. Kaiden’s work typically focuses on minority struggles, exploration into the human experience and human psychology.

The Creative Team

Geoff Sobelle is a US-based actor and creator devoted to making original actor-driven performance works. His shows include: HOME, The Object Lesson, The Elephant Room, all wear bowlers and machines machines machines machines machines machines (among others). He has received commissions from BAM, Lincoln Center, Arizona State University, Center Theatre Group, Edinburgh International Festival and The New Zealand Festival. His shows have been recognized by a Bessie Award, an Obie Award in design, two Edinburgh Fringe First Awards, the Best of Edinburgh Award, a Total Theatre Award and an Innovative Theatre Award. He is a Pew Fellow and a Creative Capital Grantee. Geoff was a company member of Philadelphia’s Pig Iron Theatre Company from 2001-2012. He trained in physical theater at the Lecoq school in Paris and is a graduate of Stanford University.  www.geoffsobelle.com

Barnaby O’Rorke is an interdisciplinary artist working in the fields of theater, music, and dance for the past 30 years in Europe. His physical training in dance, improvisation, somatic practices, yoga and chi kung have informed his work in music (cello, piano, voice, objects). He has worked for several dance companies as a dancer and musician, and has developed innovative solo and collaborative work in his field. He has produced five albums, and his musical compositions for dance film have been screened internationally. He has regularly performed interdisciplinary solo works called The Musical Pie Kino, taught improvisation, and created music for contemporary dance in Berlin. Alongside this work he has been a careworker which he considers one of the most important things he has done. (barnabytree.com)

Danielle Levin is a second year MFA student in the Department of Theatre and Dance. She is currently working on the writing and performance of her MFA thesis: a play that explores, via image and word, collective and individual history and legacy using stories from her great grandmother and from S. Ansky, author of the play (and screenplay of the 1937 film) The Dybbuk.

Patrick O’Reilly is delighted to be involved with this incredibly creative devised work. Patrick serves as the master electrician for the Department of Theatre and Dance at UC Davis. For the past year he has been working with his fellow staff members to bring our virtual productions to the wider theatre community.
Megan Kimura is in her fifth year as theatre and dance’s facility supervisor and audio visual specialist. Prior to coming to UC Davis, Megan was the audio engineer at Delta College in Stockton. She has worked for ten years at California Musical Theatre’s Music Circus as their sound associate, where she managed the maneuvering of multiple microphones and other related equipment during each of the summer shows. Megan is the proud mommy of Mathew and Jessica, her two boisterous and energetic children.

Arden Siadek is an undergraduate Theatre and Dance major at UC Davis. This is her second time stage managing a virtual production. Aside from theatre in quarantine, she loves crafting with yarn. At UC Davis, she’s currently on the board of Theatre for Social Change, and is a Catalyst ensemble member.

Maria Solis-Morales is a first year undergraduate theatre and dance major at UC Davis. This is the first production she is working on as an assistant stage manager. She is excited to be a part of this production and many more to come in her future.

The Crew

Production Supervisor
Joseph Fletcher
Stage Manager
Arden Siadek
Assistant Stage Managers
Maria Solis-Morales
Ananya Yogi
Props/Purchasing
Myke Kunkel, Susie Owens
Costume Coordinator
McKayla Butym
Marketing and Publicity
Michael G. French
Graphic Design
Rudy Garibay
Publicity Photographer
Justin Han
Promotional Video
Laurence Kim

Special Thanks
Nichole Canuso, Derrick Belcham, Mindy Cooper,
Sophie Bortolussi, Julian Crouch, Vickey Finney, Asli Bulbul,
Isabelle Bosquet-Morra, Steve Cuiffo, Lisa Mcginn

The Department of Theatre and Dance would like to express our gratitude to the FOOD cast and creative team who have absorbed and used the various platforms and technologies that have given them the remarkable ability to gather and create in this otherwise remote era.
UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance Staff
Production Manager  
Susie Owens
Asst. Technical Director  
Myke Kunkel
Facility Manager/Audio Specialist  
Megan Kimura
Master Electrician  
Patrick O’Reilly
Costume Shop Foreman  
McKayla Butym

UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance Faculty
Larry Bogad, Chair, Performance Studies
Mindy Cooper, Acting, Musical Theatre
David Grenke, Dance
Lynette Hunter, Performance Studies
Margaret Laurena Kemp, Acting
Maggie Morgan, Costume Design
Jon D. Rossini, Performance Studies

Lecturers
Stuart Carroll, Ballet
Mary Beth Cavanaugh, Movement
Pamila Z. Gray, Lighting
Michele Apriña Leavy, Acting
Steven Schmidt, Instructor, Production Management
Geoff Sobelle, Granada Artist-in-Residence

Arts Administration
Karen Ostergard, Chief Administrative Officer
Barbara Olivier, Undergraduate Program Coordinator
Julie McGilvray, Undergraduate Advisor
Melany Miners, Graduate Program Coordinator
Michael G. French, Arts Marketing Specialist

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