



A solo performance collective focusing on intimate and innovative online storytelling.

OUR STORY

Early in 2020, with the pandemic in full bloom and the world stuck at home, Ann Noble offered an online solo storytelling class through Berg Studios. A small group of artists began work on their solo pieces together via Zoom. At first, the transition to the virtual space felt odd and uncomfortable. But as they dove in, they discovered an intimacy in the digital space. Interacting with each other full-faced in closeup, with the safety offered by the virtual realm, created a new possibility for intimate storytelling. They also discovered a freedom and sense of play in the Zoom sandbox, and began experimenting with greenscreen, multiple devices, props, puppets, and more. Unlike other multimedia genres, there are no barriers of cost when performing online, allowing for a broad spectrum of participants with unique perspectives.

Since mid-2021, UP members have been performing individually in solo fests worldwide, both online and in-person, and are quickly redefining the digital storytelling medium. In their **First Annual Solo Flight: a Festival of Solo Performance**, the artists explore themes of love, sex, family and upbringing, shifting identities, gender and psychosocial dynamics, and truth in absurdity, using the digital medium in inventive new ways to create a dynamic and intimate experience.

UP MEMBERS

Jo Dellapina
Aoife Fagan
Ann Loud
Michael Lyons
Frank Moran
Tamas Milhofer
Ann Noble
Elise Robertson
Cecelia Settem
Kelsey Siepser

artistic director

ANN NOBLE

presented by

C ARTS



www.unmutedparticipants.com



UnmutedParticipants@gmail.com



presents the first annual
SOLO FLIGHT:
a Festival of Solo Performance

From April 10–May 10, **Unmuted Participants**, an age-diverse and multinational group of multi-hyphenate artists will premiere 10 new solo shows conceived and developed in the virtual storytelling space. [VIEW THE TRAILER](#)

Performances will become available on-demand online Sunday, April 10th, 2022 and will be available for viewing throughout the month. In addition, each Wednesday and Sunday, there will be a live Zoom premiere, followed by a talkback with the artist, until the festival concludes on Wednesday, May 4th. The shows will then remain available on the C ARTS platform for several months.

PREMIERE SCHEDULE

(via Zoom w live talkback, all times are Pacific Standard)

Sunday, April 10 @ 12 PM

**The Late Harness Rebellion -Tamas Milhofer/
Hot Dog Play - Ann Loud**

Wednesday, April 14 @ 7 PM

**Dickin' Around - Michael Lyons/
Boy Crazy Psycho Slut - Jo Dellapina**

Wednesday, April 20 @ 7 PM

Imagining Rachel - Elise Robertson

Sunday, April 24 @ 2 PM

Little Parts Hunts a Baby-Daddy - Ann Noble

Wednesday, April 27 @ 7 PM

**I'm Just Saying - Cecelia Settem/
Antennae - Kelsey Siepser**

Sunday, May 1 @ 2 PM

Being Frank - Frank Moran

Wednesday, May 4 @ 7 PM

Glimmer of a Rainbow - Aoife Fagan

INFO/LINKS

Shows available online on-demand beginning April 10. Info/tickets:
www.unmutedparticipants.com



[@unmutedparticipants](https://www.instagram.com/unmutedparticipants)



[@unmutedparticipants](https://www.facebook.com/unmutedparticipants)

[Hi Res photo folder](#)
[TRAILER](#)

C ARTS | C venues | [C digital online](#)

For further information and interview availability please contact:
unmutedparticipants@gmail.com
or the C ARTS press office on +44 (0)131 581 5550 or press@cvenues.com





INSIDE THE CREATIVE PROCESS

Michael Lyons - Dickin' Around - on the inspiration for his piece:

"While social activities were extremely limited in early lockdown, I got this comical but quite bothersome case of tennis elbow. I figured it would be amusing and relatable to write about it, but I did not anticipate connecting it to so many parts of myself and my past experiences."

on working with Ann Noble:

"Ann taught me how to let the creativity find me by writing as honestly as possible, digging deeper, and respecting my piece, letting it tell me what it wants to be. The year-plus I spent practicing my craft over Zoom became a masterclass on film acting. Getting to watch myself in extreme close-ups helped me guide the writing, and most often, figure out when and how to say less or say nothing at all."

Elise Robertson - Imagining Rachel - on innovating in the digital storytelling space:

"I was teaching Theatre Games classes online at the time and was inventing all kinds of stuff to keep the 5-7 year-olds engaged. I would show them how to pop in and out of frame, pretend to go up and down stairs, create forced perspective by stepping backwards, silly tricks the kids loved. So I started to incorporate some of that playfulness into my own storytelling work. But the big revelation came when I had the notion to use side-by-side computers with connecting backgrounds to create one wide frame. I realized if I angled the cameras in a certain way I could jump from one camera to another and play two characters talking to each other. It was all very DIY, and I hope it reflects the sense of childlike wonder that Rachel Carson encouraged throughout her life."

Kelsey Siepser - Antennae - on her writing process:

"I draw from dreams, accessing my subconscious through movement and images. I love theater and performance that is meta or self-aware, mash-ups and anachronistic work. Before the pandemic I saw Shirin Neshat's retrospective at The Broad and that, in addition to my studies of video and installation art have informed my approach to solo performance via Zoom. I have leaned into my visual art background and video interest as well as our current moment of how we document our life to inform what 'theater' means in this moment."

Tamas Milhofer - The Late Harness Rebellion - on the UP Community:

"This group has meant a lot to me especially during the winter months of the first pandemic wave when it got cold and dark early in Sweden. The energy and enthusiasm in the group helped me enormously to keep my spirits up and maintain my creativity. This is why I joined the group originally, but the supporting and open atmosphere encouraged me later to do and show my piece."

Cecelia Settem - I'm Just Saying - on the benefits of online storytelling:

"Since mental health is something that impacts my life personally, I just wanted to put something out there to speak to me, to someone, anyone who just might need to hear it. Online storytelling has a broad reach and is inclusive. Additionally I have a full time job outside of the entertainment industry, that makes performances and travel difficult. So it gives me the opportunity to get my piece out there."



A NOTE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ANN NOBLE

Solo Performance can be one of the most rewarding—as well as challenging—experiences for anyone. The working actor does not usually have the experience or time to dedicate to it, the working writer does not usually have the performance skills to attempt it, and, for the person who merely wants their story to be heard, it seems far too daunting to even begin...

I created this workshop because I know all these fears. I also see people, both artists and non-artists (if that's even a real thing) alike, struggle with the conflicting pressures of this world. There has never been more pressure to be a "content creator" and "connect" with people, but, at the same time, we have never been more isolated. We all find ourselves frequently quite alone, especially when attempting something as massive as "telling my story". And, while Solo Performance is indeed a solitary endeavor, it is my belief that it cannot be done by yourself. It still requires a community for it to truly soar, to truly land in people's hearts.

I also am convinced that "necessity is the mother of invention"; this pandemic forced all of us who were used to performing in or writing for live theatre, into these little digital frames with canned sound and strange views of our living situations... What could possibly happen in that Zoom box that could compare to the theatre? Well, it turns out, a lot.

This gaggle of storytellers has created something stunning, something unique, something quite, quite new in the world of theatre. What began as simple play, simple practice, has transformed into a kind of personal storytelling that transmits more than pixels: this exploration into the depths of one human being's encounter with our increasingly nonsensical world has the power to unshackle the chains of our current alienation, if even for just an hour. Or two. I believe this is only the beginning...

SHOW INDEX

Antennae - Kelsey Siepser
Being Frank - Frank Moran
Boy Crazy Psycho Slut - Jo Dellapina
Dickin' Around - Michael Lyons
Glimmer of a Rainbow - Aoife Fagan
Hot Dog Play - Ann Loud
Imagining Rachel - Elise Robertson
I'm Just Saying - Cecelia Settem
The Late Harness Rebellion - Tamas Milhofer
Little Parts Hunts a Baby-Daddy - Ann Noble



[VIEW FESTIVAL TRAILER](#)



www.unmutedparticipants.com



unmutedparticipants@gmail.com

ANTENNAE

By Kelsey Siepser

TRT 40 mins

Exploring stunted feelers



A pandemic induced trip down memory lane, featuring puppets and a treatise on The Sopranos is put into hyper speed when a gender nonconforming praying mantis named E appears in Kelsey's study. They lead her down a path of discovery of the patterns shaped who she thinks she is. Before going any further, she must uncover a truth she might not be willing to face, at least, not on her own. This piece leans into the voyeuristic nature of Zoom performances, explores the binaries we occupy and asks how we can leap past our old behaviors into the possibilities of the unknown.

Kelsey Siepser is a multi-hyphenate artist who creates content for our changing times. She invites her audience to take a journey to understand the more nuanced side of our human nature. Whether through their acting, solo performance, writing or short form films, Kelsey is eager to continue the dialogue around what stories we tell ourselves to survive and what narratives open up the potential to thrive.

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/690685551>

www.kelseysiepser.com

instagram [@kelseysiepser](https://www.instagram.com/kelseysiepser)

Antennae premiered live online in Son of Semele's Quick Creation Cyberfest in 2020.



BEING FRANK

By Frank Moran

TRT 80 mins

Being Frank: who's really behind Groucho's moustache?



Actor, impersonator, and song-n-dance man, Frank Moran, celebrates the characters of the Marx brothers as he dexterously weaves their lives into his own. A real "New York Story", Moran spins a rollicking tale of his younger self and all of his heroes, including his working-class family, the Broadway greats, and, of course, Groucho Marx. Riddled with stories both comic and tragic, Moran dances, literally, between the comic and the tragic, as he discovers how powerful wearing all these different masks has really become.

Frank Moran was born in Brooklyn, NY and started acting young by entertaining his family with celebrity impressions and sketches. Stage work includes Groucho in "The Coconuts" at the American Place Theatre, in NYC, and regional theaters throughout the US. TV includes All My Children, One Life to Live, and Law & Order. Frank studied with the great Wynn Handman and is currently with Ann Noble, where he's ceaselessly inspired by discovering more about himself and his craft.

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/690783147>

www.FrankMoran.com

IMDB.me/FrankMoran

<https://resumes.actorsaccess.com/Frank-Moran>

WORLD PREMIERE



www.unmutedparticipants.com



unmutedparticipants@gmail.com

BOY CRAZY PSYCHO SLUT

By Jo Dellapina

TRT 65 mins

Who you callin a boy crazy psycho slut?



Like all women, Jo Dellapina has been called her fair share of things, many not so flattering. In this solo show, she explores this from ages 5 to 50, deciding what labels to accept and which to jettison like yesterday's fish. This show, equal parts comedic and heart wrenching, is meant for anyone who wonders who they are, enjoys pop culture, has sought love, has been a teenager, is worried about aging, or likes the Ramones (you'll have to see it to understand) The stories in this show may be fully true, total bullshit, or something in between.

Jo Dellapina is a Los Angeles-based actor. She has studied acting and writing at UCLA, Upright Citizens Brigade, Berg Studios, and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). Theater career highlights include Beth in *The Christmas Spirit*, Aunt May in *Italian-American Reconciliation* and Cookie in *Rumors*. She has also appeared in dozens of films and digital videos.

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/690685687>

resumes.actorsaccess.com/dellapina

Boy Crazy Psycho Slut premiered live at Hollywood Fringe in July, 2021 and was also featured at United Solo 2021.



DICKIN' AROUND

By Michael Lyons

TRT 63 mins



How many dicks does it take to satiate a heartbroken 20something homosexual with a penchant for deep diving into the sensory stimuli he finds along the way? In this one-hour piece, Michael lets us into his private world and invites us to confront and ruminate on the beautiful, the icky, and the confusing together. This show is about sex. This show is not about sex. This show is for anyone who's ever felt lost at sea and exhausted themselves swimming to shore. Especially swimming through a sea of cum. Dive underneath the raunch of this show and you'll find a universally relatable, tender underbelly.

Michael Lyons is a Los Angeles-based actor, originally from Staten Island, NY. He's studied acting, writing, clown, singing, and musical theater at Berg Studios, Singing Lessons LA (Greg Safel), and the University of Southern California (USC). He's appeared in plays at USC and a variety of short films, student and independent, including the festival award winning "You Missed a Spot" in which he portrayed a mime in a clown universe, saving the girl of his dreams. Michael is also an occupational therapist and cleverly uses his career in healthcare to inform and inspire his creative work.

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/690686416>

Instagram [@michael.j.lyons](#)

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm10653847/>

WORLD PREMIERE



www.unmutedparticipants.com



unmutedparticipants@gmail.com

GLIMMER OF A RAINBOW

By Aoife Fagan

TRT 66 mins

A girl's reluctant journey through a material world



Ivory, tortoise shells, human teeth – you can make jewelry out of almost anything. Orla the vegan is disgusted by this, but Orla the sales assistant leans right into it. In *Glimmer of a Rainbow*, Orla battles with her own insecurities, and struggles with who the world tells her she is versus who she wants to be. Throughout the play, Orla gets wrapped up in petty workplace dramas at Rhinestones, along with constantly dealing with her belittling boss Brenda, until a tragedy in Orla's personal life brings her back down to earth.

Aoife Fagan is a Los Angeles-based actor, originally from Dublin, Ireland. After completing secondary school, Aoife left Dublin and moved to Stratford-upon-Avon to study with the Year Out Drama company, working closely with the RSC. She then trained as an actor at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute where she completed their two year conservatory. Since completing her training, Aoife has worked as an actor in a number of productions, mainly in theatre, short films and voice-over work.

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/690687095>

<https://www.spotlight.com/2059-9085-6021>

WORLD PREMIERE



HOT DOG PLAY

By Ann Loud

TRT 65 mins

A life encased



Hot Dog Play is a candid examination of what it means to live in a post-Dumpling world. Part love letter, part hate mail, this short confessional wrestles with the difficulties of accepting oneself and living life bravely.

Ann Loud is an artist who lives and works in Los Angeles. She enjoys making things and boxing in her free time.

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/687783885>

WORLD PREMIERE



www.unmutedparticipants.com



unmutedparticipants@gmail.com

IMAGINING RACHEL

By Elise Robertson

TRT 116 mins

A solo journey into Rachel Carson's nature and the messiness of living.



Storyteller Elise Robertson embarks on a journey of discovery about Rachel Carson, iconic environmentalist, born twelve miles from her in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 60 years earlier. Elise's own demons quickly hijack the story, interweaving her own coming-of-age with Rachel's, as they struggle with their identities as artists, mothers, and truth-tellers. Conceived and staged in her tiny backyard studio using an eclectic mix of found props, greenscreen, stop motion, and multiple zoom screens, the result is a whimsical, unique storytelling experience: sweeping and intimate, funny and moving. Elise plays multiple characters in myriad settings without ever leaving her office chair.

Elise Robertson is an actor, director and writer with over 100 tv, film and commercial credits. She recently directed the award-winning short *Darling, Darling Wendy* and is excited about her upcoming recurring role on Amazon Studios' *The Power*. A graduate of Northwestern University's theatre department with a minor in art, she loves to paint, build things, and tend to her front yard farm in the Highland Park neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Trailers:

<https://vimeo.com/687785925>

<https://vimeo.com/590647110>

www.eliserobertson.com

[Imagining Rachel Press Pack](#)

Instagram [@iameliserobertson](#)

[IMDB.me/eliserobertson](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1045744/)

Imagining Rachel premiered at the 2021 Edinburgh Fringe and recently appeared at New Zealand Fringe 2022.



I'M JUST SAYING

By Cecelia Settem

TRT 35 mins

A women's journey to find herself or what I call therapy.



Cecelia's comedic foray into therapy invites you to consider that your way may not be the best way. Revelations abound, like: we all grew up with different rule books and communicating with other humans is like playing a game of telephone, "Trust no one" is easier said than done, and being in charge is not all it's cracked up to be. She realizes that being a mother has changed her understanding of everything she believes, loves, and trusts, and that she must grow an ultra-thick skin to survive.

Cecelia Settem is a recovering preacher's daughter discovering life as it is and not as she'd been told. She has a background in acting from high school and community theater. Cecelia took a break from the industry to discover herself, life and what was truly important. Now she's back with a new outlook on life and the industry, and she's exploding with ideas she wants to share with the world. You'll love her or you'll hate her, rarely both. But no worries. She doesn't care what you think and nor should you.

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/690788671>

CeceliaSettem.com

Instagram [@CeceliaSettem](https://www.instagram.com/CeceliaSettem)

WORLD PREMIERE



THE LATE HARNESS REBELLION

By Tamas Milhofer

TRT 43 mins

A trip from Hungary to Sweden with a harness



Do you feel you have emotional shackles that are holding you back? Join Tamas on a journey from his early childhood with an overprotective family in conservative Hungary to standing on his feet as an adult in liberal Sweden. Can he manage on his own? Is he willing to try unfamiliar things just because it is possible? Mixing elements of stand-up comedy, clowning and other visual devices, this solo show touches on deeply personal stories about loneliness, belonging, low self-esteem and a kissing bench as well as insights into both the Hungarian and the Swedish cultures. Ready to free yourself from those emotional bonds?

Tamas Milhofer lives in Stockholm, Sweden, but was born in Budapest, Hungary. He has studied acting at Berg Studios, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Royal Central School of Speech and Drama among others. He's appeared in several short films and commercials. His background also includes improv theater, clowning and an MA in English and in Media Studies.

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/690690394>

TamasMilhofer.com

WORLD PREMIERE



www.unmutedparticipants.com

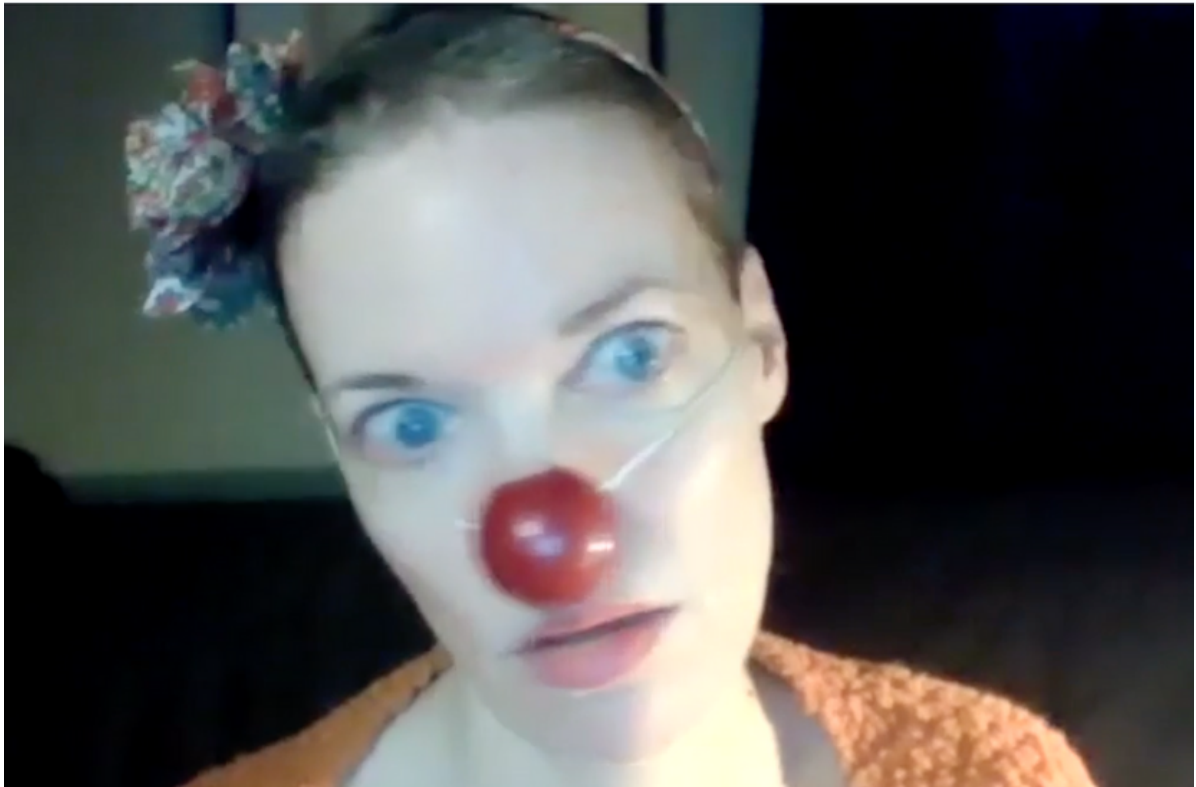


unmutedparticipants@gmail.com

LITTLE PARTS HUNTS A BABY-DADDY

By Ann Noble

TRT 45 mins



An always-pregnant, over-intellectual clown decides it's time to interview a series of potential Baby-Daddies for her Maybe Baby aka "the baby that might never come". Part confessional, part Bachelorette wannabe, part puppet show, the selection process swings from absurdly funny to brutally honest as the identity of the real Baby-Daddy dares to come into view.

Ann Noble is a solo-performer, actor, writer, director, arts educator and private coach. Sporting a BS in Theatre from Northwestern University, she has been part of both the Chicago and Los Angeles Theatre Communities for over 25 years. She works as an actor and director in LA extensively, and her plays/new media series, have been produced all over the world. She teaches acting, writing, storytelling and solo performance at several institutions/ organizations such as LA's Museum of the Holocaust, LA's LGBT Center, Homeboy Industries, Antaeus Theatre, Hussian College-In Studio LA, and Berg Studios. She also serves as a jail chaplain in the LA County Jails.

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/690692013>

annnoble.com

bergstudios.com

antaeus.org

prismjustice.org

*Little Parts Hunts a Baby-Daddy
premiered live at the Echo Theatre
in March, 2022.*



www.unmutedparticipants.com



unmutedparticipants@gmail.com