

UMassAmherst

Fine Arts Center

***Leonardo & Sam, the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World, Respectively* by Manual Cinema**

Sunday, April 11, 3 p.m. ET

Virtual Screening and Artist Q&A



*UMass Amherst occupies the traditional land of the Nonotuck tribe. We recognize our neighboring Indigenous nations: the Nipmuc and the Wampanoag to the East, the Mohegan and Pequot to the South, the Mohican to the West, and the Abenaki to the North. We further acknowledge through language courtesy of Groundwater Arts, that YouTube, the platform used for this event, is headquartered in what is now called San Bruno, CA on the traditional lands of the Ohlone, Muwekma, and Ramaytush peoples. We acknowledge the lands YouTube resides on as the digital platform does not exist in an ether or an imaginary void, but is made possible because of physical land and the Indigenous people who steward it.*

Sponsored by:

Coca Cola, Daily Hampshire Gazette, 93.9 The River, El Sol Latino, and Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.





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### ***ABOUT LEONARDO & SAM, THE TERRIBLE MONSTER AND THE MOST SCAREDY-CAT KID IN THE WHOLE WORLD, RESPECTIVELY***

Leonardo is a terrible monster. He tries so hard to be scary, but he just...isn't. Then Leonardo finds Sam, the most scaredy-cat kid in the world. Will Leonardo finally get his chance to scare the tuna salad out of an unsuspecting human? Or will it be the start of an unlikely friendship? Inspired by the beloved children's books by Mo Willems, the critically-acclaimed multimedia artists of Manual Cinema use mind-bending projection, DIY cinema, music, and immersive sound to tell the story of a monster who longs to be scary and the big decisions about identity and empathy that we all must make.

LEONARDO & SAM received its virtual world premiere on March 15, 2021 via the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in conjunction with a year-long education and artistic residency by author Mo Willems. Manual Cinema collaborated with Mo Willems to create the new handmade movie.

### **ABOUT MANUAL CINEMA**

MANUAL CINEMA is an Emmy Award winning performance collective, design studio, and film/ video production company founded in 2010 by Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Ben Kauffman, Julia Miller, and Kyle Vegter. Manual Cinema uses vintage overhead projectors, multiple screens, puppets, actors, live feed cameras, multi-channel sound design, and a live music ensemble to transform the experience of attending the cinema. Hailing from Chicago the company were named "Chicagoans of the Year" and according to Chris Jones of The Chicago Tribune "...have created a new whole art form". Ben Brantley of The New York Times state: "this Chicago troupe is conjuring phantasms to die for..."

The company was awarded an Emmy Award in 2017 for "The Forger," a video created for The New York Times. Their shadow puppet animations are featured in the film remake of "Candyman," directed by Nia DaCosta and produced by Jordan Peele's Monkeypaw Productions.

To date, Manual Cinema has created: nine feature length live multimedia theater shows; a live cinematic contemporary dance show created for family audiences in collaboration with Hubbard Street Dance and the choreographer Robyn Mineko Williams; an original site-specific installation for the MET Museum; an original adaptation of "Hansel & Gretel" created for the Belgian Royal Opera; and music videos for Sony Masterworks, Gabriel Kahane, three time GRAMMY Award-winning eighth blackbird, NYTimes Best Selling author Reif Larson and Grammy Award winning Esperanza Spalding. Manual Cinema's Emmy Award-winning collaboration with The New York Times. "The Forger," was nominated for a documentary short Peabody Award and won 2nd prize in the World Press Photo 2017 Digital Storytelling Contest, Long Form. In 2020 Manual Cinema celebrated their ten year anniversary and had their South American premiere at the Santiago a Mil festival.

## Upcoming Events:

### **Matt Haimovitz: Bach Listening Room**

**Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. ET**

**Presented in collaboration with the UMass Bach Festival & Symposium**

**Livestream concert. Q&A with Matt Haimovitz and Luna Pearl Woolf, moderated by Elizabeth Chang and Michael Sakamoto**



Renowned as a musical pioneer, cellist Matt Haimovitz is praised by The New York Times as a “ferociously talented cellist who brings his megawatt sound and uncommon expressive gifts to a vast variety of styles” and by The New Yorker as “remarkable virtuoso” who “never turns in a predictable performance.”

### **Silkroad**

**Thursday, April 29, 2021**

**7:00 p.m. ET**

**Members of the Silkroad Ensemble, with Special Guests**



Members of the Grammy Award-winning ensemble, Silkroad, present highlights from their 20+-year trajectory, including original compositions and traditional repertoire with global reach. The performance will be immediately followed by a live Q&A featuring Silkroad artists and special guests, discussing everything from their musical influences to the future of the genre-bending, border-breaking social impact arts organization.

For more information about these and all UMass Fine Arts Center Events and to get your ticketing link please visit:

[\*\*fineartscenter.com\*\*](https://fineartscenter.com)