



Come celebrate Thanksgiving with Theatre Gigante
... and bring everything you are thankful for along ...

THANKS A LOT!

a monologue written and performed by **Mark Anderson**
w/music composed and performed live by **Frank Pahl**
directed by **Isabelle Kralj**

NOV 19 @ 7:30PM

NOV 20 @ 5:00PM

NOV 21 @ 2PM

Kenilworth 508 Theatre

1925 East Kenilworth Pl. 5th floor



UP NEXT!

**THEATRE
GIGANTE**

presents

Stories from **David Sedaris'**

HOLIDAYS ON ICE

read by

MICHAEL STEBBINS

Live streamed into the comfort and warmth of your home

December 20 or December 27

7:00pm

Make a donation to Theatre Gigante
at theatregigante.org/support
and making your donation

**We will then contact you for your choice of date via
email, and send you the link to the performance.**

**We look forward to celebrating the
December holidays with you in your home!**



Director's Notes:

The pandemic brought about much thinking and pondering. It has been a difficult time for all of us and has given us new perspectives on our situations, and on life in general. What really matters revealed itself to each of us during the confines of our lockdown. Who really matters also revealed itself as the virus affected us, millions of fellow human beings, and countless families. Our priorities have been rearranged and changed ... perhaps forever. No longer are we the people we were in 2019. As we experience this global, and extraordinary, catastrophe, each of us has stories to share about it. We have recognized how fragile we are and how very much we need each other. Our lives are gifts to be protected and cherished and shared. Mark Anderson, who has been writing monologues his entire career has chosen to write his thoughts and musings down, thus creating a brand new monologue, THANKS A LOT!. To underscore his writing, we have brought longtime collaborator Frank Pahl into the mix to share his musings and feelings through what he knows best ... his thought provoking music. There is not much more to say here. Come join Theatre Gigante in the delight of sharing thoughts, feelings, ideas, and so much more ... Happy Thanksgiving.

Enjoy!



Theatre Gigante would like to thank the following individuals & organizations:

Todd Brei
Chuck Hill
Shepherd Express
David Lührssen
UWM Peck School of Fine Arts
Randall Trumbull-Holper
Lisa Dickson

Phil Warren
Mischa Premeau
Matt Norby
Susan & Ron Scot Fry
Rob Munger
Sound Check 4 Arts
Volunteer Ushers

... and if we've forgotten anyone, please accept our apologies.



Artistic Directors
Isabelle Kralj Mark Anderson

THANKS A LOT!

text written and performed by
Mark Anderson

music written and performed by
Frank Pahl

adapted and directed by
Isabelle Kralj

lighting design by
Alan Piotrowicz

technical director & light board operator
Sam Fitzwater-Butchart

videographer/editor **Dena Aronson**
second camera **Starah Light**

Poster design and Theatre Gigante logo by **Todd Brei**.

The photographing or recording of this performance is strictly forbidden.

This performance is made possible by



BIOGRAPHIES

About THEATRE GIGANTE

Now in its 34th year, Theatre Gigante enlivens the local performance scene with its unique style of theatre. Gigante brings original, eclectic, and unique theatre to the stage and has a strong history of dynamic collaborations with locally, nationally, and internationally known musicians, visual artists, composers, and performers. Besides Milwaukee, it has appeared in Chicago, NYC, Boston, North Carolina, Iowa, Michigan, and Slovenia, EU. The theatre of big ideas, critically acclaimed Theatre Gigante is exciting, challenging, and fresh. Artistic Directors Isabelle Kralj and Mark Anderson are first and foremost storytellers, and they use their eclectic backgrounds to bring many styles and genres to their finished products. Their work has an innovative signature style, combining and seamlessly flowing back and forth between text, dialogue, movement, dance, music, and, at times, video. Apart, and together, they have created over 80 theater pieces.

About Mark Anderson (author/performer)

Theatre Gigante Artistic co-Director Mark Anderson is an artist based in Milwaukee whose work as a monologist, playwright, and interdisciplinary artist has been seen in over thirty cities around the country, and in Europe.

Anderson has worked as a soloist, or in collaboration with many other Milwaukee performing artists and groups, including Present Music, Wild Space Dance Company, Inertia Ensemble, and many times with Theatre X, for whom he wrote several plays, including Quorum.

In 1996, Anderson began working with Gigante founder Isabelle Kralj, and since then they have co-created over eighty original productions, including Petrushka, My Dear Othello, The Beggar's Opera, Three Other Sisters, The Lears, and The Way Things Go.

Anderson has written and performed monologues for Gigante, as well as Links Hall in Chicago, Grinnell College, James Madison University, University of Michigan, and in numerous US cities, including Madison, Chicago, Buffalo, New York, Houston, Los Angeles and Seattle. In 1986-89, he toured with PS122 Field Trips. He received an MFA from the University of Michigan School of Art & Design and a BA in Theatre from Grinnell College. He is presently Adjunct Professor at Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design.

About Frank Pahl (composer/performer)

Longtime and regular Theatre Gigante collaborator Frank Pahl is a Michigan-based musician/composer, working in several styles. He works primarily in Detroit and Ann Arbor, and has exhibited his work in Canada, Europe, and Japan, as well as the United States. He has worked in several groups, including Only A Mother, Sublime Wedge, Immigrant Suns, ScavengerR Quartet, and Little Bang Theory, the "toy" music trio. He has composed music for numerous dance and theatre

productions. As a composer, he is known for employing an arsenal of instruments, from such traditional but not-quite-common instruments as ukuleles and euphoniums to a variety of homemade, automated contraptions. He also builds and exhibits a lot of automatic instruments. His fascination with, and collection of, toy instruments has developed into Little BangTheory, which was last seen by Gigante audiences this past October in NOSFERATU w/LITTLE BANG THEORY.

About Isabelle Kralj (director)

Isabelle Kralj is the Founder, and Artistic Co-Director, of Theatre Gigante and works as an auteur, director, choreographer, and performer. Besides Gigante, she has directed and/or choreographed for, among others, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, First Stage Milwaukee, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Florentine Opera, DBUS (Ballet Assn. of Slovenia) and Door Shakespeare. Abroad, where she was a member of the Slovenian National Theatre Ballet, she has performed in Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, Austria, and Germany. Kralj has an MFA in Dance, and she has been on the faculty of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Alverno College, and University School of Milwaukee, where she created and implemented a dance program. Kralj received a New Choreography Award from the Wisconsin Arts Board, and the award of High Artistic Achievement from UWM's Slovenian Arts Council, and grants from the US State Department, U.S. Embassy in Slovenia, and the Slovenian Ministry of Culture. Some of Kralj's most critically acclaimed work includes A SOLDIER'S TALE, METAMORPHOSIS, ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE, and A COSMIC FAIRY TALE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY. She has written/created over eighty works, many of them in collaboration with Mark Anderson, who also happens to be her life's collaborator.

About Alan Piotrowicz (lighting designer)

ALAN PIOTROWICZ (Lighting Design) previously designed lighting for Theatre Gigante's TERMINUS and lighting and sets for METAMORPHOSIS and ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE. He has designed for several companies in and around Milwaukee, including All In Productions, Cooperative Performance, Danceworks, Falls Patio Players, First Stage Children's Theatre, In Tandem Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Next Act Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Sunstone Studios, Theatre Gigante, Theater RED, and Windfall Theatre. His work also includes designs for TITAN Theatre Company in New York City, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre in Holland, MI, and Brief Cameo Productions and the Ivoryton Playhouse in Ivoryton, CT. He is a proud board member of Cooperative Performance and Brief Cameo Productions. He received his training at UW-Madison and The Santa Fe Opera. www.alanpiotrowicz.com

About Sam Fitzwater-Butchart (technical director/light board operator)

Theatre Gigante's resident Technical Director, Samuel Fitzwater-Butchart, is a Milwaukee native who has worked for theater companies such as Skylight Music Theatre, Next-Act Theatre, and Gigante. He currently also holds resident positions with Three Crows Theatre (IL) where he has worked on OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD, TROJAN WOMEN, THESE SHINING LIVES, and with Open Door Theatre (VT) where he has worked on PROOF, MY MOTHER'S 3 MOTHERS PAST. For Theatre Gigante he has worked on METAMORPHOSIS, TARZAN, SPALDING GRAY: STORIES LEFT TO TELL, and CRAVE, and NOSFERATU w/LITTLE BANG THEORY, among others. Sam is thrilled to be working with Gigante again on THANKS A LOT!. You can find out Sam's current projects at @sfbound on Instagram.

**Pandemic Precautions For Your Safety**

Theatre Gigante will maintain necessary pandemic safety precautions. Proof of vaccination will be requested at the door, and masks will be required within the building at all times. The health and safety of our audiences, artists and staff remain the top priority for us. These precautionary steps – following the guidance from local and national health experts – will give us the ability to ensure live performances can continue safely.

THEATRE GIGANTE



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Being a non-profit organization, Theatre Gigante needs the support of individuals such as yourself.

If you would like to become a Contributor, Board Member, and/or a Volunteer, please contact us at gigante@theatregigante.org

To **donate online**, and for further information, visit our website at **www.theatregigante.org**

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Pam Frautschi	Guy Klucevsek
Jean Roberts-Guequirre	Shawn Smith
Rebecca North & Adolph Paul	Sam Fitzwater-Butchart
Leslie Fedorchuk & John Fitzgerald	Peter Stathas
Rob Sutherland	Leroy & Martha Stoner

\$ 50 - \$ 99

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Anonymous	Ceal & Tim Hunter
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up to \$ 49

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WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP!**

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email _____

amount enclosed _____

Would you like to be mentioned in the program?

Yes _____ No _____

Please mail to: Theatre Gigante
 P.O. Box 1999
 Milwaukee WI 53201-1999

Thank you !!!

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Theatre Gigante is a Nonprofit Organization. As such, it receives funds from Milwaukee County CAMPAC; United Performing Arts Fund; the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts; and many Gigante Friends.

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Wisconsin Arts Board CARES Act Funding Program

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SOUND CHECK 4 ARTS

