

***Honor, an
Artist Lecture
by Suzanne
Bocanegra
Starring
Lili Taylor***



APRIL 29–30, 2022, 7PM

MOCA GRAND AVENUE



CREDITS

Written and Created by: **Suzanne Bocanegra**

Performed by: **Lili Taylor**

Directed by: **Geoff Sobelle**

Video by: **Derrick Belcham**

Costume photos by: **Thibault Jeanson** and **Georgia Nerheim**

LA Tour Director: **Rachel Park**

LA Musicians Contractor and Music Director: **Lesley Leighton**

Wardrobe Supervisor: **Theodora Bocanegra Lang**

Design and Technical Director: **Joey Wolfsiau**

Producer: **Sandra Garner**, Lingua Franca Arts

Ríu, Ríu, Chíu arranged by **David Lang**

Musicians:

Jessica Rotter

Shelly Edwards

Sara Mann

Allison Cheng

Amy Keys

Tableaux Vivants:

Jessica Barrett

Theodora Bocanegra Lang

K. Mercedes

Image credit: Georgia Nerheim



PROGRAM NOTES

Part artist lecture, part memoir, part cultural essay, *Honor*, an Artist Lecture by Suzanne Bocanegra Starring Lili Taylor is the fourth in a series of performances by Suzanne Bocanegra. It follows *Farmhouse / Whorehouse*, an Artist Lecture by Suzanne Bocanegra Starring Lili Taylor; *When a Priest Marries a Witch*, an Artist Lecture by Suzanne Bocanegra Starring Paul Lazar and *Bodycast*, an Artist Lecture by Suzanne Bocanegra Starring Frances McDormand.

Honor was commissioned by The Metropolitan Museum of Art and it will travel to ICA Boston and the Walker Art Center.

BIOS

Suzanne Bocanegra (Writer/Creator) is a visual artist living and working in New York. Suzanne Bocanegra's Artist Lecture performances have been presented in museums, galleries and theaters across the United States, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Hammer Museum, the Pulitzer Foundation, the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the Carnegie Museum of Art and on the Next Wave Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Bocanegra is the recipient of numerous awards, including grants from the Guggenheim Foundation and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2020 she received the Robert Rauschenberg award from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. In 2019, a major show of Bocanegra's work titled *Poorly Watched Girls* was presented at the Fabric Workshop and Museum in Philadelphia. Also in 2019, her solo show *Wardrobe Test* was the inaugural exhibition at ART CAKE, an exhibition space in Brooklyn. Her work is in the collections of the Guggenheim Museum and the Museum of Modern Art, among others.



Lili Taylor (Performer). *Honor* marks the fourth Artist Lecture Lili has worked on with Suzanne. Lili and Suzanne have been performing *When a Priest Marries a Witch*, *BodyCast*, and *Farmhouse / Whorehouse* over the years in many different venues across the US ranging from BAM, The Wexner Center, and The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis to name a few.

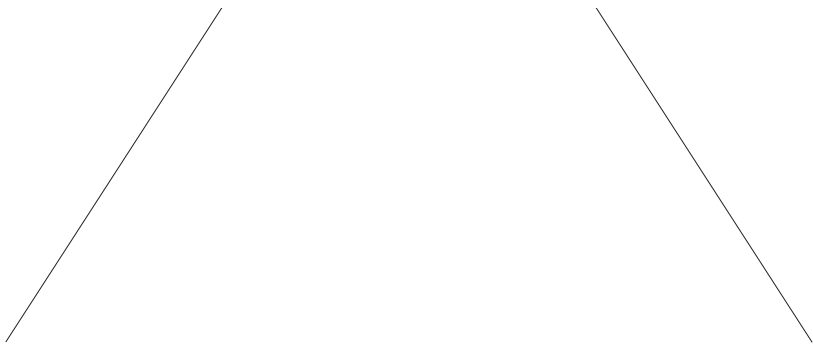
Geoff Sobelle (Director) is a US-based theatre artist devoted to making original actor-driven performance works. His shows include: *HOME*, *The Object Lesson*, *The Elephant Room*, *all wear bowlers and machines machines machines machines machines machines machines* (among others). He has received commissions 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.

Rachel Park (Tour Director) is a Los Angeles-based director for live performance interested in collaborative new play development and interdisciplinary theatrical experiences. Her work has been performed at: REDCAT, École de la Comédie de Saint-Étienne, Edinburgh International Festival, The Vagrancy, The Blank, Stella Adler, Under St. Marks, The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, The New American Theatre, The Studio Theatre (Theatre Row), and beyond. Additional collaborations of note include production work with: Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles Performance Practice, The Getty Villa, Goldie Swan Productions, Page 73, and CalArts Center for New Performance. She holds an MFA in Directing from CalArts, a BFA from Boston University, and is an alumna of Directors Lab West. www.rsvpark.com.

Lesley Leighton (Musicians Contractor and Music Director). As a conductor, Lesley Leighton embraces a broad range of music, from the Renaissance to the Romantic, although she is particularly dedicated to twentieth and 21st century compositions. She has performed on more than 100 film soundtracks, and has prepared choruses for Gustavo Dudamel, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Bramwell Tovey, Leonard Slatkin, Zubin Mehta, Pierre Boulez, Michael Tilson Thomas, Laura Jackson, and John Adams. Leighton has premiered more than 50 new compositions as a conductor since 2009, and collaborated with composer John Wineglass for the premiere of his newest work for chorus and orchestra, *Voices of the West*, which premiered in October 2018, in addition to the world premiere of composer Jasper Randall's *Requiem* in March 2019. In 2016, Leighton co-produced Los Angeles Master Chorale's *national anthems* (david lang) album, and she conducted the west coast premiere of lang's opera, *the loser*, at Los Angeles Opera in February 2019 and recorded the work in New York and Los Angeles in march 2020. She also collaborated with Barbara Hannigan for Stravinsky's opera *Rake's Progress*, in Leighton's first production with the Ojai Festival in June 2019. Lang's work *crowd out* was Leighton's conducting debut with Los Angeles Philharmonic. Leighton was named the first associate conductor in the history of Los Angeles Master Chorale in July 2011 following a year as assistant conductor. She has been artistic director of Los Robles Master Chorale since 2008; Director of Choral Activities at California State University San Bernardino since 2019; and most recently Principal Guest Conductor of San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra in January 2022. In addition, she regularly conducted the Los Angeles Master Chorale Chamber Singers for six years, and premiered works annually with them at Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Joseph Wolfslau (Design and Technical Director) is a set, sound, and costume designer based in Brooklyn. Recent designs include sound design for *Swing Out* (Joyce), production design for *La Sonnambula* (Promenade Opera), production design for *Magnum Opus: A Retrospective: (The People Movers)*, sound for *The Emperor's Nightingale* (Pan Asian Rep.), sound for *The Peanut Butter Show* (Little Lord), production design for *Cendrillon* (Promenade Opera), sound for *Romulus the Great* (Yangtze Rep.), sound for *Brideshead Obliterated* (Dixon Place), set, sound, and costumes for *410 [Gone]* (Yangtze Rep), sound for *CoIncident* (JACK), sound for *Ski End* (New Ohio), sound for *CoVenture* (Baryshnikov), and set and costumes for *Poor Sailor* (Tugboat Collective).

Sandra Garner (Producer) is an independent New York-based producer working through her company Lingua Franca Arts which is dedicated to the development, support and presentation of international contemporary performing arts projects. Current projects include IOyej Group's *Taxilandia*, Pavel Zustiak's *HEBEL*, and James Allister Sprang's *Aquifer of the Weave*. Lingua Franca Arts is about cultivating a common language among artists, art forms and audiences.
www.linguafrancaarts.com.



Jessica Barrett Denison (Tableau Vivant) is a performer & filmmaker based in Los Angeles, California. Denison's expertise is visual storytelling that echoes New Wave & Technicolor film. Her work has been featured in The New York Theatre Festival, The Dublin Theatre Festival, NYC/Hollywood Fringe, Planet Connections, and Big Mini Film Festival. For more details, please visit www.goldieswanproductions.com

Theodora Bocanegra Lang (Wardrobe Supervisor/Tableau Vivant) is an MA student at Columbia University in Modern and Contemporary Art History, and previously received her BA from Oberlin College in Art History. She is currently curatorial assistant at Dia Art Foundation, where she most recently worked on exhibitions with Maren Hassinger, Joan Jonas, and Jo Baer, among others. She previously worked at Gavin Brown's enterprise and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She lives in Brooklyn and is the daughter of the artist.

Allison Cheng (Vocalist) is a soprano vocalist, choral conductor, and educator originally from Oregon. She is a K-12 music educator in the state of California with a M.M. in Contemporary Teaching Practices K-12 from University of Southern California, M.M. degree in Choral Music at the University of Southern California, and a B.Mus. in Vocal Performance from La Sierra University. In 2019 she was accepted into the Thornton Board of Councilor Mentoring Program and paired with choral conductor Grant Gershon of the Los Angeles Master Chorale. Currently she is working at the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood as the director of Carol Choir and a choir teacher for grades 3rd-8th in Southern, California.

Shelly Edwards (Vocalist) is thrilled to be performing at MOCA. Shelly, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music and CSULB, is a Soprano Vocalist and Voice Teacher who previously sang with the Los Angeles Master Chorale and can be seen this Fall at LA Opera in the West Coast Premiere of Rhiannon Giddens' Opera *Omar*. She is thankful to her family and friends for ALL their support!


Amy Keys (Vocalist) is a versatile and accomplished vocalist, writer, producer and actor. The Sony/Epic Label released a solo album with Amy entitled *Lover's Intuition*. Other touring credits include: Leonard Cohen, Al McKay, Phil Collins, Barbra Streisand, Herbie Hancock, Toto, Stewart Copeland, Michael Bolton, Dave Stewart, kd lang, Joe Cocker, Tears For Fears, and many more. Amy has sung backgrounds for numerous artists including: Sting, Elton John, Barbara Streisand, One Republic, Sam Smith, Josh Groban, Stevie Wonder, Seal, Neil Young, Randy Newman, Chaka Khan, Don Henley, Timothy B. Schmit, Mary J Blige, Queen Latifah, Al Green to name only a few. Amy is an accomplished song writer with numerous credits including performances with: Phil Collins, Stevie Wonder, Ringo Starr, Toto, Keb Mo, Jessica Simpson, Dave Stewart, Neil Young, Schiller, LA Blues Alliance, kd lang and many more. Amy has appeared on the Grammy Awards with Barbara Streisand, Sam Smith, and Mary J Blige, the Academy Awards with Randy Newman and multiple television programs and specials. She toured Europe as the featured vocalist with Herbie Hancock and performed with him at the Montreux Jazz Festival during a tribute to Quincy Jones and at the famed Monterey Jazz Festival. She also appears and is singing in the Kristen Wiig and Annie Mumolo comedy, *Barb and Star Go To Vista Del Mar* and The Eddie Murphy film, *Dolemite*. Amy served as a representative of the music community on the Governor's Board of the National Recording Academy (Grammys) and is a member of its Advocacy Board. She also performs as a member and soloist with the Los Robles Master Chorale.

Sara Mann (Vocalist) is a Los Angeles native. A singer-songwriter from an early age, Sara has released several albums and EP's over the span of two decades, notably *Lullabies*, produced by Doug Petty and *The End of You* produced by Jeff Russo. Recently, Sara fulfilled one of her lifelong dreams as a soloist at Disney Hall with the L.A. Philharmonic under the baton of John Adams. Sara has been a featured singer (backup, duet and solo) for Miley Cyrus, Harry Belafonte, Willie Nelson, Leonard Cohen, She & Him, Chris Stapleton, Sheryl Crow, Allison Krauss, Brian Setzer, Kacey Musgraves, and others. Her voice has graced many movie soundtracks and television shows, including *Frozen 2*, *Trolls World Tour*, *Sing 1 & 2*, *Secret Life of Pets 2*, *Jumanji 1 & 2*, *Pitch Perfect 2 & 3*, *La La Land*, *Elena of Avalor*, *Sophia the First*, *Kidzobop*, etc. She has performed

multiple times at the Hollywood Bowl, *American Idol*, *Dancing with the Stars*, *Live with Regis and Kelly*, *Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *The Late Late Show with James Cordon* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, The American Music Awards, The Grammys, etc. Sara also had a recurring role on NBC's drama *American Dreams* as resident folk singer "Joanne" and can be seen as a recurring backup vocalist for *Ellen's Game of Games* and *The Ellen Show*. Major Works: Mozart Requiem (Alto Soloist), Handel Messiah (Alto Soloist), Duruflé: Requiem (Soprano and Alto), Vaughan Williams: Mass in G Minor (Alto), Mozart: Great Mass in C Minor (Alto), Verdi: Requiem (Alto), Beethoven: Ode to Joy (Alto), Rutter: Requiem/ Gloria (Alto) www.saramann.com.

K. Mercedes (Tableau Vivant) is a multiethnic actress, originally from the Twin Cities, who's recently graduated from the BFA Acting program at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). Her feature film debut, *M*, is set to release this summer. You can follow her on Instagram @kmercedesxoxo and on her personal website: thekmercedes.com. K. Mercedes is a member of SAG-AFTRA.

Jessica Rotter (Vocalist) is a Los Angeles-based vocalist and songwriter whose voice has been heard across a variety of genres, from movies, TV shows, and commercials to backing vocals and collaborations with other artists in addition to her own original songs. The list of artists she has worked with reads like a who's who of the music industry today: Daft Punk, Carole King, Portugal. The Man, She & Him, The Weeknd, Alicia Keys, Martina McBride and others. With classical training in opera and musical theatre from Pepperdine University, Jessica is just as comfortable using her voice in a major feature film or television show (credits include *The Simpsons*, *Wandavision*, *Suicide Squad*, *Sing 1 & 2*, *Pitch Perfect*, *Trolls*, *Frozen*) as she is performing and producing her own music solo or with her band JEMS. Throughout her career, Jessica has consistently been able to transcend creative boundaries and defy what's expected of a modern female musician, creating aesthetic and emotional experiences through sound and visuals.



SPECIAL THANKS FROM
SUZANNE BOCANEGRA


I want to thank Limor Tomer for inviting me to do this performance. I also want to thank curator Elizabeth Cleland for sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge of European tapestry with me.

A shout out to Kristy Edmunds for our initial workshop at UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance, to Abigail Browde of 600 Highwaymen for her thoughtful direction and choreography of the workshop and to Stacy Dawson Stearns for her inspired performance.

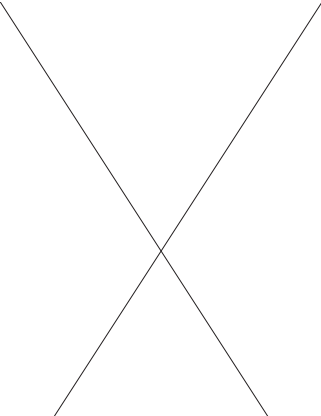
At the beginnings of this project I had numerous helpful conversations on the Honor Tapestry with historians Laura Weigert, Glen Bowersock, Marilyn Lavin, and the late Irving Lavin.

Special thanks to the librarians at the Institute for Advanced Study—Kirstie Venanzi and Marcia Tucker—for all their help finding the many books and articles that went into making this piece.

There are so many great books on the 16th century and on the concept of honor that I read in order to make this performance. If you're curious about those books I've listed them on my website: www.suzannebocanegra.com.



Honor, an Artist Lecture by Suzanne Bocanegra, was commissioned in part by UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance, which also hosted a creative development residency in November 2019.



Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs is organized by Alex Sloane, Associate Curator of Performance and Programs, with Amber Dettmers, Production Manager and Brian Dang, Programming Coordinator.

Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs is founded by Wonmi & Kihong Kwon and Family.

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