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MANUAL CINEMA BRINGS *THE MAGIC CITY* TO THE NEW VICTORY THEATER WITH PUPPETRY, PROJECTIONS, AND LIVE MUSIC



March 6, 2025 - Manual Cinema will return to the New Victory Theater with *The Magic City*, a cinematic staging of Edith Nesbit's 1910 eponymous novel. Featuring actors, over 200 puppets, stunning projections, live music, and miniatures, *The Magic City* will play from **March 29 - April 6** and is recommended for everyone ages 6+.

Nine-year-old Philomena loves building miniature cities with her big sister, Helen. But when Helen gets engaged, what will become of their world? And who wants a weird new stepbrother? So Philomena fashions herself a new world from books, toys, and found objects that come alive when she falls asleep. Will she retreat into her imagination, or can she open up to her newly blended family? Brought to life through Manual Cinema's magical fusion of actors, puppets, miniatures, and live music, *The Magic City* encourages us to build bridges rather than walls.

“We loved collaborating with Manual Cinema in 2022 and are thrilled to have them back at the New Victory with this inventive new show,” said **New 42 Artistic Director Mary Rose Lloyd**. “Everything patrons see on stage will be performed live - including the music and puppetry - which helps beautifully bring everyday objects to life in this imaginative production.”

Manual Cinema tells visually exciting stories using a combination of vintage and modern technology, remaking the cinema experience with liveness and theatricality for the stage. Their work spans across stage and screen, and they won an Emmy Award in 2017 for *The Forger*, a documentary short made in collaboration with The New York Times. Manual Cinema previously presented *Leonardo! A Wonderful Show About a Terrible Monster* at the New Victory in 2022.

“It is truly an honor to be back at the New Victory with *The Magic City*,” said **Founder and Co-Artistic Director Julia Miller**. “This show is very close to our hearts; it's a story about creativity, adventure, and empathy. It's about tearing down walls and letting others into your life, and harnessing your rage to dismantle injustice. It is also about going on adventures and building stuff out of junk! Manual Cinema wrote this story for both children and adults, and we hope audiences of all ages will be entertained and inspired by the way we bring it to life through our trademark blend of puppetry, theater, film, and music.”

The show on stage is just one part of the visitor experience! For 45 minutes before and 20 minutes after every show, the lobby of the New Victory Theater will feature free activities in which families can try new performance skills or explore the show's themes. Whether they are wild, wallflowers, or somewhere in between, the New Victory will guide children through fun family engagement inspired by the show.

Photos for *The Magic City* can be downloaded [HERE](#).

Photo Credit: Katie Doyle, Courtesy of Manual Cinema

The Magic City cast includes Brandon Boler (Brandon, Puppeteer); Sarah Fornace (Philomena, Puppeteer); Kasey Foster (Puppeteer); Jeffrey Paschal (Lucas, Puppeteer); and Alicia Walter (Narrator, Vocals, Keys).

The Magic City was adapted for the stage by Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Ben Kauffman and Julia Miller, with screenplay and storyboards by Drew Dir and Sarah Fornace. The show also features art direction and puppets by Drew Dir; music, lyrics, and sound design by Ben Kauffman; additional sound design by Kyle Vegter; assistant sound design by Spencer Meeks; music preparation by Nate Williams; lighting design by David Goodman-Edberg; wig and costume design by Mieka van der Ploeg; and assistant costume design by Noël Huntzinger. Ryn Hardiman serves as stage manager & board operator.

Tickets start at \$24 and are available at the New Victory Box Office (209 W 42nd Street) leading up to the performance and starting two hours before curtain time on performance days. For box office hours, please visit NewVictory.org/BoxOffice. Tickets can also be purchased online at NewVictory.org and via phone by calling 646.223.3010.

Powered by New 42, the New Victory Theater is supported, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; the National Endowment for the Arts; as well as the New 42 Board of Directors, and our dedicated foundation, corporate and individual donors.

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About New Victory Theater

The New Victory opens new worlds to young people and families through extraordinary performances, education and engagement programs. Bringing kids to the arts and the arts to kids since 1995, this nonprofit theater has become a standard-bearer of quality performing arts for young audiences in the United States. Reflecting and serving the multicultural city it calls home, The New Victory is committed to arts access for all communities of New York to experience and engage with the exemplary international shows on its stages. A global leader in arts education, youth development and audience engagement, the New Victory Theater has been honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, by Americans for the Arts with a national Arts Education Award, and by the Drama Desk for "providing enchanting, sophisticated children's theater that appeals to the child in all of us, and for nurturing a love of theater in young people."

About New 42

Under the leadership of President & CEO Russell Granet, New 42 is a cultural nonprofit whose mission is to make extraordinary performing arts a vital part of everyone's life from the earliest years onward. Driven by a deep commitment to performing arts access, New 42 connects people to world-class performances, essential education and employment programs, and creative communities that push culture forward. Through New Victory and New 42 Studios, the nonprofit serves artists, educators and New Yorkers of all ages with invaluable arts engagement and resources in and beyond the performing arts. Together with our supporters, New 42 opens new perspectives, incubates new works and creates new opportunities to move us all.

