

The New Victory Theater Presents
From Piacenza, Italy



The U.S. Premiere of
Teatro Gioco Vita's

A SKY FOR THE BEARS

New York, NY (September 21, 2017) -- Teatro Gioco Vita brings ***A Sky for the Bears*** to The New Victory Theater from October 28 - November 5, 2017. Two stories, intertwined through charming shadow puppetry and lyrical movement, tackle delicate and profound themes in the most innocent of ways for ages four to seven.

When you're a happy, handsome, well-rested bear, what more could you want? Why, to be a daddy bear of course! With all the courage he can muster, a bear sets out on a quest to find a family of his own to love. In a different forest, a little bear sets off to find the quickest way to the clouds in hope of reuniting with his dear, departed grandfather. Based on two German stories by children's book authors Dolf Verroen and Wolf Erlbruch, ***A Sky for the Bears*** by **Teatro Gioco Vita** (*Firebird*, New Vic 1998) shows us that sometimes when we look to the sky with our hearts' deepest questions, the best answers are found right here on earth.

For over 40 years, Teatro Gioco Vita has performed all over the world, pushing the boundaries of shadow puppetry. By alternately showing and hiding the puppeteers at work, the company reveals the art form's unique potency. The resulting productions are imaginative, emotional and insightful. The Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and the Region of Emilia Romagna recognize the company as a Teatro Stabile D'Innovation (Theater Company of Innovation), a title for an organization that creatively invests in the future of Italian kids.

Directed and designed by Fabrizio Montecchi, ***A Sky for the Bears*** features performers and puppeteers Deniz Azhar Azari and Andrea Coppone with shadow puppets by Federica Ferrari

and Nicoletta Garioni. Choreography is by Valerio Longo, original music is by Alessandro Nidi and costumes are by Tania Fedeli.

A Sky for the Bears is supported, in part, by a Presenter's Grant from The Jim Henson Foundation.

Public Performance Schedule: 8 performances

Saturday, October 28 at 11am / 3pm

Sunday, October 29 at 11am / 3pm

Saturday, November 4 at 11am / 3pm*

Sunday, November 5 at 11am / 3pm

*sign-interpreted performance

A Sky for the Bears has a running time of 45 minutes with no intermission and is recommended for ages four to seven.

Learn more about [A Sky for the Bears](http://www.newvictory.org) on the New Victory website at NewVictory.org.

Ticket Information

Full price tickets for ***A Sky for the Bears*** are \$25 and Member tickets are \$17. Ticket and Membership information is available online (NewVictory.org) and by phone (646.223.3010).

Through October 8, the New Victory box office window will be located at the **New 42nd Street Studios** (229 West 42nd Street), a half block west of The New Victory. Beginning October 9, the New Victory regular box office window at 209 West 42nd Street will be open Sunday and Monday from 11am-5pm and Tuesday through Saturday from 12pm-7pm. Please visit <http://www.newvictory.org/boxoffice> for operating hours.

About The New Victory Theater

The New Victory Theater brings kids to the arts and the arts to kids. Created in 1995 on iconic 42nd Street, this nonprofit theater has become a standard-bearer of quality performing arts for young audiences in the U.S. Reflecting and serving the diverse city it calls home, The New Victory is committed to arts access for all students, teachers, kids, families and communities of New York to experience and engage with the exemplary international programming of theater, dance, circus, puppetry and more on its stages. A leader in arts education, youth employment and audience engagement, The New Victory Theater has been honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with the 2014 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 The New 42nd Street

Founded in 1990, The New 42nd Street is an independent nonprofit organization charged with the continuous cultural revival of 42nd Street between 7th and 8th Avenues, building on the foundation of seven historic theaters to make extraordinary performing arts and cultural engagement part of everyone's life. The New 42nd Street fulfills this purpose by ensuring the ongoing vibrancy of 42nd Street's historic theaters; supporting performing artists in the creation of their work at the New 42nd Street Studios and The Duke on 42nd Street; creating arts access and education at The New Victory Theater, New York's premier theater for kids and families;

and through the New 42nd Street Youth Corps, its model youth development initiative, which pairs life skills workshops and mentorship with paid employment in the arts for NYC youth. Inspired by the city it serves, The New 42nd Street is committed to the transformational power of the arts.

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