

Eliza Ladd



sticks and stones are from the earth and words were planted later

Discover the poetry, sights, and sounds of the theater work of Eliza Ladd.

Explore human experience on the earth and in the body.

Teeter on the leading edge of consciousness and substance.



“When emotional wilderness meets stage presence, timing meets music, and sounds meet vibration, then you meet Eliza: sparkling theatricality.”

-- Giovanni Fusetti, “A delight to have been her clown teacher!”

Elephants and Gold

Inspired by a contemporary story of elephants and humans, *Elephants and Gold* plunges the audience into an archeological excavation of human identity.

“Elephants and Gold offers wonderful surrealistic vignettes speaking deeply to our animal-human connections.... a mini-opera with songs/dances, full of concerns we all need to think about....strange language, brilliant, mysterious and great ensemble creativity.”

--Barbara Dilley,
Performing Arts Professor at Naropa University, Contemplative Arts Innovator



An ensemble performance of Live Sound Action, *Elephants and Gold* unearths the story of ‘elephants going mad’ and questions the evolutionary and cultural story of humans.

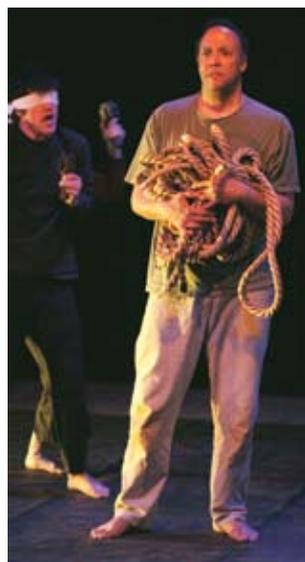
Elephants and Gold performers create a landscape of metal buckets, heavy stones, sacs of dirt, iron hooks, and strands of rope. They inhabit this world through sound, song, movement, and language, inviting deep curiosity about our place in the natural order of things.

Sometimes I feel like a man on a string, all tangled up in rope
Where am I runnin’ off to, shakin in my beastly ways?

--Elephants and Gold, Lyrics by Eliza Ladd

“Eliza’s rich vocals, sharp and playful lyrics, and poetic dialogue weave together to create contemplation on the most complex spiritual questions and human dilemmas that affect us all.”

--Leigh Fondakowski,
Playwright/Director



It's the loneliest thing
To hear elephants sing
It's the loneliest thing to hear.
The way they stand in a ring
oh yes a beautiful ring
And they call the rain in when they sing.
--Elephants and Gold, Lyrics by Eliza Ladd



You know when we rose up, stood up, in all our hominid glory,
up onto two feet and off of our four paws or claws or whatever they
were, we began to be able to see over the tops of the tips of the
dancing grassy stands, we raised our eyes above and this gave us
great advantage.

--Elephants and Gold, Text by Eliza Ladd

Live Sound Action



Live Sound Action engages the performer in ordinary actions—dragging, washing, rubbing—with ordinary objects—piles of stones, buckets of water, rusty chains. Images that are physical, aural, visual, and emotional arise and act as seeds of epic storytelling.

Rooted in sculpture and percussion and developed through the sensibility of the actor, Live Sound Action transports the act of storytelling to a place beyond the intellect, locating it in the underbelly.

“Eliza creates a poetic theater embedded with song, collage style images and objects that have a real aliveness, an overall feeling of power, depth, and raw beauty.”

--Barbara Dilley,
Performing Arts Professor at Naropa University, Contemplative Arts Innovator

“Eliza Ladd’s work is stunning. She is discovering a new genre of theater using image, ensemble movement, and found objects. These theatrical elements work together to make her work soar: soundscape becomes character; the human body becomes story telling.”

--Leigh Fondakowski,
Playwright/Director

Live Sound Action is a multi-disciplinary tool for composition, choreography, and the writing of original performance. As an approach to training and creative process for individual and ensemble development, Live Sound Action offers a way to discover theatrical language, to unleash the poetry of objects, and to create character, text, and story.

Live Sound Action emerged from Eliza’s work in a diverse range of disciplines including sculpture, percussion, Viewpoints, Body Dynamics™, Body Mind Centering™, Developmental Movement, Capoeira, Red Nose Clown, Grotowski (psycho-physical acting), Linklater and Roy Hart (voice and vibration), the Art of the Song, Improvisation, Red Square, Moment Work, Contemplative Practice, and Zen Buddhism.





"Eliza creates an environment of permission to be curious, expressive, and seeking without judgment. In speaking her text, which evokes the spirit of Shakespeare, I was able to include all of myself."

-- Margaret Jansen,
Performer, Linklater teacher at NYU, Actor's
Studio MFA, and Shakespeare & Company



Artist's Biography

A performer, composer, writer, director, and teacher from New York City, Eliza Ladd holds an MFA in Theater: Contemporary Performance from Naropa University and a BA in Comparative Religion from Harvard University. Eliza is a certified Body Dynamics teacher™ (movement for the actor), a trained percussionist, sculptor, and actor, and a facilitator of ensemble theater making.

Eliza has created and performed original multi-disciplinary work in NYC at PS122, Dixon Place, Dia Downtown, Movement Research, the Knitting Factory, and the T. Schreiber Studio. She has acted at La Mama, New York Theater Workshop, The Connelly, and with Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA. Eliza received the 1998 Franklin Furnace Emerging Artist Award for her original performance work and the Audience Encore Award at the 2007 Boulder International Fringe Festival for her play, *Elephants and Gold*.



Eliza has taught creative process and curriculum development workshops to special needs kindergarteners, gifted high school students, and public school teachers in the NYC Public School system. She has created and taught theater workshops and residencies at Naropa University, California State University Summer Arts Intensive, Bank Street College, and Cooper Union College of Arts and Sciences. As movement faculty at Shakespeare & Company, Eliza has coached aspiring and professional actors on the art of freeing their bodies and voices.

performer, composer, writer, director and teacher

Eliza is the creator of Live Sound Action (LSA), a form in which theater arises out of deep play between performer, object, space, and time. She has developed LSA in solo and ensemble performances and as a teaching medium. It is featured in collaborative projects with Randolph Curtis Rand (*This Thing of Darkness*), Kathryn Blume (*The Accidental Activist*), Annie Lanzillotto (*My Throwing Arm*), and in the world premier of Israel Horovitz's *Captains and Courage*. Most recently Eliza has collaborated with Leigh Fondakowski, on her new play about Charlotte Cushman.

Currently Eliza is developing the next evolution of *Elephants and Gold: Boulders in My Belly* and further exploring LSA. She is actively seeking funding, creative collaborators, residencies, and opportunities to share and produce her work as a teacher and an artist.

Where are you when the clock strikes still and the heart beats no man?
--Elephants and Gold, Text by Eliza Ladd

How to further the work with your help

Develop the next iteration of *Elephants and Gold* further exploring, through writing and rehearsal, the narrative throughline of the play, how this narrative can be served by Live Sound Action and song, and how the comedic and tragic aspects of the play intertwine.

Produce and perform the next iteration of *Elephants and Gold* with my own theater company, another existing company and/or in collaboration with other performers or students.

Facilitate workshops inspired by the methods of Live Sound Action and the subject matter of *Elephants and Gold*.

Train a diverse range of participants—actors, theater companies seeking to expand their performance practices, grade school students, and others interested in exploring relationships to body and nature through performance.

My vision as an artist and teacher is to expand a sense of presence and possibility.

I invite your support and collaboration.



How will you tell me what you understand?
When will you give me your hand?
What will you see when you look in my face?
When will you give me your heart?
Like a human being.
Like a human being.

--Elephants and Gold, Lyrics by Eliza Ladd

Credits

Text and Lyrics: Eliza Ladd
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Marcin Mroz, and Alex Miles Younger

Eliza would like to thank
the casts of *Elephants and Gold*

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Contact

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feel the big ground move
we were running ourselves right into the heat
adventure and love, we were flying