

This show is only 17 minutes long and performed just once | The Seattle Times

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Pearl Lam in "Dear LSD Fairy," livestreaming on Sept. 17. It's part of Macha Theatre Works' 17 Minute Stories series. (Joe Iano Photography)

By [Gemma Alexander](#)

Special to *The Seattle Times*

After the governor's order last year shut down theaters on the first performance night of her

Thinking about the many crises facing the world — the pandemic, racism, sexism, to name just a few — she was haunted by the question, “How did we get here?” That question became the prompt for a new theatrical series that would carry Macha Theatre Works through the pandemic.

This year, Macha Theatre Works will continue the series, 17 Minute Stories, beginning with Pearl Lam’s “Dear LSD Fairy.” The performance will be livestreamed on, appropriately, Sept. 17. Three different stories will follow on Oct. 15, Oct. 29 and Nov. 12. As they were last year, each 17-minute-long show will be performed only once in an empty theater and livestreamed to an at-home audience. A chat on YouTube will serve as a “lobby” where guests can interact.



writing the stories they want to write,” said Poisson, Macha Theatre Works’ producing artistic director. The 17-minute length resulted from Michelle Obama’s book “Becoming,” in which she notes her own famous speech in 2008 and Barack Obama’s Democratic National Convention speech in 2004 were each 17 minutes long.

“I decided Michelle Obama was talking to me,” Poisson said. The format of a livestreamed one-woman show evolved from the combination of pandemic protocols and the desire to re-create a dynamic live theater experience.

ADVERTISING

Jasmine Lomax treats viewers like confidantes as she dissects body-image issues. “My Three Closets (Or Surviving the Avalanche)” on Oct. 29 is Curtis-Newton’s first public telling of her coming-out story as a queer, Black, Christian woman. Alyssa Keene’s “Resistance: A Love Story” explores resistance through the true story of the French locals who hid her grandfather from Nazis when his plane was shot down in World War II.

This fall’s 17 Minute Stories will all remain virtual.

“Sitting there being nervous about whether the person beside you has COVID really puts the damper on the magic of the shared experience of live theater,” said Poisson. She added, “There’s something really intimate about one-woman shows on camera. I think the actors are allowed to be even more vulnerable.”

Although they will be performed only once, after the run, Macha will bundle all four stories for on-demand viewing as they have done for previous 17 Minute Stories, which are [still available](#). There are tentative plans for outdoor performances this winter of more 17 Minute Stories that are

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